Cortland’s Rich Barnes Named USILA Division III
Men’s Lacrosse National Coach of the Year

SUNY Cortland men’s lacrosse coach Rich Barnes has been named the 2006 NCAA Division III Men’s Lacrosse Coach of the Year by the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA).

Serving as the Red Dragons’ interim head coach this spring, Barnes led Cortland to an 18-3 record and the NCAA Division III title. The Red Dragon won four NCAA tournament games, capped by a 13-12 overtime victory versus three-time defending champion Salisbury University in the championship game. That victory snapped the Sea Gulls’ NCAA all-division lacrosse record 69-game winning streak and gave Cortland its first national championship since a Division II crown in 1975.

A physical education teacher in the nearby Homer Central school district, Barnes won the national title in his first year as a collegiate head coach but will not be a candidate for Cortland’s full-time coaching position. Barnes served as an assistant coach with the Red Dragons in 2005, along with stints as an assistant in 1990 and 1996. He graduated from Cortland High School in 1985 and from SUNY Cortland in 1989. He earned All-America honors as a goalie for the Red Dragons in both 1988 and 1989.

Barnes is the first Cortland coach to win USILA Coach of the Year honors since Jack Emmer earned the award in 1972. Emmer coached at Cortland from 1970-72 and at Washington and Lee for 11 seasons before holding the head coaching job at Division I Army for 22 years.

Barnes was one of three coaches honored by the USILA this spring. Greg Cannella of the University of Massachusetts was the Division I recipient and Tim Boyle of Dowling College was the Division II winner. Both of those schools lost in the championship game of their respective divisions.

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