

Friday, May 21, 2010

NCAA DIVISION III BASEBALL REGIONAL AT MANSFIELD, CONN. (hosted by Eastern Conn. St. U.) –

Game 9

#2 WHEATON COLLEGE, MA (34-9) 9, #4 EASTERN CONNECTICUT (31-15)

MANSFIELD, Conn. (May 21) – Second-ranked Wheaton College wiped out a two-run deficit in a seven-run seventh inning as the Lyons survived an elimination game for the second straight day with a 9-4 victory over fourth-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University Friday as the Warriors made their earliest departure in the NCAA Division III New England Regional Tournament since 1980.

In defeating Eastern (31-15) for the second time against four losses in regional play in this series, the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) champion Lyons (34-9) return to action tonight to play the fourth of four games against the winner of Friday's second game between third-seeded Western New England College and eighth-seeded Saint Joseph's College (ME).

Wheaton trailed only once in the game but erased a two-run deficit in the seventh by scoring seven runs on five hits and three walks against four different Eastern pitchers. Tad Skelley, (Wolfeboro, NH) batting ninth, opened the inning with a double to the right-centerfield fence and scored the first run, then stroked a two-run double later in the frame to plate the final two runs and make it 9-4.

Run-scoring singles by Sean Munley (Trenton, NJ) and Eric Jensen (Gorham, NH) in the sixth staked Wheaton to a 2-0 lead before the Warriors ended a 16-inning scoreless streak by scoring their only four runs on four hits and an infield throwing error. The first six batters reached safely or drove in a run in the inning for Eastern. Cleanup hitter Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA) tied the game with a sacrifice fly to right and Melvin Castillo (Danbury, CT) gave the Warriors the 3-2 lead with a single to center.

The first six batters of the Wheaton seventh reached safely or drove in a run, with five different batters driving in one run before Skelley capped the surge with his two-out double. Five of the seven runs scored with two out. Eastern pitchers walked seven batters in the game, with four coming around to score.

Wheaton starter Corey Laliberte (Nashua, NH) pitched five scoreless innings but was lifted when the first three Eastern batters reached in the sixth and did not figure in the decision. Laliberte departed with a 2-1 lead but both runners inherited by winning pitcher David Longley (Brunswick, ME) eventually scored.

Eastern starter Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY) carried a 4-2 lead into the seventh but allowed Skelley's leadoff double and walked leadoff hitter Hal Landers (Salem, NH) and was lifted.

Thursday, May 20, 2010

NCAA DIVISION III BASEBALL REGIONAL AT MANSFIELD, CONN. (hosted by Eastern Conn. St. U.)–

Game 7 – Tufts University (33-5) 3, Eastern Connecticut State University (31-14) 0

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Playing in the first meeting of 1-0 teams during the NCAA Division III regional, Tufts University got a combined eight-hit shutout performance from junior starter Derek Miller and ace reliever sophomore Chris DeGoti as the top-seeded Jumbos knocked off fourth-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University, 3-0, to improve to 2-0 in the tournament. Tufts will face the winner of the Western New England College vs. University of Massachusetts Boston game in the winner's bracket Friday at 4:30 p.m. Eastern now plays Wheaton College in an elimination game Friday at 10 a.m.

When Tufts and Eastern met April 27 in Medford, Mass., Eastern jumped out to an 8-0 lead before Tufts came to bat in the bottom of the 2nd en route to a 19-5 conquest. Today, Tufts got off to an appreciably improved start as the Jumbos drew first blood in the bottom of the 3rd, plating three runs off Eastern starter senior **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)**. Using three timely hits and a walk, Tufts took advantage of a senior first baseman Nate Bankoff single to center field to drive in freshman second baseman Frank Petroskey, who had a one-out infield single and stole second. Sophomore third baseman Sam Sager sent a fly ball deep enough into left field to allow junior shortstop David LaResche to tag up and score from third base. LeResche had walked, moved to second on the Bankoff hit and found third base after a wild pitch. Bankoff then scored the third run on a single up the middle by junior right fielder Chase Rose.

In the top of the fourth, the Warriors got a leadoff double from junior first baseman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** and a wild pitch advanced him to third with no outs. Miller came up with a gem of a fielding play, snagging a hard, low liner off the bat of senior third baseman **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** for the first out, then induced a pop up before getting the last out on a strikeout to strand Dewing at third.

Fontaine picked up a key strikeout in the 5th with Tufts runners at second and third, getting Rose on a swinging strike three to end the threat and keep it a three-run deficit. While Tufts held the edge on the scoreboard, both starting pitchers were in relative control through five frames as Miller allowed only three hits while fanning six and Fontaine was touched for just four hits with four strikeouts.

Eastern's greatest scoring opportunity came in the 6th when the Warriors loaded the bases with two outs but again a swinging strikeout came to the rescue for Miller as he got junior **Robert Perry (Manchester)** with a curveball to keep Eastern off the board.

Tufts ace reliever sophomore Chris DeGoti entered the game in the top of the 8th after Miller issued an opening walk. DeGoti retired the first three batters he faced on a strikeout, a fielder's choice grounder and an inning-ending groundout to third base.

DeGoti had a bit more difficulty in the top of the 9th as Eastern got its leadoff batter, Perry, aboard on a walk. He was removed in favor of pinch-runner junior **Joe Cousineau (Newington)**. When pinch-hitter junior **Tyler Turgeon (Norwich)** laced a single into right field, Cousineau went a bit too far past second base and was tagged out 10 feet off the bag after LeResche received the throw from Rose, making it one out with a runner at first. The Warriors still got the tying run to the plate when junior center fielder **Shane Kingsley (Bacon Falls)** was hit by a pitch. But DeGoti went on to record his 12th save of the season as senior second baseman John Parke hit a grounder to Sager at third base for a forceout and DeGoti took care of the final out, fielding a soft grounder to the mound off the bat of senior shortstop **Travis Bass (West Hartford)** and flipping the ball to first to end the contest.

Playing in its 128th game in its 31st NCAA regional appearance, Eastern suffered just its second-ever shutout in regional tournament play, first to a New England opponent. In the New York Regional in 2006, the Warriors were routed, 9-0, by Cortland State in its only previous regional shutout in the second round, but bounced back to beat the Red Dragons twice, 9-5, 10-7 to capture the title.

While Tufts was led by its pitching duo, the Jumbos did get two hits from Bankoff, who scored a run and drove in another. The Warriors, who out-hit the Jumbo, 8-6, got two safeties from Dewing to lead them at the plate. Miller upped his record for the year to 5-0 while Fontaine fell to 6-3.

Eastern has beaten Wheaton four times in five regional tournament meetings, including a 6-2 triumph in the third round of the 2003 regional in the only encounter at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

NCAA DIVISION III BASEBALL REGIONAL AT MANSFIELD, CONN. (host Eastern Conn. St. U.)–

Game 1 – Eastern Connecticut St. U. (31-13) 10, Worcester St. College (31-10-1) 4

MANSFIELD, Conn. (May 19) -- Eastern Connecticut State University, as an at-large entry and tournament host playing in its fifth straight NCAA tournament, got a combined six hits, four runs and five RBI from senior shortstop Travis Bass (West Hartford, Conn.) and junior right fielder Jim Schult (Wappinger Falls, N.Y.) to power past MASCAC champion Worcester State College, 10-4, in the opening game of the eight-team NCAA Division III regional tournament here today. The win puts the Warriors in a winner's bracket game Thursday at 4:30 p.m. against the winner of the Tufts University vs. St. Joseph's College (Me.) contest. The Lancers face the loser of the Tufts/St. Joe's game in the first elimination contest Thursday at 10 a.m.

Eastern moved out to a five-run lead over Worcester St. in the bottom of the 4th, courtesy of a bases-loaded, three-run double to right center by Bass, pushing the margin to 5-1 after an RBI single to right by junior center fielder Shane Kingsley (Beacon Falls, Conn.) had spotted the Warriors a 2-1 lead in the frame. A single to left from Schult capped the five-run rally for the 6-1 bulge.

The Lancers got a run back in the top of the 5th when junior first baseman Nick Fluegge (Ware, Mass.) walked with the bases loaded to plate senior third baseman Ryan LaPrade (Leominster, Mass.), who had led off the inning with a single. A single by senior shortstop TJ Magnell (Leominster, Mass.) and a walk to junior designated hitter Corey McDonald (Hudson, Mass.) filled the sacks. Eastern got out of the situation on a nice running catch in right field by Schult on a liner by junior catcher John Hinkell (North Adams, Mass.).

The gap was narrowed to 6-3 when sophomore third baseman Tyler McElman (Marlboro, Mass.) opened the 6th with a single to left for the Lancers. Senior right fielder Nick Caparell (North Attleboro, Mass.) sent a line single into right center, sending McElman to third. A ground out by junior center fielder Corey Abbascia (Shrewsbury, Mass.) brought in the Lancers' third run.

Eastern then batted around in the bottom of the 6th to put the game out of reach with a four-run outburst for a 10-3 margin. A two-run single to center field by senior third baseman Melvin Castillo (Danbury, Conn.) made it 8-3 and both junior pinch hitter Robert Perry (Manchester, Conn.) and senior left fielder Chris Thomsen (Montville, Conn.) drove in a run with a hit to give the Warriors their largest lead. Worcester St. starting pitcher senior Joey Lucier (Brockton, Mass.) did not last the inning and was tapped for all 10 runs, nine of them earned, on 11 hits. He suffered the loss, dropping his seasonal record to 7-3. Eastern finished the game with 16 hits.

Going seven innings on the mound for Eastern to get the win was senior Will Musson (Wethersfield, Conn.), who allowed seven hits and three runs, two of them earned. He improved to 6-1 on the year.

Worcester St. had drawn first blood in the top of the 2nd, taking advantage of an infield error by Eastern to get LaPrade safely to first base. After a stolen base and move to third base on a ground out, LaPrade hit the plate for the initial run on a ground single up the middle by freshman left fielder Chris Creen (Worcester, Mass.).

Eastern responded in the bottom of the 3rd with back-to-back doubles by Bass and Schult. Bass sent a roller down the third-base line that hit the bag as he hustled into second base. Schult lashed a ball into the right-center field gap for the RBI.

Worcester St. added the game's final run in the top of the 9th when Fluegge knocked in Magnell, who had walked, with a single to left. Fluegge and McDonald each had a pair of hits for the Lancers, accounting for four of their nine safeties.

While Bass and Schult had three hits apiece for Eastern, the Warriors got a two-hit game from Castillo, Thomsen and junior first baseman Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, Mass.).

Saturday, May 15, 2010

TOP-SEEDED EASTERN BASEBALL OUSTED IN LITTLE EAST
Bid to defeat USM for fourth time in a week fails; Warriors await at-large NCAA berth

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Sweeping a quality opponent in a doubleheader is a difficult task. The Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team did it six days ago against the University of Southern Maine.

Beating that same opponent for a third time is even more difficult. The Warriors did that two days ago in the first round of the Little East Conference Tournament.

Saturday, the Warriors couldn't make it four wins in as many tries this year, falling to the Huskies, 8-7, and falling out of the 2010 Little East Conference Tournament at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

The winner of last year's tournament for the fifth time in seven years, the Warriors lost twice after winning their first two as fourth-seeded University of Massachusetts Boston completed an unlikely four-game sweep with a 7-3 win over No.6 seed Southern Maine Saturday to win its first conference tournament championship and qualify for its first NCAA Division III.

A seven-time LEC tournament champion, Eastern has never lost the title after reaching the championship round. Its perfect record in title games remained intact after Southern Maine defeated Eastern in the tournament for only the second time in the last nine tournament meetings between the programs.

By ousting Eastern (30-13), Southern Maine advanced to the final, needing two wins over UMass, which had won the battle of tournament unbeaten with a crucial 5-2 triumph over Eastern Friday.

Eastern (30-13) is expected to receive an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament, which would mark its 31st NCAA Division III tournament showing (fifth straight) under 42nd-year head coach **Bill Holowaty**.

Against Southern Maine, Eastern scored three times in the third and four in the fifth to take a 7-5 lead after USM had scored five times in the first on five hits, two walks and a hit batter. Sophomore No. 9 hitter David Ricker drove in the first run of the fifth with a sacrifice fly, then broke a 7-7 tie with a leadoff home run in the seventh inning for what proved to be the winning run.

Making his post-season debut, freshman righty **Benjamin Church (Rochester, MA)** was unable to retire a batter. A winner of all four of his decisions this year, Church was the first of five Eastern pitchers in the game, the final four of whom were moderately successful.

Offensively, senior shortstop **Travis Bass (West Hartford)** and junior catcher **Chris Cannata (Southington)** both drove in two runs and junior DH **Steve Cammuso (Rutland, MA)** scored twice. Bass' two-run single highlighted Easterns three-run second and No. 9 hitter Cannata plated two with a two-out double when the Warriors surged ahead with four runs in the fifth on four hits and a USM infield throwing error that made three of the runs unearned.

In Eastern's four tournament games, Cammuso was 8-for-15 with four runs and three RBI; junior first baseman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** 6-for-16 with three runs and two RBI; Bass 5-for-14 with five RBI and five runs scored, an .857 slugging percentage and .550 on-base percentage; senior second baseman **John Parke (Middlefield)** 5-for-14 with six runs and three RBI and a .526 on-base percentage, and senior outfielder **Chris Thomson (Monville)** 6-for-17 with four RBI and three runs. Three of the Warriors top hitters and run-producers batted a combined to hit .146 with seven RBI and three runs scored.

In UMass' milestone championship victory senior lefty Andrew Lebrun won his first game in a month, allowing four hits over the first seven innings, and sophomore tourney MVP Mark McCormack hit a grand slam to highlight a six-run second inning that wiped out a 2-0 Southern Maine (22-21-1) lead for UMass (28-15). LeBrun (3-3), who began his collegiate career at Eastern, pitched six scoreless innings after USM scored twice in the first inning on two hits, a hit batsman and a sacrifice fly. UMass also got a quality outing and pitching win from lefty Mike Andriano, who went eight innings to down the Warriors Friday night for his first victory of the season.

McCormack was 7-for-18 in the tournament with 12 RBI, three home runs and five runs scored.

Friday, May 14, 2010

ANDRIANO PITCHES UMASS BOSTON BASEBALL PAST EASTERN *Beacons move into LEC tournament finals with 5-2 victory over defending champions*

MANSFIELD, Conn. — Senior southpaw **Michael Andriano (Massapequa, NY)** hurled eight-plus innings to earn his first career playoff victory and lead No. 4 seed University of Massachusetts Boston over top-seeded and defending champion Eastern Connecticut State University, 5-2, Friday night in the winners' bracket final of the 2010 Little East Conference baseball tournament at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

By avenging two regular-season losses at the hands of Eastern (30-12) on this field, UMass (27-15) moves into the tournament's championship round for the first time, receiving two chances to win one game. Eastern faces No. 6 seed University of Southern Maine (21-20-1) Saturday at 11 a.m., with the winner facing UMass at 2:15 p.m. If necessary, a decisive game will be played Sunday at 11 a.m., with the winner earning an automatic bid into the NCAA Division III tournament.

Andriano won his first game in LEC playoff competition and earned his first victory this season after three losses in helping the Beacons to their tenth win in their last 12 outings. Eight of the nine hits he allowed were singles and six of his nine strikeouts were called, including the game-ending against pinch hitter **Robert Perry (Manchester)**, who represented the tying run.

Eastern senior righty **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)** fanned eight and allowed only seven hits before being lifted with one out in the seventh. The Warriors staked Fontaine (6-2) to a 1-0 lead in the first when the first three batters reached on singles. Andriano, however, never gave up more than one hit in an inning after that until the seventh.

Eastern looked like it would break up the game early by loading the bases with its first three hitters reaching and senior third baseman **Melvin Castillo (Danbury, CT)** at the plate, but could only come up with a run when Castillo hit a hard ground ball to third where UMass Boston sophomore third baseman **Mike Mattei (Spencer, MA)** handled the play, stepped on third and threw home, but hit the junior right fielder **Shane Kingsley (Beacon Falls, CT)** in the back. Andriano struck out the next hitter and got a harmless fly out to center to get out of trouble. Kingsley, senior shortstop **Travis Bass (West Hartford, CT)** and junior first baseman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** collected successive singles to open the frame and load the bases.

UMass Boston pulled even, but might have had more in the third. Junior right fielder **Jose Roman Santos (Tenares, Dominican Republic)** started the frame with a single to left and freshman shortstop **Matt Consiglio (Southbury, CT)** was brushed by a pitch to put runners on first and second. Senior left fielder **Drew Tambling (Sterling, MA)** moved the runners into

scoring position with a sacrifice bunt and sophomore center fielder **Mark McCormack (Shelton, CT)** followed with a sacrifice fly to right field to score Santos with the tying run, but Consiglio also tagged and then was called out for leaving the base early on the play to end the inning.

The Beacons took their first lead of the night when junior second baseman **Ryan Walsh (Newton, MA)** crushed the first pitch he saw over the left field wall for his eighth home run of the season and a 2-1 edge. The four-bagger gave him 282 career total bases to break the school record held by Adam Waxman (2000-03).

UMass Boston tacked on single runs in the sixth, seventh and eighth innings to take a 5-1 margin. Walsh beat out an infield single to shortstop, stole second, stole third and came around to score on a sacrifice fly to center field by junior first baseman **Connor Reinfurt (Manchester, NH)** for a 3-1 lead in the sixth. Mattei reached on an infield single to third to lead off the seventh, stole second and advanced to third on an errant throw by the Warriors' catcher, where he scored on a one-out RBI single to left by Consiglio to give the Beacons a 4-1 margin. Tambling followed with a single through the right side to knock out Eastern Connecticut senior starting pitcher **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)** and bring in junior lefty reliever **Bill Roveto (South Windsor, CT)**, who got the left-handed McCormack to hit into an inning ending double play. Senior reliever **Chris Wojick (Uncasville, CT)** came on for the eighth and junior catcher **Tim Fontaine (Worcester, MA)** drew a one-out walk, moved to second on a ground out and scored on a Mattei single to right field for a 5-1 lead.

The Warriors got a run back in the eighth when senior second baseman **John Parke (Middlefield, CT)** smacked a leadoff double, stole third with one out and just beat the throw at home on a sacrifice fly to center off the bat of junior **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NT)** to make it 5-2. Eastern Connecticut threatened in the ninth when Kingsley drew a leadoff walk. UMass Boston junior closer **Tony Damon (San Bruno, CA)** came into the game and walked Bass after a full count to bring the tying run to the plate. A fly out and a pair of strikeouts later gave the Beacons the victory and Damon his second save of the day and fifth of the season.

Heading into this year's tournament, UMass was 4-1 all-time against the other five teams in the tournament. Eastern has won seven tournament titles, five of them coming in the last seven years.

Friday, May 14, 2010

RHODE ISLAND ELIMINATED IN LITTLE EAST TOURNAMENT

Third-seeded Anchormen eliminated in two games after 9-3 loss to No. 1 Eastern Conn.

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- **John Parke (Middlefield, CT)** hit a three-run home run to highlight a five-run fifth inning that snapped a tie and sparked top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University to a 9-3 victory that eliminated third-seeded Rhode Island College from the 2010 Little East Conference baseball tournament Friday morning at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Rhode Island (21-18) ends its season with losses in 11 of its last 15 games while defending tournament champion Eastern (30-11-1) moved into a winners bracket game at 8:30 p.m. Friday night against fourth-seeded UMass Boston. The Warriors have now won at least 30 games for ten straight season and for the 26th time under 42nd-year head coach **Bill Holowaty**.

Travis Bass (West Hartford, CT) tied the game for Eastern by belting a solo home run in the third – his third home run in four games after failing to hit one to that point. Parke then unloaded his fourth of the season when the Warriors batted around and scored five times in the fifth to take a 6-2 lead. Batting ninth, **Steve Cammuso (Rutland, MA)** socked his second home run of the season – one of his three hits in the game – a two-run shot in the eighth.

Rhode Island collected 11 hits off winning pitcher **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)**– who won his fifth straight decision after an opening loss – and **Evan Chamberlain (Hebron, CT)** but the Anchormen stranded 11 runners.

Rhode Island took a 1-0 lead in the second on a leadoff double by **Gary Levesque (East Providence, RI)** and single with none out by **Tim Schabowski (Pascoag, RI)**. Schabowski moved to third on consecutive wild pitches but was stranded there by Schult, who worked out of the jam by getting a line drive to right, a strikeout and ground ball to short.

The Anchormen stranded two runners in the third and left runners on second and third in the fourth after scoring a run when **Kyle Allaire (Uxbridge, MA)** lined out to Parke at second. With two out in the fifth, RIC scored again but left a runner at third when Schult picked off a runner at first to end the fifth. Trailing 6-3, RIC left two more aboard in the seventh when Schult induced an inning-ending fly ball with runners at first and third.

Cammuso had three hits, scored two runs and drove in two while Parke finished with three RBI on his home run and Bass had two hits and scored three runs.

Ronnie Bracchi (Wappingers Falls, NY) had three hits for Rhode Island, Levesque and **Kevin Carey (Wakefield, RI)** picking up two each.

Thursday, May 13, 2010

TOP-SEEDED EASTERN BASEBALL ADVANCES IN LEC TOURNEY

Thomson homers and drives in four runs in 10-2 victory over No. 6 Southern Maine

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- **Chris Thomson (Montville, CT)** triple and homered and drove in four runs to highlight a 15-hit attack as No. 1-seeded and defending champion Eastern Connecticut State University downed No. 6 University of Southern Maine, 10-2, in the opening game of the 2010 Little East Conference baseball tournament Thursday at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Ranked 16th nationally, Eastern (29-11) scored four times in the bottom of the first inning and after Southern Maine (19-20-1), then tacked on four more in the eighth to break the game open. Eastern senior righty **Will Musson (Wethersfield, CT)** allowed nine hits and both Southern Maine runs over the first eight innings to post his fifth win against a loss this year. The win was Eastern's third in four days over the Huskies. This past Sunday, Eastern swept USM at Gorham, ME to earn the tournament's No. 1 seed.

Travis Bass (West Hartford, CT) hit a two-run home run in the first inning and Thomson, batting seventh, Thomson tripled in Eastern's final run of the inning. Thomson also had an RBI single in the seventh and belted a two-run home run in the eighth.

Southern Maine lefty **Mark Schmidt (Gorham, ME)** was lifted after facing only four batters, the first three of who reached safely and scored in the first. Musson struck out three and walked two in bouncing back from his only loss of the season in his most recent start May 6 at Wheaton College.

Batting ninth in the order, Eastern's **Steve Cammuso (Rutland, MA)** matched Thomson with three hits for Eastern while **Melvin Castillo (Danbury, CT)** drove in two runs with a single in the sixth and a triple in the eighth. The Huskies got six hits but no RBI and only one run scored from its top two hitters in the lineup, **Tucker White (Deerfield, NH)** and **Anthony Pisani (Cheshire, CT)**, **Nick Grady (Whitefield, ME)** drove in two runs with two hits. He singled in USM's two runs in the eighth.

In the LEC tournament, Eastern leads the series against Southern Maine, 9-5, having won nine of the last 11 after the Huskies won the first three. Southern Maine has won only two of its last ten games (2-7-1). Last year's top tournament seed, Southern Maine is looking for its first LEC tournament championship since 1999.

Sunday, May 9, 2010

EASTERN BASEBALL SWEEPS USM, GAINS NO. 1 LEC TOURNAMENT SEED

Warriors finish with piece of Little East regular-season title for tenth time in 14 years

GORHAM, Maine – The Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team will host the 2010 Little East Conference Tournament after sweeping the University of Southern Maine, 21-1 and 12-9 Sunday afternoon at the USM Baseball Stadium. The first game was stopped after seven innings.

The sweep gives Eastern (28-11, 10-4 little east) at least a share of its tenth LEC regular-season title in the 14 years of LEC baseball competition. Ranked No. 16 nationally, Eastern shares the regular-season title with Keene State College and was awarded the No. 1 seed due to tie-breakers. The six-team double-elimination tournament runs Wednesday through Saturday at the Eastern Baseball Stadium. Eastern meets No. 6 seed Southern Maine (19-19-1, 6-8 little east)) Wednesday at noon in the first of three first-round games.

Eastern needed to win both games against Southern Maine in order to nail down the No. 1 seed and hosting privileges. Eleven different Southern Maine pitchers surrendered 31 hits, walked 13 batters and hit ten, and the Huskies committed nine errors. In the first game, Eastern senior righty **Matt Fontaine (Cranston)** allowed just one run on seven hits over the first six innings to earn his sixth win against a loss. Fontaine fanned six without a walk. In the nightcap, junior lefty **Bill Roveto (South Windsor)** won his third game without a loss – all in relief – as the third of four Eastern pitchers. Roveto gave up only two hits and one earned run in three innings while fanning two and walking two. . Junior righty **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** got the final three outs for his first save.

Senior second baseman **John Parke (Middlefield)** drove in six runs with three hits (two doubles), while senior shortstop **Travis Bass (West Hartford)** and junior outfielder **Shane Kingsley (Beacons Falls)** each drove in five runs and junior first baseman **Tyler Turgeon (Norwich)** four. Senior third baseman **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** reached base eight times with two singles, three walks and three hit-by-pitch and scored five times.

Southern Maine won only two of its final nine regular-season games (2-6-1). The Huskies have won or shared five LEC regular-season titles, including the 2009 crown. They have captured two LEC tournament titles, the last coming in 1999. Eastern is the defending conference tournament champion, winning its fifth crown in the last seven years last spring.

Thursday, May 6, 2010

EASTERN GAMBLES, LOSES REGIONAL BATTLE WITH WHEATON, 7-3
With critical LEC doubleheader on horizon, Warriors start senior ace Musson in loss

NORTON, Mass. -- - In a match-up of nationally-ranked teams, Wheaton College senior Nick Kostaras carried a one-hit shutout against Eastern Connecticut State University into the seventh inning, as he and four relievers bottled up one of the nation's top offenses during a 7-3 win on Thursday in Sidell Stadium.

In their final home game of the year, the 30th-ranked Lyons improved to 31-8 while giving head coach **Eric Podbelski** his 399th career win. The 16th-ranked Warriors (26-11) had beaten Wheaton the previous two times the programs had met. as Wheaton moved to 4-0 at home in the all-time series. Eastern is ranked fourth in New England, Wheaton second.

Usually saving senior ace **Will Musson (Wethersfield)** to pitch the first game of weekend Little East Conference doubleheaders, Eastern went with Musson (4-1) against the Lyons. Already owning key non-conference pitching victories over Trinity College and Tufts University this year, Musson was chased in the sixth inning Thursday after surrendering ten hits and six runs (five earned).

Tied for first in the conference with Keene State College, Eastern visits defending regular-season LEC champion University of Southern Maine in the regular-season finale, hoping to nail down the regular-season title and No. 1 tournament seed.

Wheaton scored three times in the second and led 7-0 before the Warriors pushed across a run in the seventh added two more in the eighth.

Kostaras (5-1) allowing one run on two hits in six-plus innings, striking out one. He limited an offense that entered the week third in Division III in runs per game and averaged 13.4 hits. Sophomore Hal Landers went 3-for-4 with two RBI, as every starter had at least one hit. Freshman Sean Ryan had two hits and two runs, classmate Eric Jensen provided two hits, and junior Hadi Raad scored twice.

Juniors **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** and **Robert Perry (Manchester)** each turned in one hit and an RBI for the Warriors, while senior **Travis Bass (West Hartford)** stole a pair of bases.

The hosts pushed three runs across in the second inning, with the first scoring on a wild pitch before Landers stroked a two-run single into right field. Wheaton added to its lead in the fifth, with junior Sean Munley lofting a sacrifice fly.

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In the sixth, the Lyons plated another three runs for a 7-0 advantage. Ryan beat out a potential inning-ending double-play ball for an RBI, senior Paul Malaguti followed with a two-out triple, and sophomore Dan Haugh added an RBI knock.

Through the first six innings, Kostaras yielded only one hit, getting 13 of his 18 outs via ground balls while pitching around three infield errors. However, Eastern put its first three runners on in the seventh, with Perry picking up his team's first hit since the second inning when he lined an RBI single into left field, chasing the senior righty and getting the bullpen involved.

Freshman Justin Santiago entered the game with two on and no one out but retired three of the four batters he faced, fanning two without allowing the Warriors to get closer than 7-1. The visitors got two more runs in the eighth with a pair of productive at bats, as a groundout plated the first run before Dewing hit a sac fly, but they came no closer. Freshman Jordan Wylie got the first two outs in the eighth before senior Jon Shepard recorded the final four outs, including the last two of the game on strikes.

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

EASTERN BASEBALL CAN'T SOLVE RWU FRESHMAN
On Seniors' Night, Warriors manage only three hits in 5-2 setback to Hawks

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Freshman lefty Ben O'Shea pitched a three-hit shutout through seven innings and senior righty Billy Dunn earned his fifth save when he left the potential tying run at bat as Roger Williams University spoiled Seniors' Night with a 5-2 non-conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University in a non-conference baseball game Tuesday night at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

O'Shea fanned 12 batters and walked only one and gave up only two singles and a double as Roger Williams (12-23) survived five errors to defeat No. 16 nationally-ranked Eastern (26-10) for the first time in this seven-game series in the Warriors' final regular-season home contest of the season.

Sophomore leadoff hitter Tim Georgen reached safely three times with a single, double and walk, scored two runs and drove in one for Roger Williams, with freshman No. 2 hitter John Oppenheimer doubling home two runs in the third to help the Hawks build a 5-0 lead through four innings.

The Warriors scored two unearned runs in the eighth – one coming in on senior Chris Thomson's sacrifice fly, the Eastern left a runner on the eighth and Dunn got a game-ending ground ball to strand two runners aboard in the Eastern ninth.

Eastern first-year sophomore righty **Mitch Furber (Montville)** lasted 2 2/3 innings in his fourth start of the season, allowing four hits before being replaced by Wojick while the Hawks were scoring three runs. Wojick gave up only two hits and one run with seven strikeouts and no walks in 4 1/3 innings. In his last eight appearances, Wojick is 1-0 with a 1.20 ERA over 15.0 innings. He has fanned 16 and walked only two in that stretch.

Eastern's ten seniors – the largest senior class in program history – were honored before the game. Six of the seniors saw action: second baseman **John Parke (Middlefield)**, shortstop **Travis Bass (West Hartford)**, third baseman **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)**, leftfielder **Chris Thomson (Montville)** and relief pitchers **Chris Wojick (Uncasville)** and **Wes Dutton (Waterbury)**. Starting pitchers **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)** and **Will Musson (Wethersfield)** and utility player **Andrew Smiley (North Kingstown, RI)** did not appear in the game.

Eastern visits No. 30 nationally-ranked Wheaton College Thursday at 3:30 in a non-conference single game and closes out the regular season at the University of Southern Maine in a Little East Conference noon doubleheader. The Huskies won last year's LEC regular season and the Warriors captured the conference tournament on their home field.

EASTERN BASEBALL TRADES ONE-RUN WINS WITH UMASS DARTMOUTH

By Bob Molta on May 1, 2010 10:00 PM

Fontaine throws complete game as Warriors salvage split, 5-4

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. - Senior righty **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)** threw his first complete game in more than two years - allowing only one earned run - as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team maintained a share of first place in the Little East Conference with a 5-4 victory over the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Saturday afternoon in the second game of a doubleheader at the UMD Athletic Complex

Above: Matt Fontaine.

In the first game, UMass Dartmouth's (19-15, 7-5 little east) Matt Ryan hit a game-tying, two-run home run with no one out in the bottom of the ninth inning after the first batter was hit by a pitch to force extra innings, and Anthony Fiorita ended the game with one out in the bottom of the 11th inning with an RBI single after going 0-for-5 in the game and failing to get the ball out of the infield in the hosts' 6-5 triumph. The UMass first-game win snapped Eastern's (26-9, 8-4 little east) six-game winning streak.

With two games conference remaining, Keene State College pulled into a tie with Eastern atop the conference standings by sweeping defending regular-season champion University of Southern Maine, 12-10 and 12-6 at Keene, NH. Next Saturday, Eastern visits Southern Maine and Keene hosts UMass Dartmouth in doubleheaders on the final day of the regular season. The regular-season champion hosts the six-team LEC double-elimination tournament May 12-16.

Fontaine, now 16-4 in the career, scattered six hits while fanning six and walking three to gain his fifth win in six decisions this year and pitch his first complete game since shutting out Western Connecticut 5-0 April 5, 2008. Trailing 5-2, UMass scored two unearned runs in the bottom of the eighth on one hit and two Eastern errors, but Fontaine stranded the tying run at third with an infield ground ball. Fontaine pitched a 1-2-3 ninth to preserve his first complete game of the season.

Junior DH **Tyler Turgeon (Norwich)** hit his sixth homer of the year in the first game and senior third baseman **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** belted his seventh of the season in the second game for Eastern. Castillo's homer was his fifth in the last 12 games and extended his program record to 46. In the doubleheader, Turgeon had three hits - including a double - and scored four runs and junior centerfielder **Joe Cousineau (Newington)**, sophomore catcher **Steve Cammuso (Rutland, MA)**, senior leftfielder **Chris Thomson (Montville)** and junior rightfielder **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** all had two. Batting ninth in the second game, Cammuso had a two-run single to give Eastern a 2-0 lead in the fifth and a sacrifice fly. Castillo's home run was a two-run shot that made it 5-2 in the eighth.

Junior righty **Chris Wojick (Uncasville)** pitched 3 1/3 of four-hit scoreless relief after taking over on the mound for Schult in the first game. Wojick retired the side in place of Schult after the first two batters reached in the fifth inning of a tied (3-3) game. Turgeon's two-run shot gave the Warriors a 5-3 lead which held up until the Corsairs tied the game in the bottom of the ninth on the two-run home run.

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

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

EASTERN BASEBALL REACHES 25-WIN PLATEAU FOR 16TH STRAIGHT SEASON

Supported by 14-hit attack, freshman pitcher Church subdues Manhattanville in 10-3 victory

PURCHASE, N.Y. -- Freshman **Benjamin Church (Rochester, MA)** remained unbeaten with his fourth win on the mound and sophomore catcher **Steve Cammuso (Rutland, MA)** highlighted a 14-hit attack with three hits – including his first home run of the season – as Eastern won its 25th game in a season for the 16th straight season and 20th time in the last 21 years.

A winner of six straight, Eastern (25-8) expanded a 2-1 lead by scoring three times in the top of the fifth, then put the game away with a four-run seventh. Junior rightfielder **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** had a two-out, two-run double in the fifth and the Warriors opened the seventh with four straight hits, a two-run double by senior shortstop **Travis Bass (West Hartford)** chasing reliever Bashir Masani.

Six of Eastern's hits were doubles. Cammuso, batting ninth, gave Eastern a 1-0 lead with a solo home run with two out in the third. He doubled to ignite a two-out rally in the fifth and scored the first run of the inning, and singled and scored in the seventh.

Church dropped his ERA under 4.00 to 3.68 by allowing only one (earned) run on five hits through the first six innings. He struck out five and walked four.

Batting leadoff, senior second baseman **John Parke (Middlefield)** joined Cammuso with three hits. He scored twice and drove in two runs. The top three hitters in the lineup – Park, Bass and Schult – all drove in two runs. Junior centerfielder **Shane Kingsley (Beacon Falls)** had two hits and scored two runs.

The top-ranked New England team in both the ABCA (20th) and D3Baseball.com (15th) polls, Eastern won for the fifth time in as many meetings in this series with Manhattanville (16-18-1). The Valiants had lost only four of their previous 14 games after starting off the season 7-13.

Eastern visits Massachusetts Dartmouth Saturday for a noon Little East Conference doubleheader.

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

BASEBALL

EASTERN CONN. 19, TUFTS U. 5

MEDFORD, Mass. -- Eastern Connecticut State University scored early and often on their way to earning a 19-5 victory at Tufts University in non-conference college baseball action Tuesday afternoon at Huskins Field. The Warriors finished with 19 hits and took advantage of five errors and five wild pitches by Tufts

Senior righty **Will Musson (Wethersfield)** improved his two-year Eastern record to 13-1 with a four-hitter through seven innings and senior third baseman **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** extended his Eastern (24-8) career home run record to 45 and drove in four runs to lead Eastern over New England's No.1 ranked team. Eastern is ranked fourth

Junior catcher **Chris Cannata (Southington)** was 3-for-5 with four runs scored and two RBI and hit his first career home run. Senior second baseman **John Parke (Middlefield)** had three hits including a double and triple and scored three runs and drove in three and junior first baseman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** hit his sixth home run of the year and drove in three runs .

A winner of five straight, Eastern (24-8) defeated Tufts (21-5) for the third straight time, handing the Jumbos their first home loss of the season after eight wins. Tufts has lost two straight after 11 consecutive victories.

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

Saturday, April 24, 2010

EASTERN SWEEPS RHODE ISLAND, RE-GAINS FIRST PLACE

Warriors collect 26 hits, belt four home runs in 13-8, 6-5 Little East baseball sweep

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Junior **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** pitched into the sixth inning as the first game's winning pitcher and sparked a 26-hit attack with five hits on the afternoon as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team knocked Rhode Island College out of the top spot in the Little East Conference with 13-8, 6-5 victories Saturday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Ranked fourth in New England and No. 2 in Division III, Eastern (23-8, 7-3 little east) gains at least a share of first place in the conference. Eastern, Massachusetts Dartmouth and Keene State College all entered play tied for second. In Saturday doubleheaders, Keene was at Massachusetts Boston and UMass Dartmouth was at Western Connecticut.

The first of six pitchers in the first game, Schult allowed nine hits with five strikeouts and three walks in earning the victory. In his longest stint this year, senior righty **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)** pitched an eight-hitter with five strikeouts and four walks in 7 2/3 innings of the nightcap and left on the long end of a 6-5 lead. In his first relief appearance of the year, senior righty **Will Musson (Wethersfield)** recorded the final four outs to preserve Fontaine's fourth win against a loss and earn his second save at Eastern. Musson ended the eighth inning with a strikeout after junior Greg Palmer (East Greenwich, RI) chased Fontaine with a two-out, two-run single, and stranded the go-ahead run on second in the top of the ninth by getting a strikeout and ground ball to first to end the game.

In addition to Schult, senior second baseman **John Parke (Middlefield)** and junior corner infielder **Tyler Turgeon (Norwich)** both had four hits. Parke reached safely six times on the day and scored five runs and plated two; Turgeon scored three times and drove in three runs. Junior first baseman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** drove in three runs with three hits and scored two runs and now has a team-leading 46 RBI on the season. After collecting two hits in the first game, Parke led off the bottom of the first inning of the nightcap with his 200th career hit – a double -- becoming the 17th player in program history to do so.

Eleven of Eastern's 26 hits on the day went for extra bases, with Parke, Turgeon, Dewing and junior centerfielder **Joe Cousineau (Newington)** all hitting home runs. Schult also doubled twice.

Fontaine outdueled Rhode Island (17-12, 6-4 little east) junior righty Gary Levesque (Carver, MA) in Game 2. Levesque, who brought a 0.36 ERA into action (22 strikeouts and two walks in 25.0 innings), gave up 11 hits and all six Eastern runs over the first seven innings and departed with his team trailing 6-3. Eastern's second-game win was its 12th straight over the Rhode Island.

Freshman rightfielder Kevin Carey (Wakefield, RI), sophomore third baseman John Stone (Narragansett, RI) and senior centerfielder Jared Rossi (Johnston, RI) all had three hits for Rhode Island and Palmer, Carey, sophomore shortstop Kyle Allaire (Uxbridge, MA), Levesque senior first baseman Tim Schabowski (Pascoag, RI) all drove in two runs. Levesque and Schabowski each hit home runs. Levesque backed his own second-game pitching with a two-run fifth-inning home run which pulled the Anchormen to within 4-3.

Eastern visits Amherst College Sunday at noon in a game initially rained out March 31.

BASEBALL: EASTERN DECKS CARDS

By Bob Molta on April 21, 2010 8:08 PM

Warriors score four times in last at-bat to claim wild win, 18-16

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. --- In a game called after eight innings due to darkness, Eastern Connecticut State University (21-8), ranked fourth in New England, scored the final six runs of the contest to post its 15th consecutive win over Wesleyan University (21-8) since 1994 in an 18-16 slugfest Wednesday.

At right: Steve Cammuso

The Warriors took the lead for good with four runs, all with two outs, off the seventh Wesleyan pitcher of the day, junior Joe Giaimo, who began the game at first base and hit a solo home run in the second inning. Eastern began the eighth inning down 16-14 and made two quick outs on grounders to second base. Junior **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** then picked up his second hit of the game with a liner to right. A hard grounder by senior Melvin Castillo (**Danbury**) was deflected by Wesleyan freshman shortstop Chris Bonti into right centerfield as it went for a double, putting runners at second and third. Castillo finished the game 4-for-6 with six RBI as he blasted a titanic homer to left for a pair of runs in the fifth inning. Following a walk to load the bases, sophomore **Steve Cammuso (Rutland, MA)** delivered his second hit of the game with a single up the middle to drive in Schult and Castillo, tying the game at 16-16. Schult scored five times in the contest. A chop infield single by senior **Travis Bass (West Hartford)**, who went 5-for-6 with four RBI and a pair of runs, drove in the go-ahead run from third and it proved to be the game-winner. The fourth hit of the day by junior **Tyler Turgeon (Norwich)** brought in an insurance run, making it an 18-16 final.

Wesleyan, which rallied from a 10-3 deficit heading into the bottom of the fourth to take a 16-12 lead behind a 10-run fifth frame, got runners to second and third with one out in the bottom of the 8th. But senior righty **Matt Fontaine (Cranston, RI)** -- a starter throughout his career -- got out of the trouble with a strikeout and a great running catch by shortstop Bass on a bloop into shallow left field by pinch-hitter sophomore Mike Barsotti to gain his second career save.

Each team finished the game with 18 hits and two errors and combined to employ 15 pitchers.

In scoring ten runs to erase what was a 12-6 shortcoming at the time, Wesleyan sent 14 men to the plate, producing eight hits in the fifth. The Cardinals took the lead for the first time in the game on Bonti's RBI infield single. Three more runs scored when sophomore Kyle Weiss walked with the bases loaded and junior Julian Sonnenfeld smacked a two-run single to right, making it 16-12. Sonnenfeld led Wesleyan with his 4-for-5 effort along with three RBI and two runs. Both senior Brice Kelly and junior Ryan Coffey added three hits for the Cardinals.

The seventh of eight Eastern pitchers, junior righty **Chris Wojick (Uncasville)** pitched 2 1/3 scoreless innings to gain his third win against two losses. Wojick's stint was the longest among the staff's seven relief pitchers as he gave up two hits while walking and striking out one. Wojick got the final out of Wesleyan's ten-run fifth that boosted it into a 16-12 lead and gave way to Fontaine after the first two hitters of the eighth reached safely.

Senior outfielder **Chris Thomson (Montville)** went 0-for-2, ending his 13-game hitting streak.

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

Game account courtesy of Wesleyan University Sports Information

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

WELL-RESTED MUSSON SHUTS DOWN TRINITY, 8-1
Warriors win confrontation of nationally-ranked baseball teams

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Senior righty **Will Musson (Wethersfield)** avenged his only collegiate pitching loss by striking out a career-tying 13 batters to spark the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to an 8-1 win over Trinity College Tuesday night at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

The game was the first between the programs since Trinity (20-8) won the 2009 New England championship with a 5-4 win over Eastern (14-7) at the Eastern Baseball Stadium. In that game, Musson pitched seven strong innings three days after a route-going performance against Suffolk University, but was saddled with his first loss after nine straight wins.

With ten days rest this time, the 6-foot-1 inch, 225-pounder overmatched the Bantams by equaling his career high with 13 strikeouts. He gave only one run on three hits, three walks, and one hit batsman. The 2008 national champion, Trinity hurt its own cause by committing three errors, with five pitchers allowing nine hits, walking nine, hitting four batters and balking once.

The two nationally-ranked teams had both lost two straight entering the game, the Bantams being swept by Tufts University and Eastern dropping the second game of a Little East Conference doubleheader to Plymouth State and an 11-9 decision Monday against visiting Suffolk University.

Eastern threatened in every inning, putting runners on base in all eight at-bats. The Warriors batted around in their first at-bat, scoring three times on singles junior rightfielder **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** and junior first baseman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** and earning four walks. Trinity freshman righty D.J. Goldberg faced only eight batters, getting the hook after walking in the third run of the game. Another single by Schult and three more walks made it 4-0 in the second and Eastern boosted thelead to 7-0 in the fourth when Dewing smacked a two-run opposite-field home run to right and No. 9 hitter **Chris Cannata (Southington)** poked an RBI single to center.

Musson (3-0) departed on the long end of an 8-1 lead, which was protected by junior lefty **Bill Roveto (South Windsor)**. Roveto recorded the final six outs, giving up only one hit and fanning the final two batters. In a four-year pitching career, Musson is 15-1. He was 3-0 in two seasons at the University of Connecticut and 12-1 at Eastern.

Schult had three hits and Dewing three RBI to improve his team lead in that category to 43. Senior shortstop **Travis Bass (West Hartford)** walked three times and senior third baseman **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** reached four times with two hits and two walks and scored twice. Senior outfielder **Chris Thomson (Monville)** reached safely in his first four plate appearances with two walks, a hit-by-pitch and a sixth-inning leadoff triple which extended his hitting streak to 13. He scored two runs.

Guilty of five errors in the loss to Suffolk, the Warriors played perfect defense behind Musson and Roveto.

Eastern visits Wesleyan University Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

Monday, April 19, 2010

EASTERN BASEBALL RALLIES TWICE BUT SUFFOLK HOLDS ON FOR VICTORY
Cousineau drives in five runs but Warriors' ninth-inning rally not enough in 11-9 setback

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Jhonneris Mendez, Mark Addesa and Nick Travelyn all drove in runs as the Suffolk University baseball team snapped a tie with four runs in the top of the ninth inning and held on for the 11-9 non-conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Monday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Suffolk (14-12) snaps an eight-game losing streak at the hands of Eastern (19-8). There were 11 extra-base hits in the game, including eight doubles.

The Rams never trailed after the third inning but Eastern tied the game twice, the second time in the eighth inning when sophomore No. 9 hitter **Steve Cammuso (Rutland, MA)** doubled with one out and later scored on a sacrifice fly by junior DH **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** to make it 7-7. The Rams batted around in the ninth, however, scoring four times on three hits, two intentional walks and a hit batsman. With the bases loaded and one out, Mendez greeted Eastern junior reliever **Andrew Morrison (Old Saybrook)** with a tie-breaking single, Addesa followed with a two-run double, and No. 9 hitter Travelyn capped the inning with a sacrifice fly to make it 11-7.

Eastern rallied in the ninth to score twice with two out and one on on doubles by junior first baseman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** and junior rightfielder **Shane Kingsley (Beacon Falls)** and singles by Cammuso and senior second baseman **John Parke (Middlefield)**, but Mendez replaced left-handed starter Andrew Babb and got a fly ball to right to leave the tying runs on base.

Seven of the runs in the game were unearned as the teams combined for eight errors.

Six different Suffolk players drove in runs for Suffolk. Bobby Barrett and Babb both had two hits and two RBI for Barrett scoring three times. Junior centerfielder **Joe Cousineau (Newington)** drove in five of Eastern's runs and scored two and senior leftfielder **Chris Thomson (Montville)** singled in the fourth inning to extend his hitting streak to 12. Cousineau hit a game-tying three-run home run in the sixth – the second HR of his career – and also doubled in the first Eastern run in the ninth and scored the second. Senior All-America senior shortstop **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** hit a solo home run leading off the second inning – extending his program-leading total to 43 – and Cousineau hit a sacrifice fly to give Eastern an early 2-0 lead, but Mark Annese and Travelyn doubled to open the third and Barrett tied the game with a sacrifice fly.

Eastern hosts Trinity College Tuesday at 6 p.m. The Warriors are ranked in a tie for fifth in New England and 22nd nationally; Trinity is fourth n New England and 13th nationally.

EASTERN BASEBALL SPLITS LEC TWINBILL WITH PLYMOUTH STATE

By Bob Molta on April 18, 2010 7:55 PM

Thomson has five hits, seven RBI in opener; hosts can't rally in Game 2

MANSFIELD, Conn. - Senior outfielder **Chris Thomson (Montville)** went 5-for-5 with two doubles, a triple and seven RBI to lead the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 13-2 first-game victory over Plymouth State University and an eventual split of a Little East Conference doubleheader Sunday afternoon at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex.

At left: Chris Thomson

In the second game, Plymouth (5-18, 1-6 little east) built a 5-0 lead and held on for a 5-4 win over Eastern (19-7, 5-3 little east) to end a 19-game losing streak at the hands of the Warriors. The first game was stopped due to the ten-run rule.

Thomson, a second-year transfer, had a leadoff double in the third inning of the first game, tripled in three runs with two out in the fourth that gave the Warriors the lead for good (3-2), reached on an infield single to shortstop in the sixth, doubled home two runs in a five-run seventh and singled in two runs in a four-run eighth. His hit total was one shy of the Eastern single-game record and RBI total three shy of the single-game RBI mark. Thomson also singled in his final at-bat in the second game to extend his hitting streak to 11. He improved his season batting average to .500 (33-for-66) after the first game.

Junior righty **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** pitched at least seven innings for the third straight start in the opener, winning his third (straight) decision. He did not allow an earned run over seven innings, giving up four hits while fanning three and walking two.

Schult also scored three runs and drove in two runs with two doubles to back his strong pitching in the opener. Senior All-America infielder **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** also had two hits, three runs and two RBI in the first win which extended the Warriors' winning streak to five.

In the second game, senior lefties **Mike Tingley (Rockville)** and **Wes Dutton (Waterbury)** combined on 5 1/3 innings of scoreless, three-hit relief with eight strikeouts and no walks (Dutton also picked off two runners), but Eastern ran itself out of two potentially big innings with baserunning blunders as the Panthers defeated Eastern for the first time in nine years.

Sophomore first baseman Matt Cappiello and junior shortstop Grant Livingston both drove in two runs for Plymouth in the nightcap with two-run singles to power the Panthers to a 5-0 lead after three innings. In the fourth, Eastern scored twice on a hit and two walks, then added two more runs in the fifth on an infield ground out by Thomson and an RBI double by junior outfielder **Shane Kingsley (Beacons**

Falls). The Warriors had a baserunner ruled out in the fourth for missing first on an apparent RBI triple, then had a baserunner hung up and tagged out at third on an apparent game-tying single by junior outfielder **Andrew Dyer (Topsfield, MA)**.

Junior lefty Bryant Lausberg was credited with the second-game win in relief of junior lefty starter John Andersch. Lausberg took over for Lausberg with a 2-2 count on Castillo in the two-run Eastern fifth. He was charged with both runs in the fifth but faced only 15 batters over the final four innings, allowing three hits and a walk.

Eastern hosts Suffolk University Monday at 3 p.m.

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

CASTILLO, DEWING HOMER IN EASTERN BASEBALL'S 7-4 VICTORY

First-year sophomore pitcher Mitch Furber hurls six strong innings to gain win

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Senior outfielder **Chris Thomson (Montville)** continued his torrid hitting and extended his hitting streak to nine and senior All-America infielder **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** and junior first baseman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** each hit two-run home runs to power the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 7-4 victory over Bridgewater State College Wednesday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

The win is the fourth straight and eighth in 11 games for Eastern (18-6) since returning from Arizona and is the Warriors' ninth triumph in the last 11 meetings with Bridgewater (12-10). The Warriors have won six of their last seven home games since giving away their home-opener to Western Connecticut 12 days ago. Since returning from a 5-2 trip to Florida, the Bears are 7-8.

First-year sophomore right-handed pitcher **Mitch Furber (Montville)** allowed three runs over the first six innings in his second start to earn his second win in as many decisions. He allowed only one run through the first six innings before departing after giving up hits to the first two batters of the sixth. After the Bears closed the gap to 5-4 by scoring three runs in the seventh, junior righty **Andrew Morrison (Old Saybrook)** left the tying run aboard by getting an inning-ending ground ball, then got the final six outs to record his first career save. Morrison gave up a leadoff single in the eighth, but junior catcher **Chris Cannata (Southington)** gunned down Jake Roderick trying to steal second.

Clinging to their slim one-run lead, the Warriors scored two key insurance runs in the eighth after there were two out and none on. Thomson singled and junior No. 8 hitter **Joe Cousineau (Newington)** doubled and after a walk loaded the bases, senior leadoff hitter **John Parke (Middlefield)** singled them in.

The program's all-time home run leader, Castillo hit a two-run home run – the 42nd of his career -- to give Eastern the lead for good in the bottom of the first, 2-1, and Dewing added a two-run shot in the fourth to make it 4-1. The home run was the third of the season for both of them.

The Little East Conference Player-of-the-Week last week, Thomson is batting .586 (17-for-29) during the nine-game hitting streak and has six multiple-hit games in the last seven.

No. 3 hitter Matt Greenberg had two hits and two RBI for Bridgewater and Roderick had three hits. Leadoff hitter Brian Medeiros and Greenberg doubled off Furber in the first inning to give the Bears a 1-0 lead but Furber retired nine of the next ten batters.

Ranked in a tie for fifth in New England, Eastern visits Plymouth State University in a Little East Conference doubleheader Saturday at noon.

Monday, April 12, 2010

EASTERN BASEBALL STAYS HOTS, DOWNS REELING BABSON, 7-5
Freshman Church wins third decision; Parke, Dewing drive in two runs each

BABSON PARK, Mass. – Freshman righty **Benjamin Church (Rochester, MA)** scattered four hits over the first five innings and the top five hitters in the Eastern Connecticut State University order combined for eight hits, scored five runs and drove in five as the Warriors downed Babson College, 7-5, Monday afternoon at Govoni Field.

The win is the fifth in the last six games for Eastern (17-6). The contest was a rematch of the opening round of the 2009 New England Baseball Tournament Regionals, won by Babson (17-8). Since earning New England's top ranking a week ago, Babson has dropped five of seven. The Warriors are rated in a tie for fifth and Babson seventh in the third weekly New England poll, released today.

Church (3-0), announced as the Little East Conference Rookie-of-the-Week today for his pitching last week, stranded five Babson runners over the first two innings to help the Warriors eventually move out to leads of 3-0 and 6-2. In winning his second straight start and third in four starts on the season, Church allowed three singles and a double and walked six with four strikeouts.

After Eastern scored an unearned run in the second, Church walked three batters in the second but stranded the bases loaded by getting No. 2 hitter Billy Miller on an inning-ending fly ball to junior rightfielder **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)**. An RBI single by senior All-America infielder **Melvin Castillo (Danbury)** and a sacrifice fly by junior first baseman **Andrew Dewing (Swampscott, MA)** made it 3-0 in the third. Babson scored its two runs off Church in the fourth on two hits, a walk, two stolen bases and a sacrifice fly to cut the Eastern lead to one, but the Warriors answered with a run in the fifth on a two-out RBI double by Dewing and two in the sixth on a two-run double by senior second **baseman John Parke (Middlefield)**.

(more)

The multiple-RBI game was the team-leading 12th of the year for Dewing and Castillo's two hits gave him a team-leading 16 multiple-hit games this season. Junior third baseman **Tyler Turgeon (Norwich)** singled to help the Warriors score their second-inning run to extend his hitting streak to seven. Senior leftfielder **Chris Thomson (Montville)**, named as the Little East Conference Player-of-the-Week today, hit safely in his eighth straight game with a single in the fourth as part of the Warriors' 13-hit attack. His sacrifice fly in the second staked Eastern to its 1-0 lead.

Trailing 6-3, Babson pulled to within one by scoring twice in the eighth on three singles and an Eastern error, but senior righty **Travis Bass (West Hartford)** earned his first career save in his sixth career appearance when No.9 hitter Pat Matvichuk lined to Castillo, who stepped on second for a game-ending double play.

Babson totaled 11 hits off seven Eastern pitchers but stranded 13. The Beavers were retired in order only once.

Parke, Schult, Castillo and Dewing all had two hits, and Parke and Dewing each drove in two runs. Schult and Bass each scored twice. Schult doubled in each of his first two times up, giving him six straight hits over a two-game period (he was 4-for-4 Sunday at Western Connecticut).

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

Sunday, April 11, 2010

SCHULT PITCHES, HITS EASTERN BASEBALL PAST WESTERN

Junior righty throws complete-game two-hitter, drives in four runs with four hits

DANBURY, Conn. – Nine days ago, Eastern Connecticut State University junior **Jim Schult (Wappingers Falls, NY)** came away empty-handed after pitching into the ninth inning of a ten-inning Little East Conference loss to Western Connecticut State University at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Sunday at Westside Field, he brought his bat along, just for good measure, and pitched and hit the Warriors to an 11-1 victory over the Colonials in a game stopped after seven innings due to the conference's ten-run rule.

On the mound, the right-handed Schult pitched a complete-game two-hitter without allowing an earned run. At bat, he was 4-for-4 with four RBI and two runs scored. Included in his hits were his team-leading sixth home run of the season – a two-run blast in a three-run third that pushed Eastern's (16-6, 4-2 little east) lead to 6-0. He also had an RBI single in a three-run first and an RBI single in a four-run fourth and doubled and scored the only run of the sixth.

The complete game was the second in 13 career starts for Schult, who fanned eight and walked three. The only hits he surrendered were a two-out single in the first and a leadoff single in the sixth. He retired seven in a row after walking in Western's (8-11, 2-4 little east) only run in the third.

Eastern senior leftfielder **Chris Thomson (Montville)** collected at least two hits for the fifth straight game, improving his hitting over those games to .750 (12-for-18) with nine RBI and seven runs and pulling into a tie for the team batting lead with an overall .463 average. Thomson reached safely in all four plate appearances. He was hit by pitch in the first, hit a solo home run – his fourth in the last six games – in the third, and singled runs in the fourth and sixth.

Batting ninth, sophomore catcher **Steve Cammuso (Rutland, MA)** also had two hits in Eastern's 12-hit attack and also reached on a hit-by-pitch.

Ranked No. 3 in New England, Eastern visits top-ranked Babson College Monday at 3:30 p.m.