Six Cortland Softball Players Earn All-ECAC Upstate New York Honors

Six members of the SUNY Cortland softball team have been chosen to the 2003 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III Upstate New York all-star team. Senior shortstop Julie Gentner (Williamsville/Williamsville South), junior outfielder Lara Stone (Windsor) and junior first baseman Carin Piacente (Putnam Valley/Walter Panas) were first team selections. Junior pitcher Lara Almansberger (Fairport), junior catcher Jill Seymour (Conklin/Susquehanna Valley) and freshman outfielder Jennifer Rockwell (Scotia) were all second team honorees.

Gentner batted .373 with 10 home runs, 18 doubles and 46 runs batted in. She struck out just once in 187 plate appearances and led the team with a .703 slugging percentage. Stone also batted .373 and recorded seven homers, 12 doubles and 42 RBI. Stone was a second team Division III All-American and Gentner was a third team All-American this spring.

Piacente registered a .356 batting average with three homers, 33 RBI and six stolen bases. Almansberger finished 15-1 with a 2.02 ERA and seven shutouts. She allowed 83 hits and 23 walks and recorded 67 strikeouts in 111 innings. She pitched back-to-back no-hitters on consecutive days in the middle of April, including a perfect game at New Paltz.

Seymour was one of the region’s top defensive catchers. She threw out 12 of 22 runners trying to steal and finished with a .981 fielding percentage. Rockwell started all 51 games for the Red Dragons and batted .331 with two homers, 13 doubles and 23 RBI. She set a school single-season record with 24 walks and led the team with 42 runs scored.

Cortland set a school record for victories during its 42-8-1 campaign. The Red Dragons won the SUNYAC tournament to earn an NCAA playoff berth and won three straight regional games to advance to the eight-team Division III World Series. Cortland tied for fifth nationally with a 1-2 record, in the process claiming the program’s first-ever World Series victory.

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