

Parke, Hobbes and Schult all had two hits for Eastern, with Schult driving in two runs.

Suffolk, which had qualified for last year's ECAC New England Division III tournament, scored two runs in each of its first three at-bats, knocking out Eastern righty **James Kukucka (Vernon)** from the mound in the third inning. Suffolk opened the game with two walks and both runners came around to score to make it 2-0. The Warriors took their only lead until the eighth by scoring three times in the bottom of the first on three walks and two singles. Leading 4-3, the Rams widened the gap to three runs by scoring twice in the third on back-to-back RBI singles by Mike Kenneally and No. 8 hitter Matt Shanahan. Kenneally's hit drove Kukucka from the mound and Shanahan's RBI single greeted righty Ronnie Newkirk (New Milford).

Tim Corcoran's RBI double in the fourth and Shanahan's leadoff home run to left in the fifth extended Suffolk's lead to 8-3.

Righty **Joe Esposito (East Haven)**, the fourth of five Eastern pitchers, gained his second win of the season with a loss. Making his second straight relief appearance after four straight starts, Esposito entered the game with one out in the seventh and the Warriors on the short end of an 8-7 score. Esposito walked two with a strikeout but did not give up a hit. First-year righty **Chris Wojick (Uncasville)** recorded his third save of the season by retiring three of the four batters that he faced in the ninth.

Shanahan and Bobby Barrett each had three hits for Suffolk, with Keith Carter and Kenneally adding two each. Six different Suffolk players drove in at least one run. Shanahan scored twice and collected three RBI.

Eastern hosts Bridgewater State College Wednesday at 4 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 10, Suffolk U. 8

Suffolk (19-7)	222	110	000	--	8	11	2
Eastern Conn. (16-10-1)	300	004	03x		10	11	4

Tim Doyle, Mike Carbone (6), Greg DiMarco (8) and Bobby Barrett. James Kukucka, Ronnie Newkirk (3), Michael Montanari (5), Joe Esposito (7), Chris Wojick (9) and Andrew Magliola, Chris Cannata (7), Rob Chmiel (8). WP-Esposito (2-0); LP-DiMarco (1-1); Save-Wojick (3). 2B-Keith Carter, Tim Corcoran, Matt Shanahan (S), John Parke (E); HR-Shanahan (2) (S), Ismael Bolorin (3) (E).

Friday, April 11, 2008

EASTERN, SOUTHERN MAINE SPLIT LITTLE EAST DOUBLEHEADER

In battle of conference's premier programs, Warriors hold on for second-game win

SOUTH PORTLAND, Maine -- Eastern Connecticut State University and the University of Southern Maine -- the most dominant teams in the 13-year history of the Little East Conference -- renewed their Little East Conference baseball rivalry Friday afternoon by splitting a doubleheader at the Wainright Athletic Complex.

Ranked No. 4 in New England, Southern Maine (15-7, 4-2 little east) rallied from a two-run deficit to take the opening game 4-2 behind the two-hit, relief effort of sophomore left-hander Mark Schmidt to end a four-game futility streak against the Warriors. Eastern (15-10-1, 4-3 little east) salvaged a split in the nightcap by building a 9-1 lead after 8 ½ innings, then hanging on for a 9-6 victory.

In the opener, Schmidt (4-0) came on to replace sophomore starter Collin Henry in the fourth inning after Henry was hurt making a catch on an infield pop up. Schmidt went the final 5 2/3 innings, allowing two hits and one run while striking out four to run his record to 4-0.

The Warriors scored the first run of the game in the fourth on a squeeze bunt by junior **Andrew Magliola (East Haven)** that brought home rookie **Jim Schult (Wappinger Falls, NY)**. Schult had led off the inning with a double. Eastern made it 2-0 in the fifth on a leadoff homer by junior All-America **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** -- his team-leading eighth of the year and the 16th of his three-year career. After Gilblair's homer, however, Schmidt did not allow another hit and only one baserunner the rest of the way.

Southern Maine wiped out the two-run deficit by scoring the go-ahead runs in the sixth. With two out and a runner on first, junior Anthony D'Alfonso singled, junior Josh Stowell doubled home a run, and sophomore Josh Mackey singled in the tying and go-ahead runs. The Huskies picked up an insurance run in the seventh on two singles and a throwing error and chased Gilblair (1-3) in favor of senior righty **Joe Esposito (East Haven)**.

Sophomore All-America **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** recorded his 100th career hit in his 75th career game with a double. The game was the third one for Gilblair since returning from a pulled hamstring that cost him six games.

In the nightcap, the Warriors jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the first three innings against USM senior right-hander Adam Ross. Gilblair and Schult had RBIs in the first inning. Gilblair had an RBI double and first-year sophomore **Travis Bass (West Hartford)** added a two-run double in the third—one of his three hits.

(more)

Eastern staked junior starter **Jimmy Jagodzinski (Greenwich)** to an 8-1 lead and Jagodzinski allowed only one run through the first seven innings before the Huskies chased him in a five-run eighth inning that cut the Eastern lead to 8-6. The win was the staff-leading fifth of the year for Jagodzinski. Bass, who had the game-winning hit in the bottom of the 12th inning Thursday against Roger Williams University, had a home run and drove in a career-high four runs (one shy of his season total) and matched Parke with three hits. Gilblair also had two hits and plated two runs.

The Warriors picked up single runs in the four consecutive innings to expand their lead to 9-1. Bass had an RBI single in the fifth and hit a solo homer in the seventh. Senior **Jon Dalton (Standish, ME)** chased home a run in the sixth with a triple, and Parke hit a solo shot in the eighth.

Southern Maine made things interesting by driving Jagodzinski from the mound in the eighth in favor of senior lefty **Jake Slate (Poughkeepsie, NY)** by scoring five runs. Four of the runs came on one swing of the bat -- a grand slam homer by junior Ryan Pike. Southern Maine brought the tying run to the plate in the ninth against first-year sophomore righty **Chris Wojick (Uncasville)** -- the fourth of four pitchers who threw a pitch in the eighth inning -- who was able to nail down the win. Wojick had entered the game with the bases loaded and Eastern leading 9-2 in the eighth. He got a strikeout, but then served up Pike's bases-clearing blast.

Sophomore **John Parke (Middlefield)** extended his hitting streak to 18 games with two hits in the first game and three hits in the second game. One of his three hits in the second game was his first home run of the year, giving him a team-high 38 hits. Parke had only eight hits and collected only 32 at-bats on the varsity level last year.

Eastern hosts Suffolk University Monday at 3 p.m.

Game One U. of Southern Maine 4, Eastern Conn. 2

Eastern Conn. (14-10-1, 3-3 little east)	000	110	000	--	2	7	1
Southern Maine (15-6, 4-1 little east)		000	003	10x	--	4	8 0

Shawn Gilblair (1-3), Joe Esposito (7) and Andrew Magliola. Collin Henry, Mark Schmidt (4) and Jordan Berthiaume. WP-Schmidt (4-0). 2B- Melvin Castillo, Jim Schult (EC), Chris Burleson, Josh Stowell (SM); HR-Gilblair (8) (EC).

Game Two Eastern Conn. 9, U. of Southern Maine 6

Eastern Conn. (15-10-1; 4-3 little east)	203	011	110	9	13	2
Southern Maine (15-7; 4-2 little east)	000	010	050	6	11	0

Jimmy Jagodzinski (5-2), Jake Slate (8), Wes Dutton (8), Chris Wojick (8) and Chris Cannata. SM-Adam Ross (2-2), Tim Therrian (3), Andrew deBethune (7), Joe Curran (8) and Jordan Berthiaume. 2B-John Parke, Shawn Gilblair, Travis Bass (EC), Collin Henry, Anthony D'Alfonso, Ryan Pike (SM); 3B-JonDalton (EC); HR-Parke (1), Bass (2) (EC), Pike (1) (S).

Thursday, April 10, 2008

EASTERN BASEBALL PREVAILS OVER ROGER WILLIAMS IN 12th, 4-3
Bongiovanni ties game with two RBI in eighth, Bass wins it with RBI single

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Senior third baseman **Trey Bongiovanni (Meriden)** tied the game in the bottom of the eighth inning with a two-run single and first-year sophomore second baseman **Travis Bass (West Hartford)** won it with a one-out single in the 12th as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team prevailed over Roger Williams University, 4-3, Thursday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

The win is the fourth this year for Eastern (14-9-1) and fifth in as many games with Roger Williams (15-8) in this series. Roger Williams had won eight of ten entering the game.

Junior first baseman **Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY)** opened the 12th inning for Eastern with an opposite-field single and moved into scoring position on a sacrifice bunt by senior rightfielder **Jon Dalton (Standish, ME)**. Bass, who was an all-New England shortstop at Castleton State College last year, followed with a game-ending single to center that scored Hobbes with the winning run.

Coming off a 17-strikeout performance in his last start, Eastern sophomore right-hander **Matt Fontaine (Crantson, RI)** allowed only one hit through seven innings and carried a 1-0 lead into the eighth. A bases-clearing, two-out single to right-center by Roger Williams junior second baseman **Bill Lambert (Hanover, MA)** gave the Hawks a 3-1 lead, however. Eastern sophomore All-America **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** opened the Eastern eighth with a single, stole second, and moved to third on Dalton's two-out infield single. Dalton stole second to move the tying run into scoring position, and after a walk loaded the bases, Bongiovanni singled through the left side to plate Castillo and Dalton to tie the game.

In his third appearance of the season, freshman lefty **Shawn Johnson (East Hartford)** earned his first win. As the fourth Eastern pitcher, Johnson allowed only one baserunner (walk) over the final two innings. Fontaine gave up three hits in 7 2/3 innings and was charged with three earned runs while fanning nine and walking two. Bongiovanni had three of Eastern's ten hits. Castillo and Bass, who came into the game as an eighth-inning pinch hitter, had two hits each. Castillo also reached three additional times on two walks (one intentional) and a hit-by-pitch. Castillo's leadoff single in the eighth was the 99th of his 74-game career.

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Sophomore leftfielder **John Parke (Middlefield)** extended his hitting streak to 16 games when he singled up the middle leading off the sixth inning and came around to score the first run of the game.

Roger Williams freshman righty Sam Podbelski (East Greenwich, RI) did not allow an earned run over his seven-inning stint but left on the short end of a 1-0 score. Podbelski fanned four and walked two and gave up only four hits.

Eastern visits the University of Southern Maine Friday in a Little East Conference doubleheader at noon. The games were originally scheduled to be played Saturday.

Eastern Conn. 4, Roger Williams U. 3 (12 inn.)

Roger Williams (15-8)	000	000	030	000	--	3	3	3
Eastern Conn. (14-9-1)	000	001	020	001		4	10	2

One out when winning run scored.

Sam Podbelski, Billy Dunn (8), Sean Donovan (9) and Justin Reyes. Matt Fontaine, Jake Slate (8), Chris Wojick (9), Shawn Johnson (11) and Chris Cannata, Andrew Magliola (9), Joe Klein (12). WP-Johnson (1-0); LP-Donovan (0-1); 2B-Travis Bass (E).

little east conference

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

CASTILLO'S GRAND SLAM LEADS EASTERN BASEBALL TO 10-5 WIN
Against SC, Gilblair has three hits upon return, Parke extends hitting streak to 15

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Sophomore All-America **Melvin Castillo (Danbury, CT)** hit a grand slam on a two-strike pitch in the fifth inning and junior All-America **Shawn Gilblair (Windham, CT)** had three hits and scored a run upon his return from an injury when the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team posted a 10-5 non-conference victory over Springfield College Wednesday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

A winner of three straight and four of its last five, Eastern (13-9) never trailed in the game, collecting 15 hits and breaking open a one-run game when Castillo launched his fifth home run of the season over the left field fence with none out and the bases loaded in the fifth. No. 9 hitter **Andrew Magliola (East Haven, CT)** and leadoff hitter **John Parke (Middlefield, CT)** singled to open the inning and a walk to **Ismael Bolorin (Manchester, CT)** loaded the bases and spelled the end of Springfield starting righty Travis Turgeon (Norwich, CT). Facing reliever Justin O'Brien (Norfolk, MA), Castillo drove an 0-2 pitch over the fence in left field – the 19th home run of his two-year career.

Parke extended his hitting streak to 15 games as one of three hitters with three hits for Eastern. In addition to Parke – who leads the Warriors with 11 multiple-hit games – Magliola had his first career three-hit game, and Gilblair added three hits after returning to the lineup after missing six games with a hamstring pull. Parke also scored three runs and stole a base.

Eastern freshman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** had his third straight multiple-hit game and freshman **Pat Smith (Milford, PA)** matched him with two hits. Batting eighth, Smith drove in three runs with a two-run double down the left field line that snapped a 1-1 tie in the third inning, and also plated a run in the seventh with a two-out opposite-field single to right.

In his seventh appearance, sophomore lefty **Wes Dutton (Waterbury, CT)** gained his first career win in his first decision. The third of five Eastern pitchers, Dutton allowed one run in 2 2/3 innings while fanning three without a walk.

Trailing 5-2 in the fifth, Springfield had five straight hits and scored two runs to start the inning and chase Eastern's **Ronnie Newkirk (New Milford, CT)** in favor of Dutton. Dutton got a force out and strikeout to end the inning, and Castillo hit his grand slam in the bottom of the inning to push Eastern's lead to 9-4.

(more)

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Springfield, which lost for the fourth straight time to Eastern and for the 25th time in this 33-game series, collected 12 hits. No. 3 hitter Casey Federico (Agawam, MA) had four straight hits after flying out in his first at-bat. Federico drove in his team's first run with a two-out single in the third, singled and scored in the fifth, doubled with two out in the sixth, and singled leading off the ninth.

After committing 11 errors in its last three games, Eastern played without an error for the fourth time this year.

Eastern hosts Roger Williams University Thursday at 4 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 10, Springfield College 5

Springfield College (9-14)	001	121	000	--	5	12	3
Eastern Conn. (13-9)	102	240	10x	--	10	15	0

Travis Turgeon (0-2), Justin O'Brien (5), Andrew McIsaac (7) and Justin Nussey. Michael Montanari, Ronnie Newkirk (4), Wes Dutton (5), Jake Slate (8), Chris Wojick (9) and Andrew Magliola. WP-Dutton (1-0). 2B-Casey Federico (S), John Parke, Shawn Gilblair, Pat Smith (E); HR-Joey Kropa (2) (S), Melvin Castillo (5) (E).

Monday, April 7, 2008

NEWCOMERS POWER EASTERN BASEBALL PAST BABSON, 16-4
First-year players combine for eight hits, six runs, and three RBI in victory

BABSON PARK, Mass. Led by freshman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)**, four first-year players combined for eight hits and six runs in powering the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 16-4 non-conference win over Babson College Monday afternoon at Govani Field.

Eastern (12-9-1) broke a scoreless tie by scoring nine runs in the top of the third inning on six hits, two hit batsmen, a walk, and two errors. The first nine batters of the inning reached safely and scored as the Warriors chased Babson College (14-8) senior righty Jeff Musante (1-2). Sophomore leftfielder **John Parke (Middlefield)** drove in the first run of the inning with a bases-loaded single – extending his hitting streak to 14 games – and freshman catcher **Chris Cannata (Southington)** plated the last two with a two-out single.

Batting fifth in the order and serving as the team's DH, Dewing recorded his second straight three-hit game, scored two runs and drove in one run. Fellow first-year players **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** and **Travis Bass (West Hartford)** and Cannata also enjoyed big games. Schult was 2-for-4 with two runs scored and Bass was 2-for-4 with a run. Cannata also scored a run to go along with his two-run single.

Batting in the top two spots in the order, Parke and senior centerfielder **Ismael Bolorin (Manchester)** combined for four hits, three RBI and three runs scored. Bolorin made it 3-0 in the third inning with a two-run double to right.

Junior righty **James Kukucka (Vernon)** equaled his longest stint by pitching the first six innings and gaining his third win against a loss. Kukucka, who won for the first time since the team returned from California, was charged with only one run while giving up five hits, striking out three and walking. Kukucka departed on the long end of an 11-1 lead.

Eastern's 19 hits are its second-most in a game this season following a 22-hit effort against Rutgers-Camden in California. Babson was coming off a 25-win season last year – its third-most wins in program history.

Eastern hosts Springfield College Wednesday at 4 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 16, Babson College 4

Eastern Conn. (12-9-1)	009	200	005	--	16	19	4
Babson College (14-8)	001	000	111	--	4	10	4

James Kukucka (3-1), Wes Dutton (7), Shawn Johnson (9) and Chris Cannata, Joe Klein (8), Jeff Musante (1-2), Mark Donnellan (3), Michael O'Brien (4), Stephen Connolly (9) and Brian Scanlon, Sean Pucciarelli (6), 2B-Ismael Bolorin, Andrew Smiley, Andrew Dewing (E), Matt Delaney, Robbie Leer (B).

Sunday, April 6, 2008

BEHIND JAGODZINSKI, EASTERN BASEBALL GAINS LEC SPLIT
Junior righty contributes fourth straight quality start as teams trade 3-2 wins

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Junior righty **Jimmy Jagodzinski (Greenwich)** contributed his fourth straight quality start to help lift the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 3-2 Little East Conference victory over the University of Massachusetts Boston and a split of a Sunday doubleheader at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

After 2006 conference Pitcher-of-the-Year Nick Conway shut down Eastern (11-9-1, 3-2 little east) on four singles in UMass Boston's (9-12, 3-1 little east) 3-2 first-game win, Jagodzinski (4-2) returned the favor by stopping the Beacons on three singles through seven innings in the nightcap. Jagodzinski, who lowered his ERA from 4.10 to 3.57 with the performance, fanned seven and walked two and gave up both UMass runs – one of which was unearned – before first-year sophomore righty **Chris Wojick (Uncasville)** fanned four over the final two innings to earn his second save.

In his last four starts covering 25 innings, Jagodzinski has allowed only 20 hits while striking out 22 and walking only seven.

Eastern scored all of the runs it would need in support of Jagodzinski on four singles and a stolen base in the first inning. Sophomore outfielder **John Parke (Middlefield)**, who had hits in both games to extend his hitting streak to 13, singled to open the inning and later scored the first run on a single by freshman first baseman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)**. Senior leftfielder **Jon Dalton (Standish, ME)** made it 2-0 with a two-out single that plated sophomore All-America shortstop **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)**. The Warriors added another run after there were two out and none on in the third on a double by Dewing and a bases-loaded walk to sophomore second baseman **Travis Horrigan (Roxbury)**.

A leadoff error in the fifth helped the Beacons break through against Jagodzinski, who retired the first eight batters in order.

Dewing, batting cleanup in place of injured All-America junior DH **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)**, had his first career three-hit game, while Castillo and Parke each added two hits in the nine-hit attack.

Conway (3-1), a senior righty and the 2006 LEC Pitcher-of-the-Year, stymied Eastern in the opener on four singles and four walks. He did not allow an earned run in the route-going effort while fanning six.

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UMass snapped a 2-2 tie in the eighth inning by scoring an unearned run without a hit off freshman righty **Ronnie Newkirk (New Milford)**. In his third inning in place of senior starter **Joe Esposito (East Haven)**, Newkirk hit a batter and issued an intentional walk in the eighth before departing in favor of Wojick. A stolen base and throwing error accounted for the game-winning run. Esposito gave up only six hits and one earned run through five innings but did not figure in the decision.

Trailing 3-2, the Warriors threatened in the eighth against Conway when an error and intentional walk put two runners on with one out, but Conway got fly ball outs to subdue the threat.

Eastern visits Babson College Monday at 3:30 p.m.

Game 1
Massachusetts Boston 3, Eastern Conn. 2

UMass Boston (9-11, 3-0 little east)	100	010	010	--	3	6	5
Eastern Conn. (10-9-1, 2-2 little east)	110	000	000	--	2	4	3

Nick Conway (3-1) and Timothy Fontaine; Joe Esposito, Ronnie Newkirk (6), Chris Wojick (8) and Andrew Magliola. 2B-Eric Salvador (M).

Game 2
Eastern Conn. 3, Massachusetts Boston 2

UMass Boston (9-12, 3-1 little east)	000	011	000	--	2	3	0
Eastern Conn. (11-9-1, 3-2 little east)	201	000	00x	--	3	9	4

Mike Andriano (1-1), Tom Michael (8) and Timothy Fontaine. Jimmy Jagodzinski (4-2), Chris Wojick (8) and Rob Chmiel. Andrew Magliola (7). 2B-Andrew Dewing (E).

little east conference

Saturday, April 5, 2008

FONTAINE FANS 17 IN LITTLE EAST WIN OVER WESTERN

Strikeout total only two behind record as Warriors post 5-0 conference victory

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Sophomore right-handed pitcher **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)** equalled his season total with 17 strikeouts in throwing the first complete game and first shutout of his career as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team shut out Western Connecticut State University, 5-0, Saturday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

In the fifth start of the season and of his career, the 6-foot-3 inch, 230-pounder faced just four batters over the minimum by giving up two singles and a double and walking one. Fontaine (2-1), who had 17 strikeouts in 24.1 innings over five appearances this year prior to Saturday, struck out every batter in the Western (8-12, 0-3 little east) lineup at least once. He fanned the top four hitters in the lineup a total of nine times. Fontaine threw 108 pitches and completed the shutout in exactly two hours.

Eastern (10-8-1) is ranked seventh in New England.

Fontaine enjoyed his longest career outing despite pitching on only three days rest. On Tuesday here, he pitched into the sixth inning of a 7-6 loss to Montclair State University. In that game, he allowed eight hits (four for extra bases) and four earned runs while striking out only two and walking one. After Saturday's performance, Fontaine lowered his ERA from 5.92 to 4.32 and now has 34 strikeouts and only three walks in 33 1/3 innings.

"Coming off three days' rest, everything felt good today," said Fontaine afterward. "I found out (Friday) I'd be pitching on only three days' rest, but I'd done it in the past and (pitching coach Ron Isler) had a great game plan. My slider and fastball... everything was working. After the first batter of the game swung at that first pitch, we knew they'd be free-swinging. (Coach Isler) called a great game. All the credit goes to him. He's helped me out a lot this year."

Of the other ten outs other than strikeouts, only three were recorded by outfielders as the Colonials managed to put runners in scoring position only three times in the game: on a one-out double in the second, back-to-back singles with two out in the fifth and a walk and ground ball in the seventh. Fontaine retired ten straight after Patrick Kantor's double in the second, and ended the game by retiring the final eight batters – four on strikes. Fontaine did not give up another hit after Jeff Gordon and John DiGiovanni stroked back-to-back singles to center in the fifth inning of a scoreless game. He ended that fifth-inning threat with a swinging strikeout.

(more)

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It marks the third-most strikeouts by a pitcher in Eastern history. Ryan DiPietro and John Caneira hold the record with 19 strikeouts, and four pitchers have struck out 18 in a game.

Fontaine struck out the side in the third and fourth innings and got a swinging strikeout to start the fifth to make it seven strikeouts in a row. He struck out at least two batters in six straight innings.

Fontaine and Western sophomore lefty Joe Mangano were locked in a scoreless duel through five innings before the Warriors broke through in the bottom of the sixth, chasing Mangano in the process. A sacrifice fly by freshman rightfielder **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** plated sophomore leftfielder **John Parke (Middlefield)** with the first run of the game. Parke singled to open the inning, went to second on a sacrifice bunt, and stole third.

Eastern tacked on four insurance runs in the seventh when they had three hits, a walk and hit-by-pitch. Parke's sacrifice fly made it 2-0 and junior first baseman **Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY)** and sophomore **Mike Palo (Brookfield)** drove in runs with hits, and a ground ball plated another. Palo drove in his first collegiate run with a two-out pinch RBI double.

Parke and senior third baseman **Trey Bongiovanni (Meriden)** each had two hits, with Parke extending his current hitting streak to 11 games - the most by an Eastern player this year.

Eastern hosts Massachusetts Boston Sunday in a 1 p.m. doubleheader.

Eastern Conn. 5, Western Conn. 0

Western Conn. (8-12, 0-3 little east)	000	000	000	--	0	3	1
Eastern Conn. (10-8-1, 2-1 little east)	000	001	40x	--	5	6	0

Joe Mangano (1-1), Josh Murray (6), Alex Zancan (7), Joe Postemski (8) and Rob Bedard. Matt Fontaine (2-1) and Andrew Magliola. 2B-Patrick Kantor (W), Mike Palo, Trey Bongiovanni (E).

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

EASTERN BASEBALL SCORES TWO IN NINTH TO TIE UP AMHERST
Down four runs after first, Warriors come back to gain non-conference tie, 7-7

AMHERST, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team wiped out a four-run first-inning deficit and later rallied to tie the game with two runs in the top of the ninth inning and gain a 7-7 tie with Amherst College Wednesday afternoon at Memorial Field in a game stopped after nine innings due to darkness.

Eastern (9-8-1) scored the tying runs in the ninth on three hits, three walks and a wild pitch. The first run scored on a wild pitch and the tying run was driven in with a two-out singly by junior catcher Andrew Magliola (East Haven). The RBI was the ninth of the season for Magliola, who had only one RBI in his first two seasons in the program.

Eastern trailed 4-0 after one inning and 6-2 after five, but got three runs back in the sixth on three straight inning-opening hits. Freshman rightfielder Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY) and senior centerfielder Ismael Bolorin (Manchester) each drove in a run in the inning with a single, and another scored on an infield ground ball by sophomore third baseman Travis Bass (West Hartford).

Bolorin, junior first baseman Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY), sophomore outfielder John Parke (Middlefield) and Schult each had two hits in the game for Eastern. Amherst (9-5-1), a winner of four of its previous five, had 17 hits in the game but committed five errors and five pitchers combined to walk nine batters.

Ranked seventh in New England, Eastern is unbeaten (6-0-1) against Amherst in the last seven meetings.

Eastern hosts Massachusetts Boston Saturday at 2 p.m. in a Little East Conference doubleheader.

Eastern Conn. 7, Amherst College 7 (tie/darkness)

Eastern Conn. (9-8-1)	002	003	002	--	7	11	1
Amherst (9-5-1)	400	020	100	--	7	17	5

James Kukucka, Jake Slate (3), Michael Montanari (5), Ronnie Newkirk (6), Chris Wojick (7) and Rob Chmiel, Andrew Magliola (6). Mike Sutton, Pat Harris (6), Teddy Blank (6), Mike Landman (9), , Max McKenna (9) and Josh Card. 2B-Andrew Smiley (E), Card, Brian Merrigan (A); HR-Angus Schaller 2 (4), Scott Shaffer (2) (A).

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

HRs LIFT MONTCLAIR OVER EASTERN BASEBALL

Red Hawks hit three home runs in posting fifth straight victory, 7-6

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Rob Bowness hit a game-tying three-run home run in the top of the sixth inning and Jeff Miller hit the second of his two home runs to provide insurance in the ninth inning as the Montclair State University baseball team outslugged Eastern Connecticut State University, 7-6, Tuesday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

The win is the fifth straight for Montclair (9-7), which defeated Eastern (9-8) for the 15th time in 17 games against the Warriors at Eastern's ball park.

Six of Montclair's runs came on home runs, with Miller hitting a solo home run (his first of the year) to give Montclair a 1-0 lead in the third and a two-run home run in the ninth to make it 7-4. Rob Bowness hit a key three-run home run with two out in the sixth inning off sophomore righty **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)** that tied the game at 4-4.

Trailing 7-4 in the ninth, Eastern scored twice on sophomore All-America **Melvin Castillo's (Danbury)** two-out, two-run bases loaded single to left, but the Warriors stranded the tying and winning runs when reliever Stephen Piscitello got pinch hitter **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** on an infield popup to end the game. Eastern had loaded the bases on a walk to sophomore third baseman **Travis Bass (West Hartford)**, an infield single by sophomore leadoff hitter **John Parke (Middlefield)**, and a hit-batsman to junior pinch hitter **Andrew Smiley (North Kingstown, RI)**. The one-out walk to Bass signaled the end to Montclair senior righty Tim Stringer in favor of Piscitello, the team's starting third baseman.

Eastern scored four unearned runs in the third to take a 4-1 lead off Montclair senior lefty Kevin Dalton, who was coming off eight shutout innings against 2007 national champion Kean University Thursday. With two out and two on in the third, Castillo doubled in two runs and freshman first baseman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** followed with a two-run home run to left-center. From that point until the ninth, however, the Warriors managed only three hits and four baserunners off Dalton and two relievers.

(more)

Making his fourth start, Fontaine allowed only three hits (two doubles and a home run) through five innings and carried a 4-1 lead into the sixth. With two out and two on, Bowness unloaded his second home run of the season over the right-center field wall to tie the game. After the next two batters reached, Fontaine was replaced by junior righty **Jimmy Jagodzinski (Greenwich)**, who got a strikeout to end the inning but allowed the go-ahead run in the seventh on two singles and a double play ground ball.

Miller of Montclair was 4-for-5 with two home runs, three RBI and three runs scored. Castillo and Dewing – batting 3-4 in the order for Eastern – each had two hits and scored a run and combined for all six of Eastern’s RBI. Castillo has hit safely in 16 of 17 games this year and has collected two hits in six of his last seven contest. Castillo has already compiled 92 hits in only 67 career games.

Eastern played without 2007 national Player-of-the-Year Shawn Gilblair, who pulled a hamstring Sunday and will be lost indefinitely.

Montclair State U. 7, Eastern Conn. 6

Montclair State (9-7)	001	003	102	--	7	11	1
Eastern Conn. (9-8)	004	000	002	--	6	8	2

Kevin Dalton, Marty Cabalar (6), Tim Stringer (8), Stephen Piscitello (9) and Jeff Miller. Matt Fontaine, Jimmy Jagodzinski (6), Wes Dutton (9) and Andrew Magliola, Rob Chmiel (8). WP-Cabalar (1-1). LP-Jagodzinski (3-2). Save-Piscitello (2). 2B-2B-Ed Kloepping, Andrew Himmelfarb (M), Melvin Castillo (E); HR-Jeff Miller 2 (2), Rob Bowness (2) (M), Andrew Dewing (2) (E).

Sunday, March 30, 2008

EASTERN BASEBALL SPLITS LITTLE EAST OPENERS WITH No. 9 KEENE
Castillo's bases-clearing single sparks four-run rally in seventh inning of opener

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Sophomore All-America shortstop **Melvin Castillo's (Danbury)** bases-clearing single sparked a four-run rally in the seventh inning of the opener as Eastern Connecticut State University and No. 9 nationally-ranked Keene State College opened their Little East Conference baseball seasons by splitting a doubleheader at the ECSU Baseball Stadium Sunday afternoon.

In a re-match of the championship round of last year's Little East Conference and NCAA Division III New England regional tournaments – won by Eastern -- Keene State (12-4, 1-1 little east) snapped Eastern's 15-game regular-season conference winning streak in the nightcap by scoring two unearned runs on three hits and two errors in the fourth inning of the nightcap in a 4-3 victory. Eastern (9-7, 1-1 little east) won the opener, 7-4. Last year, the Warriors were the first team to win all 14 of its conference regular-season contests.

In the second game Sunday, Castillo and junior pitcher/DH **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** hit back-to-back home runs in the bottom of the first inning to give the Warriors a 2-1 lead, but 6-foot-6 inch Keene senior righty Phil Mabey settled down to allow only four hits and one run thereafter until being lifted with a runner aboard in the eighth. Senior rightfielder Greg Ford, who had hit a solo home run to give Keene a 4-2 lead in the sixth, recorded his fourth save by pitching the final two innings of the nightcap. Ford gave up Gilblair's RBI single in the eighth but survived an opening error in the ninth inning to strand two runners and end the game.

Gilblair (1-2), last year's Division III National Player-of-the-Year, pulled a muscle in his leg while running the bases on his RBI single in the eighth, and was replaced on the mound to start the ninth inning by first-year sophomore righty **Chris Wojick (Uncasville)**. Gilblair (1-2) had given up eight hits while fanning seven without a walk through eight innings of the second game, and two of the four runs charged to him were unearned.

With his team leading 4-3 in the first game, Keene senior righty Jamie Morin walked the bases loaded in the seventh and Castillo's two-run single and an outfield error cleared the bases and gave the Warriors a 6-4 lead. Castillo raced all the way to third when the ball scooted under the glove of Keene's leftfielder, and he scored on senior **Zack Thomas' (East Haddam)** two-out pinch single that made it 7-4.

Wojick earned his first collegiate win in relief in the first game. The third of three pitchers, Wojick quelled a Keene threat after being inserted in the seventh while the Owls were scoring two runs and taking a 4-3 lead. Eastern's four-run rally in the bottom of the seventh gave Wojick the lead, and he gained the win in his first decision by shutting out the Owls on three hits over the final two innings.

In his third start of the season, Eastern senior righty **Joe Esposito (East Haven)** departed the first game after six innings in possession of a 3-2 lead, but did not figure in the decision after Keene scored twice in the seventh to take its 4-3 lead. Esposito scattered two hits and only one of the two runs he allowed were earned, but he walked five to go along with five strikeouts.

In the doubleheader, Gilblair had four hits (including his team-leading seventh home run), scored a run and drove in two; Castillo had three hits, walked, scored three runs and drove in three; sophomore leftfielder **John Parke (Middlefield)** had three hits and an RBI and Thomas two hits and an RBI.

For Keene in the doubleheader, senior first baseman Joe Rousseau had three hits and a walk, two RBI and two runs scored; junior second baseman James Chevalier had three hits, and Ford contributed two.

Last year, Eastern defeated Keene State five times in six tries: twice in the regular season at Keene, NH and twice in the regional tournament at Harwick, Mass.. The teams split a pair in the conference tournament at the ECSU Baseball Stadium, the Owls forcing a decisive winner-take-all showdown with a 6-3 win before the Warriors won the crown with a 4-3 victory.

Eastern hosts Western Connecticut State University Monday at 4 p.m. in a Little East conference game, which was originally scheduled to be played Sunday.

Game 1 Eastern Conn. 7, Keene State College 4

Keene State (11-4, 0-1 little east)	100	001	200	--	4	8	2
Eastern Conn. (9-6, 1-0 little east)	101	100	40x	--	7	7	1

Jamie Morin, Jamie Chevalier (7) and Anthony Cipolla. Joe Esposito, Ronnie Newkirk (7), Chris Wojick (7) and Andrew Magliola. WP-Wojick (1-0). LP-Chevalier (3-1).

Game 2 Keene State 4, Eastern Conn. 3

Keene State (12-4, 1-1 little east)	100	201	000	--	4	8	3
Eastern Conn. (9-7, 1-1 little east)	200	000	010	--	3	8	2

Phil Mabey (1-1), Greg Ford (8) and Anthony Cipolla. Shawn Gilblair (1-2), Chris Wojick (9) and Andrew Magliola. 2B-Joe Rousseau, Jamie Chevalier (K). HR-Ford (3) (K), Melvin Castillo (4), Gilblair (7) (E).

Thursday, March 27, 2008

WILD FINISH COSTLY FOR EASTERN BASEBALL IN 3-2 LOSS

Four wild pitches in last two innings hand Western New England victory

SPIRNGFIELD, Mass. The Western New England College baseball team scored the tying and go-ahead runs in the last two innings with the help of four wild pitches as the Golden Bears downed Eastern Connecticut State University, 3-2, Thursday afternoon at Trelease Park.

In a re-match of an NCAA regional tournament game won by Eastern, 6-3, Western New England (4-5) rallied from a 2-1 deficit after seven innings by scoring the tying run in the eighth on a leadoff walk and three wild pitches and won the game in the bottom of the ninth on a leadoff single, passed ball, sacrifice bunt.

The WNEC win snaps a three-game losing streak at the hands of Eastern (8-6) and is its third in the 39-game series which dates back to 1973.

In his third career start, Eastern sophomore righty **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)** allowed only six singles without a walk and had three strikeouts over the first five innings and left with the game tied 1-1. Eastern took a 2-1 lead in the seventh when freshman third baseman **Pat Smith (Milford, PA)** singled with one out, stole second and scored on a two-out single by sophomore All-America shortstop **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)**.

Four newcomers (three freshmen) were in the starting lineup for Eastern, which managed only seven singles off three Western New England pitchers. Senior lefty Chris Anderson of Western New England, who pitched into the eighth inning of his team's 6-3 loss to Eastern in last year's regional tournament, didn't allow an earned run through five innings this time around and departed with the score tied at 1-1. Against reliever Sean Lopata, the Warriors got a leadoff single from junior first baseman **Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY)** and a walk but an infield double play and ground ball ended the threat and kept the score tied.

Eastern was able to take the lead in the top of the seventh on Castillo's 17th RBI of the season before the hosts capitalized on Eastern miscues in the last two innings.

(more)

Castillo was the only player in the game with as many as two hits, while senior second baseman **Zack Thomas (East Haddam)** walked twice and helped build the first run of the game with a sacrifice bunt that set up an RBI single by senior centerfielder **Ismael Bolorin (Manchester)** in the third.

Eastern opens defense of last year's Little East Conference unbeaten regular-season championship by hosting No. 20 nationally-ranked Keene State College in a 2 p.m. doubleheader Saturday. The Warriors defeated the Owls to win both the conference and regional championship tournaments.

Western New England College 3, Eastern Conn. 2

Eastern Conn. (8-6)	010	000	100	--	2	7	1
Western NE (4-5)	001	000	011	--	3	7	2

One out when winning run scored.

Matt Fontaine, Wes Dutton (6), Ronnie Newkirk (6), Shawn Gilblair (8), James Kukucka (9) and Chris Wojick. Chris Anderson, Sean Lopata (6), Bryan Calzone (7) and Nick Martino, Tyler Montrone (8). WP-Calzone (2-1); LP-Kukucka (2-1).

Wednesday, March 26, 2008

BEHIND JAGODZINSKI AND CASTILLO, EASTERN ROLLS TO 13-3 WIN
In return from California, Warriors hand Manhattanville first home loss of year

PURCHASE, N.Y. - Junior righty **Jimmy Jagodzinski (Greenwich)** pitched seven strong innings and sophomore All-America shortstop **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** belted his 17th career home run in 63 games to lift the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a convincing 13-3 victory over Manhattanville College Wednesday afternoon.

Jagodzinski (3-1) scattered six hits while fanning two and walking two through the first seven innings and departed with an 8-2 lead en route to his 13th career win in 16 decisions. Castillo drove in four runs with a three-run home run in the eighth and an RBI double in the ninth. He now has 17 career home runs in 63 games and has collected 19 multiple-RBI games (five this season).

Nine players contributed to the 15-hit attack against four Manhattanville College (10-5) pitchers as the Valiants were beaten at home after three opening wins. Batting second in the order, sophomore leftfielder **John Parke (Middlefield)** reached four times with three singles and a walk, and also drove in a run with a fourth-inning sacrifice fly. Parke also scored three times.

Batting ninth in the order, freshman second baseman **Pat Smith (Milford, PA)** reached three times with two RBI singles and a walk and also handled six chances in the field without an error. In his first career start, freshman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** doubled twice and walked once in three plate appearances. He knocked in the team's first run in the third and walked and scored in the fifth.

The game was the first for Eastern since returning from its California spring trip and first of seven in eight days for Eastern, which visits Western New England College Thursday at 3 p.m. The Warriors defeated the Golden Bears, 6-3, in the second round of last year's NCAA Division III New England Regional Tournament.

Eastern Conn. 13, Manhattanville College 3

Eastern Conn. (8-5)	001	330	141	--	13	15	3
Manhattanville College (10-5)	000	002	001	--	3	9	2

Jimmy Jagodzinski (3-1), Wes Dutton (8), Jake Slate (9) and Andrew Magliola. Justin Gray (1-1), Joe Donnelly (6), John Kahn (8), Mark McCaffrey (9) and Alex Braverman (8). 2B-Andrew Dewing 2, Magliola 2, Melvin Castillo, Shawn Gilblair (E), Thomas Verrengia, Chris Betro, Dan Needleman (M); HR-Castillo (3).

MOLTA, Bob (Athletics)

From: Andrew L. Viano [vianoa@mville.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 9:33 PM
To: vianoa
Subject: Manhattanville Baseball Suffers First Home Loss of Season (March 26, 2008)



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Stats.pdf (1... Connecticut St... inhattanville Suffers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 26, 2008

Contact: Andy Viano, Director of Sports Information

Phone: (914) 323-7280 E-Mail: vianoa@mville.edu

MANHATTANVILLE BASEBALL SUFFERS FIRST HOME LOSS, 13-3 TO EASTERN CONNECTICUT

PURCHASE, N.Y. – Eastern Connecticut State scored six runs off the Valiant bullpen and the Warriors scored at least three runs in three separate innings, handing Manhattanville their first loss of the season at home, a 13-3 setback Wednesday night at Manhattanville Field.

The Warriors – ranked seventh in the D3Baseball.com National Poll in the preseason – scored a single run in the third then posted three-run fourth and fifth innings to put the game away. Manhattanville's high-powered offense was held to only three runs on nine hits after scoring at least 10 runs in seven of the previous 10 games.

Eastern Connecticut got three straight hits to start the fourth inning off freshman starter Justin Gray (Wappingers Falls, N.Y.), who was making only the second appearance of his college career. The Warriors tagged Gray for three more runs in the fifth inning, highlighted by a two-run double off the bat of Andrew Magliola.

Jimmy Jagodzinski, meanwhile, held Manhattanville to only two hits over the first five frames and kept Manhattanville off the board until the sixth. That's when Stephen Pinto (Yonkers, N.Y.) cracked his second home run in six days to score Paul Blejec (Bronx, N.Y.) who had reached on an infield hit one batter earlier. After playing over two full seasons without a home run, Pinto's newfound power is just part of a breakout season for the centerfielder who leads Manhattanville with a .482 average, 27 hits, 21 runs, 17 RBI and eight stolen bases.

Joe Donnelly (Patterson, N.Y.) relieved Gray to start the sixth inning and was near perfect in his two innings of work, allowing an unearned run without allowing a hit or a walk. Donnelly plunked Jon Dalton with one out in the seventh and the Warrior rightfielder moved up on an error and scored on a groundout.

The Warriors added four more runs in the eighth and one in the ninth to fill their scorecard, with Mike Mooney (Mahopac, N.Y.) scoring an unearned Valiant run in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Mooney was the only Valiant with more than one hit, going 2-for-2 to bump his average up to .400. John Parko went 3-for-4 to lead Eastern Connecticut, and Melvin Castillo belted his third home run for the visitors. Jagodzinski earned the win to improve to 3-1.

Manhattanville (10-5, 2-1 Freedom) returns to conference play Friday and Saturday against DeSales, hosting the Bulldogs Friday for a single, nine-inning game at 3:30 p.m. Live Gametracker coverage of that contest will be available on www.GoValiants.com.

-Manhattanville Baseball-

****box score and season stats attached as PDF****

Saturday, March 22, 2008

EASTERN WRAPS UP CALIFORNIA TRIP WITH 14-2 WIN OVER CAL LU
Esposito impressive in second start of season; Warriors score 12 unearned runs

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. – Senior righty **Joe Esposito (East Haven)** stopped California Lutheran University on one hit in a six-inning start and six Kingsmen errors accounted for 12 unearned runs as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team closed out its nine-game California spring trip with a 14-2 victory Saturday at Ullman Stadium.

Esposito (1-0), making only his second start this year due to nagging injuries, allowed only one hit in his six-inning stint – a two-out double in the second inning. He fanned seven and walked two in evening his career record at 11-11.

Eastern (7-5) concluded its California trip by winning four of its last five that gave it a winning (5-4) record. The loss snapped a four-game winning streak for Cal Lutheran (8-12-2).

Trailing 1-0, Eastern scored four runs in the third by collecting five of its 15 hits and also capitalizing on two of Cal Lutheran's six errors. Leading 8-2, the Warriors tacked on six more runs in the eighth, despite managing only one hit in the frame. The Kingsmen were guilty of two errors in the inning and two Kingsmen pitchers walked four batters, hit one, and threw a wild pitch.

The Warriors knocked out Cal Lu starting junior righty Alex Casillas (3-4) – the team's No. 1 starter – in the seventh inning when the first three batters reached safely on hits by junior first baseman **Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY)** and senior rightfielder **Jon Dalton (Standish, ME)** and an Kingsmen error.

Four Eastern pitches combined on a three hitter, striking out ten and walking only two.

A total of 21 players saw action for Eastern. Hobbes led the way with three hits and two RBI, sophomore leftfielder **John Parke (Middlefield)** adding two this and two RBI, Dalton two hits, two runs and an RBI and sophomore shortstop **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** and senior centerfielder **Ismael Bolorin (Manchester)** collecting two hits each and scoring a run apiece.

(more)

The meeting was the first between the programs since 1999 and the win was only Eastern's third in the 11-game series.

Eastern visits Manhattanville College Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 14, California Lutheran U. 2

Cal Lutheran (8-12-2)	010	000	010	--	2	3	6
Eastern Conn. (7-5)	004	020	26x	--	14	15	0

Alex Casillas (3-4), Ian Durham (7), Mike Paresa (7) and David Brethouwer (8) and Chris Brouillette. Joe Esposito (1-0), Ronnie Newkirk (7), Shawn Giblair (8), Aaron Henry (9), and Andrew Magliola, Chris Cannata (8). 2B-Chris Brouillette, Tristan Hobbes, Magliola (E); 3B-Vinny Lopez (C).

Friday, March 21, 2008

SIX-RUN FOURTH PROPELS EASTERN BASEBALL PAST UR

Wojick's relief and sixteen hits allow Warriors to survive six errors in 10-9 victory

REDLANDS, Calif. -- Eastern Connecticut State University sophomore All-America shortstop **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** contributed to a six-run fourth inning by belting a three-run home run and first-year sophomore righty **Chris Wojick (Uncasville)** stranded the tying and winning runs on base in the ninth as the Warriors edged No. 18 nationally-ranked University of Redlands, 10-9, Friday afternoon at The Park.

Eastern (6-5), which fell out of the national Top 25 this past week after losing three of its first four in California, scored six runs on seven hits and two Redlands (14-9) errors in the top of the fourth inning to move out to a 9-4 lead, but the Bulldogs pulled to within one run (10-9) by scoring four unearned runs in the eighth on just one hit, two Eastern errors, a walk and hit batter.

Wojick, a first-semester transfer from the University of Maine, entered the game with none out, two runs in and a runner aboard in the eighth and Eastern leading 10-7. The hosts scored twice more in the inning on a walk and single to cut Eastern's advantage to 10-9. In the ninth, Wojick left the tying and go-ahead runs aboard, picking a runner off second base for the first out of the inning and getting an infield pop to end the game and record his first save.

Sophomore righty **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)** gained his first win in second career start. He pitched the first seven innings, allowing seven hits and five runs (three earned) with three strikeouts and no walks and left with a 10-5 lead. Fontaine (1-1) had absorbed an 11-1 loss in his first career start last Saturday against Rutgers-Newark, surrendering seven earned runs before being lifted in the fifth inning.

Freshman righty **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** started the eighth on the mound in place of Fontaine. He faced only three batters – two reaching on errors and one being hit – before giving way to Wojick.

(more)

Only six of the 19 runs scored in the game were earned, thanks to ten errors. The Warriors committed six errors which led to six unearned Redlands runs.

Eastern reached Redlands freshman Steven Dryden (0-1) for nine hits and nine runs in the righty's first career start before driving him from the game during the six-run fourth inning. Only three of the runs allowed by Dryden were earned, however.

Eastern scored its six runs in the fourth on seven hits and two errors. Castillo hit a three-run home run in that inning and senior third baseman **Trey Bongiovanni (Meriden)** had the first and last hits of the inning. Sophomore leftfielder **John Parke (Middlefield)** also had a two-run single in the frame.

Bongiovanni and junior All-America DH **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** each had three hits in the game, with senior centerfielder **Ismael Bolorin (Manchester)**, Castillo, junior first baseman **Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY)**, Parke and junior catcher **Andrew Magliola (East Haven)** adding two hits each to the 16-hit attack. Castillo drove in four runs, Parke and Gilblair two each. Gilblair had a two-run double to tie the game 3-3 in the second inning and Hobbes had a pinch double and scored in the fourth and later singled and walked in three plate appearances.

The top four hitters in the Eastern lineup – Bolorin, freshman rightfielder **Pat Smith (Milford, PA)**, Castillo, and Gilblair – combined for seven hits, score seven runs, and drive in seven runs. Smith reached four times and scored three runs.

Eastern looks to close out its nine-game California swing with a winning record Saturday when it visits California Lutheran University at 4 p.m ET. The Warriors have won three of their last four to even their spring trip record at 4-4.

at Redlands, Calif.
Eastern Conn. 10, U. of Redlands 9

Eastern Conn. (6-5)	012	610	000	--	10	16	6
Redlands (14-9)	031	001	040	--	9	9	4

Matt Fontaine (1-1), Jim Schult (8), Chris Wojick (8) and Andrew Magliola. Steven Dryden (0-1), Derek Johnson (4), Ryan Seifert (7), Corbett Clarke (9) and Jefre Johnson. Save-Wojick (1). 2B-Ismael Bolorin, Shawn Gilblair, Tristan Hobbes (E); HR-Melvin Castillo (E).

Thursday, March 20, 2008

JAGODZINSKI, CASTILLO LEAD EASTERN BASEBALL PAST F&M, 8-4
In first meeting between programs, Warriors collect 14 hits to even record in California

CLAREMONT, Calif. -- Junior righty **Jimmy Jagodzinski (Greenwich)** pitched a seven-hitter over the first five innings and sophomore All-America shortstop **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** reached safely four times to lead the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to an 8-4 victory over Franklin & Marshall College Thursday morning at Bill Arce Field on the campus of Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges campus.

The win evens Eastern's (5-4) record in California at 3-3 and is the second in a row after a three-game losing streak. The Warriors are scheduled to face Claremont-Mudd-Scripps later Thursday.

Now 2-0 in California, Jagodzinski (2-1) won his 11th game in his last 12 decisions and improved his career mark to 12-3. He gave up seven hits while fanning four and walking three and left with a 6-4 lead. Freshman righty **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** and first-year sophomore **Chris Wojick (Uncasville)** closed out the victory in the first meeting ever between Eastern and Franklin & Marshall (3-6).

Castillo, a third-team All-America at shortstop last spring, had an RBI triple and scored a run when Eastern took a 3-1 lead with three runs in the top of the third inning against Diplomat starter Brad Andres, a 6-foot-5 inch junior. Castillo's triple plated sophomore **John Parke (Middlefield)**, who had reached on an infield error. Castillo scored on a single by junior **Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY)** and a double steal produced the third run of the inning.

Castillo reached four times -- also getting aboard with a walk and hit-by-pitch -- and scored three runs and drove in two. Freshman **Pat Smith (Milford, PA)** led the Warriors by collecting three of their 14 hits. Matching Castillo with two hits were senior **Zack Thomas (East Haddam)**, junior All-America **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)**, senior **Ismael Bolorin (Manchester)**, and Hobbes.

Eastern Conn. 8, Franklin & Marshall College 4

Eastern Conn. (5-4)	003	301	100	--	8	14	1
Franklin & Marshall (3-6)	101	020	000	--	4	7	2

Jimmy Jagodzinski (2-1), Jim Schult (6), Chris Wojick (8) and Wojick, Andrew Magliola (8), Brad Andres, Tom Caramanico (6) and Matt Donahue. 2B-Gordon Pellegrini (F), Bill Murray (F); 3B-Melvin Castillo (E), Shea Moriarty (F).

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

EASTERN SNAPS OUT OF THREE-GAME FUNK WITH 21-5 ROUT
Bolorin sets the tone with leadoff home run as Warriors blast Whittier College

WHITTIER, Calif. -- Eastern Connecticut State University senior **Ismael Bolorin (Manchester)** set the tone with a game-opening home run and the Warriors collected nine extra-base hits in a 21-5 rout of Whittier College Tuesday afternoon at Memorial Field on the WC campus.

Eastern (4-4) snapped a three-game losing streak by defeating Whittier for the seventh straight season. The loss ended a four-game winning streak for Whittier (9-9-1), which had won eight of its previous ten and had beaten two teams (Rutgers-Newark and Ithaca College) which had soundly defeated Eastern earlier in the week. Three of the Poets' losses this season -- their first three games of the year -- have come at the hands of Chapman University, the No. 1 ranked team in Division III.

Nine players contributed a hit, ten scored a run, and seven drove in at least one for the Warriors, who had seven doubles and two home runs, batted around in scoring five runs in the fourth inning, and reached five pitchers for 18 hits. Making his first start of the season, Whittier senior righty Mark Canner faced only 12 batters before being lifted with two out in the second inning and on the short end of a 5-0 score. Canner was charged with six earned runs on four hits, walked three and hit a batter.

Following Bolorin's leadoff home run, Canner retired the next two batters on fly balls before the Warriors staged a two-out uprising that netted three additional runs. Senior third baseman **Trey Bongiovanni (Meriden)** drove in the second run with a single after Canner loaded the bases with a walk, hit batter and single, and first-year sophomore catcher **Chris Wojick (Uncasville)** plated two more with a double.

Wojick and freshman utility player **Pat Smith (Milford, PA)** combined for six hits, nine RBI and three runs scored, while junior All-America **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** drove in six runs and scored three with four hits. Among Gilblair's hits was a three-run home run that capped the scoring in the eighth. Wojick and Smith each had two doubles. Wojick was 2-for-4 with five RBI and two runs scored and Smith was 4-for-6 with four RBI and a run scored. Senior second baseman **Zack Thomas (East Haddam)** and sophomore utility player **John Parke (Middlefield)** both scored four runs and had two hits.

Now 2-3 in California, Eastern scored in every inning but the ninth, finishing with 21 hits. Leading 7-0, the Warriors scored five runs in the fourth to put the game away.

Junior righty **James Kukucka (Vernon)** won his second decision this year in as many career stats, combining on a seven-hitter with junior righty **Michael Montanari (Newington)**. Montanari wrapped up the win with a three-inning save.

Thursday, the Warriors face Franklin & Marshall College at 1 p.m. ET and Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges at 5:30 p.m. ET, both games being played at CMS in Claremont, Calif.

Eastern Conn. 21, Whittier College 5

Eastern Conn. (4-4)		421	513	230	--	21	18	2
Whittier (9-9-1)	020	012	000	--	5	7	1	

James Kukucka (2-1), Michael Montanari (7) and Chris Wojick, Rob Chmiel (7). Mark Canner (0-1), Philip Limon (2), Robert Norton (4), Zach Boroson (6), Anthony Tsui (8) and Ryan Crawford. Save-Montanari. 2B-Chris Wojick 2, Pat Smith 2, Melvin Castillo, Shawn Gilblair, Zack Thomas (E), John Fugazi, Ken Baptiste (W); HR-Ismael Bolorin, Gilblair (E), Crawford (W).

Sunday, March 16, 2008

EASTERN BASEBALL DROPS THIRD STRAIGHT GAME, 4-1
Esposito sharp in four-inning start, but Warriors can't solve Pomona-Pitzer frosh

CLAREMONT, Calif. – Senior righty **Joe Esposito (East Haven)** allowed only one hit in a four-inning start, but the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team could not solve Pomona-Pitzer Colleges freshman righty David Colvin in a 4-1 loss Sunday afternoon at Alumni Field.

A loser of three straight, Eastern (3-4) committed infield errors in the fifth and sixth innings that accounted for three unearned runs and helped Pomona-Pitzer (15-3) make the most of just seven hits and snap a three-game losing streak at the hands of Eastern.

The Sage Hens capitalized on two Eastern errors, two walks and four hits to score the go-ahead runs in the fifth and add two insurance runs in the sixth against freshman righty **Ronnie Newkirk (New Milford)**. Newkirk surrendered three hits and walked one in the fifth, when Pomona-Pitzer capitalized on one Eastern error. With two out and no on in the sixth, the hosts chased Newkirk following a double by **No. 8 hitter Scott Stroup in favor of first-year sophomore righty Chris Wojick (Uncasville)**. Another Eastern infield error plated two runs.

Colvin went the distance to win his sixth game without a loss, allowing only seven hits and walking none and giving up only one extra-base hit. The Warriors combined three of their hits in taking a 1-0 lead in the second, with No. 9 hitter **Andrew Magliola (East Haven)** stroking a two-out RBI single that drove in freshman second baseman **Pat Smith (Milford, PA)**, who had singled.

Smith and senior third baseman **Trey Bongiovanni (Meriden)** each had two hits for Eastern, which went down in order in four innings.

Eastern visits Whittier College Tuesday at 6 p.m. ET.

Pomona-Pitzer Colleges 4, Eastern Conn. 1

Eastern Conn. (3-4)	010	000	000	--	1	8	2
Pomona-Pitzer (15-3)	000	022	00x	--	4	7	0

Joe Esposito, Ronnie Newkirk (5), Chris Wojick (6) and Andrew Magliola, Rob Chmiel (7). David Colvin (6-0) and Mike Silva. LP-Newkirk (0-1). 2B-Melvin Castillo (E), Brandon Huerta, Drew Hedman, Michael Joannides, Scott Stroup (P).

little east conference

Sunday, March 9, 2008

SIX-RUN FIRST LIFTS EASTERN BASEBALL, 8-1

In first start, Kukucka credited with first career pitching victory

YAPHANK, N.Y. -- Junior righty **James Kukucka (Vernon)** won his first game in his first career start and **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** and **Trey Bongiovanni (Meriden)** hit first-inning home runs when the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team dumped SUNY College at Old Westbury, 8-1, Sunday afternoon at the Baseball Heaven complex.

The game was the final tuneup for Eastern (2-1) before it plays nine games in nine days beginning Friday in California. The Warriors have won their last two after opening the season by losing to 2007 national champion Kean University eight days ago. Old Westbury (0-7) was playing its first game since returning from a winless Southern trip against North Carolina Wesleyan and Frostburg State University.

Kukucka (1-0), who was staked to a 6-0 lead before taking the mound, did not allow an earned run over his career-high five-inning sting. He pitched four scoreless innings after giving up an unearned run in the first on an error, double and two ground balls. He struck out two and hit a batter, but issued no walks in evening his career record at 1-1.

The first four batters in the Eastern lineup had hits and came around to score runs against Old Westbury starter Thomas Butler (0-3), who did not survive the inning. Last year's NCAA Division III Player-of-the-Year as a sophomore designated hitter, Gilblair hit a three-run home run to give Eastern a quick 3-0 lead. A senior third baseman, Bongiovanni later added a two-out, two-run shot as the No. 8 hitter in the lineup that chased Butler, who was charged with six earned runs on six hits in two-third of an inning.

Batting second in the order, senior second baseman **Zack Thomas (East Haddam)** reached base four times. He doubled in the first run of the game and scored in the first, walked to lead off the second, singled, stole a base and scored in the fifth, and drove in the final run of the game with a two-out single in the sixth.

Batting leadoff, senior centerfielder **Ismael Bolorin (Manchester)** scored on two of Thomas' hits, while junior first baseman **Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY)** had two hits to move to within six of his 100th career hit. In his first career start, junior rightfielder **Andrew Smiley (North Kingstown, RI)**, singled and scored ahead of Bongiovanni's home run in the first.

(more)

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little east conference
Friday, March 14, 2008

EASTERN BASEBALL SWAMPS RUTGERS-CAMDEN

In California opener, Warriors swat seven home runs in 25-6 win

CLAREMONT, Calif. -- In a nine-run third inning, junior **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** and freshman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** hit back-to-back home runs and senior **Ismael Bolorin (Manchester)** later added the team's third home run of the inning as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team routed Rutgers University-Camden, 25-6, Friday afternoon in the opening game of its California spring trip in a game played at Bill Arce Field on the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges campus.

It was the first meeting ever between the two programs.

Eastern (3-1) hit seven home runs in the game – the most ever allowed by Rutgers-Camden (4-3) in a game and two shy of the Eastern game record for home runs in a game. First-year players **Travis Bass (West Hartford)**, **Pat Smith (Milford, PA)** and Dewing hit their first career home runs. Gilblair hit his second home run in four games – a two-run shot – in the third and Dewing followed with a solo blast. Bolorin later connected for his first career home run – a three-run blast – as the Warriors took a 9-2 lead after three innings.

In a seven-run fifth inning, sophomore **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** and Gilblair socked consecutive home runs to make it 17-2 – giving Gilblair the second multiple-HR game of his career. Castillo and Gilblair were both named NCAA Division III All-Americans last season.

Junior righty **Jimmy Jagodzinski (Greenwich)** went the first five innings for his first win of the year after an opening loss. Jagodzinski, who had a personal nine-game winning streak snapped in a season-opening loss March 3 when he was charged with four unearned runs, fanned eight and walked none. He gave up four hits and two (earned) runs. Freshman righty **Ronnie Newkirk (New Milford)** gave up one hit and one unearned run in one inning in his debut.

Ranked No. 12 in Division III, Eastern faces Ithaca College at 1 p.m. ET and Rutgers-Newark at 6:30 p.m. ET Saturday. Ithaca is rated No. 19 in Division III.

Eastern Conn. 25, Rutgers-Camden 6

Rutgers-Camden (4-3)	200	001	021	--	6	11	5
Eastern Conn. (3-1)	009	172	06x	--	25	24	1

Damien Wright (1-2), Michael Kondrath (3), Angelo Marchiano (5), Dan Pimiani (6), James Diamond (8), John Diamond (8) and Paul Painter. Jimmy Jagodzinski (1-1), Ronnie Newkirk (6), Michael Montanari (7), Jake Slate (9) and Andrew Magliola, Chris Cannata (7), Rob Chmiel (9). 2B-Scott Fruits, Shawn Park (@), Cesar Gutierrez, Jon Dalton, Trey Bongiovanni, Tristan Hobbes (E); HR-Steve Myers (1), Jamie Williams (1) @, Shawn Gilblair 2 (3), Ismael Bolorin (1), Melvin Castillo (1), Travis Bass (1), Pat Smith (1), Andrew Dewing (1) (E).

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The second of four Eastern pitchers, junior righty **Jimmy Jagodzinski (Greenwich)** gave up one hit in two innings after replacing Kukucka to start the sixth. Freshman righty **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** also allowed one hit in pitching a scoreless eighth in his collegiate pitching debut, and first-year sophomore righty **Chris Wojick (Uncasville)** closed out the win with a scoreless ninth.

Eastern faces Rutgers-Camden Friday at 2 p.m. ET at Claremont, Calif.

Eastern Conn. 8, SUNY College at Old Westbury 1

Eastern Conn. (2-1)	600	011	000	--	8	13	2
Old Westbury (0-7)	100	000	000	--	1	7	1

James Kukucka (1-0), Jimmy Jagodzinski (6), Jim Schult (8), Chris Wojick (9), and Andrew Magliola. Rob Chmiel (8). Thomas Butler (0-3). George Pagan (1), Robert Whitenack (7), George Hiraldo (8), Dan Fordyce (9) and Steve Henriquez. 2B-Zack Thomas (E), Rob Blanco, Emmanuel Mateo, Kevin Reynolds, Joe Mazzaresc (O). HR-Shawn Gilblair (1), Trey Bongiovanni (1) (E).

little east conference

Monday, March 3, 2008

ERRORS COSTLY AS EASTERN BASEBALL DROPS OPENER

Defending champion Kean University scores five unearned runs in 9-2 victory

PISCATAWAY, N.J. -- For the second straight season, the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team committed five errors in its season-opener, this time falling to 2007 NCAA Division III national champion Kean University, 9-2, Monday afternoon at Bainton Field on the campus of Rutgers University. 20083
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Coming off two losses Sunday to unranked Manhattanville College, Kean (2-2) capitalized on five Eastern errors to score five unearned runs and snap the personal nine-game winning streak of Eastern junior righty **Jimmy Jagodzinski (Greenwich)**. Over the first four innings, Jagodzinski (0-1) was charged with five runs – four of which were unearned. The Cougars capitalized on a throwing error that opening the fourth inning to score three unearned runs and move out to a 5-1 lead, then scored three runs over its final two at-bats to ice the victory.

In last year's season-opener, the Warriors survived five errors to post an 8-4 win over Whittier College in Whittier, Calif.

Senior second baseman Maikel De La Rosa and senior leftfielder Eric Ammirata – the top two hitters in the Kean order – combined for five of their team's 12 hits, and drove in two runs each. Batting leadoff, De La Rosa tripled twice off Jagodzinski and scored both times.

Kean sophomore righty Joe Bartlinski (1-0), who started last year's national championship game (without earning a decision), spaced five hits while fanning 13 and walking only two and gave up both Eastern runs. Junior righty Brandon Aich fanned three more Eastern batters over the final two innings to give the Cougars their second win over the Warriors in the last two years. Last year, Kean spoiled Eastern's home-opener with a 5-3 victory at the ECSU Baseball Stadium. Bartlinski gained that win, as well, by allowing only one run on five hits in 4 2/3 innings as the second of three Kean pitchers.

None of Eastern's four pitchers in the game walked a batter. Junior righty **James Kukucka (Vernon)** gave up only two hits in three innings after replacing Jagodzinski to start the fifth. In his varsity debut, junior righty **Aaron Henry (Killingly)** allowed a hit in

(more)

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little east conference

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

EASTERN'S GILBLAIR STYMIES STEVENS FOR 20TH CAREER WIN
Junior lefty needs only 28 career appearances to reach baseball milestone

HOBOKEN, N.J. – Junior left-handed pitcher **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** pitched six shutout innings in a starting role to achieve his 20th career victory in Eastern Connecticut State University's 9-1 baseball win over Stevens Tech Wednesday afternoon at Dobbelaar Field.

Gilblair (1-0) needed only 28 career appearances (23 starts) to become the 11th pitcher in program history to attain 20 victories. Last year's NCAA Division III National Player-of-the-Year and Little East Conference Pitcher-of-the-Year, Gilblair is 20-3 lifetime with a 1.90 ERA in 175 1/3 innings. He has 172 strikeouts and 23 walks. All but one of his career wins have come in a starting role.

In six innings, Gilblair allowed only three baserunners while fanning eight and walking one. Two runners reached in the first without a hit, but Gilblair fanned two to keep Stevens (2-5) off the board. Gilblair gave up a single to Eddie Daniele leading off the third but the inning ended when Daniele was thrown out trying to score from second on a ground ball to Eastern (1-1) freshman first baseman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)**. Gilblair was lifted in favor of sophomore righty **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)** after striking out the side in the sixth.

In all, three Eastern pitchers combined on a two-hitter, fanned 13 and walked two. In two games this year, Eastern pitchers have now fanned 15 and walked only two.

First-year players collected half of Eastern's 16 hits: first-year sophomore catcher **Chris Wojick (Uncasville)** and freshmen Dewing, rightfielders **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)**, and **Andrew Dyer (Topsfield, MA)**, and third baseman **Pat Smith (Milford, PA)**. Dewing and Schult each had two hits (including one double each), Dewing scoring twice and driving in a run and Schult driving in two runs. They were the first collegiate hits for Dyer, Smith and Wojick. Wojick caught the first eight innings, then closed out the win by fanning one in a 1-2-3 ninth.

Eastern visits SUNY Old Westbury Saturday at 1 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 9, Stevens Tech 1

Eastern Conn. (1-1)	000	102	204	--	9	16	1
Stevens Tech (2-5)	000	000	100	--	1	2	3

Shawn Gilblair (1-0), Matt Fontaine (7), Chris Wojick (9) and Wojick, Andrew Magliola (9). Joe Finora (0-2), Scott Picerno (7), Alex Sota (8), Craig Kinmon (9) and Denis Ackermann. 2B- Andrew Dewing, Jim Schult, Wojick (E).

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one-third of an inning in the eighth. Additional Eastern players making their varsity debut were sophomores **Mike Palo (Brookfield)** and **Chris Wojick (Montville)**, and freshman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** and **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)**. Wojick is a first-semester transfer from the University of Maine. Both Dewing and Schult recorded their first collegiate hits, with Dewing driving in Eastern's second run with a single in the fifth and Schult scoring the team's first run in the second on a single by senior second baseman **Zack Thomas (East Haddam)**.

Eastern sophomore shortstop **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)**, a third-team All-America last year as a freshman, reached safely in all five plate appearances. He had a double and two singles, and also walked once and scored on Dewing's single in the fifth after getting hit by a pitch.

Junior first baseman **Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY)** collected 17 putouts in the game – two shy of the Eastern program game record.

In addition to Bartlinski, Kean started five position players from last year's national championship win over Emory University.

Eastern visits Stevens Tech Wednesday at 3 p.m. Junior lefty **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** or senior righty **Joe Esposito (East Haven)** are expected to open on the mound.

Kean U. 9, Eastern Conn. 2

Eastern Conn. (0-1)	010	010	000	--	2	6	5
Kean (2 -2)	110	310	12x	--	9	12	2

Jimmy Jagodzinski (0-1), James Kukucka (5), Jake Slate (8), Aaron Henry (8), and Chris Wojick, Andrew Magliola (8). Joe Bartlinski (1-0), Brandon Aich (8) and Kevin O'Neill. 2B-Melvin Castillo (E); 3B-Maikel De La Rosa 2, Bryan Burke (K).