Cortland’s Jennifer Willis SUNYAC Women’s Lacrosse Player of the Year; Cynthia Wetmore SUNYAC Coach of the Year; Nine Red Dragons on All-League Team

SUNY Cortland junior attacker Jennifer Willis (Huntington/Walt Whitman) has been selected as the 2006 State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Women’s Lacrosse Player of the Year. She is one of nine Cortland players named to the all-conference team, including seven first team selections. In addition, Cortland ninth-year head coach Cynthia Wetmore has been chosen as the SUNYAC Women’s Lacrosse Coach of the Year.

Joining Willis on the All-SUNYAC first team are junior Andrea Venditti (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) on attack, junior Ali Bourgal (Sachem) and senior Erin Lynn (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) in the midfield, senior Erin Gallagher (Carthage) and senior Dyan Voorhees (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) on defense and senior Regina Grosso (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) in goal. Junior attacker Gina Fazio (Brownville/General Brown) and junior defender Cici Carter (Guilderland) were second team selections.

Willis has 41 goals and 31 assists for 72 points in 17 games this spring. She leads the team in assists and is third in goals scored. She also has won a team-high 60 draw controls and has 42 ground balls. Willis is currently sixth in career scoring at Cortland with 207 points and is tied for second with 70 assists. Venditti leads Cortland this season with 58 goals and is third with 68 total points. She has a team-high five game-winning goals and also has recorded 23 ground balls. Venditti has 106 career points, including 92 goals.

Bourgal is the Red Dragons’ leader with 74 points and 50 ground balls and is second on the team in both goals (46) and assists (28) despite missing two games early in the season. She has won 31 draw controls. Bourgal’s 190 career points (128 goals, 62 assists) place her eighth on Cortland’s scoring chart. Lynn has 25 goals and 11 assists for 36 points in 17 games. She leads the Red Dragons with 22 caused turnovers and is tied for second with three game-winning goals. Lynn also has registered 33 ground balls and 20 draw controls.

Gallagher has scored six times this season and has also totaled 35 ground balls and 19 caused turnovers. Voorhees has 45 ground balls and 15 caused turnovers in 17 games, all as a starter. Grosso has a 5.61 goals against average and 57.6 save percentage in 17 contests. Her goals against average was 4.71 versus SUNYAC opponents. Cortland ranks fourth nationally in Division III defensively, allowing only 5.6 goals per game.

Fazio is fourth on the Red Dragon squad this year with 47 points. She has scored 26 times and has assisted on 21 goals. Fazio also has 26 ground balls, 18 draw controls and 14 caused turnovers. Carter has scored twice this season and also has 39 ground balls and 17 caused turnovers.

Wetmore is the league’s Coach of the Year for the second time and the first since 2000. She has led the Red Dragons to a 17-0 record, including a 7-0 SUNYAC mark, and their eighth straight league crown. She has an overall record of 129-32 (.801) in nine seasons, including a 35-2 record the past two seasons.

Cortland will be making its eighth straight NCAA Division III tournament appearance. The Red Dragons are hosting a four-team regional on Saturday and Sunday, May 13-14, with the regional winner advancing to the “final four” in Hoboken, N.J., May 20-21.

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