Cortland’s Jimmy Dougher, Will Groff Earn Top SUNYAC Baseball Honors; Red Dragons Place 12 Players on All-League Squad

SUNY Cortland junior Jimmy Dougher (Liverpool) has been selected as the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Baseball Pitcher of the Year for the second straight season, while Red Dragon junior second baseman Will Groff (Queensbury) has been tabbed as the league’s Player of the Year. In all, 12 Cortland players earned all-conference honors, including six on the first team.

Joining Dougher and Groff on the All-SUNYAC first team are senior third baseman Ricky Piovesan (East Norwich/St. Dominic), junior catcher Shawn Ensel (Clifton Park/Shenendehowa), junior pitcher Mike Zgorzelski (Troy/Shaker) and junior designated hitter Dan Maycock (Utica/T.R. Proctor). Red Dragons on the second team were junior first baseman Travis Robinson (Ilion), senior outfielders Andrew Mead (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker) and Jim Basnight (East Norwich/St. Dominic), sophomore pitchers Ryan Hooper (Red Hook) and Chris Bilyk (Ithaca) and sophomore first baseman John Giametta Jr. (Marlboro).

Dougher is 8-0 with one save and a 1.90 earned run average in 11 games this spring, nine as a starter. He has allowed only 49 hits and 14 walks and has struck out 57 batters in 61 and two-thirds innings pitched. Dougher was 4-0 with a 0.62 ERA in four starts during the league regular season, then posted a win and a save to help the Red Dragons win the SUNYAC tournament.

Groff is batting a team-best .465 with three homers, 10 doubles, 22 RBI and team-highs of 29 stolen bases and 51 runs scored. He is ranked 12th nationally in Division III in batting average and has reached base safely via hit or walk in 40 consecutive games. Groff batted .529 (27-for-51) with nine steals in 14 SUNYAC games.

Piovesan is hitting .345 with four homers and a team-high 40 RBI. He leads the Red Dragons with 12 doubles and is tied for second on the team with 49 base hits. Ensel is hitting .273 in 35 games, including a .333 average in league contests. He has three homers, five doubles and 19 RBI.

Zgorzelski is 5-1 with a 2.53 ERA in eight appearances, seven as a starter. He has struck out 47 batters and has allowed only 39 hits in 46 and one-third innings. Zgorzelski was 3-0 with a 1.89 ERA in three league games and earned a win in the SUNYAC tournament. Maycock is Cortland’s second-leading hitter this season with a .376 batting average. His totals include three homers, nine doubles, 25 RBI and six stolen bases. Maycock batted .429 with 10 RBI in 12 SUNYAC games.

Robinson is presently batting .361 with eight doubles, 21 RBI and 11 steals in as many attempts. He has committed only three errors in 278 fielding chances at first base. Mead is batting .340 with team-highs of five homers and four triples. He has driven in 31 runs and has stolen 12 bases. Mead became Cortland’s career hit leader this spring with 226 in his four seasons. Basnight has a .343 batting average with two homers, 24 RBI, 18 steals and a team-high 30 walks. He is second on the team with a .504 on-base percentage.

Hooper has a 6-1 record this spring with a 2.47 ERA in 12 appearances, including nine starts. He has 41 strikeouts and only eight walks in 47 and one-third innings pitched. Hooper was 2-1 with a 1.42 ERA in four league starts, and earned a victory in Cortland’s SUNYAC tournament championship game win over Brockport. Bilyk has a 5-2 record this spring with a 2.15 ERA in nine appearances, seven as a starter. He has struck out 36 batters over 37 and two-thirds innings, and was 2-0 with a 0.71 ERA in three league games. Giametta, who was chosen to the all-league team as a utility player, has seen time at both first base and designated hitter. He has a .305 batting average and shares the team lead with five homers in only 59 at-bats. In conference play, Giametta batted .389 with two homers and seven RBI and only made one error in 32 chances.

Cortland is currently 36-7 with one scheduled regular season game remaining. The Red Dragons won their ninth SUNYAC title in the past 10 years and earned a trip to the NCAA Division III playoffs for the 14th consecutive season – the longest active streak in the nation.

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