

Sunday, May 7, 1995

ECSU BASEBALL SWEEPS PLYMOUTH STATE COLLEGE 11-2, 4-1
Spaulding four-hits Panthers in nightcap; Funaro ties hit streak record

PLYMOUTH, NH -- Senior right-hander Scott Spaulding pitched a complete-game four-hitter and senior shortstop Joe Funaro tied the program record for consecutive games with a hit as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team defeated Plymouth State College 4-1 to complete a sweep of a Sunday doubleheader.

In the opener, junior rightfielder Joel Padin broke a 2-2 tie with a two-run home run in the fifth and the Warriors went on to an 11-2 victory.

Ranked first in New England, Eastern (24-9) won for the 13th time in its last 15 games, improving to 17-7 up north. Plymouth is 20-18.

Spaulding (5-1), a native of Claremont, NH, posted his first career complete game in his ninth career start. He scattered four hits, three of them singles, while striking out two, walking one and hitting one. With ECSU leading 2-0 behind Funaro's two-run first-inning home run, Spaulding worked out of a bases loaded, none out jam in the third by getting a pair of infield fly outs and retiring No.-3 hitter Tony Pasquarosa on a ground ball to second.

Junior catcher Kevin Spagone had two of ECSU's five hits in the second game and scored a run. Funaro's first-inning home run off complete-game loser Tobey Gonnerman (2-5) extended his hitting streak to 24 -- tying the program record set in 1990 by Pete Daniels.

The opener was close until the Warriors went ahead 4-2 on Padin's team-leading fifth home run with one out in the fifth. Padin drove in two more runs with a single in a four-run sixth and ECSU added three more in the seventh.

Freshman leftfielder Jon Gersz, the No.-8 hitter, reached safely four times with three hits and a walk. He also scored three runs and stole two bases. Junior catcher Vin Paquette, the No.-9 hitter, reached safely three times with two hits and a walk, drove in two runs and scored two. Funaro was 2-for-5 with two RBI and freshman centerfielder Steve Rembisz 2-for-4 with a run and RBI.

Junior righty Kevin Gieras (6-1) worked the first four innings, allowing five hits while fanning four and walking one.

Eastern, ranked eighth nationally, travels to face Montclair State University Tuesday at Skylands Park in Augusta, NJ. Montclair eliminated ECSU from last year's NCAA Division III Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament at Skylands Park.

Eastern Conn. 11, Plymouth State 2

Eastern Conn. (23-9)	000	224	3	--	11	11	0
Plymouth State (20-17)	100	100	0	--	2	6	3

Kevin Gieras (6-1), Chris Segalla (5), Steve Dodge (7) and Vin Paquette. Bill Allen (3-4), Mike Finley (6), Kevin Renaud (7) and Mark Thompson. 2B-Joe Funaro 2 (EC), Tony Pasquarosa (PS); HR-Joel Padin (5) (EC).

Eastern Conn. 4, Plymouth State 1

Eastern Conn. (24-9)	200	001	1	--	4	5	1
Plymouth State (20-18)	000	100	0	--	1	4	0

Scott Spaulding (5-1) and Kevin Spagone. Tobey Gonnerman (2-5) and Mark Thompson. 2B-Spagone (EC), Josh Norse (PS); HR-Joe Funaro (3) (EC).

May ;6, 1995

**College Baseball
Saturday's Result
at Willimantic, Conn.**

Eastern Conn. 7, UMass Dartmouth 5

UMass Dartmouth (15-21)	000	005	000	--	5	7	2
Eastern Conn. (22-9)	030	000	31x	--	7	9	1

Aaron Perron (1-5), Chris Daniels (7) and Eli Munkholm. Bob Arronson, Steve Dodge (6), Marc Angarano (6), Heath Mercier (8) and Vin Paquette. WP-Angarano (2-0). Save-Mercier (6).2B-Mike O'Leary (MD), Joe Funaro (EC); HR-Eric Senft (3) (EC).

ECSU BASEBALL DEFEATS UMASS DARTMOUTH 7-5

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Justin Freeman tied the game with a two-run single in the seventh and Joe Funaro singled in the go-ahead run one batter later as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team edged Massachusetts Dartmouth 7-5 Saturday.

Eastern (22-9), ranked first in New England, improves to 15-7 up north with 11th win in the last 13 games. UMass falls to 15-21.

UMass Dartmouth wiped out a 3-0 deficit with five runs in the sixth before the Warriors rallied for three in the seventh and another in the eighth.

Heath Mercier gained his sixth save of the season for Eastern, getting the final five outs.to make a winner of reliever Marc Angarano (2-0).

Eric Senft was 3-for-4 with two runs scored and three RBI. His third home run of the season gave ECSU a 3-0 lead in the second.

Pete Clark had two of UMass Dartmouth's seven hits and drove in two runs, as did Mike O'Leary.

Thursday, May 4, 1995

SPAULDING, GIERAS COMBINE TO PITCH ECSU PAST FRAMINGHAM 6-4
Pair combines on seven-hitter as Warriors snap two-game baseball losing streak

FRAMINGHAM, Mass. -- Junior right-handed pitchers Scott Chesmer and Kevin Gieras combined on a seven-hitter while striking out 13 as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team snapped a two-game losing streak with a 6-4 win over Framingham State College Thursday.

Eastern, playing its third game in three days, improves to 21-9 overall, 14-7 up north. Framingham is 15-16.

Gieras replaced Chesmer (5-1) with the bases loaded and one out and the Warriors leading 6-3 in the eighth. After falling behind 3-0 to leadoff hitter Colin Lydon, Gieras came back to record the strikeout, then retired Paul Pellegrini on a long fly ball to leftfielder Jon Gersz to end the threat.

Framingham scored a run in the ninth on two hits and a walk but Gieras got three outs on strikeouts, fanning Kevin Madeira with the tying run on second to end the game. The save was the first career one for Gieras, the team's No.-1 starter.

Chesmer allowed two runs in the first and another in the second but settled down, allowing only two singles thereafter until giving way to Gieras in the eighth. Chesmer allowed five hits while fanning nine and walking six. Gieras struck out four and walked one.

Eastern, ranked first in New England, wiped out a 3-1 deficit with four runs on four hits in the fifth, chasing starter Brandt Wajda (1-1) in the process. Leadoff hitter Justin Freeman (2-for-5) doubled in the first run and Joe Funaro (2-for-5) tied the game 3-3 with a one-out single to left. Funaro stole second and scored the go-ahead run on Heath Mercier's long double to right-center. Mercier moved to third on a fly ball to right and scored when Gersz (2-for-3, two runs) singled to center. Funaro extended his hitting streak to 21.

Mike Morrissey had three of Framingham's hits while Paul Pellegrini walked three times. Chesmer and Gieras combined to strike out the top four hitters in the order a total of seven times. Chesmer held Framingham all-America outfielder Eric Roepsch hitelss in four-at-bats, striking him out twice, once with two runners aboard to end the second inning.

Eastern hosts Massachusetts Dartmouth Saturday at 1 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 6, Framingham State 4

Eastern Conn. (21-9)	010	040	010	--	6	12	3
Framingham State (15-16)	210	000	001	--	4	7	1

Scott Chesmer (5-1), Kevin Gieras (8) and Vin Paquette. Brandt Wajda (1-1), Dan Curtin (5), Jim Holt (6) and Sean Geyer. Save-Gieras (1). 2B-Justin Freeman, Mike Kopczuk, Heath Mercier, Jon Gersz, Eric Senft (EC), Colin Lydon, Mike Morrissey (F).

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

WCSU BASEBALL SCORES FIVE RUNS IN NINTH TO DEFEAT ECSU 9-7
Colonials break tie in inning without a hit, four ECSU errors

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Western Connecticut State University baseball team broke a tie by scoring five unearned runs in the ninth inning without the aid of a hit, capitalizing on four Eastern Connecticut State University errors in a 9-7 victory.

The win is the 13th straight for Western (17-5) and 15th in 16 northern games. Eastern (20-9), ranked first in New England Division III, lost for the second straight time and first time at home after ten wins this season. The Colonials received votes in the most recent New England poll but were not among the Top Eight.

Western broke a 4-4 tie in the top of the ninth without getting a hit nor a ball out of the infield. Eastern committed four of its eight errors in the frame and two pitchers walked three.

Trailing 9-4, Eastern got three back in the bottom of the ninth on a bases-clearing double by Heath Mercier with none out but winning pitcher Daron Balducci (2-0) settled down to get the final three outs.

Balducci had replaced Alan Picard with the score tied 4-4 and one out and the bases loaded in the seventh. Balducci, who hit a solo home run leading off the sixth, got a pair of strikeouts to end the threat and finished with five strikeouts.

Joe Funaro, Jon Gersz and Eric Senft each had two hits for Eastern, Funaro extending his hitting streak to 20. Mercier finished with three RBI while Mike Kopczuk drove in the final two runs in a four-run ECSU second.

Eastern travels to face Framingham State College Thursday at 4 p.m.

Western Conn. 9, Eastern Conn. 7

Western Conn. (17-5)	100	011	105	--	9	6	3
Eastern Conn. (20-9)	040	000	003	--	7	10	8

Alan Picard, Daron Balducci (7) and Chris Mortara, Roberto Porzio (7). Scott Spaulding (4-1), Heath Mercier (9) and Kevin Spagone. WP-Balducci (2-0). 2B-Bob Pagel (WC), Mercier (EC); HR-Balducci (3) (WC).

ECSU

SPORTS NEWS

Sports Information Office
Bob Molta, Director
Tel.: (203) 465-5172
FAX: (203) 465-4696

Eastern Connecticut State University

Tuesday, May 2, 1995

little east conference

SPRINGFIELD BASEBALL SNAPS ECSU'S NINE-GAME WINNING STREAK

Warrior pitching walks 11, hits three in 15-9 loss to Chiefs

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. -- The Springfield College baseball team wiped out an early deficit by scoring ten runs in the third inning in handing Eastern Connecticut State University its first loss in the last ten decisions 15-9 Tuesday.

Eastern (20-8), ranked first in New England, falls to 13-6 up north after losing to Springfield (21-10), an NCAA Division II World Series participant last year which is currently ranked fourth in New England Division II. The Warriors had won nine straight, all at home, entering the game. Springfield won its seventh straight.

Eastern bolted to a 5-0 lead before the Chiefs sent 13 batters to the plate in the third inning, scoring ten runs on five hits, three walks, two hit batsmen and an error in chasing ECSU starter Chris Segalla (2-1).

Five ECSU pitchers combined to walk 11 and hit three, with nine of those batters coming around to score. Four Springfield pitchers walked ten.

Kirk Fredericks was 3-for-6 with four RBI for Springfield, which was out-hit 12-9. Leadoff hitter Pat Allen reached base four times with three walks and a hit, scoring three times and driving in two runs. No.-9 hitter Pete Marchetti reached base four times with two hits, a walk and hit by pitch. He scored twice and drove in two runs.

Steve Rembisz, Joe Funaro, Steve Wojtusik and Kevin Spagone each had two hits for Eastern. Wojtusik also walked twice while Chris D'Amato reached base four times with a hit and three walks. Spagone, the team's No.-9 hitter, hit his third home run of the season -- a two-run shot to left which gave ECSU a 3-0 lead in the second inning. Funaro extended his hitting streak to 19 but was caught stealing for the first time this year after 17 successful attempts.

Dan Hunt pitched the final three innings without allowing a hit to gain a save for Springfield.

Eastern hosts Western Connecticut State University tonight at 7 p.m.

Springfield College 15, Eastern Connecticut 9

Eastern Conn. (20-8)	13	1	004	000	--	9	12	1
Springfield (21-10)	00(10)	040	10x	--	15	9	2	

Chris Segalla (2-1), Marc Angarano (3), Trevor Brown (5), Kirk Laakso (7), Steve Dodge (8) and Kevin Spagone. Craig Persiani (2-2), Dennis Estabrook (6), Ron Lashway (6), Dan Hunt (7) and Eric Sharon. Save-Hunt (1). 2B-Heath Mercier (EC), Kirk Fredericks (S); HR-Kevin Spagone (3) (EC).

Sports Center ≈ 83 Windham Street ≈ Willimantic, Connecticut 06226-2295

Tuesday, May 2, 1995

ECSU BASEBALL HOSTS WESTERN CONNECTICUT WEDNESDAY NIGHT

The ECSU and WCSU baseball teams meet tonight in the first of a home-and-home series at 7 p.m. at Alumni Field.

Eastern enters the game ranked first in New England and a winner of all ten of its home games this year. The Warriors are 20-8 overall, 13-6 up north and are coming off a 15-9 loss at Springfield College Tuesday -- a loss which snapped a nine-game winning streak.

Western, which received votes in this week's New England Division III poll, has won 16 and lost 5 overall and stands 14-1 up north. The Colonials have won 12 straight and are coming off Tuesday's 17-5 win at Albertus Magnus College.

Senior right-hander Scott Spaulding (4-0) is expected to start for Eastern on the mound.

The teams meet again next Wednesday at Danbury.

First pitch.

Mike Susi-

hero of 93 WS

Sunday, April 30, 1995

ECSU BASEBALL SHUTS DOWN BRANDEIS BEHIND GIERAS
Junior righty throws three-hitter in ECSU's ninth straight win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Junior right-hander Kevin Gieras pitched a complete-game three-hitter and junior Mike Kopczuk broke a tie with a seventh-inning double as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team won its ninth straight game 3-2 over Brandeis University Sunday.

The Warriors (20-7), ranked first in New England, improved their home record to 10-0 and their nothern mark to 13-5. Brandeis, which received votes in the most recent New England Division III poll, falls to 17-13-1 overall, 14-9 up north.

Gieras (5-1) struck out a season-high ten batters while walking four. Solo home runs by Jason Moreau leading off the fifth and Scott Khourie with one out in the seventh accounted for the Judges' two runs.

Eastern broke a 2-2 tie in the seventh on back-to-back doubles by leadoff hitter Justin Freeman and Kopczuk.

The Warriors had taken a 2-0 ^{lead} ~~tie~~ against Brandeis ace Nelson Figueroa (2-5) with single runs in the first and third. Freeman led off the first with a single and scored with two outs when Brandeis first baseman Brad Rego couldn't handle a throw from shortstop Ryan Fitzgerald. A two-out double by senior Joe Funaro and a single by junior Heath Mercier made it 2-0 in the third before the Judges battled back to tie the game on Khourie's home run in the seventh -- only the eighth home run allowed by ECSU pitching this year.

Freshman second baseman Chris D'Amato improved his team-leading batting average to .482 by going 3-for-4. Freeman and junior Vin Paquette had two hits each in ECSU's ten-hit attack. Funaro's double extended his hitting streak to 18.

Eastern travels to Springfield College Tuesday at 3 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 3, Brandeis University 2

Brandeis (17-13-1)	000	010	100	--	2	3	2
Eastern Conn. (20-7)		101	000	10x	--	3	10 2

Nelson Figueroa (2-5) and Tim Graham. Kevin Gieras (5-1) and Vin Paquette. 2B-Justin Freeman, Mike Kopczuk, Joe Funaro, Chris D'Amato (EC); HR-Jason Moreau (1), Scott Khourie (2).

Friday, April 28, 1995

ECSU

SPORTS NEWS

Sports Information Office

Bob Molta, Director

Tel.: (203) 465-5172

FAX: (203) 465-4696

Eastern Connecticut State University

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ECSU BASEBALL ROUTS AIC WITH 21-HIT ATTACK **Warriors score 12 runs in first en route to eighth straight win**

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team scored 12 runs in the first inning in routing American International College 21-2 Friday.

The Warriors (19-7), ranked first in New England, extended their winning streak to eight straight with their ninth home win without a loss. AIC is 16-17.

Eastern set a program record with 11 hits in the first inning and tied a record by collecting 19 singles in the game.

Seven players had had least two hits, with Joel Padin pacing a 21-hit attack with four hits and four RBI. Mike Rolando drove in three runs with a hit-by-pitch and two-run single. Heath Mercier drove in three runs with two hits and scored twice while Joe Funaro had two hits, an RBI and scored three times in extending his hitting streak to 17. Justin Freeman scored four times, had two hits and an RBI.

Steve Wojtusik had two hits and two RBI in the first inning, when ECSU sent 17 batters to the plate and scored 12 runs on 11 hits. Mercier drove in three runs with two hits in the inning while Padin also had two hits.

Junior righty Scott Chesmer (4-1) allowed only two hits while striking out eight and walking one over six innings to gain the win while senior lefty Kirk Laakso was credited with the save, allowing one hit and two runs over the final two innings.

Ray Goulet (4-3) pitched a complete game for AIC.

ECSU hosts Brandeis University Sunday at 1 p.m. in a makeup game of a game snowed out April 8.

Eastern Conn. State 21, American Int'l College 2

AIC (16-17)	0	00	000	200	--	2	3	4
Eastern Conn. (19-7)	(12)	01	000	35x	--	21	21	1

Ray Goulet (4-3) and Dave Danko, Dan Emerson (8). Scott Chesmer (4-1), Kirk Laakso (7) and Kevin Spagone, Anthony Formato (9). 2B-Rob Malandrucolo (A), Joe Funaro (E); 3B-Joel Padin (E).

Wednesday, April 26, 1995

ECSU BASEBALL DEFEATS TRINITY COLLEGE FOR SEVENTH STRAIGHT

Warriors stay perfect at home with 8-1 win in battle of top-ranked teams

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. --Junior right-handed pitcher Bob Aronson of Milford pitched seven scoreless innings for the second straight start and freshman Chris D'Amato had four hits to lift the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to an 8-1 win over Trinity College (CT) Wednesday.

The win is the seventh straight for Eastern (18-7), ranked first in New England. Trinity, ranked fourth in New England, falls to 18-10 overall, 11-4 up north. Eastern improves to 11-5 up north with its eighth win at home without a loss this season.

Aronson (2-0) allowed seven hits over the first seven innings, striking out nine and walking four in winning his second straight start and lowering his ERA to 2.29.

The Bantams had prime opportunities to score in each of the first four innings but came up empty, stranding eight over those first four innings.

Eastern broke through for a run off freshman righty Mike Irving (2-3) in the third on an RBI single by senior Joe Funaro, who extended his hitting streak to 16. The Warriors added three more in the fifth on a bases loaded walk to junior Mike Kopczuk and a two-run single by junior Heath Mercier. Three unearned runs in the sixth pushed the lead to 7-0.

D'Amato, from Bristol was 4-for-4 with two runs scored. He has 11 hits in his last 14 at-bats over the last five games and is now hitting a team-high .479. Freshman Steve Rembisz, senior Justin Freeman (two RBI), Mercier and junior Steve Wojtusik each had two hits in the 15-hit ECSU attack. Kopczuk drove in three runs, two coming on a two-out single in the sixth.

Al Carbone was 3-for-4 for Trinity, Peter Tighe 2-for-5.

Eastern pitching extended its consecutive scoreless streak to 21 innings before the Bantams broke through with a run in the eighth. Three Eastern pitchers combined to strike out 13, Mercier fanning the side in the ninth.

Eastern hosts American International College Friday at 7 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 8, Trinity College (CT) 1

Trinity (18-10)	000	000	010	--	1	9	2
Eastern Conn. (18-7)	001	033	10x	--	8	15	1

Mike Irving (2-3), Mark Popeleski (6) and Peter Tighe. Bob Aronson (2-0), Marc Angarano (8), Heath Mercier (8) and Vin Paquette.

Tuesday, April 25, 1995

ECSU'S SEGALLA NO-HITS WENTWORTH INSTITUTE 14-0
Senior lefty fans career-high 13 in Warriors' baseball victory

WILLMANTIC, Conn. -- Senior left-handed pitcher Chris Segalla of Canaan tossed the eighth no-hitter in Eastern Connecticut State University baseball history as the Warriors blasted Wentworth Institute of Technology 14-0 Tuesday night.

Segalla (2-0) struck out a career-high 13 batters, needing 116 pitches over the two hour and ten minute game to record only the third nine-inning no-hitter since 1977. It was the first no-hitter at Alumni Field since May 4, 1981, when Jeff Brewer no-hit Western Connecticut State University over nine innings 15-0.

The last no-hitter thrown by an ECSU pitcher occurred last April 24, when Dave Chiasson no-hit the University of Southern Maine 3-0 over seven innings.

Segalla becomes the first lefty to throw a nine-inning no-hitter. He allowed only one ball out of the infield in recording his first career complete game.

Making only his fifth career start, Segalla fanned every batter he faced but one, striking out six straight at one point. No.-3 hitter Ken Bliss was retired for the final out when he grounded weakly to reserve third baseman Mike Rolando.

Segalla faced just three batters over the 27-man minimum. Brett Haven reached on an error by third baseman Mike Kopczuk with two out in the third and Segalla hit leadoff batter Chris Fontaine on a 2-1 pitch before striking out Nick Fulton on a 3-2 pitch. Segalla also walked Chris Johnson on a 3-1 pitch with two out in the fifth. Segalla retired the final 13 batters in order.

Wentworth's only real threat to break through came with one out in the seventh, when first baseman Zach Vallentine drove a 2-2 pitch sharply up the middle. Senior second baseman Gregg Martello -- who had replaced starter Chris D'Amato in that inning -- smothered the ball with a diving backhand to his right. His throw beat Vallentine by two steps.

Senior shortstop Joe Funaro led ECSU with three hits -- extending his hitting streak to 15 - while Steve Rembisz, Justin Freeman, Heath Mercier, Joel Padin and D'Amato each had two hits in the 18-hit attack. Junior catcher Vin Paquette drove in four runs with his first career home run and a fielder's choice while Funaro, Mercier, and Bunty Ray each drove in two runs. Freeman also collected his first career home run -- a solo shot leading off the seventh.

The win is the sixth straight for Eastern and seventh in as many games at home. The Warriors are 17-7 overall, 10-5 up north.

Wentworth (17-11) had a five-game winning streak snapped in falling to 16-6 up north.

Eastern, ranked first in New England, hosts fourth-ranked Trinity College, CT Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 14, Wentworth Institute 0

Wentworth (17-11)	000	000	000	--	0	0	5
Eastern Conn. (17-7)	051	205	10x	--	14	18	2

Scott LaFlamme (3-2), Chris Johnson (4), Zach Vallentine (7) and Nick Fulton. Chris Segalla (2-0) and Vin Paquette. 2B-Steve Rembisz 2, Justin Freeman, Joe Funaro, Heath Mercier, Joel Padin, Steve Wojtusik (EC); HR-Freeman (1), Paquette (1) (EC).

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Sports Information Office
Bob Molta, Director
Tel.: (203) 465-5172
FAX: (203) 465-4696

Eastern Connecticut State University

Sunday, April 23, 1995

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MERCIER LEADS ECSU BASEBALL TO SWEEP OF SOUTHERN MAINE

Records two saves on seven pitches, hits three-run HR in opener

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Junior Heath Mercier of Sterling drove in three runs with a home run in the opener and recorded two pitching saves on seven pitches to preserve Eastern Connecticut State University's 6-3, 5-1 doubleheader baseball sweep of the University of Southern Maine Sunday.

Eastern (16-7) improves to 9-5 up north by stretching its winning streak to five. Southern Maine had a five-game winning streak snapped in falling to 12-14 overall, 10-7 up north.

The Warriors scored three runs in the bottom of the first inning of each game and allowed only seven Southern Maine hits on the day. They committed just one error.

Mercier cracked his fourth home run of the season -- a three-run blast to left -- to give starting pitcher Scott Chesmer (3-1) an early lead in the opener. Chesmer allowed just four hits while fanning one and walking four before giving way to Mercier with two out and the bases loaded in the seventh. Mercier got all-America centerfielder Jason Lariviere to bounce to junior Mike Kopczuk at third on his first pitch to end the game.

In the nightcap, senior righty Scott Spaulding (4-0) of Claremont, NH allowed only three hits before being lifted after walking the first two batters in the seventh. The Warriors turned a double play on Mercier's third pitch to No.-8 batter Rich Cahill and Casey Heyman's ground ball to first baseman Steve Wojtusik ended the game. Spaulding struck out four and walked five. The saves give Mercier five this season.

In addition to his three-run home run, Mercier doubled and scored twice in the opener while also reaching on a walk. Junior third baseman Mike Kopczuk and junior catcher Vin Paquette also had two hits in ECSU's ten-hit attack in the opener. Chesmer never allowed more than one hit in an inning.

In the second game, Eastern had four of its six hits in scoring three times in the first inning. Kopczuk (triple), senior shortstop Joe Funaro (single) and freshman leftfielder Jon Gersz (single) all drove in runs in the inning.

Freshman Chris D'Amato had two of ECSU's six hits in the nightcap and also scored and drove in a run in a two-run fourth. Funaro had one hit in each game to extend his hitting streak to 14. Kopczuk had a double, triple, walk, RBI and scored twice on the day.

Eastern, ranked fifth in New England, hosts Wentworth Institute Tuesday at 7 p.m.

**College Baseball
Sunday's Results
at Willimantic, Conn.**

**First Game
Eastern Conn. 6, University of Southern Maine 3**

Southern Maine (12-13)	012	000	0	--	3	4	3
Eastern Conn. (15-7)	312	000	x	--	6	10	1

Marty Devlin (2-3), Wylie Herzberg (3) and Ken Reed. Scott Chesmer (3-1), Heath Mercier (7) and Vin Paquette. Save-Mercier (4). 2B-Tony Miner, Jason Crepeau (S), Mike Kopczuk, Joe Funaro, Heath Mercier (E); HR-Mercier (E) (4).

**Second Game
Eastern Conn. 5, University of Southern Maine 1**

Southern Maine (12-14)	010	000	0	--	1	3	3
Eastern Conn. (16-7)	300	200	x	--	5	6	0

Shawn Leger (0-4), Kyle Kennison (4) and Ken Reed. Scott Spaulding (4-0), Heath Mercier (7) and Kevin Spagone. Save-Mercier (5). 2B-Jason Crepeau (S); 3B-Mike Kopczuk (E).

ECSU

SPORTS NEWS

Sports Information Office

Bob Molta, Director

Tel.: (203) 465-5172

FAX: (203) 465-4696

Eastern Connecticut State University

Saturday, April 22, 1995

little east conference

ECSU BASEBALL REMAINS UNBEATEN AT HOME

Warriors edge Amherst College 4-3 in ten innings

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Jon Gersz' fourth hit of the game with two outs in the bottom of the tenth inning scored Heath Mercier from third base and lifted the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 4-3 win over Amherst College Saturday.

The win is the third straight for Eastern (14-7) and fourth in as many home games this season. The Warriors, ranked fifth in New England, improve to 7-5 up north with their eighth straight win over Amherst (13-8). Six of those wins have been by one run.

Amherst led 2-0 after its first at-bats but had to rally to tie the game 3-3 in the ninth on a two-out wild pitch.

Amherst reliever Brock Safranoff (2-5) got the first two outs of the tenth before giving up consecutive singles to Mercier, Joel Padin and Gersz. Gersz, a freshman who had singled twice and tripled off Lord Jeff starter Rob Elwood, plated Mercier with a ground ball to shortstop Keith Pooper. Pooper's only chance for an out was at second, but a sliding Padin beat the throw as Mercier scored.

Junior righty Kevin Gieras (4-1) recorded the staff's second complete game this year. Gieras allowed only five hits while fanning a season-high nine and walking five. Two of the hits and three of the walks came when the Lord Jeffs took a 2-0 lead in the first. Gieras got a pair of strike outs with the bases loaded in the first to prevent further damage, however.

Gersz finished 4-for-5 with a pair of RBI. Mercier was 3-for-5, singling in his final three at-bats, while Joe Funaro (2-for-4) extended his hitting streak to a career-high 12. Mercier and Funaro also scored once and drove in a run.

Eastern hosts the University of Southern Maine in a 1 p.m. doubleheader today.

Eastern Conn. 4, Amherst College 3, 10 innings.

Amherst (13-8)	200	000	001	0	--	3	5	0
Eastern Conn. (14-7)	000	020	010	1	--	4	13	2

Two outs when winning run scored.

Rob Elwood, Brock Safranoff (9) and Dan Blednick. Kevin Gieras (4-1) and Kevin Spagone. LP-Safranoff (2-5). 2B-Dan Jin, Josh Carroll (A), Spagone (EC); 3B-Jon Gersz (EC).

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Sports Information Office

Bob Molta, Director

Tel.: (203) 465-5172

FAX: (203) 465-4696

Eastern Connecticut State University

Thursday, April 20, 1995

little east conference

ECSU BASEBALL BLANKS KEENE STATE COLLEGE 5-0

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Junior right-handed pitchers Bob Aronson and Heath Mercier combined on a four-hit shutout and junior third baseman Mike Kopczuk paced a 13-hit attack with four hits as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team blanked Keene State College 5-0 Thursday.

Eastern (13-7) improves to 6-5 up north with its third home win in as many outings. Keene State falls to 9-19-1 with its tenth loss in the last 11 games.

Aronson (1-0), making his first start of the season (fifth appearance), allowed only three hits while striking out three, walking one and hitting one over the first seven innings. Mercier struck out five, allowed one hit and walked one over the final two innings.

Kopczuk finished 4-for-5 with an RBI -- his second career four-hit game. Senior shortstop Joe Funaro extended his hitting streak to 11 with two hits, including a double and his second home run of the season -- a blast leading off the fifth. Funaro also stole his 14th consecutive base this season in the first, drove in two runs, scored a run and was hit by a pitch.

Sophomore first baseman Eric Senft, freshman second baseman Chris D'Amato and junior catcher Kevin Spagone -- the 7-8-9 hitters in the lineup -- each had two hits. Senft drove in a run and Spagone scored one.

Funaro's infield out gave ECSU a 1-0 lead in the first. Senft's single made it 2-0 in the fourth and Funaro's homer pushed the lead to 3-0 in the fifth. Kopczuk drove in a run with a single and Mercier walked with the bases loaded in a two-run sixth with chased Keene starter Kyle Piper (1-2).

Mac Tiani had two of Keene's four hits, doubling to lead off the fifth. He advanced to third on a passed ball but Aronson got a fly ball to center and two infield ground balls to end the inning. It was the only time a Keene runner advanced beyond first base.

Eastern hosts Amherst College Saturday at 1 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 5, Keene State 0

Keene State (9-19-1)	000	000	000	--	0	4	0
Eastern Conn. (13-7)	100	112	00x	--	5	13	0

Kyle Piper (1-2), Roland Swasey (6) and Peter Duda, James McTeague (8). Bob Aronson (1-0), Heath Mercier (8) and Kevin Spagone, Vin Paquette (8). 2B-Mac Tiani (K), Joe Funaro (EC); HR-Funaro (2) (EC).

Sports Center ≈ 83 Windham Street ≈ Willimantic, Connecticut 06226-2295

Tuesday, April 18, 1995

ECSU BASEBALL BLASTS NICHOLS COLLEGE 16-2

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Heath Mercier highlighted a 16-hit attack with four hits and Kevin Spagone drove in five runs with his first two career home runs as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team crushed Nichols College 16-2 Tuesday night.

Eastern (12-7) improves to 5-5 up north with its 23rd win in 24 tries against Nichols while the Bison fall to 9-12 overall.

Trailing 2-0, the Warriors scored six times on four hits and two errors in the third and were never headed.

Mercier was 4-for-5 with two RBI and two runs, stroking his third home run of the season with a runner aboard in the third. Spagone, the team's No.-9 hitter, hit a three-run home run in the fifth and a two-run homer in the sixth. He also scored three times, finishing 2-for-3 with a walk.

Jon Gersz (2-for-4) also collected his first career home run, a solo blast in the sixth. Gersz scored three times, walked and stole two bases. Joe Funaro was 2-for-4 with two RBI and a run scored. He also walked once.

Senior lefty Chris Segalla (1-0) allowed four hits over the first seven innings. Segalla fanned four and walked five.

Eastern travels to face Western Connecticut State University today at 3:30 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 16, Nichols College 2

Nichols (9-12)	101	000	000	--	2	4	4
Eastern Conn. (12-7)	006	033	40x	--	16	16	0

Mike Arnold (0-6), John Darling (6), Jeff Becker (8) and Mark Barbalias. Chris Segalla (1-0), Steve Dodge (8) and Kevin Spagone. 2B-Chris Peck (N), Mike Kopczuk, Eric Senft (EC); HR-Spagone 2 (2), Heath Mercier (3), Jon Gersz (1) (EC).

Saturday, April 15, 1995
ECSU SPORTS INFO 203-465-5172

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE SWEEPS ECSU BASEBALL 3-2, 4-1
Anchormen win both games for first time in 20 years

PROVIDENCE, RI -- Scott Robillard pitched a complete-game two-hitter in the opener and came on to gain the save in the nightcap as the Rhode Island College baseball team swept Eastern Connecticut State University 3-2, 4-1 Saturday.

Eastern (11-7), which had won 13 of the previous 14 games between the clubs, was swept by the Anchormen (8-9) for the first time since 1975.

Robillard, a senior righty, handcuffed ECSU in the opener and the Anchormen won the game in their last at-bats on a two-out RBI single by cleanup batter Dave Hanson in the bottom of the seventh inning.

The Warriors, ranked fourth in New England and fourth nationally in Division III, led 1-0 and 2-1 before the hosts tied the game 2-2 on Steve Price's infield RBI single in the sixth.

ECSU junior righty Heath Mercier (1-1), who had replaced starter Scott Spaulding in the sixth, got the first two outs in the seventh before hitting No.-2 hitter Josh Arieta. Arieta moved to second on a wild pitch and after a walk to Dave Maynard, Hanson ripped a 1-1 pitch on a line into right field, scoring Arieta.

Robillard struck out eight and walked three.

The first northern home run by junior rightfielder Joel Padin had given ECSU a 1-0 lead in the second inning of the nightcap but RIC chased sophomore righty Trevor Brown (1-2) while scoring four times in the fifth. The Anchormen had four hits and two walks in the inning. Jim Strybuc plated Robillard from first with a double to left-center to tie the game and scored the go-ahead run from third on a throwing error.

Freshman leftfielder Jon Gersz (walk) and Padin (hit-by-pitch) reached safely to open the ECSU seventh but Robillard was summoned and worked out of a jam by getting a ground ball to short with the bases loaded to end the threat. Price (2-1), a senior righty, allowed only three hits through six innings before being lifted after walking Gersz to open the seventh.

Senior shortstop Joe Funaro had three hits on the day to extend his hitting streak to nine. He had two hits and two stolen bases in the nightcap. He is 13-for-13 in stolen bases this season.

Eastern hosts Nichols College Tuesday at 7 p.m.

**College Baseball
at Providence, RI**

First Game

Rhode Island College 3, Eastern Conn. 2

Eastern Conn. (11-6)	001	001	0	--	2	2	1
R.I. College (7-9)	001	001	1	--	3	7	2

Two out when winning run scored

Scott Spaulding, Heath Mercier (6) and Kevin Spagone. Scott Robillard (2-3) and Dave Maynard. LP-Mercier (1-1). 2B-Joe Funaro (EC), Paul Swinson, Mike Smith, Steve DiNezza (RIC).

Second Game

Rhode Island College 4, Eastern Conn. 1

Eastern Conn. (11-7)	010	000	0	--	1	3	1
R.I. College (8-9)	000	040	x	--	4	6	1

Trevor Brown (1-2), Aaron DiCaprio (5), Kevin Gieras (5) and Vin Paquette. Steve Price (2-1), Clint Little (7), Scott Robillard (7) and Josh Arieta. Save-Robillard. 2B-Jim Strybuc (R); HR-Joel Padin (4) (EC).

ECSU BASEBALL RALLIES AFTER BLOWING 10-1 LEAD
Warriors score two in ninth in 12-11 win over UMass

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team rallied for two runs in the ninth inning after blowing a nine-run lead in a 12-11 win over the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Friday.

Trailing 11-10 in the ninth inning, Eastern (11-5) tied the game when Jon Gersz plated Justin Freeman (leadoff single) from second with a one-out single. Gersz took second on the throw home and scored when Steve Wojtusik followed with an opposite-field double to left-center field.

The Warriors, ranked fourth in New England, led 10-1 before the Corsairs (9-13) scored twice in the fourth, five times in the seventh and three times in the eighth to take an 11-10 lead.

Steve Pereira tied the game with a two-run home run in the eighth and leadoff hitter Trevor Florent gave the hosts an 11-10 lead with an RBI double to left-center later in the inning.

All five of UMass Dartmouth's runs in the seventh were unearned, thanks to a pair of infield throwing errors after there were two out.

Chris D'Amato, Joe Funaro and Gersz each had three hits to pace a 16-hit ECSU attack. Steve Rembisz, Heath Mercier and Wojtusik added two hits each.

Gersz drove in four runs with a two-run triple in the first inning, a ground out in the second and his game-tying single in the ninth.

John Connole and Derek Handler each had two of UMass Dartmouth's eight hits. Connole hit his third home run of the season, a two-run shot in the seventh. Trevor Florent drove in two runs with an infield out and his double in the eighth.

Mercier (1-0) who also drove in two runs, was credited with the pitching win by pitching the final one-and-two-thirds innings. Starter Scott Chesmer did not figure in the decision after pitching the first seven-and-one-third innings. Chesmer allowed only six hits while striking out five and walking one. Six of the nine runs charged to him were unearned.

ECSU

SPORTS NEWS

Sports Information Office

Bob Molta, Director

Tel.: (203) 465-5172

FAX: (203) 465-4696

Eastern Connecticut State University

Thursday, April 13, 1995

little east conference

BROWN UNIVERSITY BASEBALL POUNDS ECSU 12-4

PROVIDENCE, RI -- David Murphy, Gilberto Sustache and Marquis Jessie each had three hits and two runs scored to pace the Brown University baseball team to a 12-4 win over Eastern Connecticut State University Thursday.

Eastern (3-3 north) falls to 10-5 overall while the Bears improve to 6-16.

The Bruins pounded three ECSU pitchers for 17 hits -- six of them for extra bases -- driving senior lefty Kirk Laakso (0-1) from the mound during a three-run third inning which gave them a 6-2 lead. Laakso allowed six hits -- including a home run and two doubles -- while walking six. Five of the eight batters walked by ECSU pitchers came around to score.

Six Brown hitters had two or more hits. Sustache drove in two runs while Ron Kiino and Mike Humphreys each contributed two-run doubles and finished with three RBI each. Murphy doubled and homered while Jessie reached base four times.

Brown senior second baseman Jason Holowaty -- son of 27th-year ECSU head coach Bill Holowaty -- was 2-for-6 with a stolen base and run scored.

Sophomore righty Glenn Miller (1-4) allowed 12 hits while striking out seven and walking four in gaining the complete-game win. Miller stranded 12 ECSU baserunners, eight in scoring position.

Junior DH Mike Kopczuk led ECSU with three hits while senior shortstop Joe Funaro, junior first baseman Steve Wojtusik and junior catcher Kevin Spagone each had two.

Eastern travels to UMass Dartmouth today at 3:30 p.m. in a key New England Division III matchup involving 1994 NCAA tournament qualifiers. The game was originally scheduled to be played this past Sunday but was washed out by rain.

Brown University 12, Eastern Conn. 4

Eastern Conn. (10-5)	011	002	000	--	4	12	0
Brown (6-16)	213	500	10x	--	12	17	1

Kirk Laakso (0-1), Marc Angarano (3), Chris Segalla (7) and Kevin Spagone. Glenn Miller (1-4) and Mike Humphreys. 2B-Steve Rembisz, Joe Funaro, Mike Kopczuk (EC), Ron Kiino, Mike Humphreys, David Murphy, Andrew Donnelly, Marquis Jessie (B); HR-Murphy (B).

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Tuesday, April 11, 1995

ECSU BASEBALL OUTSLUGS NEW ENGLAND'S TOP-RANKED TEAM
Three freshmen combine for 11 hits in 17-12 win over Wesleyan

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. -- Freshmen Steve Rembisz, Chris D'Amato and Jon Gersz combined for 11 hits, scored seven runs and drove in seven to pace the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 17-12 win over Wesleyan University Tuesday.

Eastern (10-4), ranked fourth in New England Division III, improves to 3-2 up north while the Cardinals (11-6), ranked first in New England, fall to 5-2 up north.

The Warriors bolted to a 10-0 lead and led 12-4 before the Cardinals scored six times in the seventh on four hits, two walks and two hit batemen. Jesse Carpenter's two-run bases loaded single pulled Wesleyan to within 12-10 before ECSU senior righty Marc Angarano led the tying run on first by striking out cleanup hitter Jon Churchill.

Trailing 13-10, Wesleyan cut the deficit to 13-12 with two runs in the eighth but left the go-ahead run on first when junior righty Heath Mercier came out of the ECSU bullpen to end the inning with a ground ball to short.

Rembisz, a centerfielder from Vernon, reached base six times with a double, home run, two singles and two walks from his leadoff position. He scored three times and drove in four runs. D'Amato, a third baseman from Bristol, was 3-for-5 with two runs scored and an RBI as the No.-2 hitter. Gersz, a leftfielder from Wallingford, was 4-for-6 with two runs scored and two RBI.

Junior DH Mike Kopczuk had two hits, two RBI and a run scored while junior first baseman Steve Wojtusik had two hits, two RBI and three runs scored.

Eastern collected 20 hits off four Wesleyan pitchers while Wesleyan had 13 hits off four ECSU pitchers. Each team had five extra base hits.

Will Brandenburger and Bryan Keane each had three hits and two RBI for the Cardinals while Carpenter had two hits and drove in three runs. Keane doubled and tripled and scored three times. Josh Pepe reached safely four times with three walks and an infield single and scored three runs.

Junior righty Kevin Gieras, ECSU's starting pitcher, gained his third win in four decisions while Mercier got the final four outs for his third save.

Eastern travels to face Division I Brown University Thursday at 3 p.m.

**Tuesday's Result
at Middletown, CT**

Eastern Conn. 17, Wesleyan University 12

Eastern Conn. (10-4)	440	020	214	--	17	20	2
Wesleyan (11-6)	000	022	620	--	12	13	7

Kevin Gieras (3-1), Marc Angarano (7), Bob Aronson (8), Heath Mercier (8) and Vin Paquette, Kevin Spagone (8). Scott Hevesy (1-4), Brian Fogarty (5), Tim O'Connell (7), Craig Brewer (9) and Lee LeBlanc, Steve Shih (7), Jed Hoyer (9). Save-Mercier (3). 2B-Steve Rembisz, Joe Funaro, Mercier (EC), Hoyer, Bryan Keane, Brett Matthews (W); 3B-Gregg Martello (EC), Keane (W); HR-Rembisz (1) (EC).

Monday, April 10, 1995

ECSU BASEBALL SHUTS OUT WESTFIELD STATE 6-0
Spaulding, two others combine on six-hitter

WESTFIELD, Mass. -- Three pitchers combined on a six-hitter and freshman Steve Rembisz had three walks, three stolen bases and scored twice in his first northern start as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team shut out Westfield State College 6-0 Monday.

Eastern (9-4), ranked fourth in New England, evens its northern slate at 2-2 while Westfield State falls to 11-5 overall.

Senior right-hander Scott Spaulding (3-0) and junior righties Bob Aronson and Heath Mercier combined on the six-hit shutout for Eastern, the Warriors' first shutout in 22 games. Spaulding allowed all six hits over the first seven innings -- the longest stint of his career -- while Aronson and Mercier each tossed a scoreless inning. Spaulding, who walked four and struck out four, stranded ten Westfield runners, leaving the bases loaded in the third and two runners aboard in both the second and fifth.

Eastern made the most of its seven hits, scoring twice in the third on a hit, three stolen bases and a sacrifice fly, once in the seventh without a hit and twice in the ninth on one hit, three wild pitches, an error and stolen base.

The Warriors stole seven bases in as many tries, Rembisz swiping three. Rembisz, making his first start up north (second career) in center field, drew all three of the team's walks as the leadoff hitter and scored twice.

Senior shortstop Joe Funaro drove in two runs with a single in the third and sacrifice fly in the seventh. He also stole two bases and scored a run. Senior second baseman Gregg Martello had two hits, driving in the first run of the game with a double down the left field line in the top of the second inning.

Eastern travels to face Wesleyan University today at 3 p.m. The Cardinals, last year's NCAA Division III national runner-up, are ranked first in New England.

Monday's Result
at Westfield, MA

Eastern Conn. 6, Westfield State 0

Eastern Conn. (9-4)	012	000	102	--	6	7	1
Westfield State (11-5)	000	000	000	--	0	6	2

Scott Spaulding (3-0), Bob Aronson (8), Heath Mercier (9) and Vin Paquette. Brian Hendricks (2-1), Rick Gammell (9) and Cory Dion. 2B-Gregg Martello (EC).



EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

A campus of the Connecticut State University

Sunday, April 2, 1995

ECSU BASEBALL WINS 12TH STRAIGHT HOME OPENER

Spaulding, Brown combine on four-hitter in 8-1 win over Saint Joseph's, ME

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Senior righty Scott Spaulding and sophomore righty Trevor Brown combined on a four-hitter as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team won its home-opener for the 12th straight year, 8-1 over Saint Joseph's College (ME).

Eastern (8-3 overall/1-1 north), ranked first in New England and second nationally in Division III, had nine hits and made use of five Saint Joseph's errors to score four unearned runs. The Monks are 7-6 overall, 2-2 north.

The win in their home-opener was the 12th straight for the Warriors, dating back to the 1984 season.

Senior shortstop Joe Funaro led ECSU with three hits, two RBI and two runs while junior rightfielder Joel Padin drove in two runs with a double and sacrifice fly. Senior second baseman Gregg Martello reached safely four times (two hits, a walk and an error) while senior centerfielder Justin Freeman walked three times, stole two bases and scored twice.

The Warriors stole eight bases in nine tries.

Trailing 3-0, the Monks broke through against Spaulding (2-0) on Frank Boutin's first home run of the season in the sixth-- a one-out solo shot to right-center. With two outs, Bobby Quintal singled and Peter McNally walked but Spaulding retired Keith Wood on a line drive to shortstop to end the threat.

Spaulding allowed three hits while fanning three and walking two and hitting a batter. Spaulding hit the first batter of the game, then gave up a single to Shane O'Connell but did not allow another hit until Boutin's home run in the sixth.

Brown allowed one hit while striking out two over the final three innings to gain his first career save.

Eastern travels to face Westfield State College Tuesday at 3 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 8, Saint Joseph's, ME 1

Saint Joseph's (7-6)	000	001	000	--	1	4	5
Eastern Conn. (8-3)	200	011	13x	--	8	9	1

Joe Lysiak (1-3), Marc Therrien (8) and Keith Wood. Scott Spaulding (2-0), Trevor Brown (7) and Vin Paquette. Save-Brown (1). 2B-Joe Funaro, Joel Padin (E); HR-Frank Boutin (1) (SJ).

ECSU

SPORTS NEWS

Sports Information Office

Bob Molta, Director

Tel.: (203) 465-5172

FAX: (203) 465-4696

Eastern Connecticut State University

Saturday, April 1, 1995

little east conference

WILLIAM PATERSON BASEBALL CRUSHES ECSU 11-1

WAYNE, NJ -- Bill Bellenger had four hits and Paul Bumbaco drove in three runs as the William Paterson College baseball team crushed Eastern Connecticut State University 11-1 Saturday.

Eastern falls to 7-3 overall in dropping its northern opener and losing for the fourth consecutive time to the Pioneers. William Paterson, the 1992 NCAA Division III national champion, improves to 9-2 (2-0 up north) with its fifth straight victory.

The top six batters in the Pioneer lineup combined for 12 of the team's 14 hits, seven RBI and ten runs scored. Five of the team's hits were good for extra bases, including Ed Mitchell's leadoff home run in the bottom of the first off ECSU junior righty Kevin Gieras (2-1). The loss was the first for Gieras after seven career wins and the home run was the first one allowed this year by ECSU pitching.

Bumbaco, a junior DH, drove in Bellenger with a single and later scored in a three-run Paterson first inning, knocked in another with an infield out in the fourth and plated the team's ninth run with an RBI single in the fifth.

In addition to his four hits, Bellenger scored twice. Brian Kelly also had two hits, including an RBI triple in the eighth, and scored twice while Brian Linder scored twice and reached safely all five times up with a hit, two walks, a hit-by-pitch and on an infield error.

The Pioneers equalled their season's averages of 10.5 runs and 13.6 hits per game.

Eastern, limited to five singles by sophomore righty Rob Slomkowski (2-0), a first-team all-New Jersey Athletic Conference selection as a freshman, avoided the shutout by scoring an unearned run in the ninth on senior shortstop Joe Funaro's RBI ground ball out.

Junior leftfielder Heath Mercier had two hits for Eastern, which opens its home season Sunday, hosting Saint Joseph's College (ME) in a 1 p.m. single game.

College Baseball Saturday's Result at Wayne, NJ

William Paterson College 11, Eastern Conn. 1

Eastern Conn. (7-3)	000	000	001	--	1	5	4
Wm. Paterson (9-2)	303	210	02x	--	11	14	1

Kevin Gieras (2-1), Scott Chesmer (4), Chris Segalla (7) and Kevin Spagone. Rob Slomkowski (2-0) and Dan Egbert. 2B-Bill Bellenger, Manny Perez, Brian Linder (W); 3B-Brian Kelly (W); HR-Ed Mitchell (2) (W).

Sports Center ≈ 83 Windham Street ≈ Willimantic, Connecticut 06226-2295

Saturday, March 25, 1995

THREE SOLO HOME RUNS LIFT ECSU BASEBALL OVER WHITTIER

Mercier ties game with two out pinch hit in ninth inning

WHITTIER, Calif. -- Pinch hitter Heath Mercier's two-out solo home run in the top of the ninth inning tied the game and Eric Senft and Joel Padin added back-to-back homers in the 11th to pace the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 3-1 win over Whittier College Saturday.

The win snaps a two-game losing streak for Eastern (7-2), which concludes its California trip with five wins in seven outings. Whittier is 9-13.

Whittier's first-inning run held up until there were two out in the top of the ninth, when Mercier, hitting for left fielder Steve Wojtusik, tied the game with a first-pitch home run off Poet starter Brandon Boettner -- his second home run of the season.

Senft drilled the first pitch of the 11th inning over the left-center field fence to snap the tie and Padin, a sixth-inning replacement in right field, followed with his third home run of the season to right-center to make it 3-1. Senft's home run was his second of the year and the RBI was the third game-winning one in his six-game career.

Junior right-hander Scott Chesmer (2-0) gained the win with two scoreless innings in relief of starting junior righty Kevin Gieras. Gieras, unbeaten in seven career decisions, did not allow a run after the first inning. He limited the Poets to five hits while fanning seven and walking two. Gieras retired 11 straight batters at one point and allowed only one single over his final seven innings.

Boettner allowed only seven hits over the first nine innings before giving way to Ron Mann (2-4) to start the tenth.

The Warriors, ranked second nationally in Division III, finished with ten hits and played errorless defense, ending the final two innings with double plays.

Both teams squandered several scoring opportunities. Eastern left runners in scoring position in three of the first five innings, had a runner picked off in the second and a runner erased at the plate when the Poets foiled a one-out suicide squeeze attempt in the sixth.

Until the 11th inning, Eastern's best scoring opportunity came in the fourth. With runners on first and second and no one out, Senft sent a long drive off the fence in right. But a log-jam on the bases had Senft caught up between first and second and he was tagged out. With two out, catcher Kevin Spagone then walked to load the bases but Boettner got a ground ball to second to end the threat.

With runners on first and second and one out in the Whittier tenth, Chesmer struck out No.-9 hitter Sonny Langstaff on a 3-2 pitch and Spagone nailed pinch runner Dennis Capone attempting to steal third. An around-the-horn double play, started by freshman third baseman Chris D'Amato, ended the game.

Senft finished with three hits, D'Amato, Spagone and Mercier adding two each.

Teg Diffey led Whittier with two hits.

Eastern opens its 27-game northern season Thursday at Framingham State College.

Eastern Conn. 3, Whittier College 1, 11 innings

Eastern Conn. (7-2)	000	000	001	02	--	3	10	0
Whittier (9-13)	100	000	000	00	--	1	7	1

Kevin Gieras, Scott Chesmer (10) and Kevin Spagone. Brandon Boettner, Ron Mann (10) and Mike Lee, Sonny Langstaff (9). WP-Chesmer (2-0). LP-Mann (2-4). 2B-Eric Senft, Spagone, Heath Mercier (EC), Jeff Green (W); HR-Senft (2), Joel Padin (3), Heath Mercier (2) (EC).

csu sports info 805-493-3153
Wednesday, March 22, 1995

CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN RALLIES TO DEFEAT ECSU BASEBALL 6-4

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. -- Leadoff hitter Ray Arvizu drove in three runs -- including two go-ahead ones -- with a two-out single in the bottom of the seventh inning -- to lift the California Lutheran University baseball team to a 6-4 come-from-behind win over Eastern Connecticut State University Wednesday in a battle of nationally-ranked Division III teams.

The Kingsmen, ranked 24th, improve to 8-7 while the Warriors, ranked second, fall to 6-2 after their second straight loss.

Cal Lutheran bounced back from 1-0, 2-1 and 4-2 deficits to post its fifth ^{win} in six tries against Eastern.

Trailing 4-2, the hosts tied the game in the sixth when they chased starter Kirk Laakso. Arvizu drove in the first with a one-out single to right and the tying run came home on a two-out wild pitch by ECSU sophomore pitcher Trevor Brown (1-1).

In the seventh, Arvizu ripped Brown's two-out, 1-1 offering toward the middle. Senior second baseman Gregg Martello managed to get a glove on it but couldn't hold on as the ball rolled into shallow right field.

Arvizu led CLU with three hits while Rich Holmes and Travis Protzeller each had two. Both clubs had nine hits.

Junior rightfielder Joel Padin of Pawtucket, RI led ECSU with three hits and two RBI in raising his team-leading batting average to .458 (11-for-24). Junior third baseman Mike Kopczuk also had two hits.

Steve Fjeldseth (1-0) allowed only three singles while fanning six and walking none over the final three-and-one-third innings to gain the win.

Eastern meets Pomona-Pitzer Thursday at 5:30 p.m. ET at Claremont, CA in a game postponed Tuesday due to wet grounds. Senior righty Scott Spaulding (1-0) is expected to start on the mound for ECSU.

California Lutheran U. 6, Eastern Conn. 4

Eastern Conn. (6-2)	100	012	000	--	4	9	2
Cal Lutheran (8-7)	010	012	20x	--	6	9	0

Kirk Laakso, Trevor Brown (6), Marc Angarano (8) and Vin Paquette. David Jaglowski, Steve Fjeldseth (6) and Gilbert Benitez. WP-Fjeldseth (1-0); LP-Brown (1-1). 2B-Joel Padin (EC), Ray Arvizu (CL).

ECSU

SPORTS NEWS

Sports Information Office
Bob Molta, Director
Tel.: (203) 465-5172
FAX: (203) 465-4696

Eastern Connecticut State University

REDLANDS SPORTS INFO 909-335-4031
Monday, March 20, 1995

little east conference

REDLANDS BASEBALL HANDS ECSU FIRST LOSS 11-5

REDLANDS, Calif. — Rohn Battle and Torrey McDonough each drove in three runs to lift the University of Redlands to an 11-5 baseball win over Eastern Connecticut State University Monday.

The loss is the first after six opening wins for the Warriors (6-1), 4-1 on their California trip. Redlands improves to 13-7.

The host Bulldogs erased a 1-0 ECSU lead by scoring six runs over the first three innings. Freshman righty Scott Czerwinski (0-1), making his first career start (second appearance), was lifted after allowing five runs on four hits and five walks over the first two innings.

Battle, the leadoff hitter, tripled, scored two runs, walked and stole two bases while McDonough had a double and stole a base and walked in the No.-2 position.

Six different players had one hit each for Eastern. Freshman Steve Rembisz scored twice and had an RBI triple in the ninth.

Eastern faces Pomona-Pitzer Colleges today at 5:30 p.m. ET in Claremont, CA.

University of Redlands 11, Eastern Conn. 5

Eastern Conn. (6-1)	100	001	102	—	5	6	3
Redlands (13-7)	141	032	00x	—	11	10	2

Scott Czerwinski (0-1), Bob Aronson (3), Marc Angarano (6), Mike Rolando (7) and Vin Paquette. C.J. Kirt (2-1), Josh Quick (6), Ryan Anderson (9) and Dusty Brinley. 2B-Torrey McDonough, Ryan Boggs, Brinley (R); 3B-Steve Rembisz (E), Rohn Battle (R).

Sports Center ≈ 83 Windham Street ≈ Willimantic, Connecticut 06226-2295

Sunday, March 19, 1995

FUNARO HOME RUN LIFTS ECSU BASEBALL TO LEO TITLE

Scott Chesmer stops La Verne on five-hit complete game

LA VERNE , Calif. -- Senior shortstop Joe Funaro snapped a 2-2 tie with a two-run ninth-inning home run and junior righty Scott Chesmer pitched a complete-game five-hitter in his second career start as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team won the Leo Invitational with a 4-2 win over host University of La Verne Sunday night.

The win is the sixth without a loss for Eastern and fourth in as many games in the five-team, round-robin tournament. The Leos (15-6) placed second at 4-1, followed by Claremont-Mudd (2-2), Occidental College (1-3) and Menlo College (0-4). All competing institutions with the exception of ECSU are located in California.

The teams entered the ninth inning tied 2-2. Junior third baseman Mike Kopczuk tripled to left to open the inning off complete-game loser J.D. Romero (3-2). Funaro then drilled a 1-0 pitch over the left field fence -- his first of the season.

Funaro was named tournament MVP while freshman leftfielder Jon Gersz, Chesmer and junior rightfielder Joel Padin were named to the all-tournament team.

Chesmer (1-0), making only his second career start, allowed four singles and a double while fanning four and hitting a batter in a game which lasted just two hours and five minutes. He did not allow an earned run. Chesmer outdueled Romero, who allowed nine hits. He also walked only one and hit a batter.

Funaro and Gersz each had two hits, Gersz tripling and scoring on a single by junior Vin Paquette to give ECSU a 1-0 lead in the fifth.

The Leopards surged in front with two unearned runs in the sixth on two hits and a one-out infield errors. Gersz tied the game for Eastern in the seventh with a one-out RBI single which scored Padin from second. Padin had singled to lead off the inning and moved to second when junior Heath Mercier was hit by a pitch.

Funaro was 5-for-15 with three runs, a double, home run, three stolen bases, a walk and four RBI. He handled ten fielding chances without an error.

Padin was 7-for-16 with five runs, a double, home run, walk, three RBI and two outfield assists. Gersz was 6-for-16 with four runs, a double, two triples, a stolen bases, walk and RBI.

Eastern meets the University of Redlands today at 5:30 p.m. ET at Redlands, CA.

ECSU DEFEATS OCCIDENTAL 8-7

Sophomore Eric Senft drove in the go-ahead run from third base with a one-out ground ball in the bottom of the eighth inning and junior Heath Mercier recorded his second save in as many days as the Warriors defeated Occidental 8-7 earlier Sunday.

Four Eastern pitchers allowed ten hits (six doubles) and six walks and hit two batters but combined to strike out ten and left six runners in scoring position. The defense committed two errors that led to just one unearned run. Padin atoned for a first-inning throwing error when his relay to freshman shortstop Chris D'Amato erased the potential tying run at the plate for the first out of the ninth.

Senft -- who had homered in his fourth official varsity at-bat in the third inning -- drove in the go-ahead run with a one-out ground ball to the right side in the bottom of the eighth which scored Kopczuk from third. Kopczuk had singled to open the inning and moved to third when Padin singled with one out.

Mercier walked Andy Lewis to open the ninth, then allowed a blast through the right-center field gap to Jason Thielbahr. Padin tracked it down, however, and relayed to D'Amato, whose throw arrived at the plate well ahead of Lewis. Mercier then walked Jason Bradshaw before fanning Jake Dorame looking and getting a ground ball to second to end the game..

Junior catcher Kevin Spagone led a 16-hit attack with three hits, including a double, while Kopczuk, Funaro (two stolen bases), Padin and Gersz each contributed two hits. All ten batters who came to the plate had at least one hit.

Senior centerfielder Justin Freeman reached base three times with a single and two walks. He also had an RBI, scored twice and stole two bases. ECSU collected seven stolen bases in eight tries.

Eastern Conn. 8, Occidental College 7

Occidental (9-12)	200	022	010	-	7	10	5
Eastern Conn. (5-0)	121	012	01x	-	8	16	2

Jerome Najora (3-2) and Jason Bradshaw. Chris Segalla, Steve Wojtusik (6), Marc Angarano (8), Heath Mercier (9) and Kevin Spagone. WP-Angarano (1-0). Save-Mercier (2). 2B-Jason Thielbahr 2, George Hernandez 2, Andy Lewis, Paul Grim (O), Spagone (E); 3B-Jon Gersz (E); HR-Eric Senft (1) (E).

Eastern Conn. 4, University of La Verne 2

Eastern Conn. (6-0)	000	010	102	--	4	9	1
La Verne (15-6)	000	002	000	--	2	5	0

Scott Chesmer (1-0) and Vin Paquette. J.D. Romero (3-2) and Pete Loaiza. 2B-Jeff Polinsky (L); 3B-Mike Kopczuk, Jon Gersz (E); HR-Joe Funaro (1) (E).

ECSU RALLIES TO DEFEAT MENLO AT LEO INVITE 8-7

Mercier hits first home run, gains first pitching save

La VERNE, Calif. -- Junior Heath Mercier sparked a rally with his first career home run then stranded the potential tying run on base in gaining his first save as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team defeated Menlo College 8-7 Saturday night in the Leo Invitational.

Eastern (4-0) remains unbeaten with its second tournament win on the day with the win over the Oaks (3-10). The Warriors had beaten Claremont-Mudd 11-5 earlier Saturday at Claremont, Calif.

Mercier, who had three hits and three RBI against Claremont, tied the game 3-3 with a two-run home run in the third. Mercier preserved the lead in the ninth by getting a pair of strikeouts and ending the game on a hard line drive out to freshman Bunty Ray in center with the tying run on second.

Trailing 6-3, Eastern got one back in the fourth on junior Joel Padin's RBI single to center and tied the game in the fifth on a wild pitch and an RBI single by sophomore Aaron DiCaprio.

After Menlo took the lead 7-6 with an unearned run in the sixth, Padin tied the game with a long two-out solo home to right-center -- his second homer this season. The Warriors pushed across the go-ahead run in the seventh. Vin Paquette doubled on the first pitch, moved to third on a wild pitch and scored on sophomore Eric Senft's fly ball to left.

Sophomore righty Trevor Brown, the third of four ECSU pitchers, gained the win on the mound. Brown replaced senior lefty Kirk Laakso with the score tied 7-7 and runners on first and second and one out in the seventh. On his first pitch, he got No.-8 hitter Mervin Chung to ground into a double play, started by freshman shortstop Chris D'Amato. Robert Ruiz had opened the inning with a double to center but was gunned down trying to stretch it into a triple on D'Amato's relay from Ray.

Padin was 3-for-3 with a double, home run, sacrifice fly, three RBI and two runs scored. Mercier finished with two RBI and a run scored while Paquette reached base three times with a double, hit-by-pitch and walk, scored twice and stole a base.

Senior righty Scott Spaulding started on the mound for Eastern before giving way to Laakso with one out in the sixth and a runner on first and the Warriors trailing 7-6.

Eastern Conn. 8, Menlo College 7

Menlo College (3-10)	030	301	000	--	7	11	2
Eastern Conn. (4-0)	102	121	10x	--	8	9	3

Kyle Wallace (0-4), John Propstra (8) and Steve Adler. Scott Spaulding, Kirk Laakso (6), Trevor Brown (7), Heath Mercier (9) and Vin Paquette. WP-Brown (2-0). Save-Mercier (1). 2B-Richard Quiroz, Robert Ruiz, Sal Garcia (M), Joel Padin, Paquette, Jon Gersz (E); HR-Padin (2), Mercier (1) (E).

ECSU

SPORTS NEWS

Sports Information Office

Bob Molta, Director

Tel.: (203) 465-5172

FAX: (203) 465-4696

Eastern Connecticut State University

Saturday, March 18, 1995

little east conference

ECSU SPORTS INFO 818-915-3441 x.219

ECSU BASEBALL WINS LEO INVITATIONAL OPENER

Warriors score eight in final two at-bats in 11-5 victory

CLAREMONT, Calif. -- Joe Funaro's RBI double snapped a 3-3 tie in the seventh inning and propelled the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to an 11-5 victory over Claremont-Mudd College in an opening game of the Leo Invitational Saturday.

The win is the third this season without a loss and first during a nine-game, eight-day stay in California for the Warriors, scheduled to face Menlo College Saturday at 10 p.m. (ET) at La Verne, Calif. in their second game in the five-team, round-robin tournament.

Eastern, ranked tenth nationally, never trailed after erasing a 1-0 lead with two runs in the fourth and broke the game open with three unearned runs in the seventh and five in the eighth.

Funaro's one-out double down the left-field line scored Justin Freeman, who had opened the inning by reaching on an infield error, to give ECSU a 4-3 lead and the Warriors added two more after two were out. Heath Mercier made it 5-3 with a single to right and Mike Kopczuk's bloop double to left scored Mercier from first.

Leading 6-3, Eastern added five more in the eighth on four hits, an error, walk and hit-batsman. The first seven batters reached in the inning, with Steve Wojtusik and Mercier knocking in two each with singles as ECSU chased starter Matt Raine (1-4).

Junior righty Kevin Gieras (2-0) allowing seven hits while fanning six and walking just one over the first seven innings in gaining his seventh career win without a loss. Senior right-hander Marc Angarano picked up his first save, allowing two runs over the final two innings.

Mercier had three hits to go along with his three RBI and two runs scored for Eastern while Kopczuk had two hits, both doubles.

Brian Coin had three hits and three RBI for the Stags (7-8), whose six errors accounted for five unearned runs.

Eastern Conn. 11, Claremont-Mudd College 5

Claremont-Mudd (7-8)	010	010	102	--	5	9	6
Eastern Conn. (3-0)	000	201	35x	--	11	11	2

Matt Raine (1-4), Sean Smith (8) and Tyler Laughery. Kevin Gieras (2-0), Marc Angarano (8) and Kevin Spagone. Save-Angarano (1). 2B-Mark Murray, Laughery, Bryan Coin, John Lister (C), Mike Kopczuk 2, Joe Funaro (EC).

Sports Center ~ 83 Windham Street ~ Willimantic, Connecticut 06226-2295

Saturday, March 25, 1995

THREE SOLO HOME RUNS LIFT ECSU BASEBALL OVER WHITTIER*Mercier ties game with two out pinch hit in ninth inning*

WHITTIER, Calif. -- Pinch hitter Heath Mercier's two-out solo home run in the top of the ninth inning tied the game and Eric Senft and Joel Padin added back-to-back homers in the 11th to pace the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 3-1 win over Whittier College Saturday.

The win snaps a two-game losing streak for Eastern (7-2), which concludes its California trip with five wins in seven outings. Whittier is 9-13.

Whittier's first-inning run held up until there were two out in the top of the ninth, when Mercier, hitting for left fielder Steve Wojtusik, tied the game with a first-pitch home run off Poet starter Brandon Boettner -- his second home run of the season.

Senft drilled the first pitch of the 11th inning over the left-center field fence to snap the tie and Padin, a sixth-inning replacement in right field, followed with his third home run of the season to right-center to make it 3-1. Senft's home run was his second of the year and the RBI was the third game-winning one in his six-game career.

Junior right-hander Scott Chesmer (2-0) gained the win with two scoreless innings in relief of starting junior righty Kevin Gieras. Gieras, unbeaten in seven career decisions, did not allow a run after the first inning. He limited the Poets to five hits while fanning seven and walking two. Gieras retired 11 straight batters at one point and allowed only one single over his final seven innings.

Boettner allowed only seven hits over the first nine innings before giving way to Ron Mann (2-4) to start the tenth.

The Warriors, ranked second nationally in Division III, finished with ten hits and played errorless defense, ending the final two innings with double plays.

Both teams squandered several scoring opportunities. Eastern left runners in scoring position in three of the first five innings, had a runner picked off in the second and a runner erased at the plate when the Poets foiled a one-out suicide squeeze attempt in the sixth.

Until the 11th inning, Eastern's best scoring opportunity came in the fourth. With runners on first and second and no one out, Senft sent a long drive off the fence in right. But a log-jam on the bases had Senft caught up between first and second and he was tagged out. With two out, catcher Kevin Spagone then walked to load the bases but Boettner got a ground ball to second to end the threat.

With runners on first and second and one out in the Whittier tenth, Chesmer struck out No.-9 hitter Sonny Langstaff on a 3-2 pitch and Spagone nailed pinch runner Dennis Capone attempting to steal third. An around-the-horn double play, started by freshman third baseman Chris D'Amato, ended the game.

Senft finished with three hits, D'Amato, Spagone and Mercier adding two each.

Teg Diffey led Whittier with two hits.

Eastern opens its 27-game northern season Thursday at Framingham State College.

Eastern Conn. 3, Whittier College 1, 11 innings

Eastern Conn. (7-2)	000	000	001	02	--	3	10	0
Whittier (9-13)	100	000	000	00	--	1	7	1

Kevin Gieras, Scott Chesmer (10) and Kevin Spagone. Brandon Boettner, Ron Mann (10) and Mike Lee, Sonny Langstaff (9). WP-Chesmer (2-0). LP-Mann (2-4). 2B-Eric Senft, Spagone, Heath Mercier (EC), Jeff Green (W); HR-Senft (2), Joel Padin (3), Heath Mercier (2) (EC).