

SPORTS

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, COLLEGE AT CORTLAND • November 3, 1989

THE TRUTH....I. C. NOTHIN'

By Rob Adamo
Sports Editor

Two teams collide; rival nations, its a primitive past-there is so much at stake.

At 1:30pm on Saturday, when Cortland State and Ithaca College square off once again the waiting will be over. All the talk and speculation will be thrown out the window, and all those imaginary battles between fans and players will be cast aside in the favor of the real thing: Cortland State football.

Fortunately, football games aren't played in the newspapers or in bars. They're played on the grass, on the field between white lines. That's where winners are decided.

And tomorrow's game will be no different. One team will win and one will not. One will go on to the playoffs and the other would most probably be eliminated as they make way for a new breed of athletes. One team will make jokes while the other looks for excuses. A victory for Cortland would give them a 9-0 record and a bid for the playoffs while Ithaca would fall to 6-3 and their chance of making the playoffs would be dismal.

Of course, regardless of the outcome, the arguments between the schools' legions of fans will still persist. The losers will want a rematch; the winners will say "I told you so."

The one thing that will make this game interesting, indeed perhaps its a saving grace, is that during last weeks sea of madness, the players now find themselves on an island of sanity Cortland: wants this one, in a big way.

They understand what the game means to the fans, they are smart enough to realize they are playing for much higher stakes: A trip to Alabama. Something that's been a long time coming.

"Ithaca is a team that's been coming on lately. They've started to score some points recently. Their defense has played well all season and is very comparable to a year ago. The big difference in their offense would be not having Parker and Scott in the backfield. But they're still a very capable offensive team with as big an offensive line as we'll see all season. We expect a typical Cortland-Ithaca football game as we saw a year ago," were

the words of Cortland State Headcoach Dennis Kayser.

"It's exciting. Very exciting to be able to play a team with all there success, it will be a real challenge for us," said Ithaca headcoach Jim Butterfield.

In a way, it's a shame that the hard feelings among the fans are so real because their blindness may keep them from seeing a great football game. And it should be special.

The Red Dragons did something last Saturday that showed they had it in them. They came from behind and defeated Canisius 22-20. Their minds were too preoccupied with Ithaca. But they played like the best Cortland State teams of the past have played by methodically going about their jobs and defeating another team.

The key word is methodical. No emotions, no periods of ups and downs. Just solid play from beginning to end, constantly beating back the hands of time. Those hands being their challengers. "Keep on Movin' don't stop", the Dragons have it in them.

It's clear that Ithaca is only as good as their offense plays. When their offense is off they have suffered loses to Alfred 17-10 and American International 7-6. When the offensive is on, they're good.

Against opponents, with their great constant pressure defense, the burden on Ithaca will be even greater.

The biggest liability the Bombers have in the match up against the Red Dragons is the receivers. You got two super seniors Mark Houghton and Greg Sirico. Houghton with 35 catches for 406 yards and 5 TD's and Sirico with 31 catches for 420 yards and 5 TD's. The quarterback stands alone at the top of ECAD rankings with a .629 pass efficiency and 112 completions in 178 attempts for 1302 yards and 12 TD's.

Make no mistake about it, though, Ithaca is tough. But to come against Cortland's relentless defensive and pursuing offensive they are going to have to be better than tough. I just don't see it.

There's no lack of courage in the Dragons camp. The thing you have to like about

Cortland is the relentlessness. They just never let up. It makes no difference who they play or what wishbone offensive you throw at them, they keep coming at you.

What it boils down to is that it should be a bang up game. Two of the supreme programs and traditions in Division III football going at each other on the football field. No verbal assaults and no sportswriters like myself allowed, just football players. The pride of Cortland State Athletics endures.



Photo by Andy Rush

Following last year's close contest in the playoffs at Ithaca, Cortland's Greg Sirico offers congratulations to a victorious Ithaca team member. This year, Sirico and all his Cortland teammates hope to instead, offer consolation to a defeated Blue Bomber team in Ithaca this Saturday.

Booters Await Tourney Bid; Six Red Dragons Named to All-SUNYAC Team

By College Relations

The SUNY-Binghamton Colonial men's soccer squad took their second one-goal victory visiting Cortland State this season — this one a 1-0 win on Saturday — to capture the 1989 State University of New York Athletic Conference championship and an automatic NCAA Div. III Tournament berth.

Coach Fred Taube's Red Dragons, who had lost 2-1 in overtime

earlier in the season to Binghamton, are now 13-5 overall and awaiting an ECAC Div. III Men's Soccer Tournament bid on Monday.

The Red Dragons advanced into Saturday's title contest with a 1-0 overtime win against Geneseo on Friday. Sophomore Fullback Ralph Pecorale scored his first collegiate goal 9:14 into overtime on an assist from freshman midfielder Keith Stanley. Sophomore Jason Hickey made seven saves in earning his

fifth shutout in 1989.

On Saturday, after a scoreless first half, Binghamton's John Tietjen scored off a cornerkick 1:50 into the second stanza. A defensive battle was waged the remainder of the match, with Cortland outshooting the hosts 5-1 down the final stretch. Hickey had three Dragons saves in the match.

"I thought we played very well," said Taube. "We just had trouble putting the ball in the net. We hit the

post on one shot and just missed the net on several other occasions."

The 1989 All-SUNYAC Men's Soccer Team was announced over the weekend and included six Red Dragons.

Three Cortland players received first team all-league laurels: Greg Ginsberg, Sandy Ventriglia and Kevin Oakes. A trio of Dragons earned second team mention: Keith Stanley, Ralph Pecorale and Mike Borra.

Intramural update

By Corey Wiles
Intramural Editor

The intramural fall sports season came to a close and the results are in. In Men's Tag Football, Rob's Angels came away with the crown while Pi Kappa Phi won it all in Men's softball. In the Co Rec Softball league, the T.A. Bombers were victorious.

As for upcoming events, the Weekend Racquetball Tournament begins Friday, November 10th. Entries are due by Tuesday, Nov. 7th. The Archery Tournament begins Tues., Nov. 14th and entries are due Tues., Nov. 7th. There is always a good turnout for this big event. Finally, the annual Turkey Trot runs Thurs., Nov. 16th at 4:00 p.m. It is a course of 2.5 miles which is open to students, faculty, and staff. There will be lots of prizes and lots of fun so get out and run.

Ice Hockey

By College Relations

The Cortland State men's ice hockey team began the 1989-90 campaign in impressive fashion with a 13-3 victory over visiting Villanova University before 850 fans in Alumni Arena on Saturday night.

"It was tremendous team effort," said Cortland head coach Al MacCormack, who began his ninth season at the Dragon helm. "I was a little nervous coming into the game. I really thought Villanova would be a better team."

Three red Dragons recorded two goals each — juniors Sam Fensterstock, Doug Gillin, Pat Murphy — to pace Cortland scorers. Cortland single goal scorers included: Matt Johnson, John Dullaghan, Ross Kraft, Tim Tufford, Bill Gehen, Ken Doohan and Rob Schelling. Rich Glica had a team-high four assists.

Cortland controlled the play at both ends with the obvious offensive firepower and solid play from the defense and goalkeepers.

"Our forechecking was really effective," said McCormack. "I think it slowed them down. We were all over them whenever they came into our zone. A mental breakdown late in the game allowed them to score two goals in the last 30 seconds. I'm not happy about the breakdown, but I'm not worried about it either."

The goaltending chores were handled by junior Dave Cooper and senior Doug Gruzca. Cooper made 10 saves in 40 minutes, while Gruzca had five stops in the last 20 minutes. Cortland plays SUNYAC foe Potsdam State on Sat. at 7:30 p.m. in Alumni Arena.