Cortland’s Julie Gentner Named to Verizon Academic All-America College Division Softball Team

SUNY Cortland senior shortstop Julie Gentner (Williamsville/Williamsville South) has been selected to the second team of the 2003 Verizon Academic All-America College Division national softball squad. The Verizon College Division recipients are broken down into three teams. A total of 33 student-athletes from Division II, Division III and NAIA schools throughout the nation have been honored, including three from schools in New York state. The team is voted upon by selected members of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) from a ballot of district honorees.

Gentner, a sport management major with a 3.40 grade point average, was a third team national selection as a junior. This spring, she led the 42-8-1 Red Dragons with a .373 batting average, 10 home runs and 46 runs batted in. She also registered a school-record 18 doubles. She helped Cortland advance to the NCAA Division III World Series and tie for fifth nationally.

Gentner finished her career as Cortland’s career leader in hits (224), RBI (139), doubles (58), walks (50) and games played (181). She earned National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-America honors three times. She was a third team selection in both 2002 and 2003 and a second team honoree in 2001.

The Verizon Academic All-America program was founded by CoSIDA in 1952 to recognize collegiate student-athletes for their outstanding achievements in the classroom and on the playing field. The program has grown into one of the most recognized and prestigious collegiate scholar-athlete awards nationwide, honoring student-athletes from all NCAA championship sports.

The Verizon Academic All-America Teams are selected by a vote of the 1,800-member CoSIDA. To be eligible, an athlete must be a varsity starter or key reserve and maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.20 on a scale of 4.00. Sports information directors nominate eligible athletes from their schools who are named to district teams prior to being voted upon the national level.

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