

# Cross Country Team qualifies

## College Relations

For the second consecutive season, both the Cortland men's and women's cross country teams have qualified for the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships. The Red Dragon units, by finishing among the top units at Saturday's New York Regional Qualifier at Saratoga Spa State Park, will compete at the NCAA finale Saturday at Hope College, Holland, Mich.

"Hopefully, having four men and four women back from our national teams of last year will help us when we face the best in Michigan this Saturday," said Cortland head coach Jack Daniels.

"It's really encouraging and rewarding to have both men and women make it to nationals who haven't been good enough to make it in the past. It speaks well for

their continued dedication and patience. I think these 14 runners have come a long way and deserve a lot of credit."

A perennial national qualifier, the Cortland women are making their fifth trip in the NCAA Division III Women's Cross Country Championship six-year history. The Red Dragons were fifth in 1982, third in 1983, fifth in 1985 and ninth in 1986.

The Cortland men, in their first national since the origin of the NCAA Division III finale, placed 17th in 1986. Next weekend, 13 women's squads and 21 men's teams will vie for the national crown.

The Cortland men, paced by senior John Waldron's second place showing, finished second behind the University of Rochester in the 20-team regional meet. Rochester,

with 41 points, Cortland with 62, and third place St. Lawrence at 187, qualified their entire squads. Other top team efforts included: RIT 148, Ithaca 171, Albany 178 and Fredonia 209.

"As expected, Rochester ran real well and I think a couple of our runners are just getting back to earlier racing fitness," said Daniels. "We are pretty even and I hope we can both represent our region well at nationals. All in all, I think Rochester, Cortland and St. Lawrence will make a good showing at Nationals. The competition was really tough and some good athletes didn't make it this year."

St. Lawrence's Jukka Tammsuio led the 150-runner field with his winning time of 25:05, 12 seconds ahead of Cortland's

Waldron.

Other Cortland finishes included: junior Mark Gaffney in eighth place at 25:37; junior Ed Stickles 16th in 25:50; sophomore Joe Keany 18th in 25:09; senior Peter Gordon 25th in 26:11; junior Steve Cammisa 27th in 26:14; and senior Dave Nettleton 33rd in 26:33.

In the women's race, the top three teams earned national trips. Cortland, finishing behind Ithaca with 42 and Rochester with 45, made the cutoff with 84 points.

"With six of our seven runners turning in personal bests, we did what we had to do to make it to the nationals: our goal for the season," said Daniels.

"I hope Ithaca and Rochester are really the second and fifth best teams in

the country as currently ranked because we know where we stand with two great teams. I think we are still improving and look forward to the race in Michigan. It's reassuring to have our second through seventh runners so closely bunched."

Rochester's Josepha Benzoni led the 95 runners by finishing in 16:52. Cortland senior Barb Schmitt paced the Dragons in fifth place at 17:50. Red Dragon sophomore Mary Selleck, senior Diane Everard and sophomore Bridget Lalley finished 18th, 19th and 20th, respectively, in 18:38, 18:40 and 18:41.

Fourteen women's teams plus 38 individual qualifiers will compete on Saturday, while 21 men's teams and 37 individuals will be at the NCAA Championship.

# Gymnasts to defend title

By ROB ADAMO  
Staff Writer

This past Saturday, for the seventh time, the Alumni men gymnasts gathered forces at Cortland to challenge the 87-88 Red Dragon gymnastics team.

The Alumni hopefuls gathered seasoned talent for this strategic event by reaching out nation-wide to tap such notables as former high bar All American Jeff Stark, who traveled all the way from Oregon.

The atmosphere was charged as the Alumni were determined to show the Red Dragons that they still had the right stuff.

In 1979, the Red Dragons won their first NAGL title and had their first All America competitor. The Cortland Gymnasts have achieved All American status 54 times since 1979. In each of the past three years, Cortland has been voted the top Division III team in the nation.

No other New York State College or University has qualified more gymnasts in the last eight years for the NCAA Division I Championship than Cortland. In spite of such strong past performances, head coach Eric Malmberg contends that this season will be better yet, as he remarked, "This year's team will be one of the best in years."

Although his last two teams were National Champions, a seemingly hard act to follow, he sees nothing but a promising 87-88 season ahead. "We have a young team and I'm fairly pleased thus far, I see talents that I have never seen in any of my other groups."

Malmberg plans to do some new and varied routines with his 87-88 Red Dragons and is optimistic about another championship year because of the high caliber of this year's team.

The 1 p.m. starting time showed the two teams facing each other eager to begin the six event competition. In the first event, floor exercise, freshman Jeff Denney overwhelmed the crowd with his brilliant performance, apparently the judges agreed as Denney was awarded a 9.2 in the event.

"Jeff is a fine young gymnast, for a freshman he has a lot of talent and these next four years will be quite promising for him as well as the team," said Malmberg.

But the Alumni managed to score the first event higher overall edging the Red Dragons 43.9 to 43.6.

In the second event, the pommel horse, sophomore Rikki Daniels exhibited a fine performance scoring a 9.1. This changed the lead going into the third event 83.8 to 81.4 in favor of the Red Dragons.

Next on the agenda was the rings, which coach Malmberg considers the Red Dragon's weakest event. Senior Dan Tassone scored a 9.1 for the Red Dragons, but it wasn't quite enough to win the event as the Alumni scored higher overall and recaptured the lead, 122.6 to 120.6.

In the fourth event, vaulting, Red Dragon Jeff Denney came away with a 9.1 but the Alumni gave no ground scoring higher overall and kept the lead 166.2 to 163.5. The parallel bars followed with sophomore Rikki Daniels scoring the high mark of the day, an im-



Michael Somsan/The Press

Cortland State's Jack Garcia pushes the puck forward during Wednesday night's 6-3 victory over the Binghamton Colonial

## Dragons ice Binghamton, 6-3

pressive 9.4, winning the event for the Red Dragons.

"Rikki is as big surprise, he has one of the most creative parallel bar routines we've ever put together," were the words of his coach Eric Malmberg.

As the sixth and final event, the horizontal bars, approached, the Alumni still maintained their lead 207.1 to 205.3.

"The horizontal bars is a very difficult event, it is not one of our stronger events, but right now it is still up in the air," noted Malmberg. Pete Donello, a senior,

gave it his best shot scoring an 8.5, leaving the 87-88 team several points short of the Alumni.

The Alumni held on to beat the Red Dragons 242.1 to 237.8, giving them their seventh consecutive win and best overall score up to date of 242.1.

At the conclusion of the meet, Malmberg went on to say, "I am very proud today and I think we are looking good at this point in the season. But we still have a lot to work on and right now we need to concentrate on our strength as we will have until January to do so."

## Trivia

What was the last college basketball team to be involved in The Final Four for three consecutive years?

Name the team and the year. Answer in the Dec. 11 issue of *The Press*.

Answer from Nov. 13:

The Los Angeles Lakers recorded 33 consecutive victories during the 1971-72 season.