Chuck Eich Selected as ECAC Division III Northwest Football Rookie of the Year; J.J. Tutwiler Honorable Mention All-ECAC Choice

SUNY Cortland freshman linebacker Chuck Eich (Cheektowaga) has been chosen as the 2003 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III Northwest football Rookie of the Year.

Eich will receive his award at the Lambert Meadowlands Awards Banquet in New Jersey on February 3 along with ECAC Northwest Player of the Year Dan Cole of RPI and other ECAC Division I-A, I-AA, II and III winners.

Eich (pronounced IKE) was Cortland's second-leading tacklers this fall with 85 total stops, including a team-high 45 solos. He also recorded three interceptions, a pass breakup, a forced fumble, a fumble recovery and two quarterback hurries in 10 games. He is the first Cortland player since at least 1964 to score three defensive touchdowns in a season and two in one game. He returned interceptions for touchdowns in wins at William Paterson and Utica and also scored off a lateral after a teammate's interception in the Utica game. Eich was named the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Defensive Rookie of the Year (despite his ECAC Rookie of the Year status, Eich was not selected to the ECAC Northwest first team or honorable mention all-star squads).

Senior punter J.J. Tutwiler (Grand Island) was an honorable mention All-ECAC Northwest selection. He led the NJAC in punting with an average of 37.4 yards per kick. Of his 56 attempts, 13 pinned opponents inside their own 20-yard line. Tutwiler was also Cortland's starting quarterback, setting school career records with 6,007 passing yards and 45 touchdown passes.

Cortland finished the season with a 5-5 record. The Red Dragons finished the regular season 5-4 before losing in the ECAC Division III Northwest championship game. Cortland earned its 10th post-season berth (four NCAA, six ECAC), all since 1988.

# # #