Special points of interest:

- Cortland Wolfpacks Regular Season Wrap-Up
- Cortland in NYS championship!
- Player coached Cortland tackles adversity and injuries throughout the season.

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CORTLAND WOLFPACK AGAINST ALL ODDS!

The Cortland Wolfpack began their 2014 season coming off being undefeated in spring tournament play. They came to the pitch in August hungry and ready to play. The expectations were high after the successful spring and their jump from D-3 play to D-2. With a lot of rookies and second semester players on the team the learning curve was very steep. The team knew that there was plenty of work ahead of them. The team practiced hard for only a week and a half before their season opener, most of the team still learning the game. Despite all of this Cortland still came out in their home opener and got the win against a tough Hamilton team. Although Cortland escaped with their first win a few of their starters got injured. This would mean they would need to turn to an inexperienced bench to come in and fill their spots. These players had about a week to prepare before their first real game. Through a week of hard practice the team was able to rally around each other and come out win their second straight win against their rival Ithaca. As the weeks seemed to fly by the Wolfpack their win total also began to pile up. The Wolfpack was 5–0 before the beginning of October and even added a win against nationally ranked Buffalo State. After totaling a few more wins against some more formidable Division II opponents the Wolfpack found themselves among the top 15 Division II teams in the nation. Finishing the regular season 8–1 and #8 in the nation with their one loss coming in the last week of play against Oswego, with injuries catching up to them the team headed to Division-II playoffs ranked #1 in NYS.

THE HINDERED WOLF PACK HEADS INTO THE PLAYOFFS

The Cortland Wolfpack headed into the NYS D-2 playoffs with a bit of a limp. A few of there starters unfortunately fell to injury the final game of the season. It seemed like a recurring theme for the once again the Wolfpack had to look to substitutes to fill in for starters. The Wolfpack came to the snowy pitch on a Saturday to begin the first round of play. They were matched up against Niagara college who was #2 in the Western division. The Wolfpack started out the game by taking an early lead by scoring a few try’s right off the bat. Niagara proved to be a tough team but the Wolfpack was too much for them and won the game comfortably. The Wolfpack then moved on to a familiar foe SUNY Oswego for the NYS championship. This was the third time these teams squared off and had split the previous two meetings. The Wolfpack seemed to be outmuscled for the first time all season against a hard Oswego team. As the game continued it became more and more clear that the Wolfpacks magical run had come to an end. The Wolfpack fought hard but fell to Oswego for a second straight time and lost the NYS championship.
Cortland Rugby

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“JOIN THE PACK”

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“A season and team that I will always remember”
-Mike Doersam

Cortland Rugby, a different club.

The Cortland Rugby team had a difference between them and their opponents throughout the season, the team is player coached. Most people and teams would see this as a disadvantage but this is all the team has ever known. The team was coached by the two captains Dean Wilson and Bryan Carley who both have previous rugby experience and Carley had previously received All-American honors in high school. Both players were instrumental in the Wolfpacks success, teaching everything from the basic rules to the custom patterns and plays the team would run during the season. Dean Wilson would run the backs and Carley would run the forward assignments, allowing each practice to be divided into two different sections. The team would watch the previous weeks game film as the captains dissected and told the team the things that needed to be improved upon. The team followed the two players every instruction and strategy and were able to form one of the most successful seasons Cortland has had even though they were player coached.

Captain Dean Wilson looks to pass in the NYS championship

Captains Bryan Carley (left) and Dean Wilson (right)