SUNY Cortland Women’s Swimming and Diving

Day 1 of 3 at NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships
Thursday, March 9, 2006 – University of Minnesota Aquatic Center; Minneapolis, Minn.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. – The SUNY Cortland 200-yard freestyle relay team of junior Nikki LaBarge (Morrisonville/Peru), junior Allie Houseman (Wellsville), junior Marissa Bechtold (Lockport) and freshman Lauren Friedlander (Woodbury/Syosset) earned honorable mention All-America status with a 16th-place finish at the NCAA Division III Women’s Swimming and Diving Championships. The meet is being hosted by Carleton College at the University of Minnesota.

The Red Dragon quartet posted the 14th-best time in the preliminaries at 1:38.85, then finished 16th overall after being clocked at 1:39.42 in the evening’s consolation finals. The top eight finishers in each event earn All-America status, with spots 9-16 receiving honorable mention All-America recognition. LaBarge, Houseman, Bechtold and Friedlander are the first Cortland women’s swimming and diving All-Americans since Becky Drake earned honorable mention honors in three-meter diving in 1993.

In other competition during the opening day of nationals, Houseman finished 29th (24.79) and LaBarge was 30th (24.84) in the 50-yard freestyle, while Friedlander, Houseman, LaBarge and Bechtold finished 18th in the 400-yard medley relay (4:10.17).

Cortland scored two points for its finish in the 200-yard freestyle relay and is tied for 36th in the national team standings after the first day of competition.

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