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Contact: John Czarnecki, Publicist

CORTLAND PICKED TO FINISH FIRST IN SUNYAC SOFTBALL POLL

Defending Champion Plattsburgh only one point behind

FREDONIA, NY – The Cortland Red Dragons have been picked by the conference coaches to win the SUNYAC title this season. The Red Dragons received 5 first place votes and 95 total points. Plattsburgh was in a very close second, with 5 first place votes and 94 total points.

Last season, Cortland fell in the SUNYAC Championship to Plattsburgh 4-3 in 10 innings. The Red Dragons will look to rally behind last seasons' SUNYAC Player of the Year **Jamie Neuner (Brewster/Brewster)**. Other key returning players include junior **Tina Milani (Hopewell Junction/John Jay)**, senior hurler **Andrea D'Amboise (Ballston Lake/Shenendehowa)**, senior second baseman **Stefanie Cola (Binghamton/Chenango Valley)**, senior first baseman **Dominique Talbot (Rockville Centre/Southside)**, and senior outfielder **Kate Yaun (Liberty/Liberty)**.

Plattsburgh was a close second, with as many first place votes, but one less overall vote than Cortland. After last year's SUNYAC title, the Cardinals went onto the NCAA regional finals, where they fell to Ithaca 4-2. Returning from last year's 40-9 team are 9 players, including the SUNYAC Pitcher of the Year **Stephanie Zweig (West Nyak/Clarkstown South)**. Other key returners are senior catcher **Melissa Luciano (Stony Point/Rockland)**, junior first baseman **Andrea Stupp (Bethlehem/Bethlehem)**, junior shortstop **Kirby Davids (Brisbane Australia/Mt. St. Michael's)**, and sophomore outfielder/infielder **Shannon Connors (Brockport/Brockport)**.

Buffalo State received one first place and 78 total votes in the pre-season poll. Third baseman **Jolene Banach (Cheektowaga/Maryvale)** was last year's SUNYAC Rookie of the Year, and will be returning to the team along with senior infielder **Laurie Hutton (Tonawanda/Kenmore West)**, senior outfielder **Lauren Mruk (Lancaster/Lancaster)**, and junior pitcher **Nicole Sabuda (Orchard Park/Orchard Park)**.

2007 SUNYAC Coaches' Preseason Poll

1.	Cortland (5)	95
2.	Plattsburgh (5)	94
3.	Buffalo State (1)	78
4.	Geneseo	71
5.	Brockport	69
6.	Oneonta	50
7.	Fredonia	45
8.	New Paltz	40
9.	Oswego	34
10.	Potsdam	17
11.	SUNYIT	12

(First-place votes in parentheses)