Cortland's Andy Mead and Jim Dougher SUNYAC's Top Baseball Player and Pitcher; Joe Brown Named League's Coach of the Year

SUNY Cortland junior rightfielder Andy Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) has been named the 2005 State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Baseball Player of the Year, while sophomore Jim Dougher (Liverpool) is the league's Pitcher of the Year. In all, 10 Red Dragons were named to the all-conference team, including seven on the first team. In addition, Cortland sixth-year head coach Joe Brown has been chosen as the SUNYAC Coach of the Year for the second straight season.

Mead and Dougher were joined on the All-SUNYAC first team by sophomore first baseman Travis Robinson (Ilion), senior second baseman Steve Newman (Henrietta/Rush-Henrietta), junior centerfielder Jimmy Basnight (East Norwich/St. Dominic), senior designated hitter Pat D'Auria (Upper Nyack/Nyack) and senior pitcher Mike Burnett (Westfield). Sophomore third baseman Will Groff (Queensbury), junior leftfielder Zach Tacelli (Latham/Shaker) and senior pitcher Matt Miller (Harrison) were second team all-league selections.

Mead batted .434 in 14 league games with team-highs of two home runs, two triples, 20 RBI and 21 runs scored. He also recorded five doubles and had a team-best .717 slugging percentage. Dougher went 3-0 with a 0.57 ERA in four league starts. He tossed one shutout and combined on two others, and he allowed only 18 hits and three walks in 31 and one-third innings.

Robinson hit .377 in league play with a homer and 13 RBI. He stole four bases and did not make any errors in 125 chances at first base. Newman batted .418 with two home runs, five doubles and 18 RBI. He also played errorless ball, handling 60 chances successfully at second base.

Basnight led Cortland in league play with a .465 batting average. He hit six doubles and one triple, drove in six runs, stole five bases and drew a team-best eight walks. Basnight was also second on the team with 17 runs scored and did not make an error in 25 chances. D'Auria batted .375 in 12 games with three doubles, seven RBI and three steals. Burnett was 3-0 with a 0.44 ERA and was part of two shutouts in three starts. In 20 and one-third innings he allowed 11 hits, four walks and only one run while striking out 21 batters.

Groff finished regular-season league play with a .289 batting average, nine RBI and six stolen bases. Tacelli hit .462 in 13 contests with a homer, eight RBI, three steals and 13 runs scored. Miller was 3-0 versus league opponents with a 1.20 ERA. He struck out 15 batters, walked six and allowed nine hits in 15 innings.

Brown led Cortland to a 13-1 league record and the conference regular-season title. The Red Dragons then bounced back from a loss in their SUNYAC tournament opener to win four straight games and claim their 13th league crown in the last 15 years and 24th overall. Cortland's victory versus Oneonta in the title game was Brown's 200th in his six years as head coach (he served as an assistant for seven years). His current overall record is 200-64-1.

The Red Dragons are currently 35-6-1 this spring and play Sunday at home vs. Alvernia (Pa.) before heading into NCAA Division III tournament play next week. Cortland will be making its 13th consecutive NCAA playoff appearance.

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