BRUNSWICK, MAINE – Cortland captured its first-ever ECAC Division III Men's Indoor Track and Field title, placing first among 36 schools at the championship meet at Bowdoin College. The Red Dragons, who finished second in 1989, 1990 and 1997, scored 92 points at the meet, 10 ahead of second place Bates College. Last season, the Red Dragons finished 29th at the meet with 19 points.

Cortland and Bates were tied entering the final event, the 4x800-meter relay. Bates did not finish in the top eight in the event and therefore did not score any points. Cortland won the race as junior Ed Crowley (Valatie/Ichabod Crane), freshman Andy Cloke (Corning/Notre Dame), senior John Lynch (Clifton Park/Shenendehowa) and sophomore Dave Neal (Port Ewen/Kingston) were clocked in a fieldhouse record 7:52.97. They missed a school record by just over a second. The Red Dragons led after each of the first three handoffs in the race. Neal was passed during the final leg, but was able to recover, regain the lead and maintain it to the finish line.

Freshman Nick Wetherby (Olean) claimed titles in both the 200-meter dash (22.16) and the 55-meter dash (6.50). He broke the school record in the 200 meters, with the previous mark 22.17 seconds by Stefan Mascoll in 1997. Wetherby’s 55-meter dash time is an NCAA provisional qualifier, but not as fast as his previous best time this year of 6.48 seconds.

Senior Jon Frechette (Oswego) won the 55-meter hurdles in 7.68 seconds. Cortland also earned three second-place finishes. Neal was runner-up in the 800 meters (1:55.77) and junior Chuck Terry (Albany/CBA) was second in the 3,000 meters (8:39.37). Terry ran a career best in the 3,000 and was edged for the title by 0.46 seconds. The combination of junior Jason Manenkoff (Garnerville/North Rockland), sophomore Steve Davis (Central Islip), sophomore Courtney Jennings (Spring Valley/Ramapo) and Wetherby finished second in the 4x200-meter relay (1:31.70).

Manenkoff also turned in fourth-place efforts in both the 200-meter dash (23.03) and the long jump (22’ 3.5”). Junior Paul Zalewski (Solvay) was third in the 500 meters (1:07.25), sophomore Tyler Gutierrez (Waverly) placed third in the pole vault (14’ 11.5”) and sophomore Marcus Matyas (Hamburg) turned in a personal best of 49’ 7.75” on his final attempt in the shot put to finish fifth. Also scoring points for the Red Dragons was the distance medley relay of Lynch, Neal, Crowley and senior Dave Borg (Greenlawn/ Harborfields) with a seventh-place time of 10:26.38.

2004 ECAC Division III Men's Indoor Track and Field Championships
Final Team Standings (Top 15) (36 teams in all)

1) Cortland ............ 92
2) Bates .......... 82
3) Springfield .......... 59
4) Tufts ............. 56.5
5) Geneseo ............ 43
6) St. Lawrence ........ 39
7) Amherst .......... 35
8) Merchant Marine Acad. 32
9) Ithaca ............ 31
10) Rensselaer ........ 26.5
11) Rochester .......... 25
12) New Jersey City .... 24.5
13) Wheaton ........ 22
14) Keene St. .......... 16
  Colby ........ 16
  Farmingdale .... 16
  Brockport .... 16