Cortland’s Jennifer Rockwell Earns SUNYAC Softball First Year Player of the Year Honors; Six Red Dragons Selected to All-SUNYAC Team

SUNY Cortland freshman outfielder Jennifer Rockwell (Scotia) has been selected as the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) softball First Year Player of the Year by conference coaches. Joining Rockwell on the All-SUNYAC team are junior outfielder Lara Stone (Windsor), senior shortstop Julie Gentner (Williamsville/Williamsville South), junior first baseman Carin Piacente (Putnam Valley/Walter Panas), junior catcher Jill Seymour (Conklin/Susquehanna Valley) and junior pitcher Lara Almansberger (Fairport).

Entering the SUNYAC Tournament held this weekend, Rockwell was batting .341 with 12 doubles, 17 RBI and a team-high 36 runs and 21 walks in 40 games. Stone carried a team-best .398 batting average through 40 games, with nine doubles, five homers and 35 RBI. Gentner, a two-time All-American, was batting .384 and led the team with 17 doubles, seven home runs and 39 RBI in 40 starts. She also hadn’t struck out this season in 149 plate appearances.

Piacente, who recently established a new school record with 10 RBI in one game and is Cortland’s career home run leader with 20, was batting .375 after the regular season with eight doubles, two homers and 30 RBI. Seymour is a defensive standout behind the plate, having thrown out 8-of-14 would be base stealers this season. She has seven runs batted in and three doubles at the plate in 30 games.

Almansberger had posted a 14-0 record entering the SUNYAC Tournament, with 10 complete games, seven shutouts, 62 strikeouts and a 1.48 ERA in 19 appearances. Earlier this season, she tossed back-to-back no hitters and her current career winning percentage of 86.0 is the highest in school history.

The Red Dragons, ranked fifth nationally in Division III, finished the regular season with a 34-5-1 overall record and 16-3-1 league mark, earning them the second seed in the conference tournament.

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