

Saturday, May 17, 2008

RPI OUTSLUGS, OUSTS EASTERN BASBALL FROM NCAA, 14-13

In tenth inning of regional, Warriors score twice but leave tying run at second base

AUBURN, N.Y. – The Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team surged back from a five-run deficit midway through the game, but left the tying run in scoring position in the bottom of the tenth inning and was knocked out the NCAA Division III New York Regional Tournament in a 14-13, ten-inning loss to RPI Saturday afternoon at Falcon Park.

Fifth-seeded Eastern (32-15-1) had won three straight elimination games over the last two days to reach the losers' bracket final, where third-seeded RPI (36-11) snapped a tie with three runs in the top of the tenth and survived an Eastern rally in the bottom of the inning.

Once-beaten RPI was scheduled to face top-seeded and undefeated SUNY Cortland Saturday night in the championship round. A win tonight or tomorrow gives Cortland the championship and a berth in the NCAA Division III national tournament beginning Friday at Fox Cities Stadium in Grand Chute, Wis.

A .389 hitter, Camden Mamigonian tied the game for RPI with a two-out pinch RBI single in the top of the eighth inning, and snapped an 11-11 tie in the tenth with a one-out single. His game-tying single in the eighth came on an 0-2 pitch, and his go-ahead single in the tenth came on the first pitch.

Eastern and RPI traded six-run innings in the middle innings Saturday before the Warriors took an 11-10 lead into the eighth inning after scoring the go-ahead run in the bottom of the seventh on a leadoff walk to sophomore shortstop **John Parke (Middlefield)**, sacrifice bunt by senior leftfielder **Jon Dalton (Standish, ME)** and two-out single by 2007 National Player-of-the-year **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)**, a junior designated hitter.

After Mamigonian's single gave RPI a 12-11 lead in the tenth, the Red Hawks tacked on two insurance runs on an RBI single by Dan Stroud and a sacrifice fly by reserve catcher Noah Poissant.

Trailing 14-11, the Warriors scored two quick runs in the bottom of the tenth on a two-run double by junior first baseman **Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY)** on the first pitch from reliever Andrew Novick that plated sophomore All-America third baseman **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** and sophomore pinch runner **Travis Horrigan (Roxbury)**. Hobbes hustled into second base just ahead of the outfield throw, but he was left there when Novick retired the final three batters to end Eastern's season. After surrendering the double, Novick walked freshman rightfielder **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)**, but Hobbes was forced at second for the first out on an unsuccessful sacrifice attempt.

(more)

Novick threw six strikes to the next two hitters to end the game, getting an infield pop on an 0-2 pitch and a game-ending swinging strikeout on three pitches.

The No. 3 and four hitters in the Eastern lineup –Castillo and Gilblair – combined for seven of Eastern's 16 hits, six RBI and four runs scored. Gilblair had his third four-hit game of the season and drove in three runs while Castillo had three hits – two doubles and his 11th home run of the year – driving in three runs and scoring three. Castillo also walked to open the tenth and scored ahead of Hobbes' double. Schult added three hits and two runs scored and first-year sophomore **Travis Bass (West Hartford)** and junior catcher **Andrew Magliola (East Haven)** contributed two hits each. Magliola drove in five runs in the tournament with five hits.

Eastern got stellar starting pitching after dropping into the losers' bracket following an opening 8-7 loss to Montclair State University Wednesday. Senior righties **Joe Esposito (East Haven)** and **Jimmy Jagodzinski (Greenwich)** pitched back-to-back complete games against Grove City and Ohio Wesleyan University, respectively, and junior righty **James Kukucka (Vernon)** went eight strong innings Friday night in a 14-0 out of Montclair State in a game that ended just before 2 a.m.

Sophomore righty **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)**, who pitched into the sixth inning of Wednesday's loss to Montclair, was knocked out of Saturday's game against RPI after four innings. With the score tied 3-3, RPI batted around in the fourth against Fontaine and scored six runs on four hits and two walks. Prior to Eastern's at-bat in the bottom of the fourth, the game was delayed 52 minutes due to rain. Following the rain delay, Fontaine gave way to junior righty **Michael Montanari (Newington)** to start the fifth.

After batting .217 in four games in last weekend's Little East Conference Tournament, Eastern hit at a .367 clip in five regional games with 14 doubles, a triple and five home runs. Castillo led the Warriors with 11 hits – four of them doubles and three of them home runs – while Gilblair and Dalton each had ten hits. Castillo also topped all Eastern players by scoring ten runs and driving in nine.

Castillo and Gilblair represented Eastern on the 11-person all-tournament team. Pitcher Nicolas Blanco was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player from SUNY Cortland, which won the title with a 6-2 win over RPI Saturday. Blanco did not allow an earned run and only four hits in recording all but the final out of the title win over RPI. The Red Dragons scored four times in the top of the ninth to pull away from a 2-1 lead in the championship game.

(more)

RPI 14, Eastern Conn. 13 (10 inn.)

RPI (36-11)	300	601	010	3	--	14	16	3
Eastern Conn. (32-15-1)	112	060	100	2	--	13	16	1

Ken Carroll, Tyler Agneta (3), Mike Cieszko (5), Andrew Mondo (6), Andrew Novick (10) and Steven Slusher, Noah Poissant (9). Matt Fontaine, Michael Montanari (5), Wes Dutton (8), Ronnie Newkirk (8), Trey Bongiovanni (10) and Andrew Magliola. WP-Mondo (5-1). LP-Ronnie Newkirk (0-3). Save-Novick (3). 2B-Sean Wilkes, Dan Valentine, Patrick Reardon, Camden Mamigonian ®, Melvin Castillo 2, Jon Dalton, Shawn Gilblair, Tristan Hobbes, Jim Schult (F); HR-Carroll (6) ®, Castillo (11) (E).

Friday, May 16, 2008

JAGODZINSKI'S COMPLETE GAME LIFTS EASTERN BASEBALL, 5-1
In elimination game of NCAA regionals, Warriors stay alive against OWU

AUBURN, N.Y. -- Senior right-hander **Jimmy Jagodzinski (Greenwich)** threw a complete-game seven-hitter and the fifth-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team snapped a tie with a four-run fifth inning to turn back seventh-seeded Ohio Wesleyan University, 5-1, Friday afternoon and remain alive in the NCAA Division III New York Regional Tournament at Falcon Park.

One of four teams remaining in the original field of eight, Eastern (31-14) earns a re-match with fourth-seeded Montclair State University (28-19) Friday night at 10 p.m. in this double-elimination tournament. The Red Hawks, who scored three runs in the ninth inning to rally past the Warriors, 8-7, in a first-round game Wednesday, remained alive earlier Friday by scoring the go-ahead run in the top of the ninth inning in an elimination-game 7-6 win over second-seeded Ithaca College.

The Eastern-Montclair loser is eliminated, while the winner plays Saturday at 1 p.m. against the loser of Friday's 6:30 p.m. winners' bracket game between top-seeded SUNY Cortland and third-seeded RPI. The Cortland-RPI winner needs one victory to win the regional title.

Jagodzinski (9-3) becomes Eastern's second senior righty to go the distance in an elimination game in as many games, matching **Joe Esposito (East Haven)**. Behind Esposito, Eastern eliminated eighth-seeded Grove City College, 10-5, Thursday.

In the first meeting ever against Ohio Wesleyan, Jagodzinski allowed more than one hit in an inning only once while striking out eight, walking one, and hitting one. Jagodzinski did not allow a hit and only two baserunners over the final three innings. Five of the seven hits he allowed in the game were singles and the other two were doubles.

Jagodzinski is now 3-0 in NCAA tournament play in his three-year career, having pitched at least eight innings in each of those starts. The victory was the 19th overall in his career against five losses.

For the third straight regional tournament game, the Warriors used one big inning to score the majority of their runs. Sophomore second baseman **Travis Bass (West Hartford)** got things going in the fifth by legging out an infield single against starting lefty Joey McDaniel (4-4). With Bass on third and senior **Ismael Bolorin (Manchester)** on first and none out, No. 9 hitter **Andrew Magliola (East Haven)** grounded a potential double play ball to second base. The ball took a bad hop, however, and second baseman Jerrell Johnson was only able to force Bolorin at second as Bass scored the go-ahead run. Leadoff hitter **John Parke's (Middlefield)** double to left-center and an outfield error

(more)

allowed Magliola to come all the way around from first to make it 3-1. With runners on first and second, cleanup hitter **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** made it 4-1 with an RBI single to right-center. With two out and sophomore **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** on third, Gilblair got tagged out in a rundown between first and second base, but not before Castillo crossed the plate to make it 5-1.

Senior **Jon Dalton (Standish, ME)** and Bass each had three hits, freshman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** adding two before leaving the game in the fourth inning due to an injury.

Dalton leads the Warriors in the tournament with seven hits, while Castillo leads Eastern with six RBI, six runs, a .545 batting average and a 1.273 slugging average. Having averaged over two errors per game this year, Eastern has committed only four in three tournament games.

Junior righty **James Kukucka (Vernon)** is expected to make his first NCAA start tonight. Kukucka is 5-1 with a 4.81 ERA. In his last start exactly a week ago, Kukucka pitched the first six innings and gained credit for a 9-6 win over UMass Boston in the Little East Conference Tournament. Kukucka allowed five hits and five walks and was charged with four earned runs in that game.

Eastern Conn. 5, Ohio Wesleyan U. 1

Eastern Conn. (31-14)	000	140	000	--	5	12	1
Ohio Wesleyan (29-19)	010	000	000	--	1	7	1

Jimmy Jagodzinski (9-3) and Andrew Magliola. Joey McDaniel (4-4), Matthew Struble (5), Eric Livingston (9) and Steve Ruygrok. 2B-John Parke, Jon Dalton (E), Scott Wise, A.J. Dote (O).

Thursday, May 15, 2008

EASTERN BASEBALL ALIVE IN NCAA N.Y. REGIONAL

Behind Esposito's complete game, Warriors knock out Grove City, 10-5

AUBURN, N.Y. — Senior right-handed pitcher **Joe Esposito (East Haven)** threw a complete game for the second time in post-season play this year, and All-America **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** drove in four runs to power the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 10-5 win over Grove City College Thursday morning in an elimination game of the 2008 NCAA Division III New York Regional and Falcon Park.

By posting its 26th 30-win season in the last 36 years, fifth-seeded Eastern (30-14-1) advances in the losers' bracket of the eight-team, double-elimination tournament to play Friday at 1:15 p.m. The Warriors will face the loser of a late Thursday night winners' bracket game between third-seeded RPI and seventh-seeded Ohio Wesleyan University.

Eighth-seeded Grove City (18-18), becomes the first team eliminated. The Wolverines were making their first NCAA appearance ever after gaining the automatic bid awarded the champion of the President's Athletic Conference.

Esposito (6-2) struggled in only one inning against Grove City when the Wolverines scored all of their runs in the fourth to take a 5-2 lead. Grove City had five of its ten hits in the inning and got a two-run home run from No. 9 hitter Butch Kriger.

Esposito was coming off a complete-game seven-hit 1-0 loss to Keene State College in the Little East Conference tournament last Friday. Against the Wolverines, Esposito struck out a season-high ten batters and walked only one in recording the fourth complete game in 31 career starts.

Trailing 5-4, the Warriors batted around in the seventh to score five runs on four hits and three walks. Junior catcher and No. 9 hitter **Andrew Magliola (East Haven)** started it off by reaching on an infield single and Castillo and junior rightfielder **Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY)** each plated two runs with singles. Freshman first baseman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** closed out the rally with a sacrifice fly.

For the second straight regional game, Castillo had three hits and senior leftfielder **Jon Dalton (Standish, ME)** and junior DH **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** added two each. Prior to his two-run single in the seventh, Castillo drove in Eastern's second run of the game with a double in the third and led off the sixth inning with his tenth home run of the year to pull the Warriors to within 5-3. Gilblair had given Eastern a 1-0 lead by hitting a leadoff home run in the second — his team-leading 12th of the season. He also singled in the sixth and walked and scored the final run in the seventh. With the home run, Gilblair becomes the first player in program history with 20 pitching wins and 20 home runs.

(more)

After going 0-for-6 in the leadoff spot in Wednesday's 8-7 loss to fourth-seeded Montclair, Parke had two hits batting in the No. 7 spot against Grove City. With Eastern down 5-2, Parke led off the fifth with a single and later scored on a sacrifice fly by leadoff hitter **Ismael Bolorin (Manchester)**.

In two regional games thus far, Castillo has six hits, driven in six runs, scored four, walked once, and stolen three bases. Among his hits are two doubles and two home runs. Gilblair has reached safely six times with four hits and two walks and Dalton has four hits and scored four runs.

Friday's expected starters will be either junior righty **James Kukucka (Vernon)** or senior righty **Jimmy Jagodzinski (Greenwich)**. Kukucka is 5-1 with a 4.81 ERA, Jagodzinski 9-3 with a 3.71 ERA. The Warriors have never met Ohio Wesleyan University. In their only contest against RPI, the Warriors scored three runs in the ninth for a 10-9 win in the 2002 national tournament en route to their fourth and most recent title.

Eastern Conn. 10, Grove City College 5

Grove City (18-18)	000	500	000	--	5	10	0
Eastern Conn. (20-14-1)	011	012	50x	--	10	13	1

Cory Metcalf (2-3), Matt Tindall (8) and Ray Mertz. Joe Esposito (6-2) and Andrew Magliola. 2B-Seth Thompson (G), Melvin Castillo (E); HR-Butch Kriger (3) (G), Castillo (10), Shawn Gilblair (12) (E).

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

EASTERN BASEBALL BLOWS LEAD, LANDS IN LOSER'S BRACKET

Late four-run lead evaporates as Warriors lose regional tourney opener, 8-7

AUBURN, N.Y. -- The Montclair State University baseball team scored seven runs in its final three at-bats to erase a four-run deficit and post a come-from-behind 8-7 win over Eastern Connecticut State University in the opening game of the NCAA Division III New York Regional Tournament Wednesday morning at Falcon Park.

For Eastern (29-14-1), it is its first loss in the opening game of a regional tournament since 1997 and drops the fifth-seeded Warriors into an elimination game Thursday at 10 a.m. against eighth-seeded Grove City College (18-17). The Wolverines lost their opener to top-seeded SUNY Cortland, 10-1, Thursday. By stopping a three-game losing streak, fourth-seeded Montclair (27-18) faces Cortland (39-3) Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

A four-run seventh inning had staked Eastern to a 7-3 lead, but the Red Hawks countered with two runs in the bottom of the seventh on a leadoff home run and two-out single, and got a go-ahead three-run home run from cleanup hitter Lou Politan with two outs in the eighth to complete their second one-run comeback win over the Warriors this season. On April 1, Montclair came back from a 4-1 deficit to record a 7-6 victory over the Warriors at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

The third of three Eastern pitchers, first-year sophomore righty **Chris Wojick (Uncasville)** got the final two outs of the seventh inning – helping to diffuse the Montclair rally which produced two runs. Wojick, who had allowed only two earned runs in 19 relief appearances this season, struck out the first two batters of the eighth before walking No. 2 hitter Rob Bowness. A wild pitch and intentional walk put the tying runs aboard before Politan drove a 1-2 pitch over the right field fence to vault the Red Hawks into an 8-7 lead.

After Montclair junior righty Stephen Piscitello (1-1) retired the first two batters of the ninth, senior centerfielder **Ismael Bolorin (Manchester)** and junior pinch hitter **Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY)** singled to put runners on the corners, but Piscitello got a routine fly ball to center to end the game. Piscitello, the team's starting third baseman, pitched the final 2 1/3 innings to gain the win after having thrown only five innings all season long.

(more)

Seven Eastern starters in the game were making their first NCAA starts, including sophomore righty **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)**. Making his second start this year against Montclair -- and being opposed again by senior lefty Kevin Dalton -- Fontaine pitched into the sixth inning. He departed while the Red Hawks were scoring twice of tie the game at 3-3, having allowed nine hits and two walks while striking out six.

Eastern broke a 3-3 tie by batting around and scoring four runs on two hits, three walks and a hit batsmen in the seventh, but left the bases loaded when leadoff hitter **John Parke (Middlefield)** lined out to center field. Senior leftfielder **Jon Dalton (Standish, ME)** and sophomore third baseman **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** produced the back-to-back hits in the inning. Dalton singled with one out and Castillo knocked him in with a double over the third base bag to give Eastern a 4-3 lead. A throwing error by Montclair catcher Jeff Miller while Castillo was stealing third brought in Castillo to make it 5-3, and after two walks and a hit batsman loaded the bases, two insurance runs scored when second baseman Andrew Himmelfarb was unable to make a play on a ground ball by Bolorin. The third walk of the inning again loaded the bases, but Parke's hard liner right at centerfielder Michael Nunes ended the inning.

Down by two runs, Montclair remained within striking distance by escaping Eastern threats in both the sixth and eighth. In the sixth, the Warriors were foiled on a suicide squeeze bunt after Bolorin had knocked in freshman rightfielder **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** with a triple; in the eighth, the Red Hawks turned an around-the-horn double play to end the inning.

After Bolorin's run-scoring triple gave the Warriors a 3-1 lead in the top of the sixth, Montclair tied the game in the bottom of the inning by scoring two runs, but had the potential go-ahead run cut down at third on a relay from Bolorin to Parke to Castillo when No. 9 hitter Kevin Cuozzi tried advancing to third on his RBI double to left-center.

Castillo and Bolorin each had three hits to pace Eastern's 14-hit attack. Castillo hit his ninth home run of the year with two out in the first to give the Warriors a quick 1-0 lead. He singled in the third to help the Warriors take a 2-1 lead, drove in a run with the double in the seventh, and walked and stole second in the eighth. He was only retired once in the game after flying out to the base of the right field wall.

Bolorin had his third three-hit game in the last 14. He doubled with two out in the second, tripled in the go-ahead run in the sixth, reached on an error in the four-run seventh, and singled on a 3-2 pitch with two out in the ninth.

(more)

The last four meetings between the teams have been decided by one run, with Montclair winning three.

Senior righty **Joe Esposito (East Haven)** is expected to make his ninth start of the season Thursday. Esposito, who allowed only one unearned run in the Little East Conference loss to top-ranked Keene State College last weekend, is 5-2 and has the best ERA (2.10) among starters.

Montclair State U. 8, Eastern Conn. 7

Eastern Conn. (29-14-1)	101	001	400	--	7	14	2
Montclair State U. (27-18)	010	002	23x	--	8	13	3

Matt Fontaine, Wes Dutton (6), Chris Wojick (8) and Andrew Magliola. Kevin Dalton, Jairo Mendez (7), Stephen Piscitello (7) and Jeff Miller. WP-Piscitello (1-1). LP-Wojick (2-1). 2B-Melvin Castillo, Ismael Bolorin, Magliola (E), Michael Nunes, Rob Bowness, Kevin Cuozzi (M); 3B-Bolorin (E); HR-Castillo (9) (E), Miller (7), Lou Politan (3) (M).

Friday, May 9, 2008

EASTERN BASEBALL ELIMINATED IN LITTLE EAST TOURNAMENT

Top-seeded Keene State scores only run of game in ninth to knock out Warriors

KEENE, N.H. — Number nine hitter Ryan Jones of Keene State College ended a classic pitching duel with a two-out, game-ending single in the bottom of the ninth in a 1-0 win that eliminated second-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University from the 2008 Little East Conference Baseball Tournament Friday afternoon at Owl Athletic Complex.

With the win, Keene (32-9) advanced to the championship round of the tournament for the third straight year, where it had been beaten by Eastern both previous times. The Owls must defeat undefeated and third-seeded University of Southern Maine twice in the double-elimination tournament to claim its first conference tournament title in the 12-year history of the tournament.

In Friday's first game, Southern Maine won the all-important winners' bracket final with an 8-4 victory over Keene State that moved the Huskies to within a win of its fourth LEC championship. Southern Maine has not won the title since capturing two of the first three, the most recent one coming in 1999. After being dismantled by Southern Maine by a score of 14-3 Thursday, Eastern had remained alive with a 9-5 win over Massachusetts Boston earlier Friday.

Hitless in three previous plate appearances, Jones rapped a single up the middle with two out in the bottom of the ninth inning to chase home Greg Ford with the only run of the game. With one out, Ford singled, moved to second on a passed ball, and raced home on Jones' single.

Keene State's Jamie Morin (5-0) remained undefeated this year by outdueling Eastern senior righty **Joe Esposito (East Haven)**. Both pitchers went the distance, with Morin allowing only three hits while fanning 15 and walking two. Esposito gave up seven hits while fanning eight and walking four.

Eastern had advanced earlier in the day with its second win in as many days over fifth-seeded UMass Boston (16-24). Junior righty **James Kukucka (Vernon)** and freshman righty **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** combined on a seven-hitter. The Warriors never trailed in the game and broke from a 3-3 tie with two runs in the third and three more in the middle innings. Sophomore All-America third baseman **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** scored four runs, drove in two and belted his eighth home run of the year leading off the eighth. Castillo reached in his first five plate appearances with three hits, a walk and a UMass error. Freshman first baseman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** reached safely three times with a hit and two walks and scored three times.

(more)

In four tournament games, Eastern batted .217 with a 5.05 pitching ERA and .961 fielding average. Senior leftfielder **Jon Dalton (Standish, ME)**, sophomore shortstop **John Parke (Middlefield)**, and sophomore second baseman **Travis Bass (West Hartford)** each had four hits, with Dewing and Castillo each scoring four times, and junior catcher **Andrew Magliola (East Haven)** driving in three runs. Parke and Dewing also walked five times each.

Eastern awaits a probably at-large bid to the NCAA Division III tournament when invitations are extended Monday.

Game 8
Eastern Conn. 9, Massachusetts 6

Eastern Conn. (29-12-1)	032	021	010	--	9	10	2
UMass Boston (16-26)	030	000	111	--	6	7	3

James Kukucka (5-1), Jim Schult (7) and Andrew Magliola. Mike Cain (4-4), Patrick McCarthy (5), Mike Andriano (6), Anthony Lauro (8) and Tim Fontaine. Save-Schult (1). 2B-Tristan Hobbes (E), Ryan Walsh (MB); HR-Melvin Castillo (8) (E).

Game 9
Keene State College 1, Eastern Conn. 0

Eastern Conn. (29-13-1)	000	000	000	--	0	3	1
Keene State (32-9)	000	000	001	--	1	7	2

Two out when winning run scored.

Joe Esposito (5-2) and Andrew Magliola. Jamie Morin (5-0) and Anthony Cipolla. 2B-Travis Bass (E), Tyler DiPrato (K).

Thursday, May 8, 2008

IN LEC BASEBALL SOUTHERN MAINE ROLLS PAST EASTERN, 14-3

Combining hitting, pitching and defense, Huskies dismiss Warriors in second round

KEENE, N.H. – A month ago, the Eastern Connecticut State University and University of Southern Maine baseball teams split a hotly-contested Little East Conference regular-season doubleheader at Gorham, Maine.

In the second round of the LEC tournament Thursday at the Owl Athletic Complex on the Keene State College campus, it was no contest. Third-seeded Southern Maine (31-10) collected 21 hits – the most allowed by second-seeded Eastern this season – got a complete-game pitching effort from sophomore lefty Mark Schmidt, and played flawless defense in a 14-3 victory that sends Eastern (28-12-1) into the losers' bracket needing four wins in two days to claim its third straight LEC tournament title.

Southern Maine, looking for its first LEC tournament title since 1999, is scheduled to meet top-seeded Keene State College Friday at 9 a.m. in the finals of the winners' bracket featuring the tournament's only remaining unbeaten (2-0) teams. The winner of that game moves into the championship round Saturday needing only one win to earn the automatic bid awarded the champion.

Eastern begins an uphill climb Friday at noon against fifth-seeded Massachusetts Boston (16-25). The winner of that game returns to play the Southern Maine-Keene State loser Friday at 3 p.m. in an elimination game. After sustaining a 6-5 loss to Eastern Wednesday in the opening round, UMass bounced back to eliminate sixth-seeded Western Connecticut State University Thursday morning, 10-9. Keene eliminated fourth-seeded Rhode Island College, 14-8, in Thursday's second game.

Eastern has won six of 11 LEC tournament titles to date, with Southern Maine having won two (of the first three). Keene has lost in the championship round each of the last two years to Eastern and is chasing its first LEC tournament title.

Having experienced significant success against Southern Maine in his career -- including a regular-season win this year (eight hits, two earned run in 7 1/3 innings) Eastern senior right-handed ace **Jimmy Jagodzinski (Greenwich)** was knocked from the game Thursday while the Huskies were scoring six runs in the sixth to turn a three-run lead into a 11-2 rout. Jagodzinski (8-3) was charged with ten hits and seven runs (six earned) while striking out only one and walking one.

Although Schmidt (5-0) was making his first start this year against Eastern, he had proven to be effective with 5 2/3 innings of two-hit relief (four strikeouts, no walks) in the Huskies' 4-2 win over the Warriors in the first game of this year's regular-season

(more)

doubleheader. Schmidt became the fourth pitcher this year to go the distance against Eastern. Backed by strong offense, Schmidt walked six but gave up only eight hits while fanning four. Only one of the walks came back to haunt Schmidt, who gave a free pass to Eastern sophomore shortstop **John Parke (Middlefield)** to open the first inning. Parke scored from second when senior leftfielder **Jon Dalton (Standish, ME)** followed with an RBI double. Parke and Dalton each finished with two hits.

The bottom third of the Southern Maine batting order was lethal against Jagodzinski and three subsequent relievers. Ryan Pike, Ryan Gaffney and Josh Mackey – batting 7-8-9 – combined for ten hits, drove in five runs and scored seven. Pike had five hits and Mackey three – each also hitting a home run -- and leadoff hitter Chris Burleson contributed four hits to pace the Huskies' high-octane offense.

Senior righty **Joe Esposito (East Haven)** is available to start Friday's game against UMass Boston. Esposito is 5-1 in 42 2/3 inning with the best ERA (2.53) among starters.

U. of Southern Maine 14, Eastern Conn. 3

Southern Maine (31-10)	031	106	102	--	14	21	0
Eastern Conn. (28-12-1)	101	000	001	--	3	8	2

Mark Schmidt (5-0) and Jordan Berthiaume. Jimmy Jagodzinski (8-3), Ronnie Newkirk (6), Wes Dutton (6), Michael Montanari (6) and Andrew Magliola. 2B-Chris Burleson, Ryan Pike, Josh Mackey (S), Jon Dalton, Andrew Dewing (E); HR-Eddie Skeffington (6), Ryan Pike (7), Josh Mackey (5) (S), Jim Schult (2) (E).

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

EASTERN BASEBALL ADVANCES IN LEC TOURNAMENT WITH WIN
Two-run home runs erase two-run deficits as Warriors overcome UMB, 6-5

KEENE, N.H. – Left-handed hitters **Ismael Bolorin (Manchester)** and **Andrew Smiley (North Kingstown, RI)** hit the first two home runs allowed by University of Massachusetts Boston senior right-hander Nick Conway this season to help the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team rally for a 6-5 win in the opening round of the 2008 Little East Conference tournament Wednesday afternoon at Owl Athletic Complex on the Keene State College campus.

A winner of eight straight, second-seeded Eastern (28-11-1) advances in the winners' bracket of the six-team double-elimination tournament to face No. 3 seed University of Southern Maine Thursday at 3 p.m. USM advanced by an identical 6-5 in Wednesday's late game against No. 4 seed Rhode Island College, scoring four runs in the bottom of the eighth to pull out the win. Top-seeded Keene State College avoided an upset with a 2-1, 10-inning win over No. 6 seed Western Connecticut State University in Wednesday's first game and will meet Rhode Island College Thursday at noon. Western faces UMass Boston Thursday at 9 a.m. in an elimination game.

Against fifth-seeded UMass Boston (15-25), Smiley, a reserve junior rightfielder, belted a two-run homer – the first of his career – to tie the game 2-2 in the bottom of the second inning, and senior centerfielder Bolorin hit a two-run home run to tie the game 4-4 in the sixth. In the eighth, junior catcher and No. 9 hitter **Andrew Magliola (East Haven)** drove in his 19th run of the season with just his 22nd hit – an opposite-field double down the right-field line to drive in first-year sophomore second baseman Travis Bass (West Hartford) from second to snap a 5-5 tie.

The home runs were the first allowed by Conway this season. The 2006 LEC Pitcher-of-the-Year had allowed only nine extra-base hits (all doubles) in 48 2/3 innings this year. Conway had pitched a complete-game four-hitter during the regular season in his team's 3-2 win over Eastern.

After Bolorin's game-tying home run – his fourth round-tripper of the year – in the sixth, the Warriors surged ahead, 5-4, with an unearned run. Bass doubled with one out and scored from second on an infield error off the bat of Magliola. UMass tied the game 5-5 and chased Eastern sophomore righty starter **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)** in the top of the seventh on a leadoff single and two-out RBI double by Andrew Tambling. The game-tying double came off right-handed reliever **Chris Wojick (Uncasville)**, a first-year sophomore transfer from the University of Maine.

(more)

Shooting for his sixth straight win, Fontaine did not figure in the decision. The staff leader with six saves, Wojick gained his second win in two decisions by pitching the final 2 2/3 innings. With the game tied, Wojick allowed a leadoff single in the eighth but Bass started a double play at second to end the threat. Wojick retired the side in order in the ninth, fanning the final two batters swinging.

Making only his third start of the year, Smiley drove in two runs and scored one. With a double and home run, Bolorin was the only player with two hits. He drove in two with the home run and scored twice.

UMass, denied its first two-game winning streak in a month, got two hits from cleanup hitter Tim Fontaine and two from Casey Rice.

Eastern Conn. 6, UMass Boston 5

UMass Boston (15-25)	020	020	100	--	5	9	2
Eastern Conn. (28-11-1)	020	003	010	--	6	7	1

Nick Conway (3-4), Tom Michael (8) and Tim Fontaine. Matt Fontaine, Chris Wojick (7) and Andrew Magliola. WP-Wojick (2-0). 2B-Andrew Tambling, Mike Dorval (M), Ismael Bolorin, Travis Bass, Magliola (E); HR-Bolorin (4), Andrew Smiley (1) (E).

MOLTA, Bob (Athletics)

From: Kaufman, Stuart [skaufman@keene.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, May 07, 2008 10:01 PM
To: MOLTA, Bob (Athletics); Alan Wickstrom; sports@bostonherald.com; sports@globe.com; sports@ledger.com; sid@littleeast.com
Cc: news@keenesentinel.com; dlanier@keenesentinel.com; kmurphy@keenesentinel.com
Subject: ECSU-UMB LEC Baseball

**LITTLE EAST CONFERENCE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT –GAME #2
 WARRIORS EDGE BEACONS 6-5**

KEENE, N.H. 5/7/08 – Junior catcher Andrew Magliola's (East Haven, Conn.) double down the right field line scored sophomore second baseman Travis Bass (West Hartford, Conn.) with the go-ahead run in the bottom of the eighth inning in second seeds Eastern Connecticut's come -from-behind 6-5 win over fifth seed UMass-Boston in game #2 of the Little East Baseball tournament in Keene on Wednesday.

Eastern Conn. (28-11-1) will play third seed Southern Maine on Thursday at 3 p.m. UMass-Boston (15-25) takes on Western Conn. at 9 a.m.

UMB took a 2-0 lead in the top of the second on a RBI double by senior third baseman Mike Dorval (Belchertown, Mass.) and a sacrifice fly by junior second baseman Casey Rice (Canandaigua, N.Y.).

The Warriors tied the game in the bottom of the frame on a two-run home to right by junior outfielder Andrew Smiley (North Kingstown, R.I.).

UMB went ahead 4-2 on the top of the fifth on a sacrifice fly by sophomore outfielder Drew Tambling (Sterling, Mass.) and a RBI single up the middle by freshman shortstop Ryan Walsh (Newton, Mass.).

Eastern scored three runs in the bottom of the sixth to take a 5-4 lead. Senior outfielder Ismael Bolorin (Manchester, Conn.) hit a two-run home run and Bass, who doubled, scored on an infield out.

UMB tied the game (5-5) in the top of the seventh on a two out RBI double by Tambling.

ECSU sophomore pitcher Chris Wojick (Uncasville, Conn.) retired UMB in order in the top of the ninth to secure the win.

Freshman catcher Timothy Fontaine (Worcester, Mass.) and Rice had two hits each for the Beacons.

UMB starter Nick Conway (Methuen, Mass.) (3-4) took the loss for the Beacons. He gave up six runs on seven hits with four strikeouts and five walks.

Sophomore Matt Fontaine (Cranston, R.I.) got the start for the Warriors. He went 6.1 inning giving up five runs on seven hits with five strikeouts. Wojick who pitched the final 2.2 innings, got the win (2-0) in relief.

Saturday, May 10, 2008

little east conference
2008 Baseball Tournament
(Double elimination)
Wednesday, May 7-Saturday, May 10
at Keene, NH
(Keene State College host)

Seeds

1. Keene State College (28-8); 2. **EASTERN CONN. (27-11-1)**;
3. U. of Southern Maine (29-10); 4. Rhode Island College (24-13);
5. Massachusetts Boston (15-24); 6. Western Conn. (17-22).

Wednesday, May 7

- Game 1:** Keene State College 2, Western Conn. 1 (10)
Game 2: **EASTERN CONN.** 6, Massachusetts Boston 5
Game 3: Southern Maine 6, Rhode Island College 5

Thursday, May 8

- Game 4:** Massachusetts Boston 10, Western Conn. 9 (*Western Conn. eliminated*)
Game 5: Keene State College 14, Rhode Island College 8 (*R.I. College eliminated*)
Game 6: Southern Maine 14, **EASTERN CONN.** 3

Friday, May 9

- Game 7:** Southern Maine 8, Keene State College 4
Game 8: **EASTERN CONN.** 9, Massachusetts Boston 6 (*UMass Boston eliminated*)
Game 9: Keene State College 1, **EASTERN CONN.** 0 (*Eastern Conn. eliminated*)

Saturday, May 10

- Game 10:** Keene State College 21, U. of Southern Maine 2
Game 11: **KEENE STATE COLLEGE** 14, U. of Southern Maine 7
(*Southern Maine eliminated*)

Most Outstanding Player

Greg Ford, Sr., OF/P, Keene State College

Keene State College qualifies automatically for the NCAA Division III tournament.

little east conference

Saturday, May 3, 2008

EASTERN BASEBALL CLOSES REGULAR SEASON WITH SWEEP

Still contending to host LEC tournament, Warriors have won 17 of their last 19 games

PLYMOUTH, N.H. – The door to hosting next week's Little East Conference tournament remains open after the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team swept Plymouth State University by scores of 4-2 and 7-0 Saturday afternoon at Panther Park on the PSU campus.

Ranked 28th nationally and fourth in New England, Eastern (27-11-1, 11-3 little east) winds up its conference season in a tie for second place with the University of Southern Maine and can clinch the No. 1 seed in next week's conference tournament if conference leader Keene State College (10-2) is unable to sweep visiting Rhode Island College in a makeup doubleheader Sunday afternoon. If Keene is unable to sweep, Eastern will finish with a share of the LEC regular-season title and will gain the top seed based on its sweep of fourth-seeded Rhode Island College earlier this year (neither Keene nor Southern Maine will have swept RIC). The Warriors have won or shared nine of 11 regular-season titles.

Senior righty **Jimmy Jagodzinski (Greenwich)** struck out a career-high 12 batters en route to his staff-leading eighth win of the season in the opener, and three pitchers combined on a three-hitter in the nightcap as Eastern extended its winning streak over Plymouth State (12-26, 3-11 little east) in this series to 16.

A six-time LEC tournament champion, Eastern chases its fifth LEC tournament crown in six years having won its last seven, 13 of 14, and 17 of 19. Eastern's only losses over that stretch came in a split with Southern Maine and a loss to Trinity College, which entered play Saturday without a loss this year.

Now 18-4 lifetime, Jagodzinski (8-2) did not walk a batter for the third straight start en route to his fifth straight win. In his last three starts covering 24 2/3 innings, Jagodzinski has struck out 30. Saturday, he carried a 4-0 shutout into the ninth before Plymouth scored two unearned runs on two hits and an error.

(more)

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.easternct.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

Senior righty **Joe Esposito (East Haven)** gave up only three singles in seven innings in the nightcap, fanning nine and walking four. Esposito (5-1) retired 11 straight in the early stages of the second game and carried a one-hitter into the sixth.

Senior leftfielder **Jon Dalton (Standish, ME)** extended his hitting streak to 11 by collecting two hits in each game. He had four hits, three RBI and two runs scored. In seven games since winning the starting left field position, Dalton is batting .545 (18-for-33) with 12 runs scored and ten RBI. He leads regulars with a season batting average of .427.

Junior DH **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** – last year's Division III national Player-of-the-Year -- belted his team-leading 11th home run of the season -- a two-out solo home run in the eighth inning of the first game. Gilblair needs one home run to become the first player in program history with 20 pitching wins (he is 20-6 lifetime) and 20 home runs. Gilblair had four hits, two runs and two RBI in the doubleheader.

Sophomore shortstop and leadoff hitter **John Parke (Middlefield)** also had four hits in the doubleheader, and sophomore second baseman **Travis Bass (West Hartford)** had three hits, two RBI and two runs. In the second game, Bass was 3-for-3 with a double, two runs scored, and two RBI. He drove in the first two runs of the game with a second-inning single.

In the first game, Parke, Dalton and Gilblair each had two hits, with Dalton and Gilblair driving in two runs each.

Game 1

Eastern Conn. 4, Plymouth State U. 2

Eastern Conn. (26-11-1, 10-3 little east)	003	000	010	-- 4	8	1
Plymouth State (12-25, 3-10 little east)	000	000	002	-- 2	10	1

Jimmy Jagodzinski (8-1) and Andrew Magliola. Chip Hale (3-3) and John Pogorzelski. 2B-Jon Dalton (E), Steve Picco (P); HR-Shawn Gilblair (11) (E).

Game 2

Eastern Conn. 7, Plymouth State 0

Eastern Conn. (27-11-1, 11-3 little east)	030	211	000	--7	12	2
Plymouth State (12-26, 3-11 little east)	000	000	000	--0	3	1

Joe Esposito (5-1), Michael Montanari (8), Ronnie Newkirk (9) and Andrew Magliola, Chris Cannata (8). John Andersch (1-6), Taylor Ketchum (5), Ryan Lavelle (6), Justin Flanagan (8) and Dan Eagan. 2B-Travis Bass (E).

Thursday, May 1, 2008

FONTAINE'S PITCHING LIFTS EASTERN BASEBALL PAST WHEATON

Sophomore righty contributes quality start as Warriors stop No. 12 Lyons, 2-1

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Sophomore righty **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)** limited No. 12 nationally-ranked Wheaton College (MA) to three singles in pitching into the seventh inning to help lift the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 2-1 victory in the final regular-season home game of the year for the Warriors.

The win is the fifth straight and 15 in the last 17 contests for Eastern (23-11-1), ranked 28th nationally and fifth in New England. Wheaton (31-7), ranked No. 12 nationally and second in New England, had a seven-game win streak ended in losing to the Warriors after winning the last two games in the series by one run each time. Last weekend, Wheaton qualified for the NCAA Division III tournament for the eighth time in nine years by winning the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference tournament.

A winner of five straight decisions after a season-opening loss, Fontaine retired the first 11 batters in order and took a one-hitter into the seventh before giving way to first-year sophomore righty **Chris Wojick (Uncasville)** after surrendering one-out singles in the seventh. Wojick got No. 8 hitter Eric Laliberte (Nashua, NH) to line into a double play to leave the tying runs aboard in the seventh. Wojick got a swinging strikeout to end the eighth with two runners on, and gave up a one-out solo home run in the ninth by Jeff Lieneck (Foxboro, MA) that cut Eastern's lead in half. Sean Buckley (Webster, MA) singled after Lieneck's homer but was stranded on second when Wojick got a ground ball to end the game.

Eastern snapped a scoreless duel between Fontaine and Wheaton senior lefty Chris McDonough (Weymouth, MA) by scoring twice in the fifth with two out on three singles, a sacrifice bunt and an error. Tristan Hobbes singled to start the inning and later scored on an infield error. **Ismael Bolorin (Manchester)** scored on an RBI single by No. 9 hitter **Andrew Magliola (East Haven)** to make it 2-0.

Lieneck and Buckley were the only two hitters in the Wheaton lineup with hits. Lieneck upped his batting average to .366 with three hits, and Buckley added two. Eastern's **Jon Dalton (Standish, ME)** stretched his hitting streak to nine by collecting three hits, with Hobbes adding two. Dalton is hitting .565 (13-for-23) in his last five games.

Fontaine gave up only three hits and two walks while fanning eight to give him a staff-leading 73 strikeouts.

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.easternct.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

For the first time in 14 games, Eastern played without an error.

Eastern closes out the regular season Saturday with a noon Little East Conference doubleheader at Plymouth State University.

Eastern Conn. 2, Wheaton College (MA) 1

Wheaton College (31-8)	000	000	001	--	1	5	2
Eastern Conn. (25-11-1)	000	020	00x	--	2	10	0

Chris McDonough (5-3), Jared Barnes (8), Chad Kasik (8), Josh Simmons (8) and Jeff Lieneck. Matt Fontaine (5-1), Chris Wojick (7) and Andrew Magliola. HR-Lieneck (4) (W).

62 save (6)

Sunday, April 27, 2008

EASTERN BASEBALL NOW ONE GAME OUT IN LITTLE EAST RACE
Five-run first inning paves way for 10-2 conference win over Western Conn.

DANBURY, Conn. -- Junior first baseman **Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY)** and senior centerfielder **Ismael Bolorin (Manchester)** drove in two runs apiece in a five-run first inning that vaulted the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 10-2 Little East Conference victory over Western Connecticut State University Sunday afternoon at Westside Field.

With its 14th win in its last 16 games, No. 28-ranked Eastern (24-11-1, 9-3 little east) moves to within a game of conference-leading Keene State College (10-2). Two games remain in the regular season in conference play. The Warriors visit Plymouth State University in a doubleheader Saturday, while Keene hosts Rhode Island College (8-4) and the University of Southern Maine (9-3) hosts Western Connecticut (15-20, 4-8 little east). The top six teams in the final conference standings qualify for the double-elimination conference tournament, scheduled for May 7-10 at the site of the No. 1 seed. Eastern has won outright or shared nine of 11 regular-season titles.

Sunday, the Warriors scored five times in the first inning with two out on four hits, two hit batsmen and a walk. Bolorin's two-out two-run triple to center made it 5-0 and knocked out Colonial starter Miles Scribner (2-4). Hobbes drove in the first two runs with a single, and scored the third run on a single to center by sophomore second baseman **Travis Bass (West Hartford)**.

Senior righty **Joe Esposito (East Haven)** pitched a five-hitter over the first eight innings to gain his fourth win of the year against one loss. He struck out five and walked one before junior righty **Michael Montanari (Newington)** closed out the win with a scoreless ninth.

Bolorin had his third multiple-hit game in his last six with three hits, Hobbes, Bass, and senior leftfielder **Jon Dalton (Standish, ME)** adding two hits each. Dalton slugged his second home run of the year leading off the fifth to give Eastern a 6-1 lead.

Eastern hosts Tufts University Monday at 7 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 10, Western Conn. 2

Eastern Conn. (24-11-1, 9-3 little east)	500	021	200	--10	13	1
Western Conn. (15-20, 4-8 little east)	001	000	010	--2	6	1

Joe Esposito (4-1), Michael Montanari (9) and Andrew Magliola, Chris Cannata (9). Miles Scribner (2-4), Steve Bainer (1), Josh Murray (5), David Alarcon (7), Joe Postemsky (8) and Matt Gardiner. 2B-Melvin Castillo, Tristan Hobbes, Jim Schult (E), Sam McNeil (W); 3B-Ismael Bolorin (E); HR-Jon Dalton (2) (E).

Saturday, April 26, 2008

EASTERN BASEBALL ROUTS UMASS DARTMOUTH IN LEC SWEEP
Warriors record 17 extra-base hits in 22-6, 11-6 conference sweep of Corsairs

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. — Sophomore outfielder **John Parke (Middlefield)** had seven hits and junior first baseman **Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY)** and freshman DH **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** both hit two home runs and drove in six runs to help carry the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 22-6, 11-6 Little East Conference doubleheader sweep of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Saturday afternoon. at the UMD Athletic Complex.

A winner of 13 of its last 15, Eastern (23-11-1, 8-3 little east), collected 17 extra-base hits in the doubleheader — 11 doubles, five home runs and a triple — and batted .441 (41-for-93) as a team). UMass Dartmouth (3-31, 1-11 little east) lost for the 88th time in 111 games in this series which dates back to 1972.

For Eastern, 14 players contributed at least one hit — six recording three or more hits — with 13 knocking in a run and 16 scoring a run for Eastern, which remains in the hunt for its tenth LEC regular-season title in 12 years.

Parke, who has hit safely in 26 of his last 27 games, was 7-for-10 with four runs and two RBI in the sweep; Hobbes and Dewing were both 4-for-9 with a double, two home runs and six RBI. Hobbes also reached twice by walk and scored five runs, Dewing scoring four times.

Sophomore All-America shortstop **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** was 4-for-11 with five RBI and four runs. He had a double and triple.

In the first game, junior right-hander **Jimmy Jagodzinski (Greenwich)** won his staff-leading seventh game of the year against two losses (17-4 lifetime). He allowed eight hits and four runs (three earned) with ten strikeouts and no walks over the first eight innings. Sophomore righty **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)** worked the opening six innings of the nightcap to improve to 4-1 this year. Fontaine gave up six hits and five runs (three earned) while striking out eight and walking one.

Eastern is currently 1 ½ games behind LEC leader Keene State (10-2). The Warriors have three conference games remaining while Keene closes out its conference regular season Saturday against Rhode Island College (8-4).

Eastern visits Western Connecticut State University Sunday at 1 p.m.

(more)

Game 1
Eastern Conn. 28, UMass Dartmouth 6

Eastern Conn. (22-11-1, 7-3 little east)	500	316	148	--	28	26	3
UMass Dartmouth (3-30, 1-10 little east)		200	200	002	--	6	11 3

Jimmy Jagodzinski (7-2), Wes Dutton (9) and Andrew Magliola, Chris Cannata (8). Chris Contre (0-8), Scott Tibbets (6), Nial Mitchell (7), Tyler Noyes (9) and Matt Ryan, Eric Rodriguez (8). 2B-Andrew Smiley, Melvin Castillo, Andrew Dewing, Pat Smith (E), Pete Grillo, Dave McGuire, Kevin Nerey (MD); 3B-Castillo (E); HR-Dewing 2, Tristan Hobbes, Smith (E), Dylan Zygmunt, Mike Mitchell (MD).

Game 2
Eastern Conn. 11, UMass Dartmouth 6

Eastern Conn. (23-11-1, 8-3 little east)	113	020	301	--	11	15	2
UMass Dartmouth (3-31, 1-11 little east)		012	200	100	--	6	9 4

Matt Fontaine (4-1), Ronnie Newkirk (7), Chris Wojick (8) and Andrew Magliola. Brian Pedrotti, Shane Campbell (7) and Matt Ryan. 2B-Ismael Bolorin 2, John Parke 2, Jon Dalton, Tristan Hobbes, Jim Schult (E); 3B-Pete Grillo (MD); HR-Hobbes (E).

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

UNBEATEN TRINITY BASEBALL BATTERS EASTERN CONN. 17-2
First seven batters of game score runs for Bantams, who win 28th straight game

MANSFIELD, Conn. – The first seven batters in the Trinity College lineup scored runs as the Bantams jumped to a quick start and breezed past Eastern Connecticut State University, 17-2, Tuesday night in college baseball at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

The win is the 28th without a loss for Trinity, which collected 17 hits against six Eastern (20-11-1) pitchers. The Bantams are ranked second nationally in the ABCA Division III poll, released today, just one point behind top-ranked Chapman University. The Warriors had made their first appearance in the poll – at 28th – on the heels of a six-game winning streak.

The victory is the most lopsided in the 27-game series, erasing Eastern's 14-3 victory a year ago at Hartford.

Eastern senior righty **Joe Esposito (East Haven)**, who allowed only six hits and three runs in last year's win over Trinity, did not retire a batter before giving way to junior righty **Michael Montanari (Newington)**. Esposito (2-1) gave up hits to the first five batters, then walked two before departing. Junior catcher Sean Killeen (Greenfield, MA) and sophomore first baseman Kent Graham (Longmeadow, MA) each drove in a run to spark the first-inning rally. A bases loaded walk, an outfield error and a two-run single by No. 9 hitter Tim Bourdon (Simsbury) also accounted for runs.

Ten different Trinity batters had hits in the game, with eight driving in runs and eight scoring runs. Killeen, the No. 3 batter, was 3-for-5 with two RBI and two runs; Graham collected four hits, scored three runs and drove in a run; sophomore rightfielder James Wood (Windham, NH) had two this, scored three runs and drove in three. Bourdon drove in three runs and senior pinch hitter Matt Stafford (Plymouth, MA) two.

Making his fifth start, sophomore righty Jeremiah Bayer (Greenfield, MA) gave up only four hits and one run while fanning eight to earn his fifth victory. Three Trinity pitchers did not issue a walk.

(more)

Eastern hosts Wesleyan University Wednesday night at 7 p.m.

Trinity College (CT) 17, Eastern Conn. 2

Trinity College (28-0)	720	011	051	--	17	17	1
Eastern Conn. (20-11-1)	000	100	010	--	2	6	5

Jeremiah Bayer (5-0), Jon Rappaport (8), Eric McGrath (9) and Sean Killeen, Stephen Bernstorff (9). Joe Esposito (2-1), Michael Montanari (1), Wes Dutton (6), Jake Slate (8), Travis Horrigan (8), Jim Schult (9) and Andrew Magliola, Joe Klein (8). 2B-Killeen (T), Jon Dalton (E); 3B-Travis Bass (E); HR_James Wood (8) (T).

Sunday, April 20, 2008

MANY CONTRIBUTE IN EASTERN BASEBALL BARRAGE

In 22-7 non-conference win, a dozen players drive in runs and score runs

WORCESTER, Mass. – Seven Eastern Connecticut State University batters had two or more hits in a 22-hit attack and propelled the Warriors to a 22-7 conquest of Worcester State College Sunday afternoon at H.L. Rocheleau Field on the campus of Assumption College.

The win is the sixth straight and tenth in the last 11 outings for Eastern (20-10-1) and is the 17th victory in 20 contests against Worcester State (14-15) under head coach Bill Holowaty. The 22 hits equals the team's high for the season and marks the eighth game of at least ten hits in the last ten for the Warriors, who are batting .367 in that stretch.

Senior centerfielder **Ismael Bolorin (Manchester)**, ranked second nationally a year ago in triples per game, led off the game with his first triple of the season that opened the doors for a five-run first inning. Sophomore leftfielder **John Parke (Middlefield)** plated Bolorin with the first run and sophomore second baseman **Travis Bass (West Hartford)** later added a two-run single in the inning.

Staked to a five-run lead before taking the mound, junior righty **James Kukucka (Vernon)** breezed to his fourth win of the year in five decisions. Kukucka allowed one earned run on seven hits over the first six innings, fanning three and walking three. For Eastern, 13 different players had at least one hit and 12 drove in a run and 12 scored a run.

Against Worcester, the top six hitters in the order – four of them starters and two of the reserves – combined to amass 13 hits, drive in 11 runs and score ten. Bolorin reached base five times with three hits and two walks, scored four runs and drove in one. He also had a sacrifice fly. Parke, who had 21-game hitting streak snapped in Saturday's second-game win over Rhode Island College, matched Bolorin with three hits while driving in two runs and scoring one. Batting fourth in the order in place of injured All-America **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)**, freshman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** had two hits, scored two runs and drove in two runs, while freshman rightfielder **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** tripled and singled and scored twice.

(more)

A last-minute replacement at third base, sophomore **Mike Palo (Brookfield)** reached safely three times with a hit and two walks. Batting eighth in the order, Palo drove in three runs with a sacrifice fly in the first and a two-run double in the fifth and walked and scored in the eighth and ninth.

Junior **Lenny Meldon (Brookfield)** and sophomore **Travis Horrigan (Roxbury)** came off the bench to collect two hits each. Meldon drove in three runs with a single in the eighth and a two-run double in the ninth, and Horrigan plated two with an eighth-inning single.

In the team's last ten games, first-year players Bass (.436), Schult (.419) and Dewing (.400) lead the club in hitting.

Eastern hosts nationally-ranked Trinity College Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 22, Worcester State 7

Eastern Conn. (20-10-1)	500	171	044	--	22	22	2
Worcester State (14-15)	000	110	230	--	7	14	3

James Kukucka (4-1), Wes Dutton (7), Ronnie Newkirk (8), Michael Montanari (9) and Andrew Magliola, Chris Cannata (7). Joel Brierley (1-4), Josh Buzzell (5), Kevin Hayes (7), Matt Hart (8), John Flaherty (9) and John Hinkell. 2B-John Parke, Lenny Meldon, Mike Palo (E), Ryan LaPrade, Peter Ferrelli (W); 3B-Ismael Bolorin, Jim Schult (E); HR_Hinkell (1) (W).

Saturday, April 19, 2008

EASTERN BASEBALL SWEEPS LEC LEADER RHODE ISLAND, 8-5, 19-8

Seven-run fourth inning paves way for second-game rout that is stopped after seven innings

MANSFIELD, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team pounded out 27 hits off nine pitchers in sweeping Little East Conference leader Rhode Island College Saturday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium, 8-5 and 19-8. The second game was stopped after seven innings due to the ten-run rule.

Ranked sixth in New England, Rhode Island (21-9, 7-3 little east) had an eight-game winning streak snapped with its seventh and eighth straight losses at the hands of Eastern (19-10-1, 6-3 little east). The Warriors, who won all 14 of their LEC regular-season games a year ago, have won five straight and nine of ten this year. Since dropping the front end of a conference doubleheader two weeks ago to Massachusetts Boston, Eastern has won seven in a row at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

After collecting two hits in the opener, sophomore centerfielder **John Parke (Middlefield)** had a 21-game hitting streak stopped in the nightcap, the first time in over a month that he failed to get a hit. Facing four different in six plate appearances in the second game, Parke was 0-for-4, but scored the first run of the game after getting hit by a pitch. He also reached on an error and hit a sacrifice fly in a seven-run fourth inning. During his hitting streak, Parke had batted .390 (39-for-100) with 15 multiple-hit games.

With conference ERA leader Evan Grogan on in relief to start the fourth inning for Rhode Island, Eastern sent 11 batters to the plate and scored seven runs to expand a four-run lead to 13-2. Grogan, who brought a 4-0 record and 2.29 ERA into play, retired only one batter and was charged with six runs (four earned) in one-third of an inning. Parke reached on an error to start the inning, senior leftfielder **Jon Dalton (Standish, ME)** singled through the left side, and sophomore All-America shortstop **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** unleashed a three-run home run. Later in the inning No. 9 hitter **Andrew Magliola (East Haven)** plated two more runs with an opposite-field single through the right side.

Sophomore second baseman **Travis Bass (West Hartford)** and Castillo each hit two home runs and junior DH **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** had one for Eastern. Bass hit one HR in each game, while Castillo hit two home runs, drove in four runs with three hits and scored four in the nightcap. Gilblair hit his team-leading tenth HR in the second game. Nine players had at least two hits on the afternoon. Bass led all players by driving in five runs and Castillo led all players with five hit and six runs scored.

(more)

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.easternct.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

Right-handed junior **Jimmy Jagodzinski (Greenwich)** won his sixth game in eight decisions by pitching into the eighth inning of the opener. He fanned eight without a walk and gave up nine hits. Sophomore righty **Chris Wojick (Uncasville)** gained his fourth save in his staff-leading 15th appearance in relief of Jagodzinski.

Eastern faces Worcester State College Sunday at 1 p.m. at Assumption College.

Game 1
Eastern Conn. 8, Rhode Island College 5

R.I. College (21-8, 7-2 little east)	002	000	030	--5	10	2
Eastern Conn. (18-10-1, 5-3 little east)	020	103	02x	--8	9	1

Gary Levesque (1-2), Eric Gelsomino (6), Bobby Venditto (6), Evan Grogan (8) and Jordan Amarin. Jimmy Jagodzinski (6-2), Chris Wojick (8) and Andrew Magliola, Chris Cannata (7). Save-Wojick (4). 2B-Jared Rossi ®, Andrew Smiley (E); 3B-Melvin Castillo (E); HR-Amarin (1) ®; Travis Bass (4) (E).

Game 2
Eastern Conn. 19, Rhode Island College 8 (7 inn., 10-run rule)

R.I. College (21-9, 7-3 little east)	010	120	4	-- 8	10	2
Eastern Conn. (19-10-1, 6-3 little east)	303	710	5	--19	18	2

Eric Thibault (2-1), Evan Grogan (4), Bobby Fournier (4), Bruce Celico (5), Rob Rushton (6) and Jordan Amarin, Franklin Salcedo (6), Matt Fontaine (3-1), Joe Esposito (7) and Andrew Magliola, Chris Cannata (7). 2B-Peter Olson, Chris O'Connors ®, Jim Schult (E); 3B-Bryan Colombero ®; HR-Josh Cardoso (5) ®, Melvin Castillo 2 (7), Shawn Gillbair (10), Travis Bass (5) (E).

little east conference

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

BASS, CASTILLO EACH HAVE FOUR HITS IN EASTERN BASEBALL WIN
In 16-7 victory over Bridgewater State, Parke's hitting streak reaches 20

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Sophomore second baseman **Travis Bass (West Hartford)** and sophomore shortstop **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** each had four hits and sophomore centerfielder **John Parke (Middlefield)** extended his hitting streak to 20 games as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team downed Bridgewater State College, 16-7, in a non-conference game Wednesday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

A winner of seven of its last eight, Eastern (17-10-1) sent ten batters to the plate and scored five runs on five hits in the third, and added four runs in the fourth on five more hits to move out to an 11-1 lead after four innings. Bridgewater (19-7) got six runs back in the top of the fifth on five hits, but the Warriors tacked on three more in the sixth to secure the victory. Bridgewater has lost two straight after winning four in a row.

The teams combined to use nine pitchers in this non-conference game which has relatively little post-season implications, most of the pitchers having seen relatively little action this season. The Warriors collected 18 hits off four Bridgewater pitchers.

Bass, a first-year transfer from Castleton State, had his first four-hit game of the season to raise his average to .400, and Castillo matched that figure to up his average to .365. Bass drove in three runs with a single in the second and a two-run home run in the sixth. Castillo scored three runs.

Parke hit safely in his 20th consecutive game with a single in the five-run third and also added an infield single in the eighth. Parke has had at least two hits in 14 of those 20 games. Freshman rightfielder **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** drove in four runs in the game, three coming on his first career home run – a three-run shot with two out in the fourth. Junior DH **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** had three hits, scored three runs and drove in three runs with a three-run home run in the third.

Sophomore righty **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)** gained his third win against a loss by pitching the first two innings. He fanned three without a walk. In his collegiate debut, freshman lefty **Dan Glabicky (Marblehead, MA)** struck out six batters in the final two innings. Glabicky struck out the side in the eighth while walking one. In the ninth, he got a ground ball for the first out, then struck out three batters. One batter reached on a wild pitch after fanning.

(more)

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.easternct.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

Bridgewater leadoff batter Mark Claffey (Bellingham, MA) reached safely three times on a single, double and by error, and scored twice. Jarrett Mooney (North Attleboro, MA) also had two hits and scored a run. Steve Smith (East Taunton, MA Bridgewater's top hitter with a .476 average, was 0-for-4. He reached twice on an error and walk and scored in the fifth.

Eastern hosts Rhode Island College Saturday at noon in a Little East Conference doubleheader.

Eastern Conn. 16, Bridgewater State College 7

Bridgewater State (19-7)	100	060	000	--	7	8	4
Eastern Conn. (17-10-1)	025	403	11x	--	16	18	4

Jeff Sarahs (0-2), Dave Matthews (4), Brian Guillotte (6), Chris Horgan (8) and Kelly LaDow. Matt Fontaine (3-1), Shawn Johnson (3), Ronnie Newkirk (5), Wes Dutton (6), Dan Glabicky (8) and Andrew Magliola. Joe Klein (9). 2B-Mark Claffey, Brad Koneski (B), Magliola (E); HR-Shawn Gilblair (9), Jim Schult (1), Travis Bass (3) (E).

Monday, April 14, 2008

VETERANS ANSWER THE CALL TO LIFT EASTERN BASEBALL, 10-8
Bolorin and Hobbes deliver key hits off the bench in comeback win over Suffolk

MANSFIELD, Conn. — Senior **Ismael Bolorin (Manchester)** and junior **Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY)** came off the bench to deliver key bases-loaded, run-scoring hits that sparked the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a come-from-behind 10-8 victory over Suffolk University Monday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

With Eastern trailing 8-3 in the sixth, Bolorin hit a grand slam just inside the right field foul pole to pull Eastern (16-10-1) to within a run. In the eighth, Hobbes plated **John Parke (Middlefield)** and Bolorin with the tying and go-ahead runs with a base-loaded, opposite-field single to left that gave the Warriors a 9-8 lead. **Jim Schult's (Wappingers Falls, NY)** RBI single then scored pinch runner **Travis Horrigan (Roxbury)** with an insurance run.

The win is the seventh straight for Eastern over Suffolk (19-7) and snaps the Rams' seven-game winning streak. Suffolk was shooting for its 11th straight 20-win season.

Suffolk, ranked sixth in New England in the Division III poll released April 7, scored at least one run in its first five at-bats and carried an 8-3 lead into the bottom of the sixth. The Warriors loaded the bases on two hits and a hit batter off Suffolk starter Tim Doyle in the sixth, and Bolorin unloaded his third home run of the season on a 1-1 pitch just inside the foul poll to cut the gap to one run. After finishing second nationally a year ago with a program-record 12 triples and batting .333, Bolorin was batting just .209 with eight RBI prior to the blast. He had entered the game as a fourth-inning pinch hitter.

Hobbes, mired in a 3-for-19 slump entering the game, was inserted into the lineup at first base in the fifth inning. He singled in the fifth and grounded to first in the seventh before lacing his two-out, two-run go-ahead single to left in the eighth. Parke, who extended his hitting streak to 19 games, led off the eighth with a hustle double after singling to center off the glove of Suffolk reliefe pitcher Mike Carbone. After Bolorin was hit by a pitch, All-America **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** was credited with his first career sacrifice bunt, and All-America **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** was walked intentionally to load the bases. Hobbes then collected his tenth and 11th RBI of the season when he dropped a 2-2 pitch into left field.

(more)