Cortland’s Lara Stone, Julie Gentner Selected to Division III Softball All-America Team; Cortland Coaches Earn Northeast Region "Staff of the Year" Distinction

SUNY Cortland junior outfielder Lara Stone (Windsor) and senior shortstop Julie Gentner (Williamsville/Williamsville South) were both named to the 2003 Louisville Slugger/NFCA Division III softball All-America team. Stone was a second team selection and Gentner earned third team placement.

Six Red Dragons earned spots on the All-Northeast Region team. Stone, Gentner and junior first baseman Carin Piacente (Putnam Valley/Walter Panas) were first team choices. Freshman outfielder Jennifer Rockwell (Scotia) and senior second baseman Jonna Ball (Peekskill/Hendrick Hudson) were named second team all-region and junior pitcher Lara Almansberger (Fairport) made the third team.

Ninth-year head coach Julie Lenhart and Cortland's assistant coaches -- Brad Posner, Tara Schanbacher and Andi Noyes -- were selected as the Speedline Northeast Region Coaching Staff of the Year. The Red Dragons finished 42-8-1 to set a new school record for wins. They won the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) title and swept through NCAA regional play with a 3-0 record to earn their first Division III World Series berth since 1998. Cortland finished 1-2 at the World Series and tied for fifth nationally.

Stone and Gentner each batted .373 to lead the Red Dragons this spring. Stone hit seven home runs and 12 doubles and drove in 42 runs. Gentner hit 10 homers and a school-record 18 doubles and drove in 46 runs, one shy of the school record. Gentner struck out just once in 187 plate appearances.

Piacente batted .356 with three homers and 33 RBI. She stole a team-best six bases. Rockwell hit .331 with two homers and 23 RBI. She led the team with 42 runs scored and 10 sacrifice hits, was second with 13 doubles and set a new school record with 24 walks. Ball hit .292 with three homers, 12 doubles and 14 RBI. Almansberger finished 15-1 with a 2.02 ERA and seven shutouts. She allowed 83 hits and 23 walks in 111 innings pitched. She tossed back-to-back no-hitters, including a perfect game, in mid-April.

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