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Cortland's Lizz Rakita Named SUNYAC Women's Volleyball Player of the Week;
Tiffany Chatman Selected as NYSWCAA Volleyball Rookie of the Week

SUNY Cortland senior setter Lizz Rakita (Lake Grove/Sachem) has been selected as the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Women's Volleyball Player of the Week, and freshman middle hitter Tiffany Chatman (Watertown) has been chosen as the New York State Women's Collegiate Athletic Association (NYSWCAA) volleyball Rookie of the Week, for the week ending Sept. 18.

Rakita and Chatman were both named to the all-tournament team at the RIT Invitational, helping the nationally 19th-ranked Red Dragons to a second place finish in the 12-team field.

In five matches last week, including four at the RIT tournament, Rakita averaged 10.9 assists and 3.1 digs per game. She also recorded 14 kills, 11 blocks and six aces in 18 games. She dished out 41 assists in a mid-week 3-0 win at St. John Fisher and recorded 43 assists in a 3-1 win over Clarkson and a 3-2 loss to nationally fifth-ranked NYU. Rakita also totaled eight blocks in the NYU match and reached double-figure digs in three of five matches.

Chatman recorded 35 kills and 26 blocks in Cortland's four matches at RIT. She opened the tournament with 15 kills and a .440 attack percentage in the Red Dragons' win over Clarkson, then had 10 kills and nine blocks in a 3-0 win over St. John Fisher. She concluded the tournament with eight kills and a team-high 11 blocks in the championship match loss to NYU.

Cortland had a 12-1 overall record at the conclusion of last week's play. The Red Dragons entered the week ranked 20th nationally, but moved into a tie for 19th in the Sept. 20 AVCA Division III national poll.

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