Cortland's Mike Abbott Named SUNYAC Men's Lacrosse Player of the Year; Ten Red Dragons on All-League Squad

SUNY Cortland junior midfielder Mike Abbott (Syracuse/Nottingham) has been chosen as the 2005 State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Men's Lacrosse Player of the Year. In addition, he is one of 10 Red Dragons who were named to the all-conference team, including five on the first team.

Abbott, senior attacker Adam Hughes (North Syracuse/Cicero-North Syracuse), sophomore midfielder Ryan Simensky (Locust Valley), sophomore defenseman Cheney Raymond (Camillus/West Genesee) and junior defenseman Dan Schmitt (North Syracuse/Cicero-North Syracuse) were SUNYAC first team all-stars. Junior attacker Kyle Lambert (Brentwood), junior midfielder Matt O'Connell (Camillus/West Genesee), senior midfielder Brad Ertl (East Aurora/Iroquois), senior defenseman Dan Mendelson (Farmingdale) and junior goalie Ben Gaebel (Deferiet/Carthage) were second team selections.

Abbott scored a team-high 18 goals and led the Red Dragons with 56 ground balls and a 70 percent faceoff success rate (63-of-90) in six regular-season SUNYAC games. He also scored 10 goals in two SUNYAC tournament games, including eight in the league finals, and was the league tournament Most Valuable Player.

Hughes led Cortland in league play with 28 points (17 goals, 11 assists) and was second on the team with 26 ground balls. Simensky registered 12 goals and a team-high 13 assists and scooped up 22 ground balls in league games.

Raymond finished with a goal and two assists in addition to 21 ground balls in the conference. Schmitt totaled 20 ground balls in six SUNYAC tilts.

Lambert has 12 goals, six assists and 11 ground balls, and O'Connell recorded six goals and six assists along with 11 ground balls in league play. Ertl finished with three ground balls and Mendelson had 14 ground balls. Gaebel finished league regular-season play with a 6.19 goals against average and a .613 save percentage in five starts.

Cortland won the regular season SUNYAC title with a 6-0 mark and captured the league tournament with two victories. The Red Dragons, 16-1 overall, will host Skidmore in an NCAA Division III tournament second round game on Sunday at 1 p.m.

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