SUNYAC Baseball MVP Award Named for Former Cortland Coach Bob “Sparky” Wallace

The State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) is honoring former Cortland baseball coach Bob “Sparky” Wallace by naming its annual baseball “Most Valuable Player” award in his honor.

The award will first be presented in the spring of 2007 as one of four awards dedicated to long-time successful SUNYAC coaches. In addition to the Bob Wallace MVP Award, the league will also present the Walter Nitardy (Oswego) Coach of the Year, the Clark Whited (Brockport) Rookie of the Year and the Don Axtell (Oneonta) Pitcher of the Year awards.

Wallace graduated from Cortland in 1953 and began coaching the Red Dragons in 1958. In his 24 seasons as head coach, his teams compiled a combined record of 366-207-3, won 10 SUNYAC titles and made an NCAA tournament appearance in 1981. Wallace was inducted into Cortland’s C-Club Hall of Fame in 1979, and Cortland’s baseball field is named in his honor.

Wallace and his wife Sally, also a former Cortland coach and C-Club Hall of Fame member, currently reside in nearby Virgil, N.Y. Bob still organizes the annual Cortland Baseball Alumni Weekend each August on campus.

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