Cortland Places Six on Men’s Lacrosse All-America Team; Abbott, Schmitt Earn Spots on North-South Squad

Six members of SUNY Cortland’s NCAA Division III Championship men’s lacrosse team have been chosen to the 2006 United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) All-America team. Senior midfielder Mike Abbott (Syracuse/Nottingham) was chosen to the first team for the second straight season. Senior attacker Kyle Lambert (Brentwood), senior midfielder Matt O’Connell (Camillus/West Genesee) and senior defender Dan Schmitt (North Syracuse/Cicero-North Syracuse) were second team selections, junior long-stick midfielder Cheney Raymond (Camillus/West Genesee) was a third team choice and senior goalie Ben Gaebel (Deferiet/Carthage) was honorable mention. Schmitt was a third team All-American and Lambert and Raymond were honorable mention selections last year.

In addition, Abbott and Schmitt were selected to the Division III roster for the North-South Senior All-Star Game. However, they did not play in the game, which this year featured Division III all-stars versus a combined Division I and II all-star team, since it was held in Philadelphia two days prior to the NCAA championship game.

Abbott scored 40 goals and assisted on 11 others for 51 points this spring. He ranked second on the team in goals and third in total points. He also won 82-of-157 faceoffs (52 percent) and picked up 91 ground balls. Abbott registered 114 points (83 goals, 31 assists) in his two seasons with Cortland after transferring from the University of Virginia.

Lambert led the Red Dragons with 44 goals and 67 points, tied for second with 23 assists and grabbed 45 ground balls. He finished his career as Cortland’s leading goal scorer with 164 and is tied for fifth with 217 points (164 goals, 53 assists).

O’Connell, the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Player of the Year, finished the season with 31 goals and a team-high 31 assists. His 62 points was second on the team behind Lambert. He recorded 41 ground balls and finished 44th nationally in Division III with 1.55 assists per game.

Schmitt totaled 57 ground balls and notched one assist in 19 games, all as a starter. He helped pace a defense that allowed less than 6.5 goals per game and double-figure goals only two times.

Raymond tallied 10 goals and dished out three assists this spring and led the Red Dragons with 105 ground balls. His 5.0 ground balls per game ranks 50th nationally in Division III.

Gaebel, a starter in all 21 games, ranked sixth nationally with a 6.16 goals against average and 13th nationally with a 63.2 save percentage. He made 199 saves, including a career-best 18 in Cortland’s 13-12 overtime win over three-time defending champion Salisbury in the NCAA Division III title game in Philadelphia.

Cortland finished the season 18-3 and won its first national crown since winning the NCAA Division II title in 1975.

# # #