Twelve Cortland Players Named to All-NJAC Football Team

Twelve members of the SUNY Cortland football team have been selected to the 2004 New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) all-league squad, including six on the first team.

Senior tailback Steve Davis (Central Islip), senior tight end Tony Romano (Baldwinsville/C.W. Baker), senior offensive lineman Jim Coughlin (Bellmore/Mepham), sophomore defensive tackle Adam Haas (East Aurora/St. Francis), sophomore linebacker Matt Montpetit (Westhampton Beach) and sophomore safety Stef Sair (Huntington) were all first-team selections.

Junior offensive lineman Eric Jendryaszek (Henrietta/Rush-Henrietta) was named to the second team. Freshman quarterback Alex Smith (Wheatfield/Niagara-Wheatfield), senior defensive end Travis Costin (Glens Falls), sophomore defensive lineman Bryan Murphy (Bethpage), freshman corner back Jeff Beck (Middlehope/ Marlboro) and sophomore safety Josh Jablonski (West Seneca/West Seneca West) were honorable mention choices.

Davis averaged 100.7 yards per game rushing this fall – second best in the NJAC through the end of the regular season. He ran for 906 yards and 10 touchdowns and eclipsed the 100-yard mark six times. In his four-year career, Davis ran for 2,826 yards, the second-highest total in school history, and 27 touchdowns. A four-time all-league honoree, Davis was a second team All-NJAC running back in both his sophomore and junior seasons and a first team selection and the league's Offensive Rookie of the Year in 2001.

Romano was Cortland's top receiver this season with 29 catches for 407 yards. He scored two touchdowns, and finished his career with 102 catches for 1,279 yards and 19 touchdowns. He is the first tight end in school history to reach the 100-catch mark, and he is ranked second on the school's career touchdown reception chart. Romano was a first team All-NJAC tight end in both 2001 and 2002 and was a medical redshirt last year after suffering a season-ending injury in the second game.

Coughlin, a four-year starter at offensive tackle, repeated as a first team All-NJAC selection. He helped Cortland average 348.1 yards per game in total offense. The Red Dragons allowed only 11 sacks in nine contests. Haas was the NJAC leader this fall with 9.5 sacks and 14.5 total tackles for losses. He finished fifth on the team with 47 tackles and recorded team-highs of 14 quarterback hurries and two fumble recoveries. He returned a fumble 21 yards for a touchdown versus The College of New Jersey. Haas was an honorable mention All-NJAC choice in 2003.

Montpetit led the Red Dragons and was second in the NJAC with 82 tackles. An honorable mention all-league selection last year, he registered 9.5 tackles for lost yardage this fall, including three sacks, and shared the team lead with two forced fumbles. He also had three pass breakups and four quarterback hurries. Sair was third on the team with 67 tackles, including a team-high 43 solo stops, and tied for the team lead with three interceptions and 10 pass breakups. His 13 total passes defended was tied for the top spot in the NJAC. Sair's 68-yard interception return for a touchdown versus William Paterson was tied for the second-longest interception return in school history. An honorable mention All-NJAC choice in 2003, Sair has eight interceptions in his first two seasons as Cortland's free safety.

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Jendryaszek completed his third season as a starting offensive guard. The Red Dragons led the NJAC with 155.1 rushing yards per game. Smith was the first Cortland freshman to be the team’s primary starting quarterback since 1983. A starter in all nine games, Smith completed 132-of-230 passes (57.4 percent) for 1,599 yards. He threw 13 touchdown passes versus eight interceptions and ranked second in the NJAC with a 127.49 pass efficiency rating. Smith tied a school single-game record with five touchdown passes in a win over Kean in mid-September.

Costin finished the season with 27 tackles, a pass breakup and seven quarterback hurries. He made six tackles for losses, including three sacks. Murphy registered 38 tackles, including 2.5 sacks and 7.5 total tackles for losses. He had two quarterback hurries, a pass breakup and a fumble recovery. Cortland was ranked among the top Division III teams in rushing defense, allowing only 90.3 yards per game on the ground.

Beck made 31 tackles, 24 solo, in nine contests as a starter. He tied with Sair for the team lead with three interceptions and 10 pass breakups and shared the NJAC lead with Sair with 13 passes defended. Jablonski ranked second on the team this season with 68 tackles and five sacks, and was third with 8.5 total tackles for losses. He also had an interception, six pass breakups, eight quarterback hurries and a team-best three blocked kicks.

Cortland finished the season with a 5-4 record, including a 4-2 NJAC record. The Red Dragons finished third in the seven-team league, with their two losses coming by a combined four points.

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