TRINITY COLLEGE BASEBALL COMPLETES SWEEP AT NCAA REGIONAL MVP Bayer escapes ninth-inning jam as Bantams defend regional championship, 5-4

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- New England Pitcher-of-the-Year Jeremiah Bayer (Greenfield, MA) retired New England Player-of-the-Year Shawn Gilblair (Windham, CT) on an infield popup with two outs and the bases loaded in the top of the ninth inning that preserved third-seeded Trinity College's 5-4 victory over top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University and gave the Bantams their second straight regional championship at the 2009 NCAA Division III New England Regional Tournament Sunday at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

No. 5 nationally-ranked Trinity (33-5) opens defense of last year's national championship Friday afternoon against Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament champion Kean University at Fox Cities Stadium in Grand Chute, WI. No. 3 nationally-ranked Eastern (39-8), which had a streak of 15 straight wins in the New England tournament snapped in a first-round loss, had won titles in the four previous New England tournaments in which it had competed (2002-04, 2007).

Trinity avoided a one-game winner-take-all showdown scheduled for Sunday evening by erasing early 2-0 and 3-2 deficits to post its fourth tournament victory without a loss in the eight-team, double-elimination tournament. En route to the finals, Trinity edged sixth-seeded Westfield State College, 6-4, Wednesday, second-seeded University of Southern Maine, 6-0, and fourth-seeded WPI, 14-0, both games Friday.

The Bantams scored twice in the third Sunday to take the lead for good, 4-3, and added an insurance run in the fifth. Making only his third relief appearance of the season, Bayer (12-0) gave up a solo home run to **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** with one out in the eighth and wriggled out of a monumental ninth-inning jam on the way to tournament Most Outstanding Player honors.

Trinity scored all of its runs in the game with two outs and Eastern scored three of its four runs on solo home runs.

Eastern, which staged a three-run ninth-inning rally Saturday afternoon against WPI to post its fourth straight tournament win, loaded the bases in the ninth on a bloop opposite-field single to right by pinch hitter **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)**, a swinging bunt by leadoff batter **John Parke (Middlefield, CT)** that Bayer fumbled, and a walk on a 3-2 pitch to **Travis Bass (West Hartford, CT)**. With the go-ahead run in scoring position, the right-handed Bayer induced a weak popup to short on the first pitch to lefty-swinging Gilblair that ensured Trinity's third New England championship in five years.

Trinity becomes the third different team to capture\ at least two straight New England titles in the 19-year history of the championship, following Southern Maine in 1991-92 and 2000-01 and Eastern between 2002 and 2004.

Bass and Gilblair launched solo home runs in the first inning off Trinity starter James Ramsey (Belmont, MA) to give starting righty Will Musson (Wethersfield, CT) a quick 2-0 cushion, but the Bantams answered immediately in the bottom of the inning on a two-out, two-run single by James Wood (Windham, NH). After the Warriors took their second lead on two (more)

hits and in infield throwing error in the top of the third, Trinity went ahead for good, 4-3, in the bottom of the inning on two-out, RBI singles by **Ryan Piacentini (Portland, ME)** and **Kevin Mortimer (Spencer, MA)**. Piacentini's sacrifice fly in the fifth gave Bayer a a two-run cushion before smashed a solo home run in the eighth to make it a one-run game. With his 39th career home run – 14th of the season—Castillo broke the 31-year-old record set by Don Fusari between 1975 and 1978.

After being upset by Babson in the opener, Eastern had scrapped back with elimination wins over Suffolk Thursday, Southern Maine Friday and Husson and WPI Saturday, but needed to sweep Trinity Sunday to qualify for its 13th NCAA national tournament since 1982.

One of his team's five all-tournament picks, Bayer was 2-0 in two tournament appearances. He won Trinity's second tournament game with his third complete-game shutout of the season against heavy-hitting Southern Maine in his first tourney appearance. Against Eastern, he struck out seven over final 4 1/3 innings, allowing three hits and one walk. He entered the week as the national leader in ERA.

Bayer was joined on the all-tournament team by teammates Piacentini, Wood, Scan Killeen (Greenfield, MA), and Kent Graham (Longmeadow, MA). A second baseman, Piacentini was 5-for-11 in the tournament with four runs scored and four RBI. He also reached safely five additional times with four walks and a hit-by-pitch, and handled 19 defensive chances without an error; the team's rightfielder, Wood was 8-for-16 with five runs scored and seven RBI. He hit his team's only tournament home run – a three-run game-tying fourth-inning blast in the opening win over Westfield; a catcher, Killeen was 6-for-15 with four runs scored and three RBI; and Graham, the Bantams' first baseman, was 5-for-16 with four runs scored and four RBI.

Giblair, Parke, and Robert Perry (Manchester) represented Eastern on the all-tournament team, with Parke and Eastern shortstop Travis Bass (West Hartford) each collecting a tournament-high 13 hits. Giblair was named at utility, Parke at second base, and Perry as an outfielder. Rounding out the 11-player all-tournament team (selected regardless of position), were shortstop Paul Galligan (Weymouth, MA) and right-handed pitcher Conor Fahey (Cumberland, RI) of WPI and DH Ethan Guerette (Wales, ME).

Trinity College 5, Eastern Conn. 4

Eastern Conn. (39-8)	201	000	010	~ ~	4	10	0
Trinity College (33-5)							

Will Musson (9-1), Wes Dutton (8) and Steve Cammuso. James Ramsey, Conor O'Sullivan-Pierce (5), Jeremiah Bayer (5) and Sean Killeen. WP-Bayer (12-0). HR-Travis Bass (4), Shawn Gilblair (9), Melvin Castillo (14) (E).

Eastern Connecticut State University

ECSU Sports News

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little east conference

Saturday, May 16, 2009

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DRAMATICALLY, EASTERN BASEBALL REGIONAL FINALIST Three-run, ninth-inning rally vaults Warriors past WPI in NCAA tourney

MANSFIELD, Conn. - Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY) stroked a game-tying two-run single with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning and the top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team went on to score the game-ending run on an infield throwing error as the Warriors advanced to the championship round of the 2009 NCAA Division III New England Regional Tournament with a 6-5 victory over fourth-seeded WPI Saturday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadiuim.

Eastern (39-7) had eliminated seventh-seeded Husson University (33-14) with an 18-hit barrage earlier in the day to reach the losers' bracket final against WPI (30-13), which was drubbed, 14-0 in Friday night's winners' bracket final by defending national champion Trinity College and did not leave the field until 11:30 p.m.

Against WPI Saturday, the Warriors trailed 5-3 entering the ninth inning, but rallied for three runs to record their fourth tournament win in two days after an opening loss to eight-seeded Babson College Wednesday afternoon.

"It's a shame someone had to lose that ballgame, because their kid (pitcher Conor Fahey) pitched a heckuva ballgame and our kids just hung around and hung around and were fortunate at the end to escape," said head coach Bill Holowaty. "We know the feeling of WPI, we've faced that many times and had those heartbreaks"

Eastern, which has won the last four New England tournaments in which it has competed, earned a spot in the championship round with the win over WPI, but will have to defeat third-seeded and defending regional champion Trinity College (32-5) twice Sunday beginning at 1 p.m. Trinity was idle Saturday after defeating second-seeded University of Southern Maine and WPI on Friday. Eastern has reached the championship round of the New England/Northeast Regional tournament the last 22 times in which it has competed since 1980.

With one out in the ninth inning against first-team All-New England righty Fahey, No. 3 hitter Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY) singled hard off the glove of third baseman of Nick Bean, and Shawn Gilblair (Windham) sent him to third with a smash off the glove of new first baseman Jameson Kokolis (Manchester, NH) which might likely have turned into a unassisted double play if Kokolis was able to hang onto the scorcher. With Andrew Dyer (Topsfield, MA) running for Gilblair, Melvin Castillo (Danbury) walked to load the bases for Hobbes. Hobbes, who had flown out to deep center field with the bases loaded to end the fifth, ripped a single into

(more)

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Eastern righty James Kukucka (Vernon) allowed only six hits through six innings - equalling his career high of eight strikeouts -- but was lifted after giving up a leadoff single in the seventh inning of a tie game.

Moreau, cleanup hitter Scott McNee and Bryan Watkins all had two hits against three Eastern pitchers, with Moreau scoring twice. The game was the first meeting ever between Eastern and WPI, which won its first two games in its first NCAA appearance ever. After being eliminated in three games in its conference tournament, the Engineers defeated Becker College and Worcester State College to capture its first ECAC championship last weekend and brought a six-game winning streak into the NCAA tournament.

In eliminating Husson earlier Saturday, Eastern recorded 18 hits - four of them home runs and nine of them for extra bases -- against four pitchers. Perry swatted a two-run home run in the second and a three-run shot in the fifth. Castillo was 3-for-5 (two doubles) with three runs scored and two RBI, and No. 9 hitter Steve Cammuso (Rutland, MA) was 3-for-4 with two RBI and two runs scored. John Parke (Middlefield), Schult, Gilblair, Perry, and Joe Cousineau (Newington) all contributed two hits each. Schult gave himself a 1-0 lead with a solo home run in the top of the first, and Cammuso tagged a two-run shot in the fourth. Schult (4-0) gave up seven hits and only one earned run in his first complete game in eight starts. He fanned a career-high 11 and walked two.

The regular-season meeting between the No. 3 nationally-ranked Warriors and fifth-ranked Bantams was cancelled due to rain. The teams have met only once in NCAA regional play, Eastern posting a come-from-behind 9-6 win at the Eastern Baseball Stadium on the way to its third national championship in 1998.

Eastern Conn. 6, WPI 5

WPI (30-13)	100	002	101	5	8	4
Eastern Conn. (39-7)	001	200	003	6	10	1

Conor Fahey (8-2) and Joe Walsh. James Kukucka, Chris Wojick (7), Wes Dutton (9) and Steve Cammuso, Andrew Magliola (7), Steve Cannata (9). WP-Dutton (1-1). 2B-Matt Moreau, Scott McNee (W), Shawn Gilblair (E); HR-Moreau (W).

Eastern Conn. 18, Husson U. 3

Eastern Conn. (38-7)	120	343	050	18	18	2
Husson (33-14)	201	000	000	3	7	1

Jim Schult (4-0) and Steve Cammuso. Chris Morris (5-3), Kyle Leeman (4), Ryan Walker (8), Aaron Sullivan (8) and Nick Arthers. 2B-Melvin Castillo 2, John Parke, Shawn Gilblair, N. Arthers, TJ Frail (H); 3B-Joe Cousineau (E); HR-Robert Perry 2 (4), Schult (9), Cammuso (4) (E).

G127

Saturday, May 16, 2009

EASTERN BASEBALL REACHES REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND Warriors score three times in bottom of ninth against WPI in losers' bracket final

Sunday's championship round will be broadcast live by WILI Radio (1400 AM), beginning at 12:55 p.m.

MANSFIELD, Conn. – **Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY)** stroked a game-tying two-run single with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning and the top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team went on to score the game-ending run on an infield throwing error as the Warriors advanced to the championship round of the 2009 NCAA Division III New England Regional Tournament with a 6-5 victory over fourth-seeded WPI Saturday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadiuim.

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Against WPI Saturday, the Warriors trailed 5-3 entering the ninth inning against the Engineers, but rallied for three runs to record their fourth tournament win in two days after an opening loss to eight-seeded Babson College Wednesday afternoon.

Eastern, which has won the last four New England tournaments in which it has competed, earned a spot in the championship round with the win over WPI, but will have to defeat third-seeded and defending regional champion Trinity College (32-5) twice Sunday beginning at 1 p.m. Trinity was idle Saturday after defeating second-seeded University of Southern Maine and WPI on Friday. Eastern has reached the championship round of the New England/Northeast Regional tournament the last 22 times in which it has competed since 1980.

With one out in the ninth inning against first-team All-New England righty Conor Fahey (Cumberland, RI), No. 3 hitter Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY) singled hard off the glove of third baseman of Nick Bean (Middleboro, MA), and Shawn Gilblair (Windham, CT) sent him to third with a smash off the glove of new first baseman Jameson Kokolis (Manchester, NH). With Andrew Dyer (Topsfield, MA) running for Gilblair, Melvin Castillo (Danbury, CT) walked to load the bases for Hobbes. Hobbes, who had flown out to deep center field to leave the bases loaded in the fifth, ripped a single into right-center to score Schult and Dyer to tie the game at 5-5. Robert Perry (Manchester), who had driven in five runs with two home runs earlier in the day against Husson, then ground hard to the left side. Bean made a brilliant play to his back hand to keep the ball from going into the outfield, but his throw across the diamond to Kokolis skipped past the first baseman as Castillo raced in from third with the game-winning run.

WPl erased a 3-1 deficit by scoring four runs in its final four at-bats to bring its two-run lead into the ninth. The Engineers scored two runs in the sixth on two hits, two walks and a sacrifice fly, and took the lead in the seventh when **Paul Galligan (Weymouth, MA)** came home from third on a throwing error to first by the Eastern catcher on a third strike in the dirt. Galligan had

(more)

singled to right-center to open the seventh, and stole second and third. WPI added an insurance run in the ninth to go up 5-3 on a leadoff home run by No. 3 hitter **Matt Moreau (Manchester, NH).**

Fahey, who had pitched into the eighth inning of his team's 7-6 first-round win over Suffolk Wednesday, carried a seven-hitter into the ninth inning.

Gilblair, the New England Player-of-the-Year this season, reached base five times with three hits and two walks. He recorded his 21st double of the year (one shy of the season record) in the second, singled and scored in the fourth, and walked in the fifth and seventh before singling in the ninth. Schult, who had two hits to back his own seven-hit complete game against Husson, had two more hits against WPI, with his ninth-inning leadoff single the 100th in his 83-game two-year career.

Eastern righty James Kukucka (Vernon, CT) allowed only six hits through six innings – equalling his career high of eight strikeouts -- but was lifted after giving up a leadoff single in the seventh inning of a tie game.

Moreau, cleanup hitter Scott McNee (Falmouth, MA) and Bryan Watkins (Belmont, MA) all had two hits against three Eastern pitchers, with Moreau scoring twice. The game was the first meeting ever between Eastern and WPI, which won its first two games in its first NCAA appearance ever. After being eliminated in three games in its conference tournament, the Engineers defeated Becker College and Worcester State College to capture its first ECAC championship last weekend and brought a six-game winning streak into the NCAA tournament.

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The regular-season meeting between the No. 3 nationally-ranked Warriors and fifth-ranked Bantams was cancelled due to rain. The teams have met only once in NCAA regional play, Eastern posting a come-from-behind 9-6 win at the Eastern Baseball Stadium on the way to its third national championship.

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Eastern Conn. 6, WPI 5

WPI (30-13)	100	002	101	 5	8	4
Eastern Conn. (39-7)	001	200	003	 6	10	1

Conor Fahey (8-2) and Joe Walsh. James Kukucka, Chris Wojick (7), Wes Dutton (9) and Steve Cammuso, Andrew Magliola (7), Steve Cannata (9). WP-Dutton (1-1). 2B-Matt Moreau, Scott McNee (W), Shawn Gilblair (E); HR-Moreau (W).

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Eastern Conn. (38-7)	120	343	050	 18	18	2
Husson (33-14)	201	000	000	 3	7	1

Jim Schult (4-0) and Steve Cammuso. Chris Morris (5-3), Kyle Leeman (4), Ryan Walker (8), Aaron Sullivan (8) and Nick Arthers. 2B-Melvin Castillo 2, John Parke, Shawn Gilblair, N. Arthers, TJ Frail (H); 3B-Joe Cousineau (E); HR-Robert Perry 2 (4), Schult (9), Cammuso (4) (E).

GILBLAIR FANS 14 TO PACE EASTERN BASEBALL IN NCAA REGIONAL

Five Southern Maine errors pave way for six unearned runs in Warriors' 7-2 victory

MANSFIELD. Conn. — Senior left-handed pitcher **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** limited second-seeded University of Southern Maine to five hits and struck out 14 in seven innings and the Huskies committed five costly errors as top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University posted a 7-2 win in an elimination game of the 2009 NCAA Division III New England Regional Tournament Friday evening at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Coming off a 6-0 loss to defending national champion and third-seeded Trinity College in the first game of the day, Southern Maine (36-9) becomes the fourth team to be eliminated in the original field of eight. Eastern (37-7) advances to another elimination game Saturday at 11 a.m. against Husson University, which eliminated Babson College Friday. Friday's late game featured the tournament's two remaining unbeatens in Trinity and WPI, both 2-0.

In the 19th regional tournament meeting between the programs (Eastern leads the regional series, 11-8). Eastern scored twice in the bottom of the first, and added three unearned runs in the fourth and two more unearned runs in the fifth. In those two innings, the Warriors recorded five hits and were helped by two errors, two walks and a hit batsman. Travis Bass (West Hartford, CT) drove in two runs in those innings with a single and sacrifice fly, Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY) plated one with a double, John Parke (Middlefield, CT) had a sacrifice fly, and Andrew Magliola (East Haven, CT) was walked with the bases loaded to force in another run. With one out in the fourth, Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA) singled and Robert Perry (Manchester, CT) followed with a bunt single to ignite the rally.

Trailing 7-2 in the eighth, Southern Maine loaded the bases on a leadoff double by All-America Chris Burleson (Portland, ME) and two walks, but second baseman Parke turned a double play after fielding a ground ball behind reliever left-handed reliever Wes Dutton (Waterbury, CT) to end the inning. The Huskies loaded the bases again in the ninth against righty Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI), but shortstop Bass's flip to Parke covering just beat a sliding Burleson to end the game.

Gilblair (8-1), named the New England Player-of-the-Year earlier this week, had thrown seven innings to defeat Southern Maine in the Little East Conference tournament a week ago. He equaled his career-high strikeout total in this game. The national leader in strikeouts per game (13.7), Gilblair had 11 punchouts through the first five innings, striking out the side in the fourth and fifth. The two runs he allowed came on solo home runs by cleanup hitter Ryan Pike (Saco, ME) – his team-leading 11th of the year - - leading off the second and by losing pitcher Collin Henry(Penobscot, ME) leading off the seventh.

Bass had three of Eastern's nine hits, Perry adding two. Perry and No. 9 hitter **Joe Cousineau (Newington, CT)** both scored twice.

Eastern Conn. 7, U. of Southern Maine 2

Southern Maine (36-9)	010	000	100		2	7	5
Eastern Conn. (37-7)	200	320	00x	w	7	9	1

Collin Henry (3-3), Nick Hahn (4), Andrew Stacy (5) and Jordan Berthiaume. Shawn Gilblair (8-1), Wes Dutton (8), Matt Fontaine (9) and Andrew Magliola. 2B-Chris Burleson (S), Jim Schult (E); HR-Ryan Pike (11), Collin Henry (6) (S).



EASTERN REMAINS ALIVE IN NCAA BASEBALL REGIONAL

Musson fans career-high 13, Warriors collect 16 hits in 13-2 victory

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Will Musson (Wethersfield, CT) pitched a complete-game seven-hitter with a career-high 13 strikeouts and John Parke (Middlefield, CT) and Travis Bass (West Hartford, CT) combined for nine hits to power the top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 13-2 victory over fifth-seeded Suffolk University Thursday morning in an elimination game of the 2009 NCAA Division III New England Regional Tournament at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Eastern (36-7) advances in the losers' bracket Friday at 1:15 p.m. against the loser of a late Thursday night game between second-seeded University of Southern Maine and third-seeded Trinity College. Suffolk (30-11) is eliminated from its fourth NCAA tournament after losing consecutive nine-inning games for the first time this season. In Wednesday's 7-6 first-round loss to fourth-seeded WPI, Suffolk scored four runs in the eighth to tie the contest before the Engineers scored the go-ahead run in the eighth.

Five of the seven hits were singles against Musson (9-0), who struck out the side once and fanned two in the first and two in the ninth. A first-year transfer from the University of Connecticut, Musson becomes the fifth pitcher in program history to win as many as nine games in a season without a loss. Seven different Suffolk batters had one hit each

With the win, Eastern avoids losing its first two games in the New England Regional since 1980.

Hitless with three strikeouts in Wednesday's 10-6 opening loss to Babson College, Bass had five straight hits Thursday after striking out in the first. He drove in three runs and scored two as the No. 2 batter in the lineup. Batting leadoff, Parke also reached safely five times with four hits and a walk. He scored four runs and drove in two. In two tournament games, Parke is 7-for-10 with three RBI and four runs scored.

Shawn Gilblair (Windham, CT) drove in four runs with a ground ball, two sacrifice flies and a single. Robert Perry (Manchester, CT) added three hits and scored two runs.

Bobby Barrett (Milton, MA) drove in both Suffolk runs with a first-inning ground ball and third-inning double.

Eastern Conn. 13, Suffolk U. 2

Eastern (36-7)	110	202	502	 13	16	0
Suffolk (30-11)	101	000	000	 2	7	5

Will Musson (9-0) and Steve Cammuso. Reid Jackson (6-4), Dan Delia (7), Jon Handy (9), Charles Kilgore (9) and Bobby Barrett. 2B-John Parke, Travis Bass (E), Bobby Barrett, Mark Addesa (S); 3B-Jim Schult (E).

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

SEVEN-RUN SECOND INNING PROPELS BABSON IN NCAAs

Eight-seeded Beavers shock top-seeded Eastern in tourney opener, 10-6

MANSFIELD, Conn. - The eight-seeded Babson College baseball team scored seven runs in the top of the second inning - freshman **Sean Cleary (Milton, MA)** hitting a grand slam for his first collegiate home run -- and the Beavers went on to stun top-seeded and No. 3 nationally-ranked Eastern Connecticut State University, 10-6, Wednesday afternoon in an opening-round game of the 2009 NCAA Division III New England Regional Tournament at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Making its first NCAA appearance since 2004, Babson (23-18) moved into a winners' bracket game Thursday at 4:30 p.m. against fourth-seeded WPI. The Engineers dropped fifth-seeded Suffolk University in Wednesday morning's first game.

The loss in the New England Regional was Eastern's (35-7) first in 16 games over three previous tournaments and snaps the Warriors' overall 14-game winning streak this year. Eastern looks to remain alive Thursday morning against Suffolk in an elimination game at 10 a.m.

Babson had five of their game total of 13 hits in the seven-run second inning, when they scored seven times to push its early lead to 9-0. Team batting leader Billy Besinger (Milton, MA) drove in the first run of the inning with a single to make it 3-0, and freshman Travis Jonasson (Needham, MA) knocked in two more with an opposite-field single to left that knocked out Eastern starting pitcher Matt Fontaine (Cranston,, RI). Reliever Mike Tingley (Vernon, CT) gave up a single on the first pitch to load the bases, and Cleary launched the first home run of this career over the left-field fence to cap the inning.

Babson sophomore righty **Andrew Aizenstadt** (**Norwell, MA**) gave up 14 hits but recorded his sixth complete game of the year in nine starts. Aizenstadt (8-1) threw 158 pitches, striking out ten and walking two. Six of his strikeouts came against the No. 2 and No. 3 hitters in the Eastern lineup.

Cleary drove in five runs in the game with two hits, and Babson cleanup hitter Bryan Evans (Belaire, TX) was 4-for-5. Besinger had two hits and scored two runs.

Eastern leadoff hitter John Parke (Middlefield, CT) and Melvin Castillo (Danbury, CT) each had three hits for Eastern, which carried a .357 batting average into play.

Babson, which won its conference tournament after splitting 12 regular-season conference games, has lost three of its last four entering the tournament.

Babson College 10, Eastern Conn. 6

Babson College (23-18)	270	010	000	 10	13	1
Eastern Conn. (35-7)	000	500	010	 6	14	l

Andrew Aizenstadt (8-1) and Sean Cleary. Matt Fontaine (6-2), Mike Tingley (2), James Kukucka (2), Wes Dutton (5), Chris Wojick (8) and Andrew Magliola, Steve Cammuso (5). 2B-Corey Highfield (B), John Parke, Shawn Gilblair, Melvin Castillo, Cammuso (E); HR-Cleary (1) (B).

Eastern Connecticut State University



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little east conference

Saturday, May 9, 2009

EASTERN BASEBALL WINS SEVENTH LITTLE EAST TITLE

Warriors average 15 hits and 12 runs in sweeping three games; Gilblair named MOP

GORHAM, Maine -- Junior third baseman **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** tied the Eastern Connecticut State University career home run record with the 37th and 38th of his three-year career, and junior righty **Will Musson (Wethersfield)** won his eighth game without a loss as the second-seeded Warriors won their seventh Little East Conference baseball tournament championship in 13 years with a 14-5 win over third-seeded Keene State College Saturday afternoon.

By winning its 14th consecutive game, No. 6 nationally-ranked Eastern (35-6) earns an automatic bid to its 30th NCAA Division III tournament in the 34-year history of the championship. Eastern will host the New England regional tournament, beginning Wednesday at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

The entire 54-team tournament field and pairings will be released Monday. In addition to Eastern, other automatic qualifiers from New England include Husson College (North Atlantic Conference), Western New England College (The Commonwealth Coast Conference), Babson College (New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference), Suffolk University (Great Northeast Athletic Conference), and Westfield State College (Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference). A seventh automatic qualifier from New England will be determined Sunday during the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) championship game.

Eastern senior left-handed pitcher/designated hitter **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player—for the third time in his four-year career. Gilblair pitched the first seven innings in Eastern's 14-6 win over No. 1 seeded and No. 1 nationally-ranked Southern Maine Friday, and batted .538 (7-for-13) with eight RBI, and five runs scored in the tournament. Gilblair had three hits and four RBI against Southern Maine and two hits in each of two wins against Keene State. He also scored three times and drove in two runs Saturday.

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Saturday, Castillo hit his 12th home run of the year in a four-run Eastern first inning – a three-run blast — and added his 13th in a three-run eighth – a two-run shot. Castillo's home runs give him 38 in his career, tying the 31-year-old career record set by All-America Don Fusari (1975-78).He finished with three hits, five RBI and two runs scored Saturday. The home run total is one shy of his career-high, set as a 2007 freshman All-America

A first-year transfer from the University of Connecticut, Musson pitched a six-hitter over seven innings, giving up only one earned run with three strikeouts and four walks. On the season, Musson is 8-0 with a save and 2.58 ERA, and 65 strikeouts in 59 1/3 innings.

Eastern batted .391 in the tournament with 14 of its 45 hits good for extra-base hits. The Warriors averaged 12 runs per game in the tournament.

Eastern has won five of the last seven LEC tournament titles (three of the last four), three of the crowns coming when the tournament has been hosted four times by Southern Maine.

Keene State (25-16) won last year's tournament, climinating Eastern 1-0 in the semifinals. The Owls eliminated Southern Maine, 7-2, Saturday morning to move into the championship round against Eastern. Keene needed two wins against the Warriors to claim the title.

Eastern advanced to this weekend's four-team, double-elimination tournament after sweeping Western Connecticut State University in last weekend's best-of-three series.

Other top tournament hitters for Eastern:

- -- Sophomore rightfielder **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** was 7-for-14 with eight RBI and six runs scored. He hit three home runs and also doubled. He hit a solo home run leading off the eighth Saturday.
- -- Castillo was 6-for-12 with eight RBI and four runs scored
- -- Junior centerfielder **Joe Cousineau (Newington)** was 4-for-9, with all of his hits coming in Thursday's 7-3 win over Keene State.
- -- Sophomore leftfielder Robert Perry (Manchester) was 5-for-14.
- -- Junior righty Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI) pitched the first seven innings of Thursday's win over Keene, before darkness halted the game and forced a Friday morning resumption. Fontaine gave up only six hitswith four strikeouts and two walks.

EASTERN BASEBALL 2-0 IN LITTLE EAST CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

Warriors move into championship round as only unbeaten team remaining

GORHAM, Maine – The Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team completed a Thursday afternoon game against Keene State College with a 7-3 win Friday morning, then battered five University of Southern Maine pitchers for 16 hits to down the top-seeded Huskies, 14-6, in a winners' bracket game later Friday afternoon to move into the championship round of the 2009 Little East Conference.

Ranked sixth in Division III, Eastern (34-6) moves into the championship round of the double-elimination tournament, needing one win to claim its seven conference playoff title in the 13-year history of the championship. No. 1 nationally-ranked Southern Maine (35-6) faces third-seeded Keene State College (24-15) Saturday at 11 a.m. The winner returns at 2:30 to face Eastern. A final game, if needed, is scheduled for Sunday at noon.

After losing to Eastern Friday morning, Keene remained alive by eliminating fourth-seeded Massachusetts Boston, 9-6, Friday.

First-year University of Connecticut right-handed pitcher **Will Musson (Wethersfield)** is expected to open on the mound Saturday. Musson (7-1, 2.75) has not seen tournament action yet.

After allowing eight hits in four innings in a 7-1 loss to Southern Maine March 28, senior lefty **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** handcuffed the Huskies on seven hits through seven innings and was backed by Eastern's 16-hit offense. Gilblair also hit his eighth home run of the season, with sophomore **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** adding his seventh – a grand slam in a five-run second inning – and sophomore **Robert Perry (Manchester)** smacking his second of the year.

Eastern has matched its season-opening winning streak of 13 with the triumph over Southern Maine, which is 6-3 in its last nine after capturing 17 in a row.

(more)

The top five hitters in the Eastern lineup – juniors John Parke (Middlefield) and Travis Bass (West Hartford), Schult, Gilblair and junior Melvin Castillo (Danbury) – accounted for 11 hits, 11 RB1 and 12 runs scored. Gilblair had three hits and four RB1, Schult two hits, five RBI and two runs scored, Bass two hits and four runs scored, and Parke two hits and three runs scored

Southern Maine junior lefty Collin Henry lost for the second time in two starts this year against Eastern. Unable to get out of the first inning in an 8-4 loss to the Warriors March 28, Henry was charged with seven runs on seven hits and five walks before departing two batters into the fourth inning Friday.

Southern Maine had pounded Eastern, 14-3, in the second round of last year's tournament and the Warriors were eliminated in their fourth game, 1-0, by Keene, which went on to its first title.

Eastern finishes win over Keene

Eastern led Keene State College, 6-3, when the game was halted after seven innings due to darkness Thursday evening.

Junior righty Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI) had given up only three runs on six hits with four strikeouts and a walk through seven immigs, and junior lefty Wes Dutton (Waterbury) closed the victory over Keene State (23-15) with the final two scoreless innings. Schult hit a solo home run in the bottom of the eighth inning to round out the scoring.

Eastern snapped a 2-2 tie by scoring three runs in the bottom of the fifth inning on a two-run single by junior Castillo and an RBI triple with two out by junior **Joe Cousineau** (Newington). Cousineau's triple chased Keene starter Jeff Raymond in favor of Corey Vogt.

Cousineau had four of Eastern's 13 hits, adding a double to go along with his RBI triple. Gilblair doubled and singled and drove in two runs, while Parke and Schult also had two hits in Eastern's 13-hit attack.

Eastern Connecticut State University

ECSU Sports News

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Tuesday, May 5, 2009

EASTERN BASEBALL RALLIES FROM EARLY DEFICIT FOR VICTORY

Down by four in first inning, Warriors use seven-run eighth to pull away, 13-4

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Senior **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** cracked a go-ahead two-run home run in the seventh inning off the first pitch he saw from Roger Williams University relief pitcher Ryan Willette (Middletown, MA) and the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team went on to a 13-4 non-conference win Tuesday night in its final regular-season home game of the year.

The win is the 11th straight for Eastern (32-6), ranked fourth nationally and second in New England. The Warriors open play in the four-team, double-elimination Little East Conference tournament Thursday at 3 p.m. against Keene State College at Towers Field on the University of Southern Maine campus.

Trailing 4-0 after one inning, Eastern got three back in the fourth on an infield ground ball and junior **Joe Cousineau's (Newington)** two-out, two-run opposite field double, went ahead for good by scoring three more in the seventh, and tacked on seven insurance runs in the eighth. Sophomore **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** tied the game with a single on the first (and final) pitch he saw from losing pitcher Dan Roberge (Oakdale), and Giblair greeted Willette with a two-run home run to right-center that gave Eastern its first lead, 6-4. Eleven batters came to the plate in the eighth when the Warriors scored seven times on four hits, three hit batsmen and an infield throwing error.

Five of the top six hitters in the Eastern lineup had two hits each and combined to score nine runs and drove in six, with **Tristan Hobbes** (Utica, NY) collecting three hits. Gilblair drove in three runs with his seventh home run of the season and an RBI double in the seventh-run eighth. Schult had two hits, scored two runs and drove in two.

Four Eastern pitchers combined for 14 strikeouts and no walks. After giving up four runs on three hits in the first inning, Schult allowed only one hit over the next four innings while fanning seven, but departed on the short end of a 4-3 score. Senior James Kukucka (Vernon) pitcked up his third win in four decisions with two scoreless innings. Kukucka fanned the side in the seventh and earned the win on the strength of Eastern's three-run seventh.

First-year sophomore **Rob Perry (Manchester)** reached twice in the eighth inning on a hit-by-pitch and RBI single and scored the team's first run.

Cleanup hitter Kevin Simpson of Roger Williams (20-20-1) had a bases-clearing double and later scored in the inning to stake the Hawks to a quick 4-0 lead, but the visitors managed only two hits the rest of the way.

The game was the final regular-season home one for seniors Gilblair, Hobbes, Kukucka and Andrew Magliola (East Haven).

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EASTERN BASEBALL ADVANCES IN LITTLE EAST PLAYOFFS

No. 2-seeded Warriors rough up No. 7 Western to win best-of-three series 10-2, 20-1

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Eight players had at least three hits and five hit home runs as the No. 2-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team crushed seventh-seeded Western Connecticut State University, 10-2, 20-1, to advance in the 2009 Little East Conference tournament Saturday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Ranked No. 7 nationally, Eastern (31-6) was one of the top four seeds to sweep their respective best-of-three series Saturday and advance to the three-day, four-team, double-elimination LEC tournament beginning Thursday at Towers Field on the University of Southern Maine campus. The Warriors will face No. 3 seed Keene State College (23-14) in the second of two games Thursday at 3 p.m.. Top-seeded Southern Maine (34-5) meets No. 4 seeded Massachusetts Boston (19-20) in Thursday's noon opener.

All-America senior lefty **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** went the first eight innings in the opener to gain his sixth win in seven decisions, and first-year junior righty **Will Musson (Wethersfield)** pitched the first seven innings to remain undefeated (7-0) in the nightcap. Gilblair gave up five hits while fanning ten and walking one while Musson struck out ten without a walk and scattered four hits without surrendering an earned run.

The first-game win provided Eastern with its ninth straight season of at least 30 victories.

Western senior righty Alex Zancan, who had pitched a complete-game eight-hitter in his team's 5-3 win over Eastern April 10, was charged with 11 earned runs on 11 hits over the first two innings of the nightcap Saturday.

In the second game, freshman catcher Steve Cammuso (Rutland, MA) reached base five times with three doubles, a home run and walk, drove in five runs and scored four.

On the afternoon, sophomore rightfielder Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY) reached base seven times with five hits and two walks. He matched Cammuso with three doubles and a home run. Junior third baseman Melvin Castillo (Danbury) drove in five runs on the day with a double, triple and his 36th career home run (team-leading 11th of the season) which moved him to within two of the 31-year-old career home run record. Junior shortstop Travis Bass (West Hartford) had four hits, including a double and triple, scored four runs and drove in four. The second of Bass' three hits in the second game gave him 100th career hits at Eastern.

In addition to posting his 26th career pitching win – tying him for sixth all-time – Gilblair had three hits – including a double and his sixth home run of the season – drove in four runs and scored three in the doubleheader. Gilblair and Bass both drove in four runs in the second game. In the opener, junior first baseman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** reached safely four times with a single, home run and two walks.

Eastern hosts Roger Williams University Tuesday at 7 p.m.

EASTERN'S FONTAINE OVERPOWERS WHEATON IN 11-0 VICTORY

Junior righty fans 13, allows only four baserunners in seven innings in baseball win

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Junior righty **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)** dominated Wheaton College by allowing only four baserunners and striking out 13 batters as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team topped the Lyons, 11-0, Wednesday night at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Ranked No. 9 in Division III and third in New England, Eastern (29-6) moves to within a victory of its ninth straight 30-win season. The Warriors have won at least 30 games in 25 of the last 36 seasons under 41st-year coach Bill Holowaty. Ranked fifth in New England, Wheaton (29-10) has dropped seven of its last 12 and is 12-9 since opening the season with a 17-1 record. The Warriors have won their last eight. Eastern won its first 13 games this year but lost six of its next 14 before putting together its current eight-game winning streak.

Fontaine (5-1) faced the minimum 12 batters through the first four innings. In seven innings, he allowed two hits and walked one and one also reached on an infield error. He struck out the side in the fifth and sixth, fanning at least two in all but one inning.

Seniors Shawn Gilblair (Windham) and Andrew Magliola (East Haven) and junior Melvin Castillo (Danbury) all had two hits in Eastern's 12-hit attack which featured four doubles. Gilblair and No. 9 hitter Shane Kingsley (Beacon Falls) each scored twice and senior Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY) drove in two runs.

Sophomore Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY) and junior John Parke (Middlefield) extending current hitting streaks to 11 and ten, respectively, with one hit each. Schult doubled and scored in the third and Parke had an RBI single in his final at-bat in the seventh.

Cleanup hitter Sean Munley broke up Fontaine's perfect game with a leadoff single cleanly through the right side of the infield in the fifth inning, and also reached on a walk with one out in the seventh. Hadi Raad reached on an error leading off the sixth and Paul Malaguti singled with two out and Munley on first in the seventh. Munley was the only Wheaton runner to reach third when he advanced on Malaguti's single, but Fontaine finished his night's work with an inningending strikeout on a 3-2 pitch.

Eastern hosts Western Connecticut State University this weekend in a best-of-three series in the opening round of the Little East Conference tournament. The teams play twice Saturday beginning at 2 p.m. A third game, in needed, is scheduled for Sunday at time TBA.

Eastern Conn. 11, Wheaton College (MA) 0

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Wheaton (29-10) 000 000 000 --- 0 3 1
Eastern Conn. (29-6) 021 400 31x -- 11 12 1
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Louie Bernardini (3-3), Kevin Calabro (6), Jared Barnes (7), Chad Kasik (8) and Jeff Lieneck. Matt Fontaine (5-1), Wes Dutton (8), Chris Wojick (9) and Andrew Magliola. 2B-Hal Landers (W), Jim Schult, Melvin Castillo, Andrew Dewing, Joe Cousineau (E).

SIX-RUN SECOND INNING PROPELS EASTERN, 8-4

Against Tufts, Bass homers and doubles twice, Tingley sharp in relief

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Junior Travis Bass (West Hartford) and sophomore Robert Perry (Manchester) each hit second-inning home runs and drove in three runs in the game and junior lefty Mike Tingley (Rockville) provided timely middle relief as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team held off Tufts University, 8-4, Monday night at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

The win is the seventh straight for Eastern (28-6), ranked No. 9 nationally and third in New England. Tufts (16-16) had won four straight, eight of nine and 11 of 13 entering play.

Perry and Bass hit home runs in a six-run Eastern second inning and Bass added an RBI double and scored when the Warriors tacked on two key insurance runs in the top of the eighth after the Jumbos had whittled the lead to two by scoring five unearned runs in the top of the fifth inning.

With Pat O'Donnell pitching effectively in relief, Tufts scored four uncarned runs in the fifth inning on on four hits (two of them infield hits) and three Eastern errors to cut a six-run defficit to 6-4. Still trailing by two, Tufts threatened in the seventh by loading the bases with one out. At that point, Tingley took over for sophomore right-handed starter **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** and ended the threat by getting cleanup hitter Nate Bankoff on a swinging third strike, and inducing a ground ball to second. Tingley struck out the side in the ninth before departing after walking the first batter of the ninth.

Schult (3-0) allowed seven hits, fanning six and walking two before giving way to Tingley. O'Donnell gave up only two hits with seven strikeouts in five innings to keep Tufts close at 6-4. In the eighth after there were two out, junior **John Parke (Middlefield)** singled and Bass plated him with a double to make it 7-4 and Schult singled to make it 8-4.

Bass and Schult each had three hits while Sam Sager and LeResche had two hits apiece for Tufts. LeResche had a two-run single in Tufts' four-run fifth.

Eastern hosts Wheaton College (MA) Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 8, Tufts U. 4

Tufts U. (16-16)	000	040	000	4	7	2
Eastern Conn. (28-6)	060	000	02x	8	10	3

Chase Rose (0-3), Pat O'Donnell (3) and Alex Perry. Jim Schult (3-0), Mike Tingley (7), Wes Dutton (9) and Andrew Magliola. 2B-David LeResche, Rose (T), Travis Bass 2, Schult 2 (E); HR-Bass (3), Robert Perry (1) (E).

EASTERN BASEBALL ROCKS UMASS BOSTON, 32-4, 8-6

Southern Maine matches Warriors' sweep to nail down tournament's top seed

WALTHAM, Mass. – The Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team tied a 27-year-old record with 29 hits in a 32-4 win over the University of Massachusetts Boston in the first game en route to a Little East Conference doubleheader sweep at Yetten Field.

Eastern (27-6, 11-3 little east) completed conference regular-season play with its eighth straight LEC win in the nightcap, racing out to a 7-1 lead and holding on for an 8-6 victory. The University of Southern Maine clinched its first outright LEC regular-season championship since 2001 by sweeping Rhode Island College, 3-0, 14-11 Saturday.

The top four seeds in the final standings will host first-round best-of-three series this weekend. The four series winners will advance to a four-team double-elimination LEC tournament May 7-9, hosted by the top remaining seed. Unofficially, Eastern will host the undetermined No. 7 seed Saturday in a doubleheader. If the teams split, a final game is scheduled for Sunday.

In the first game, Eastern tied a 27-year-old record by collecting 29 hits against six UMass Boston (14-20, 6-6 little east). The Warriors' run total fell one shy of the program record. Fourteen players had at least one hit in the first game, with sophomore Robert Perry (Manchester) tying the program record by recording three of the team's program-record 11 doubles. Senior Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY) hit his second career grand slam in the eighth inning and junior Melvin Castillo (Danbury) unloaded a bases-clearing triple in an eight-run sixth. Batting 1-2 in the lineup, juniors John Parke (Middlefield) and Travis Bass (West Hartford) each had four hits and combined to score seven runs and drive in five. Perry had five hits, scored four runs and drove in three.

Sophomore lefty **Bill Roveto** (**South Windsor**) earned a three-inning save (his first career decision) in relief of senior lefty **Shawn Gilblair** (**Windham**). Roveto is the son of former Eastern pitcher Rob Roveto, who was credited with a three-inning save in the 1982 national champion game win over Cal State Stanislaus. As a pinch hitter, freshman Kevin Keys (**Fairfield**) registered the first two collegiate hits of his career and also second two runs.

In the second game, Parke hit a leadoff home run and the Warriors carried a 7-1 lead into the eighth inning. Junior **Will Musson (Wethersfield)** remained unbeaten in six starts this year, pitching into the eighth. He fanned nine and walked two. Senior **James Kukucka (Vernon)** allowed a sacrifice fly but stranded the tying run on first to record his first save.

In the doubleheader, Perry totaled eight hits (four doubles), scored six runs and drove in four. Bass and Parke (two doubles, a triple and home run) each had seven hits and four RBI and combined to score 11 runs. Hobbes drove in five runs, Castillo and sophomore **Jim Schult** (**Wappingers Falls, NY**) four each.

EASTERN BASEBALL POWERS PAST WESTERN CONNECTICUT, 14-4 Coupled with loss by Southern Maine, Warriors' hopes for LEC's top seed alive

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Junior righty **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)** struck out ten Western Connecticut State University batters for the second time in two weeks and junior third baseman **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** lashed two home runs to power the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 14-5 Little East Conference victory Friday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

The conference win is the fifth straight for Eastern (25-6, 9-3 little east) since dropping a 5-3 decision here to Western (11-19, 3-7 little east). The Colonials have lost eight of their last nine since defeating Eastern two weeks ago.

Eastern's win, coupled with the University of Southern Maine's 5-0 home loss to Massachusetts Boston Friday, moves the Warriors to within a game of the conference-leading Huskies, Ranked No. 1 in Division III, Southern Maine is 10-2 in the LEC. An Eastern sweep at UMass Boston Saturday, coupled with one Southern Maine loss to visiting Rhode Island College in Saturady's doubleheader, would give Eastern the No. 1 tournament seed

Pinned with the loss against Western two weeks ago, Fontaine (4-1) allowed two earned runs on eight hits Friday. He struck out ten and did not issue a walk. In his loss to Western, Fontaine was knocked out of the game while the Colonials were scoring the goahead runs in the eighth inning. He fanne ten and walked only one in that game but gave up ten hits and five earned runs.

Castillo socked a solo home run to snap a 3-3 tie in the fifth and ripped a two-run home run in the ninth. He finished with thre of Eastern's 15 hits and scored four runs. Castillo now has a team-leading ten home runs this year and 35 in his three-year career. The homers moved him ahead of Mark Riemer into third place all-time on the Eastern home run list behind Don Fusari (38) and and Dwight Wildman (37).

Batting ninth in the order, senior catcher **Andrew Magliola (East Haven)** reached base five times with three hits (two doubles) and two walks. He drove in three runs and scored one. The top two hitters in the Eastern lineup -- junior second baseman **John Parke** (**Middlefield**) and junior shortstop **Travis Bass (West Hartford**) - each drove in two runs, as did senior DH **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)**.

Leading 7-3, Eastern broke the game open with five runs in the eighth inning on five hits, a walk and hit batseman. Sophomore rightfielder **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** tripled and scored the first run on Gilblair's double. Gilblair scored on Castillo's single and Parke later plated one with a single.

(more)

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Western junior righty Steve Bainer (Prospect) allowed only eight hits before being removed iin the seenth, but walked six and hit two batters. Senior first baseman Matt Perper (New City, NY) had two hits and scored two runs for Western, with junior DH Dan Baccaro (Berlin) and freshman rightfielder Mike Yates (Guilford) also picking up two of the Colonials' game total of 13 hits. With Western trailing 3-0, No. 8 hitter Yates doubled and scored on a single by Baccaro for the Colonials' first run, and Western tied the game with two runs in the fourth on RBI singles by Yates and No. 9 hitter Dan Amarante (Cheshire).

Eastern Conn. 14, Western Conn. 5

Eastern Conn. (25-6, 9-3 little east) 030	012	152	***	14	15	4
Western Conn. (11-19, 3-7 little east)001	200	020		5	13	0

Matt Fontaine (4-1), James Kukucka (8), Chris Wojick (9) and Andrew Magliola, Steve Cammuso (8). Steve Bainer (1-5), Mike Baccaro (7), Billy Thompson (9) and Rob Bedard, Tommy Coppola (9). 2B-Magliola 2, Shawn Gilblair (E), Zach Dandrea, Mike Yates (W); 3B-Jim Schult (E); HR-Melvin Castillo 2 (10) (E).

EASTERN BASEBALL RALLIES TWICE TO SWEEP KEENE STATE, 6-4, 16-5 Parke's bases-loaded double keys ninth-inning comeback in opener of Little East pair

KEENE, N.H. – Junior **John Parke** (**Middlefield**) doubled home three runs with two out in the top of the ninth inning of the opener to give the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team a 6-4 come-from-behind win over Keene State College and the Warriors went on to a key Little East Conference doubleheader sweep Saturday afternoon at Owl Stadium.

In the second game, Eastern (24-6, 8-3 little east) scored ten runs in an inning for the second time in three games as the Warriors rallied from an early 5-1 deficit to complete the sweep with a 16-5 victory. The second game was stopped after seven innings due to the conference's ten-run rule which takes effect in the second game of doubleheaders.

Ranked No. 10 nationally, the Warriors have won five straight conference games in the span of six days. Keene (15-12, 4-6 little east) is the defending conference regular-season and playoff champion and eliminated Eastern from last year's LEC tournament with a 1-0 win.

With the sweep, Eastern remains one game behind conference leader. University of Southern Maine (8-1), but has played two more games. The Huskies face Western Connecticut State University Sunday in a doubleheader.

Senior righty **James Kukucka** (**Vernon**) pitched two hitless innings in relief to earn the first-game win in relief of senior left-handed starter **Shawn Gilblair** (**Windham**), while junior lefty **Mike Tingley** (**Rockville**) was credited with the second-game win with 5 1/3 innings of two-hit relief. Tingley allowed two runs -- both of which were unearned 0 while fanning five and walking two. Gilblair struck out ten over the first seven innings and left on the short end of 4-2 score.

The ten-run fifth inning in the second game blew open a 16-5 Eastern lead. Eastern had seven hits and two stolen bases in the inning and Keene walked three batters, hit one and commited an error. For the second time in three games, Parke had two hits in an inning. He drove in the first two runs with a single and plated the final run with a double. Sophomore Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY), Gilblair and junior Joe Cousineau (Newington) all doubled in runs in the inning, and sophomore Chris Cannata (Southington) tripled in another. Parke, sophomore Rob Perry (Manchester), Cousineau and Cannata all reached safely twice in the inning. Parke and Cousineau both had two hits, Perry walked twice, and Cannata tripled and was hit-by-pitch.

(more)

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Trailing 4-2 in the ninth inning of the first game, Gilblair and junior **Melvin Castillo** (**Danbury**) opened the inning with singles and senior **Tristan Hobbes** (**Utica, NY**) made it 4-3 with a double. With the bases loaded and two out, Parke cleared the bases with a three-run double to right-center on a 1-2 pitch.

Parke has had at least two hits in each of the last four games. He is 9-for-18 with seven RBI and seven runs scored in that stretch.

In the doubleheader, Parke drove in six runs and Schult five. Schult hit a two-run home run in the third inning of the first game (his fifth of the year) to give Eastern a 2-0 lead. Gilblair and Parke each had four hits in the doubleheader, Schult, Hobbes and Cousineau with three each. Parke, Schult, Cannata and Perry all scored three runs. Twelve of Eastern's 21 hits on the day went for extra bases.

Eastern visits 2008 national champion Trinity College Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.

THREE-RUN HOME RUNS SPARK EASTERN BASEBALL, 18-1

Gilblair, Schult and Hobbes sock home runs in LEC win over UMass Dartmouth

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Shawn Gilblair (Windham) and Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY) hit bookend three-run home runs in a ten-run first inning and Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY) added a three-run shot in a seven-run fifth as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team routed the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, 18-1, Friday afternoon in a Little East Conference game.

Ranked No. 10 nationally, Eastern (22-6, 6-3 little east) collected eight hits in the first inning – sending 13 batters to the plate – and added five hits in the fifth in gaining a split of the regular-season series with UMass Dartmouth (6-17, 3-4 little east). Adam Gustafson and Kyle Merrill combined on a seven-hitter two weeks ago in the Corsairs' 4-3 win over visiting Eastern.

In the first inning Friday, Eastern hit for the cycle. Gilblair launched a three-run home run to give the Warriors a 3-0 lead, **Joe Cousineau (Newington)** had a two-run triple to make it 5-0, and **Chris Cannata (Southington)** had an RBI double to make it 6-0. Schult capped the inning with a three-run home run with two out in the inning. In the seven-run fifth inning, Hobbes stroked three-run home run on the first pitch to make it 17-0.

John Parke (Middlefield) batted twice in both the first and fifth innings. In the first, he singled twice and scored twice, and in the fifth he walked and scored. Travis Bass (West Hartford) also reached twice and scored twice in the first inning with a hit-by-pitch and RBI single. In addition to his three-run home run, Gilblair added a two-run single in the fifth. Cousineau finished with three RBI, adding an RBI single in the seventh after his two-run triple in the first.

Eight batters had at least two hits. **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** led the Warriors with three hits and also scored three runs. Parke, Bass, Gillbair, Hobbes, Cousineau, **Robert Perry** (**Manchester**) and Cannata all added two hits in the 19-hit attack.

Junior righty Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI) pitched a season-high eight innings to gain his third win in four decisions. Fontaine allowed six hits and hit two batters while striking out three. Freshman righty Jeff Morris (Old Saybrook) walked one in a scoreless ninth inning in his collegiate debut.

Eastern visits 2008 conference regular-season and playoff champion Keene State College in a noon doubleheader. UMass visits conference leader University of Southern Maine for a noon twinbill.

Eastern Conn. 18, Massachusetts Dartmouth 1

UMass Dartmouth (6-17, 3-4 little east) 0 00 000 010 -- 1 6 3 Eastern Conn. (22-6, 6-3 little east) (10)00 070 10x -- 18 19

Brian Pedrotti (0-4), Chris Contre (5), John Quigg (6), Pat Lavey (8) and Zac Talis, Eric Rodriguez (7). Matt Fontaine (3-1), Jeff Morris (9) and Chris Cannata, Steve Cammuso (8). 2B-Jeff Macchi, Dan DeMello (MD), Tristan Hobbes, Cannata (E); 3B-Joe Cousineau (E); 1IR-Jim Schult (3), Shawn Gilblair (5), Hobbes (5) (E).

EASTERN BASEBALL RALLIES IN NINTH, BUT FALLS TO BRIDGEWATER, 5-4 Warriors tie game with two-out rally, but hand decision to Bears in bottom of ninth

BRIDGWATER, Mass. – The Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team staged a two-out ninth-inning rally to tie the game, but handed the game over to Bridgewater State College in the bottom of the inning in a 5-4 non-conference loss at Alumni Park Wednesday afternoon.

Two-out RBI singles by junior **Travis Bass (West Hartford)** and **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** pulled Eastern (21-6) even in the top of the ninth, 4-4. After the Warriors left the go-ahead run in scoring position in that inning, Bridgewater combined a double with a walk, two wild pitches and a passed ball to win its fifth straight and hand Eastern its sixth loss in its last 14 games. The Warriors had beaten Bridgewater eight of the last nine times the teams had met.

Sophomore righty **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** pitched six strong innings (one run, three hits, four strikeouts, two hit batters and a walk) for Eastern but departed with the score tied at 1-all. The Warriors took their only lead of the game by scoring a run with two outs in the top of the seventh on three hits, with junior **Joe Cousineau (Newington)** plating freshman **Steve Cammuso (Rutland, MA)** with a single on an 0-2 pitch.

Three Eastern pitchers could not prevent the Bears from scoring three runs in the bottom of the eighth on four hits, two wild pitches, a throwing error and a sacrifice fly to take a 4-2 lead. Brian Medairos drove in two of the runs with a two-out single.

Bridgewater freshman righty Jim Balboni stopped Eastern on two hits over five innings. He carried a 1-0 lead into the fifth before Parke drove in sophomore **Shane Kingsley** (**Beacons Falls**) with a single to tie the game at 1-all.

Parke had three of Eastern's nine hits and Gilblair had two.

In the game, Eastern committed three errors and five pitchers combined to hit three batters and throw four wild pitches. The Warriors also had a runner thrown out stealing, was penalized for catcher's interference, and had a passed ball.

Eastern hosts Massachusetts Dartmouth Friday at 3 p.m. in a Little East Conference game.

Bridgewater State College 5, Eastern Conn. 4

Eastern Conn. (21-6)	()()()	()]()	102		4	9	3
Bridgewater State (16-11)	001	000	031	100 Table	5	9	1

None out when winning run scored.

Jim Schult, James Kukucka (7), Wes Dutton (8), Chris Wojick (8), Matt Fontaine (9) and Steve Cammuso. Jim Balboni, Billy Blaisdell (6), Brian Guillotte (9) and Kelly LaDow, WP-Guillotte (5-0). LP-Wojick (2-2). 2B-Melvin Castillo (E), LaDow 2, Brad Koneski (B).

BEHIND DOMINANT STARTING PITCHING, EASTERN BASEBALL SWEEPS Neither Gilblair nor Musson allow an earned run in Warriors' 6-1, 11-4 wins over RIC

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Behind standout starting pitching from senior lefty **Shawn Gilblair** (Windham) and junior righty Will Musson (Wethersfield), the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team snapped a two-game losing streak with a 6-1, 11-4 Little East Conference doubleheader sweep of Rhode Island College Monday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Gilblair (4-1) gave up only one hit in eight innings of the opener and Musson (5-0) surrendered only three hits in seven innings of the nightcap as No. 1 nationally-ranked Eastern (21-5, 5-3 little east) extended its winning streak over Rhode Island (16-10, 2-6 little east) to ten in a row.

Now 24-7 lifetime, Gilblair carried a no-hitter and a 6-0 lead into the seventh inning before senior centerfielder B.J. Doyan (Douglas, MA) singled through the box on a 1-0 pitch with one out. Gilblair finished with double-digit strikeouts (11) for the second straight start. He walked three and hit two batters. Gilblair also became the 15th player in program history with as many as 200 hits when he singled and scored in the third inning of the opener.

After allowing two unearned runs in the second on two passed balls, a wild pitch and infield single, Musson gave up only one hit—retiring 17 of his final 19 batters—before departing after seven innings with a 10-2 lead. He struck out seven and walked two.

In the doubleheader, junior shortstop Travis Bass (West Hartford) reached seven times with four hits and three walks and scored six runs and stole two bases. Junior third baseman Melvin Castillo (Danbury), junior centerfielder Joe Cousineau (Newington) and sophomore rightfielder Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY) all had three hits. Castillo drove in five runs with a ground ball and single in the first game and double and triple in the nightcap. Schult also walked twice and Cousineau walked once. Freshman catcher Steve Cammuso (Rutland, MA) had a two-out, bases-clearing triple in the top of the second of the opener. Junior second baseman John Parke's (Middlefield) 14-game hitting streak ended in the first game.

Senior catcher Jordan Amorin (Swansea, MA), senior shortstop Josh Cardoso (Dartmouth, MA) and Doyon collected all six of Rhode Island's hits on the day. Each had two singles. The left side of the Rhode Island infield of senior third baseman Jeff Costa (Pawtucket, RI) and Cardoso, handled 23 chances with just one error.

All five of Rhode Island's runs on the day were unearned, on account of six Eastern errors.

Eastern visits Bridgewater State College in a non-conference game Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

Eastern Connecticut State University

ECSU Sports News

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little east conference

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

SIX-RUN EIGHTH PROPELS EASTERN BASEBALL PAST SPRINGFIELD, 10-2

Top four hitters in lineup drive in eight runs for No. 1 nationally-ranked Warriors

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. – Senior All-America **Shawn Gilblair's (Windham)** leadoff home run in the eighth inning ignited a six-run rally as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team dropped Springfield College, 10-2, Wednesday afternoon at Berry-Allen Field.

Gilblair doubled to lead off the sixth inning and scored to give Eastern a 3-2 lead, then smacked his 23rd career home run leading off the eighth to ignite a six-run uprising. Ranked No. 1 in Division III for the last three weeks, Eastern (19-3) had five hits in the eighth inning and made the most of an infield error which accounted for five unearned runs. Sophomore rightfielder **Jim Schult's (Wappingers Falls, NY)** two-out bases-clearing double – his only hit of the game – capped the six-run inning.

Sophomore righty **Jim Morrison (Old Saybrook)** and first-year sophomore lefty transfer **Danny Schmiemann (Sea Cliff, NY)** subdued Springfield (5-16) on five hits. Schmiemann pitched the final four hitless innings to gain his first save after taking over for Morrison (2-0) after the first two batters of the sixth had reached safely with singles. With the tying run on second. Schmiemann got two strikeouts and an outfield fly ball to leave the bases loaded. Morrison allowed five hits while fanning four and walking two. One of the two runs he allowed was unearned.

The top four batters in the Eastern order combined to knock in eight runs with eight hits. They also scored five times. Batting second, junior second baseman **John Parke** (**Middlefield**) hit safely in his 12th consecutive game. Parke, who had a 21-game hitting streak last year, was 2-for-4 with two runs scored and two RBI. Gilblair led all players with three hits, moving him to within three of becoming the 15th player in program history with as many as 200 hits. First-year sophomore outfielder **Robert Perry** (**Manchester**) and senior first baseman **Tristan Hobbes** (**Utica, NY**) matched Parke with two hits each.

The Warriors had 14 hits and no errors in the game, upping their team batting average to .353 and improving their fielding average to .947. The staff ERA also dropped to 3.13.

Eastern host Western New England College Thursday at 3 p.m.

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Tuesday, April 4, 2009

THREE-RUN LEAD DISAPPEARS AS EASTERN BASEBALL FALLS, 7-5

Montclair State scores five times in seventh to hand No. 1 Warriors 7-5 setback

LITTLE FALLS, N.J. -- An inning-opening infield error opened the door for a five-run Montelair State University seventh inning that lifted the Red Hawks to a come-frombehind 7-5 win over the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team Tuesday afternoon at Yogi Berra Stadium.

Eastern (18-3), ranked No. 1 in Division III, carried a 5-2 lead into the seventh before the hosts scored five times on an error, hit batter and four singles. No. 9 hitter Kevin Miller broke a 5-5 tie with a two-out, two-run single up the middle.

The meeting was the first between programs which have combined for seven national championships since Eastern eliminated the Red Hawks from the 2008 NCAA Division III New York Regional, 14-0. Montclair has beaten Eastern five of the last seven times the teams have met.

Junior John Parke (Middlefield) extended his hitting streak to 11 games with two hits and two runs scored. First-year sophomore Robert Perry (Manchester) had three hits and scored a run and senior All-America Shawn Gilblair (Windham), freshman Steve Cammuso (Rutland, MA) and senior Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY) all had two hits.

Junior lefty Wes Dutton (Waterbury) allowed only two hits in four innings of middle relief after taking over in the third inning.

The third of three pitchers, Montelair senior righty Michael Streaman gained his third win without a loss. Streaman faced only one batter over the minimum after taking over in the sixth after junior **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** drove in a Parke with a single that gave the Warriors a 5-2 lead. Streaman stranded two runners aboard by getting a fly ball to center field. Eastern reached Streaman for two hits in the seventh but couldn't add to its lead, and went down in order in the last two innings.

Sophomore Mike Ercolano went 3-for-3 with two RBI as the Red Hawks moved past the .500 mark for the first time this season. Eastern has dropped two of its last four.

Eastern scored three times in the fourth on four straight inning-opening hits and a walk to move out to a 4-2 lead., and added another in the sixth. A wild pitch plated the first run in the fourth and Bass stroked a two-run, opposite-field single to make it 4-2.

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

Eastern Connecticut State University



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little east conference

Sunday, April 5, 2009

EASTERN ROLLS PAST PLYMOUTH IN LEC DOUBLEHEADER SWEEP

Warriors collect 15 extra-base hits among their 39 hits in 20-0, 13-1 victories

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Senior All-America **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** had seven hits, drove in seven runs and scored six and won his 23rd career pitching decision to power the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to 20-0, 13-1 Little East Conference wins over Plymouth State University Sunday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

The second game was stopped in accordance with the ten-run rule which applies to the second game of conference doubleheaders.

Ranked No. 1 in Division III, Eastern (18-2, 3-2 little east) compiled 39 hits – 15 of them for extra bases – in extending its winning streak against Plymouth State (5-11, 1-3 little east) to 18 straight. The Warriors were coming off Saturday's 4-3 conference loss at Massachusettts Dartmouth.

Gilblair (3-1), the 2007 national Player-of-the-Year, pitched seven shutout innings of three-hit baseball in the first game, when he was also 4-for-5 with four runs scored and four RBI. Three of his hits were doubles, which ties an Eastern game record. As the second game designated hitter, Gilblair was 3-for-4 with two runs scored, two RBI and a walk.

Junior Mike Palo (Brookfield) had six hits in the doubleheader, and senior Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY) had four. Juniors Melvin Castillo (Danbury), Travis Bass (West Hartford) and John Parke (Middlefield), and sophomores Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY) and Robert Perry (Manchester) had three each. Junior Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA) swatted a grand slam to highlight an 11-run third inning in the second game. In that inning, Paolo singled and tripled and scored a run, Castillo walked, homered and scored twice, Gillbair had two RBI singles and scored twice, and Schult doubled home a run and scored and hit a sacrifice fly.

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Castillo scored six runs and drove in five and also reached twice by walk in the doubleheader. He tripled and homered in the first game and hit his 33rd home run in the nightcap, moving him into a tie for fourth all-time, five behind all-time leader Don Fusari '78.

First-year junior transfer Will Musson (Wethersfield) improved his pitching record to 4-0 as the second-game starter. He gave up only two hits and one run over the first six innings.

Eastern hosts Western New England College Monday at 4 p.m.

Eastern Connecticut State University



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little east conference

Saturday, April 4, 2009

UMASS DARTMOUTH SURPRISES EASTERN BASEBALL, 4-3

A winner of five games last year, Corsairs upend Warriors in Little East play

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. – The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth baseball team equaled its entire win total of a year ago by scoring the go-ahead run after there were two out and none on in the bottom of the seventh inning for a 4-3 Little East Conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday afternoon at Corsair Park.

The win over No.1-nationally Eastern (16-2, 1-2 little east) follows UMass Dartmouth's (5-13, 3-0 little east) doubleheader sweep of 2008 conference regular-season and tournament champion. Keene State College a week ago. The Corsairs sustained their worst overall season in program history last year and finished last in the conference with a 2-12 record. The win snaps a seven-game losing streak for UMass at the hands of Eastern.

The game was the makeup of Friday's washout.

UMass scored what proved to be the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning with a two-out rally prolonged by an infield error. With two out and none on, No. 9 hitter Zac Talis walked. An infield error on a stolen base attempt put him on second base, where leadoff hitter Ryan McDermott singled him in to give the hosts a 4-3 lead.

Eastern had tied the game at 3-3 by scoring an unearned run in the top of the seventh when junior **Chris Thomson (Montville)** reached on a fielder's choice, pinch runner **Mike Palo (Brookfield)** moved to second on a passed ball, to third on a fly ball, and scored on a wild pitch.

With one out in the ninth, senior first baseman **Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY)** doubled, but relief pitcher Kyle Merrill snared Palo's line drive and doubled Hobbes' pinch runner to end the game.

Starting pitchers Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI) of Eastern and junior righty Adam Gustafson of UMass each allowed only one earned run among the three runs each was charged with. The win was the first after two losses for Gustafson who limited Eastern to

(more)

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seven hits before giving way to Merrill following Hobbes' double. Fontaine gave up only four hits through six innings while striking out five and walking one, but left on the short end of a 3-2 score. Junior lefty **Wes Dutton (Watebury)** allowed one hit and one earned run. He sustained his first loss in his first decision, but lowered his ERA to 1.06. Fontaine's ERA also dropped under 2.00 to 1.99.

Junior middle infielders John Parke (Middlefield) and Travis Bass (West Hartford) each had two hits for Eastern, with Parke extending his hitting streak to eight.

Eastern hosts Plymouth State University in a conference makeup doubleheader Sunday at noon.

EARLY EXPLOSION LIFTS NO. 1 EASTERN BASEBALL PAST AMHERST Hobbes' two-run triple highlights five-run first inning as Warriors improve to 16-1

MANSFIELD, Conn. - Senior first baseman **Tristan Hobbes (Utica, NY)** slammed a two-run triple to highlight a five-run first inning as the No. 1 nationally-ranked Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team downed Amherst College, 9-6, Wednesday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Eastern (16-1) led 8-1 after three innings before Amherst (8-7) scored five runs in the middle innings on seven hits, a walk and hit batsman to cut the gap to the final margin. Junior lefty **Wes Dutton (Waterbury)** and junior righty **Will Musson (Wethersfield)** preserved sophomore righty **Jim Schult's (Wappingers Falls, NY)** second win this year without a loss by combining on 3 1/3 innings of hitless relief. In 15 innings over eight outings this year, Dutton lowered his ERA to 1.20.

In the first inning, Eastern had six hits, including the two-run triple by Hobbes, an RBI double by **Chris Thomson (Montville)** and RBI singles by **Shawn Gilblair (Windham)** and **Robert Perry (Manchester)**. The first four Eastern batters reached safely against Amherst starter Hayden Metz (Ridgefield), a freshman righty, who sustained his first loss after two wins in his first collegiate start. Metz was lifted after the first three batters of the second inning also reached safely.

Senior first baseman Brendan Powers' (Walpole, MA) second home run this year in 17 at-bats was a two-run shot in the fifth inning and pulled Amherst to within 9-4. The Lord Jeffs cut the deficit to 9-6 by scoring two more in the sixth when they chased Schult by recording three hits, including a leadoff double by pinch hitter Angus Schaller and RBI singles by sophomore leftfielder Brian Merrigan (Holbrook, MA) and sophomore centerfielder Scott Shaffer (Boulder, CO). Dutton stranded two runners with a ground ball to first base to end the threat and Musson earned his first save with a 1-2-3 ninth.

After opening the first inning with a single, junior second baseman **John Parke** (Middlefield) recorded his 100th career hit with a leadoff single in the second inning.

Batting 1-2 in the order, Parke and **Travis Bass (West Hartford)** each had two hits and scored a run. Gilblair was 2-for-3 with two runs and two RBI. He launched his second home run of the season leading off the fourth inning. **Steve Cammuso (Rutland, MA)** also had two hits and scored a run. He had an RBI double in the third.

Eastern visits Massachusetts Dartmouth Friday at 3:30 p.m. in a Little East Conference game.