
little east conference

Friday, May 28, 2004

EASTERN BASEBALL BLANKS MANCHESTER IN OPENER

DiPietro pitches three hitter, Julien, Wildman hit three-run HRs in nationals

GRAND CHUTE, Wis. – Sophomore left-hander **Ryan DiPietro (BERLIN)** pitched a complete-game three-hitter and **Eugene Julien (BROCKTON,MA)** and **Dwight Wildman (SEYMOUR)** hit three-run home runs as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team shut out Manchester College (IN) 10-0 Friday afternoon in the opening round of the 2004 NCAA Division III national tournament at Fox Cities Stadium.

A winner of a season-high 11 straight games, No. 1 nationally-ranked Eastern (40-9) is scheduled to face SUNY Brockport Saturday at 5:30 p.m. ET in a winners' bracket game. The Golden Eagles won their first-round game in their first national tournament appearance with a 5-2 win over Aurora University (IL).

A first-team ABCA/Division III All-America, DiPietro (10-0) became the 11th 20-game winner in program history with his fourth shutout of the season and sixth complete game in his last seven starts. DiPietro allowed only six baserunners in winning his 18th straight game. He has lost only once in his career. The national leader with a 0.76 ERA, DiPietro gave up three singles, walked two and hit a batter while striking out six. The strikeout total was the lowest in the last ten starts for DiPietro but was above Manchester's (35-11) average of just 3.2 strikeouts per game. DiPietro entered the game ranked fourth nationally with 14.0 strikeouts per game. He now has 157 in 106 1/3 innings (13.3).

"Ryan is the type of player who makes you a great coach," praised 36th-year head coach **Bill Holowaty** of DiPietro. "He didn't have his best stuff but he's a great competitor who gave us a bulldog effort. "

Eastern, which won its 40th game in a season for the fourth time (three times in the last seven years), scored in three innings in its first-ever meeting with the Mideast Regional champion Spartans. Julien, a senior second baseman gave the Warriors a 4-0 lead with a three-run home run in the fifth and Wildman, a senior rightfielder, added a three-run shot of his own to highlight a five-run eighth inning. The home run was the 17th of the season and the 34th in the career of Wildman, who broke Brian Mercado's season RBI record with the homer. Wildman had tied Mercado's record of 72 with a first-inning RBI single that plated Julien with the first run of the game. Steve Osborne of St. Joseph College (ME) holds the New England Division III season RBI record of 79, set in 2001.

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Wildman was 3-for-5 with four RBI and two runs scored to extend his hitting streak to 12 and tie the New England Division III season hit record of 88, set by the University of Southern Maine's Bob Prince in 1991. Junior leftfielder **Jason Pekarul (NEW BRITAIN)** and sophomore first baseman **Chris DeSantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)** each added two hits. Pekarul walked and scored in the fifth and had a two-run double in the eighth.

Julien, who extended his hitting streak to 14, scored three runs. He reached on an error and scored on Wildman's single in the first, hit his three-run homer in the fifth and walked and scored in the eighth. For the second time in the last three NCAA games, junior shortstop **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** walked three times. He scored twice against Manchester and also stole a base.

DiPietro, who won his 20th game in record time (21 decisions), is 4-0 in four NCAA tournament decisions. In last year's national tournament, he pitched the first eight innings in a 12-2 win over host UW-Oshkosh.

"My curve wasn't there and I didn't feel comfortable, but the offense helped me," noted DiPietro, who recorded all of his strikeouts over the first five innings but allowed only three runners to reach second base in the game.

The winning decision is Eastern's largest win by shutout in 36 NCAA national tournament games. The Warriors, four-time national champions, are 23-13 in ten national tournaments, having won 11 of their last 15 in their last four tournament appearances.

Two-time All-America **Joey Serfass (NEWINGTON)** is expected to open on the mound against Brockport. Serfass (9-0, 1.48) has won his last 21 straight decisions and his last six in NCAA play.

Eastern Conn. 10, Manchester College (IN) 0

Manchester (35-11) 000 000 000 -- 0 3 1
Eastern Conn. (40-9) 100 040 05x -- 10 9 0

Tyler Wolfe (10-3), Travis Sluss (8) and Jared Kurtz. Ryan DiPietro (10-0) and Adam Hevenor. 2B-Jason Pekarul (E); HR-Eugene Julien (4), Dwight Wildman (17th) (E).

Saturday, May 29, 2004

EASTERN-BROCKPORT DELAYED BY RAIN

GRAND CHUTE, Wis. – The Warriors and Golden Eagles of SUNY Brockport in the winners' bracket of the 2004 NCAA Division III national baseball tournament has been delayed due to rain.

The two teams were scheduled to square off at 5:30 p.m. ET in the third of four scheduled games at Fox Cities Stadium, with the winner advancing in the winners' bracket Sunday at 8 p.m. ET Two elimination games were played earlier Saturday, with Aurora U., IL eliminating Manchester College, IN 7-6 and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater disposing of Salisbury University, MD 8-1.

In Saturday's final game, Rowan U., NJ was scheduled to meet George Fox U., OR in another winners' bracket game.

The Warriors (40-9) opened play in their tenth NCAA Division III national tournament Friday afternoon with a 10-0 win over Manchester – their 11th straight victory. Sophomore All-America lefty **Ryan DiPietro (BERLIN)** pitched a complete-game three-hitter with six strikeouts, with senior second second baseman Eugene Julien (BROCKTON, MA) and senior rightfielder **Dwight Wildman (SEYMOUR)** hitting three-run home runs.

Competing in its first NCAA Division III national tournament, Brockport (34-13) defeated Aurora 5-2 in Friday's first game.

Senior All-America righty **Joey Serfass (NEWINGTON)** was expected to open on the mound for Eastern against Brockport and was expected to be opposed by senior righty Jeff Wilson. Serfass (9-0, 1.48) has won 21 straight decisions and six straight in NCAA play. Named a second-team All-America Thursday for the second straight year, Serfass last pitched in the second round of the NCAA Division III New England Regional Tournament last Friday, pitching all nine innings in an 8-0 win over Babson College.

Wilson (4-5, 1.32) leads the Golden Eagles in earned run average, is second in innings (68.3), tied for second in starts (9) and is third in appearances (12). In his last appearance, he went the distance to defeat Ithaca College 8-2 last Saturday in the New York Regional Tournament championship game.

little east conference

Saturday, May 29, 2004

SQUEEZE LIFTS EASTERN BASEBALL AT NATIONALS

Hevenor's eight-inning bunt the deciding run; Serfass wins 22nd straight

GRAND CHUTE, Wis. – Senior catcher **Adam Hevenor's** (**NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI**) eighth-inning suicide squeeze bunt plated sophomore third baseman **Marc Garofalo** (**SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI**) from third base with the go-ahead run as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team edged SUNY Brockport 2-1 Saturday night in a winners' bracket game of the 2004 NCAA Division III national tournament at Fox Cities Stadium.

Hevenor's tie-breaking RBI and senior righty **Joey Serfass's** (**NEWINGTON**) 22nd straight pitching victory keep the Warriors (41-9) alive in the winners' bracket in the double-elimination tournament. Eastern, ranked first in Division III, looks for its third straight tournament win (13th straight overall) Sunday at 8 p.m. ET against the winner of Saturday's late winner's bracket game between Rowan University, NJ or George Fox University, OR. Brockport (34-14) had a six-game winning streak snapped and plays an elimination game Sunday at 1 p.m. ET against the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (38-8).

Garofalo led off the eighth inning with his second hit of the game off complete-game loser Jeff Wilson (4-6). Garofalo stole second and was awarded third base when became entangled up with second base with Brockport second baseman John Morgan, who was called for obstruction when attempting to retrieve the loose ball. After an intentional walk to sophomore first baseman **Chris DeSantis** (**SHREWSBURY, MA**), Garofalo lit out for home on the first pitch to Hevenor, scoring easily when the bunt was pushed to the right side of the mound.

"This team is resilient," praised 36th-year Eastern coach **Bill Holowaty** of the Warriors, who are shooting for their fifth NCAA national title. "We were frustrated but didn't crack and beat a very good team. Give both teams credit for a great battle."

Serfass (10-0) allowed only two hits while fanning seven and walking two in winning his 34th career game against three losses, 22nd straight over three years and seventh straight NCAA tournament decision. A sixth-inning leadoff home run by No. 9 hitter Tim Wilson was the first earned run allowed by Serfass after 32 straight innings and pulled the Golden Eagles into a 1-1 tie.

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E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

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

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

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The start of the game was delayed by rain for more than two hours – the first pitch finally being thrown at 7:43 p.m. ET. “I tried to stay mentally tough,” noted Serfass, as he waited out the delay. “I tried to work the corners and spot my pitches. I missed one pitch and paid for it (when he allowed the home run).”

Garofalo had also scored the team’s first run that gave Eastern a 1-0 lead in the fourth. He scored from third base on DeSantis’ sacrifice fly to left after opening the inning with a single and moving to third on the second double of the game by freshman centerfielder **Randy Re (DANBURY)**.

The Warriors committed two infield errors in the game but supported Serfass by turning double plays in the fourth and fifth innings. Hevenor also threw out a runner attempting to steal and Re, with a running catch in the ninth inning, junior shortstop **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** with a back-handed stab and long throw in the eighth and senior second baseman **Eugene Julien (BROCKTON, MA)** with a game-ending dive up the middle and throw to first made sparkling defensive plays to help keep Brockport off the board. Koch and Julien were also involved in the double plays.

Serfass, threw 75 of his 93 pitches for strikes and lowered his ERA to 1.34 in outdueling Brockport senior righty Jeff Wilson (4-6) in a game played in 1 hour and 55 minutes. Wilson, who pitched a complete game over Ithaca to give his team its first regional title last Saturday, allowed eight hits and only one earned run. He fanned five, walked three and hit a batter and gave up more than one hit in an inning only twice. Wilson, eighth nationally in ERA (currently 1.30), has received only 11 runs in his losses this year.

Eastern Conn. 2, SUNY Brockport 1

Brockport (34-14) 000 001 000 -- 1 2 2
Eastern Conn. (41-9) 000 10001x -- 2 8 2

Jeff Wilson (4-6) and Joe Lux. Joey Serfass (10-0) and Adam Hevenor. 2B-Randy Re 2 (E); HR-Tim Wilson (2) (B).

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Sports News

Sports Information Office
Director: Bob Molta
Tel : (860) 465-5172
Fax: (860) 465-4696
Hotline: (860) 465-5756

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Sunday, May 31, 2004

EASTERN ALIVE ON WILDMAN'S WALK-OFF HOME RUN

All-America's two-run, ninth-inning blast lifts in nationals, 2-1

GRAND CHUTE, Wis. – Senior All-America **Dwight Wildman (SEYMOUR)** hit a game-ending, two-run home run over a 20-foot wall 400 feet to dead center field to lift the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 2-1 victory over the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Monday night to remain alive in the 2004 NCAA Division III national tournament at Fox Cities Stadium.

With the dramatic win, Eastern (42-10) staves off elimination in the double-elimination tournament, needing two victories to claim its fifth national championship. The Warriors were knocked into the losers' bracket earlier Monday when George Fox University scored twice in the bottom of the eighth inning to win, 9-8, in a battle of the tournament's two unbeaten teams.

George Fox was scheduled to face once-beaten Aurora University later Monday night. If George Fox eliminated Aurora, Eastern would need two wins Tuesday over the Bruins, beginning at 2 p.m. ET. If Aurora wins, Eastern would face Aurora at 2 p.m. Tuesday, needing a win over the Spartans and a would later in the day against George Fox to win the title.

With Eastern trailing 1-0, senior second baseman **Eugene Julien (BROCKTON, MA)** chased starter Greg Reinhard by opening the ninth inning with a single. Facing reliever Collin Kuecker (1-1), Wildman ended the game by drilling a 2-0 fastball for a 450-foot home run.

"I was sitting on 'dead red' (a fastball). I was 90 per cent sure he would throw it, and he did," said Wildman after his second home run of the day, 19th of the season and 36th of his four-year career. "As soon as I hit it, I knew it was gone."

In his first national tournament appearance, Eastern senior lefty **Ty Bongiovanni (MERIDEN)** limited the Warhawks (39-9) to just six hits and one run over the first seven innings. The winning pitcher as a reliever in the Little East Conference title game and the winning pitcher as a starter in the New England Regional championship game,

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Bongiovanni fanned five and walked three before giving way to sophomore lefty **Ryan DiPietro (BERLIN)** after giving up a leadoff double in the eighth. DiPietro stranded the base-runner and left two runners aboard in the top of the ninth to keep the Warriors within a run.

Bongiovanni and DiPietro combined to hold Division III national Player-of-the-Year Brady Endle hitless in four at-bats. Bongiovanni retired Endle three times with a pop fly to short with one on in the first, a ground ball to short with two runners on in the third and a ground ball to second with a runner on in the fifth. DiPietro fanned him on three pitches after taking over with a runner on second in the eighth.

“Ty gave us a veteran effort tonight,” praised head coach Bill Holowaty. “I wish that everyone prepared themselves to pitch like Ty does. He have us the strength to hang in there. He deserves everything he gets. He’s a class kid who has been through a lot,” added Holowaty of Bongiovanni, who has returned to form in post-season this year after being hampered by three elbow surgeries the last two years.

Whitewater scored its only run after there were two out and none on in the fourth on Ross Klawitter’s run-scoring double down the right field line. Reinhard faced the minimum nine batters over the first three innings and was helped when his teammates turned two double plays in the middle innings. “We were fortunate (to win),” pointed out Holowaty. “Reinhard pitched his brains out.”

Junior leftfielder **Jason Pekrul (BERLIN)** made diving catches on sinking line drives in the fifth and sixth innings and also kept the deficit at one run when he threw out Klawitter trying to score on Nicholas Teach’s two-out single in the fourth. DiPietro is now 5-0 in his career in NCAA tournament play, 3-0 in the national. (He pitched a complete-game three-hitter in Eastern’s 10-0 opening win over Manchester College Friday).

With the home run, Wildman broke the New England Division III season record for total bases. He now has 169.

In the loss to George Fox, Eastern had a 12-game winning streak snapped. Despite committing five errors, the Warriors bounced back from 2-0, 3-2 and 6-4 deficits and took an 8-7 lead into the bottom of the eighth inning. Sophomore first baseman **Zach Mehrbach’s (LYME, NH)** two-out RBI single plated Pekrul from second to give the Warriors an 8-7 lead in the eighth before the Bruins went ahead for good with two unearned runs in the eighth. Senior All-America righty **Joey Serfass (NEWINGTON)** – the third of three Eastern pitchers – lost for the first time after 22 straight victories and had a seven-game winning streak snapped in NCAA play. sGreg Dombek’s sacrifice fly to right tied the game for Fox in the eighth and Derrick Jones stroked a two-out, opposite-field single to right to plate the go-ahead run.

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Junior right **Ben O'Brien (MONTVILLE)** pitched 3 1/3 solid relief inning in place of starter **Jeremy Hall (NORTHFIELD, VT)**. In his first national tournament appearance, O'Brien gave up only one hit and one run while fanning two and walking one after replacing Hall with Eastern trailing 6-4 in the fourth.

Senior catcher **Adam Hevenor (NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** drove in four of Eastern's runs with a two-run triple to left-center in the second and a two-run double to right-center in the fifth. Wildman broke the New England Division III record with his 89th hit of the season – a leadoff home run to spark a three-run fifth inning.

The Warriors committed five errors in the loss which accounted for four unearned runs.

George Fox U. 9, Eastern Conn. 8

Eastern Conn. (41-10) 020 230 010 -- 8 9 5
George Fox (38-9) 210 310 02x -- 9 12 1

Jeremy Hall, Ben O'Brien (4), Joey Serfass (8) and Adam Heveor. Mike Beck, Peder Rauén (4), Jordan Purdy (6), Scott Hyde (8) and Greg Dombek. WP-Hyde (13-1); LP-Serfass (10-1); 2B- Dwight Wildman, Marc Garofalo, Hevenor (E), Greg Dombek (G); 3B-Hevenor (E); ;HR-Wildman (18) (E), David Peterson (4) (G).

Eastern Conn. 2, UW-Whitewater 1

Whitewater (39-9) 000 100 000 -- 1 7 1
Eastern Conn. (42-10) 000 000 002 -- 2 5 1

None out when winning run scored.

Greg Reinhard, Collin Kuecker (9) and Aaron Guilbault. Ty Bongiovanni, Ryan DiPietro (8) and Adam Hevenor. WP-DiPietro (11-0); LP-Kuecker (1-1); 2B-Eric Stangel, Ross Klawitter (W);. HR-Wildman (19) (E).

little east conference

Monday, June 1, 2004

EASTERN BASEBALL FALLS SHORT IN FINAL , 6-3
Warriors force deciding game but fall to George Fox in championship

GRAND CHUTE, Wis. – Senior All-America Scott Hyde won his third tournament game with a complete-game five-hitter that carried George Fox University to a 6-3 win over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday evening in the NCAA Division III national title game at Fox Cities Stadium.

Behind senior left-hander **Michael Maruska (NARRAGANSETT, RI)**, Eastern (43-11) had forced a one game winner-take-all final game earlier in the day by crasing a six-run deficit with a 14-hit attack in a 12-7 victory.

Both of Eastern's losses in the double-elimination tournament came at the hands of George Fox (40-10), which won the title in its first appearance in the national title. The Warriors had bounced back from a 9-8 loss to the Bruins Monday -- its first loss after 12 straight wins -- with a dramatic 2-1 win over the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Monday night, senior rightfielder **Dwight Wildman (SEYMOUR)** hitting a game-ending two-run home run.

After Wildman hit his 20th home run of the season to tie the game 3-3 in the third -- his fifth homer in ten NCAA tournament games -- Hyde (14-1) was nearly unhittable the rest of the way. In posting his second complete game in the tournament and third tournament win overall, Hyde allowed only one hit over the final six innings. Averaging 14.2 strikeouts per game, Hyde finished with 13 -- the most against Eastern this year.

"The kid outpitched us, he did did a super job," praised Eastern head coach **Bill Holowaty** of Hyde, who was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player. "It was a 3-2 pitch and he hung a curveball, and I jumped on it," said Wildman of his home run which tied the program's season record and left him one shy of the career record of 38. "I thought that we could get something going after the home run, but we couldn't. It must have motivated him (Hyde)."

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Freshman centerfielder **Randy Re (DANBURY)** drove in Eastern's first run of the game with a triple in the second and scored the tying run on sophomore first baseman **Zach Mehrbach's (LYME, NH)** sacrifice fly. After the Bruins re-gained the lead in the third, Wildman tied the game for the last time with his blast to center.

In the fourth, George Fox took the lead for good by scoring two runs, chasing Eastern sophomore All-America lefty **Ryan DiPietro (BERLIN)** in the process. No. 9 hitter Drew Johnson's ground ball plated Derrick Jones with the first run of the inning and C.R. Braniff's opposite-field single to right made it 4-2.

Senior lefty **Jeremy Hall (NORTHFIELD, VT)** was solid in relief of DiPietro (11-1), who had a personal 19-game winning streak snapped. Hall, who was knocked out in the fourth inning of Monday's loss to George Fox, limited the Bruins to one run on five hits and a walk while fanning five in 4 2/3 innings.

Entering the game, DiPietro had pitched 11 scoreless innings in the tournament in winning two of the team's three games. Averaging 13.2 strikeouts per nine innings with a nation-leading 0.75 innings, DiPietro ran out of gas against the Bruins. He finished the season with 162 strikeouts in 112 innings and a 1.04 ERA. It is the second-most strikeouts in a season in program history. He also became the first pitcher since 1983 to pitch as many as 100 innings.

"Hyde pitched differently than (George Fox's pitchers in Eastern's win earlier in the day), and Ryan (DiPietro) couldn't get his breaking ball over. That was the difference," pointed out Holowaty.

A four-time national champion, Eastern finishes second for the first time in five NCAA national championship games. The Warriors, who equaled the record it set last year of 43 wins also placed second in the NAIA national tournament in 1973.

Wildman was named to the all-tournament team and was joined by teammates DiPietro, Re and senior right-handed **pitcher Joey Serfass (NEWINGTON)**.

Re, who replaced injured starting centerfielder **Scott Hayward (MERIDEN)** early in the New England Regional Tournament, led Eastern in six national tournament games with a .417 batting average (10-for-24). He had three doubles, a triple and home run, five runs scored and four RBI and handled 11 chances in the field without an error.

Wildman batted .364 (8-for-22) in the tournament with four home runs, a double, eight RBI, six runs scored and a team-leading .481 on-base percentage. DiPietro appeared in three of the team's six national tournament games (two starts), winning two and losing one, with a 2.45 ERA, 11 strikeouts and five walks in 14 2/3 innings.

Serfass appeared in two games with one complete-game win and a loss in relief against George Fox. He had a 0.90 ERA in 10.0 innings with eight strikeouts and three walks. The loss snapped a personal 22-game winning streak and was his first after seven straight wins in NCAA competition.

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During the NCAA tournament, Wildman broke Eastern and New England records for hits (93), total bases (174), at-bats (222), broke the program record and tied the New England record for RBI (79), tied the program record for home runs and finished one shy of the program and New England record for doubles (21).

"I accomplished a lot on a personal level, but I wanted another championship," offered Wildman, who, as a sophomore, helped the Warriors to their fourth national championship on this same field.

Maruska leads Warriors in first game

The 12-7 tournament loss was the first after four wins for George Fox, which had qualified for the NCAA tournament as one of three at-large selections.

After taking over with none out in the second inning, Maruska went the rest of the way. He allowed two runs (both unearned) without a walk, scattering five hits and hitting one batter. The eight-inning stint was the longest in the three-year Eastern career of Maruska, who had pitched a total of just eight inning the past three weeks.

Trailing 6-1, Eastern scored seven runs in the fourth on five hits and two George Fox errors. The first five batters of the inning reached safely and scored. Junior DH **Leon Galemba (FAIRFIELD)**, who entered play with a .160 batting average in NCAA play, had two doubles in the inning, driving in the go-ahead runs with his second one of the inning.

In the game, Re had four hits, including a double and his second home run in NCAA play. He drove in two runs with the sixth-inning home run and scored three runs. Senior second baseman **Eugene Julien (BROCKTON, MA)** tied an Eastern game record with three doubles. He drove in two runs, scored three and also walked and stole a base. Senior catcher **Adam Hevenor (NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** scored three runs and also had two hits in the 14-hit attack as the Warriors handed George Fox senior righty Mike Beck (7-1) his first loss after 20 straight wins.

Eastern Conn. 12, George Fox U. 7

Eastern Conn. (43-10)	001 722 000	-- 12 14 2
George Fox (39-10)	240 010 000	-- 7 9 3

Sam Iverson, Ben O'Brien (1), Michael Maruska (2) and Adam Hevenor. Cory Dixon, Mike Beck (4), Jordan Purdy (5) and Greg Dombek. WP-Maruska (2-1). LP-Beck (7-1). 2B-Eugene Julien 3, Leon Galemba 2, Randy Re (E), David Peterson 2, Stephen Donohue (G); HR-Randy Re (4) (E).

George Fox U. 6, Eastern Conn. 3

George Fox (40-10)	021 200 100	-- 6 14 0
Eastern Conn. (43-11)	021 000 000	-- 3 5 2

Scott Hyde (14-1) and Greg Dombek. Ryan DiPietro (11-1), Jeremy Hall (4), Thomas Spirito (9) and Adam Hevenor. 2B-Derrick Jones (G), Tom Koch (E); 3B-Randy Re. HR-Jones (4) (G), Dwight Wildman (20) (E).

Thursday, May 20, 2004

DIPIETRO PITCHES EASTERN BASEBALL PAST AMHERST COLLEGE

Defending regional champions advance in winners' bracket with 5-2 victory

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Sophomore left-handed pitcher **Ryan DiPietro (BERLIN)** pitched his fifth complete game in his last six starts to spark the top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 5-2 win over sixth-seeded Amherst College in the first game of the NCAA Division III New England Regional Tournament Thursday afternoon at the ECSU Baseball Stadium.

The two-time defending regional champion, Eastern (36-9) advances to play a winners' bracket game Friday at 3:30 p.m. against the loser of Thursday's late game between No. 3 seed Babson College and No. 4 seed Bridgewater State College. The Warriors have won seven straight. Amherst (19-17), which had won nine of 12 entering the tournament, plays an elimination game Friday at noon against the loser of Thursday's second game between No. 2 Western New England College and No. 6 Endicott College. Eastern had beaten Amherst by an identical 5-2 score April 7 at Amherst, MA.

The teams combined to hit five solo home runs. Each team hit two solo home runs and battled to a 2-2 deadlock before the Warriors broke the tie with two runs in the bottom of the seventh. **Chris DeSantis' (SHREWSBURY, MA)** third home run of the season leading off the seventh-- the fifth solo home run of the game -- broke the deadlock leading and **Eugene Julien's (BROCKTON, MA)** two-out RBI single made it 4-2. The Warriors added an insurance run in the eighth when **Dwight Wildman (SEYMOUR)** singled to open the inning, stole second, moved to third on **Leon Galemba's (FAIRFIELD)** sacrifice bunt and was credited with a stolen base of home on a wild pitch on an attempted suicide squeeze.

DiPietro (9-0), the New England Division III Pitcher-of-the-Year, equaled his third-highest strikeout total of the season, fanning 16 and improving his season's average to 14.0 (third nationally). He has 151 strikeouts -- the second most in a season in program history -- in 97 1/3 innings. The complete game was the fifth in his last six starts.

Marc Garofalo's (SOUTH KINGSTOWN) two-out solo home run gave Eastern a 1-0 lead in the second but Amherst tied the game and went ahead on the first home runs of the season from **Rob Anderson (WINNETKA, IL)** leading off the third and **Brandon Cody (BOSTON, MA)** leading off the sixth. **Scott Hayward's (MERIDEN)** ninth home run of the year leading off the bottom of the sixth tied the game 3-3.

Eastern Conn. 5, Amherst College 2

Amherst College (19-17)	001	001	000	--	2	6	0
Eastern Conn. (36-9)	001	001	21x	--	5	11	0

Duncan Webb (4-5), Joc Vladeck (7) and Tom Sullivan. Ryan DiPietro (9-0) and Adam Hevenor. 2B-Tom Sullivan (A), Jason Pekrul, Tom Koch (E).HR-Brandon Cody (1), Rob Anderson (1) (A), Marc Garofalo (5), Chris DeSantis (3), Scott Hayward (9).

little east conference

Friday, May 21, 2004

EASTERN CONN. ADVANCES IN NCAA REGIONALS WITH 8-0 WIN

Serfass wins sixth straight NCAA decision with four-hit shutout of Babson

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Senior right-handed pitcher **Joey Serfass (NEWINGTON)** won his sixth straight decision in NCAA post-season play with a complete-game four-hitter as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team advanced in the winners' bracket of the NCAA Division III New England Regional Baseball Tournament Friday afternoon with an 8-0 win over third-seeded Babson College at the ECSU Baseball Stadium.

The win is the eighth straight for the top-seeded Warriors (37-9), who play Saturday at noon in a winners' bracket game against the winner of Friday's late game between second-seeded Bridgewater State College and fourth-seeded Western New England College. The winner of that game moves into Sunday's championship round, needing one win in two tries to advance to next week's national tournament at Grand Chute, WI. Eastern is the two-time defending regional champion.

Babson ((24-19) had lost its opening tournament game by a score of 4-3 Thursday to Bridgewater State. It was the first meeting ever between Eastern and Babson and the first NCAA appearance for the Beavers.

Against Babson, Serfass (9-0) won his 21st straight game overall, 33rd in 36 career decisions and sixth straight decision in NCAA play. Serfass lost his first NCAA decision as a freshman in 2001 in the championship round of the 2001 New England Regional Tournament.

Serfass, a second-team All-America last year, scattered three singles and a double. He struck out four without a walk and got 15 ground ball outs. Middle infielders **Eugene Julien (BROCKTON, MA)** and **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** combined for ten assists.

Senior rightfielder **Dwight Wildman (SEYMOUR, CT)**, the 2004 New England Player-of-the-Year, had three hits, drove in three runs and scored once in a 14-hit attack. Wildman tied John Kubachka's program season record of 146 total bases and 80 hits with his 16th home run of the year -- a two-run blast that gave Eastern a 7-0 lead in the fifth. It was the 33rd career home run for Wildman, which moves him into a tie for third all-time with Kubachka.

Koch, the No. 9 hitter in the order, drove in two runs with a sacrifice bunt in the second and a two-out single in the fourth. Julien was 3-for-5 with an RBI and run scored.

Junior All-New England righty **Jimmy Burke (MILTON, MA)** lost for the second time in nine decisions. Burke gave up ten hits and seven runs through the first five innings.

Phil McGinnis (**SHREWSBURY, MA**) broke up Serfass' no-hit bid with a one-out single in the fifth. After a balk, **Chris Mearn (MILTON, MA)** moved McGinnis to third but Serfass ended the inning with a strikeout.

Eastern Conn. 8, Babson College 0

Babson (24-19)	000	000	000	--	0	4	1
Eastern Conn. (37-9)	220	121	00x	--	8	14	1

Jim Burke (7-2), **Jim Battista (6)**, **Jeff Heighington (9)** and **Ted Dziuba**. **Joey Serfass (9-0)** and **Adam Hevenor**. 2B-**Ted Dziuba (B)**, **Scott Hayward (E)**; HR-**Dwight Wildman (16) (E)**.

little east conference

Saturday, May 22, 2004

EASTERN BASEBALL ADVANCES TO REGIONAL TITLE ROUND

Warriors collect 21 hits, down Bridgewater State 19-3 in winners' bracket final

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** was 5-for-5 with a walk, sacrifice fly and seven RBI to lead the top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 19-3 win over fourth-seeded Bridgewater State College in the winners' bracket final of the NCAA Division III New England Regional Tournament Saturday at the ECSU Baseball Stadium.

With its third tournament win in as many days, Eastern (38-9) moves to within one victory of its third straight regional championship. The Warriors have two opportunities to win the title, beginning at noon Sunday. Bridgewater (25-15) plays either Western New England College or Endicott College in Saturday night's losers' bracket final at 7 p.m. That winner must defeat Eastern twice Sunday to claim the title.

Against Bridgewater, the Warriors scored six unearned runs in the top of the first inning on six hits, two walks, a sacrifice fly, four stolen bases, a passed ball and an infield error. Eastern led 11-0 after three innings and coasted behind senior lefty **Jeremy Hall (NORTHFIELD, VT)**, who allowed only three singles over the first six innings while fanning eight, hitting two and walking one to record his ninth win without a loss this year. Two of the hits did not leave the infield.

Batting sixth in the order, Garofalo singled, stole second and scored in the first, drove in a run with a sacrifice fly in the second, singled in a run in the third, hit a three-run home run in the fifth, walked in the sixth, singled and scored in the eighth and doubled in two runs in the ninth.

Six of Eastern's 21 hits in the game went for extra bases and the Warriors also were issued 12 walks. Every Eastern starter but one had at least one hit. No. 9 hitter **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** went hitless but walked three times.

Randy Re (DANBURY, CT) had three hits and drove in three runs with a home run in the third, while leadoff hitter **Jason Pekrul (BERLIN, CT)** reached four times with three hits and a walk, stole a base, scored twice and drove in two runs. Pekrul opened the game with an opposite-field single and scored the first run on a passed ball and came back later in the inning to drive in the final two runs with a single to left.

With a second-inning double, senior rightfielder **Dwight Wildman (SEYMOUR)** set program records for hits and total bases in a season. He entered the game tied in those departments with John Kubachka. He had two hits to give him 82 and three total bases to give him 149.

Re was inserted as a pinch runner in the top of the first inning for starting centerfielder **Scott Hayward (MERIDEN)**, who injured his right knee at first base after reaching safely on an error. He will not play Sunday.

Eastern Conn. 19, Bridgewater State College 3

Eastern Conn. (38-9)	614	030	032	--	19	21	3
Bridgewater State (25-15)	000	000	300	--	3	7	3

Jeremy Hall (9-0), Michael Maruska (7), Thomas Spirito (8), Ben O'Brien (9) and Adam Hevenor, Matt Cooney (7). **Dav Leavenworth** (2-3), Josh Fortin (1), **MKike Bertolino** (5), **Eric Fardig** (8) and **Joe Harkins**, **Curtis Child** (5). 2B-Randy Re, Dwight Wildman, Marc Garofalo (E); 3B-Cooney (E); HR-Re (3), Marc Garofalo (6) (E).

Sunday, May 29, 2005

EASTERN BASEBALL WINS THIRD STRAIGHT REGIONAL TITLE

Behind Bongiovanni, Wildman, Warriors become first team to win three in row

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Senior left-handed pitcher **Ty Bongiovanni (MERIDEN)** allowed just three runs over seven innings in his first start in a month and senior rightfielder **Dwight Wildman (SEYMOUR)** drove in five runs as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team became the first team to win three straight NCAA Division III New England Regional Championships with a 9-3 win over Bridgewater State College Sunday afternoon.

Bongiovanni (2-3) won his second post-season game in nine days, pitching into the eighth inning before giving way to senior All-America righty **Joey Serfass (NEWINGTON)**. Serfass earned his second save by getting the final six outs as the Warriors became the first team in the 29-year history of the New England Regional Tournament to win three straight titles. It was Bongiovannis longest stint since his freshman season in 2001.

Leading 5-3, Eastern blew the game open with four insurance runs in the ninth. The Warriors sent nine batters to the plate in the inning, with Wildman driving in two runs with a single and freshman centerfielder **Randy Re (DANBURY)** plating two with a two-run double.

The win is the tenth straight for top-seeded Eastern (39-9), which defeated fourth-seeded Bridgewater State (26-16) for the second straight year in the championship round. Similarly to last year, the Bears would have needed two wins today to win their third regional crown.

Eastern opens play in its tenth NCAA Division III national tournament Friday at 2:15 p.m. ET against Manchester College (IN). Second-seeded Manchester won the Mideast Regional title Sunday with a 7-6 win over top-seeded College of Wooster. The eight regional champions qualify for the double-elimination national tournament. Eastern is a four-time national champion, most recently winning in 2002.

"This is a special group of seniors, praised 36th-year head coach **Bill Holowaty** of his eight seniors. "They refuse to lose. It's not easy to go to the world series three times in a row. It's been quite a run."

In the final, Wildman was 3-for-3 with a walk, sacrifice fly and double, drove in five runs and scored one. After replacing injured **Scott Hayward (MERIDEN)** in the first inning of Saturday's 19-3 win over Bridgewater, Re was 7-for-12 in two games against Bridgewater with six RBI, three runs, a home run, two doubles and two stolen bases. In the final, he was 4-for-5 with three RBI.

Wildman was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player. In four games, he batted .588 (10-for-17) with eight RBI, six runs, two doubles, a home run, two walks, a sacrifice fly and a .600 on-base percentage.

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

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

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

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Against Bridgewater, the top three hitters in the lineup -- junior leftfielder **Jason Pekarul (BERLIN)**, senior second baseman **Eugene Julien (BROCKTON, MA)** and Wildman -- reached safely 11 times. They were a combined 7-for-10 with five runs score, five RBI (all by Wildman), three doubles, two walks, hit-by-pitch and a sacrifice fly. Each was named to the all-tournament team.

"This is never a one-person game," noted Wildman, the New England Division III Player-of-the-Year who set program season records for hits and total bases during the tournament. "This team is close, like a family. Everyone played well. Ty pitched a great game."

Bongiovanni, whose last start had come April 19 against Montclair State, had pitched 5 2/3 shutout innings when summoned in the first inning of last Saturday's Little East Conference 9-3 championship game win over the University of Southern Maine. Against Bridgewater, he scattered five hits while fanning six and walking three. He allowed three runs in the third inning 0-- two of them earned -- when Bridgewater scrapped back to tie the game 3-3. Serfass, who had thrown a complete-game four-hit 8-0 shutout over Babson College Friday, was called after Bongiovanni threw two balls to leadoff batter **Tim LaConte (NORTON, MA)** leading off the eighth. After Serfass completed the walk, Pekarul made the defensive play of the game on **Ryan Fitzgerald's (MIDDLEBORO, MA)** long drive when he climbed the left field fence to pull down the blast. The play preserved Eastern's 5-3 lead and the Warriors followed by tacking on their four insurance runs in the top of the ninth.

Bridgewater dug out of an early 3-0 hole by scoring three times in the third on four hits -- **Eric Johnson (EAST TAUNTON, MA)** driving in two with a two-out single and **Greg Sunderland (REHOBOTH, MA)** tying the game with an infield single. Although the Bears made three errors, they turned double plays in four consecutive innings in the middle of the game and capitalized by getting outs when Eastern tried to take additional bases on several occasions.

Bongiovanni was one of the team's top pitchers as a freshman-- starting the New England Regional Tournament opener in 2001 -- before three arm operations limited his effectiveness the last two years.

Eastern Conn. 9, Bridgewater State College 3

Eastern Conn. (39-9)	300	110	004	--	9	14	1
Bridgewater State (26-16)	003	000	000	--	3	7	3

Ty Bongiovanni (2-3), Joey Serfass (8) and Adam Hevenor. Josh White (6-3), Peter Starr (9), Martin Anderson (9) and Joe Harkins. Save-Serfass (2). 2B-Jason Pekarul, Eugene Julien, Dwight Wildman, Randy Re (E).

Saturday, May 15, 2004

EASTERN BASEBALL WINS 2nd STRAIGHT LITTLE EAST TITLE
Bongiovanni's early relief pitching turns tide as Warriors overtake So. Maine 9-3

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Senior lefty **Ty Bongiovanni (MERIDEN)** rescued the top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team with 5 2/3 innings of scoreless relief and three players combined to drive in seven runs as the Warriors won their second straight Little East Conference Tournament title with a 9-3 win over second-seeded University of Southern Maine Saturday afternoon at the ECSU Baseball Stadium.

A winner of six straight, No. 4 nationally-ranked Eastern (35-9) qualifies automatically for its 26th NCAA Division III tournament in 29 years after winning all four of its games in the six-team, double-elimination field. Regional tournaments get underway Thursday.

Ranked second in New England, Southern Maine (31-13-1) was playing its third game in less than 24 hours. The Huskies had remained alive after a second-round loss Thursday by eliminating Keene State 5-4 Friday afternoon and Massachusetts Dartmouth 12-6 Friday night. Three of their last four losses have come at the hands of Eastern.

Needing two wins to claim their third conference tournament title, the Huskies knocked out Eastern junior starter **Joe Riley (EAST HARTFORD)** by scoring three runs in the first inning. Riley faced only four batters in the inning -- giving up two hits and two walks -- but Bongiovanni came on to get two strikeouts and a ground ball to subdue the threat. With Bongiovanni mowing down the Huskies, Eastern reached Southern Maine starter Marc Cahill for two unearned runs in the second following a dropped foul ball, and went ahead for good by scoring three in the third on an RBI single by junior centerfielder **Scott Hayward (MERIDEN)** and a two-run single by junior DH **Leon Galemba (FAIRFIELD)**.

Leading 5-3, the Warriors tacked on four runs and chased Cahill in a wild seventh inning which was punctuated by two hits and two Southern Maine throwing errors. Hayward's eighth home run of the year - a one-out blast to left -- accounted for Eastern's first run of the inning. With Galemba on second and sophomore third baseman **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** on first after the home run, sophomore first baseman **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)**

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singled to center. Southern Maine catcher Joe McGhee was unable to corral the throw home as two runs scored and Mehrbach raced all the way around to make it 9-3 when the throw attempting to nail him at third was thrown down the left field line.

The performance was the second-longest for Bongiovanni since his freshman season and his nine strikeouts were one shy of his career-high, when he fanned ten twice as a freshman. The win was the first of the season after three losses for Bongiovanni, who has been relegated to a total of 51 2/3 innings the last two seasons following two arm surgeries. Bongiovanni missed all of the 2002 national championship season after undergoing surgery following his freshman season. As a freshman, Bongiovanni was a second-team all-conference pick, winning seven of ten decisions with 65 strikeouts in 69 1/3 innings and starting the team's NCAA regional-opener.

Hayward and Galembo each had two hits and two RBI against Southern Maine and scored two runs while Mehrbach, making only his 16th start of the year, drove in three runs. In addition to plating two runs in the seventh, Mehrbach drove in Eastern's first run of the game in the second with a double after his foul pop was dropped.

Senior All-America righty **Joey Serfass (NEWINGTON)** earned his first save of the year in his first relief appearance of the year. A 32-game winner in his career, Serfass came on to strike out McGhee for the final out of the sixth and went on to record his sixth career save. He allowed four hits but Garofalo began a tournament-ending double play when he fielded a ground ball, stepped on third, and threw to first.

Senior second baseman **Eugene Julien (BROCKTON, MA)** was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player. In four games, Julien batted .438 (7-for-16) with a .526 on-base average and a perfect fielding average on 18 chances.. He scored nine runs and stole four bases and had two doubles, one triple, one home run and three walks. In a second-round win over Western Connecticut, he was involved in turning two double plays. In Friday's 2-0 win over Massachusetts Dartmouth, he hit a solo home run to give Eastern a 2-0 lead and had the assist on the final out of the game when the Warriors escaped a bases-loaded jam. In the final game, he singled, stole second and scored the first run of the third inning and had two putouts and four assists.

Senior rightfielder **Dwight Wildman (SEYMOUR)** also enjoyed an outstanding tournament, batting a team-leading .533 (8-for-15) with a .611 on-base percentage, four runs and four RBI. He had four doubles, stole five bases, walked twice and was hit by a pitch.

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In 36 tournament innings, Eastern pitchers allowed only three earned runs (0.75 ERA) runs and gave up runs in only two innings -- both times in the first. Keene State had scored two unearned runs against Serfass in Wednesday's 19-2 opening win before senior lefty **Jeremy Hall (NORTHFIELD, VT)** and sophomore lefty **Ryan DiPietro (BERLIIN)** recorded complete-game shutouts, respectively, against Western Connecticut (10-0) Thursday and UMass Dartmouth (2-0) Friday.

The tournament title is the third in four years for Eastern and its fourth in the past seven seasons. It marks the third time that Eastern and Southern Maine were meeting in the final. Southern Maine won 9-1 in the 1999 championship game here and Eastern swept the Huskies 7-4 and 9-1 to capture the 2001 title at Gorham, ME.

In eight years of conference play, Eastern has won 118 games and lost 23 (83.7 per cent), 18 of the wins coming in 28 conference playoff games.

Eastern Conn. 9, U. of Southern Maine 3

Eastern Conn. (35-9) 023 000 400 -- 9 11 1
Southern Maine (31-13-1) 300 000 000 -- 3 8 4

Joe Riley, Ty Bongiovanni (1), Jocy Serfass (6) and Adam Hevenor. Marc Cahill (3-4), Pat McDonough (7) and Joe McGhee. WP-Bongiovanni (1-3). Save-Serfass (1); 2B-Dwight Wildman, Zach Mehrbach (E), Brian Marshall, Tip Fairchild (S); HR-Scott Hayward (8) (E).

little east conference

Saturday, May 8, 2004

EASTERN BASEBALL SWEEPS SO. MAINE, CLINCHES TOP TOURNEY SEED

Five-run ninth inning gives team opening win and guarantees outright title and No. 1 seed

GORHAM, Maine -- **Dwight Wildman (SEYMOUR)** and **Leon Galemba (FAIRFIELD)** sparked a five-run ninth inning rally with back-to-back home runs as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team rallied for a 6-3 first-game win on the way to a Little East Conference sweep of the University of Southern Maine Saturday afternoon.

With the first-game win, Eastern (31-9, 13-1 little east) clinches the outright regular-season conference championship and the top seed in the upcoming six-team, double-elimination conference tournament which gets underway Wednesday at the ECSU Baseball Stadium. Eastern has won or shared seven of eight regular-season conference titles. The second-game win was the program's 100th regular-season conference win in 113 games.

The Warriors, ranked fourth in Division III, completed their third regular-season sweep in four years over Southern Maine (27-11-1, 10-4 little east) with a 17-hit attack against five Husky pitchers, winning the second game, 14-7.

Eastern, which has won or shared seven of eight conference regular-season titles, rallied for five runs in the top of the ninth inning of the opener to hand Southern Maine sophomore righty Tip Fairchild (7-1) his first loss of the season. A winner of 17 of their 48 entering play, the Huskies carried a 3-1 lead into the ninth before Eastern scored five runs on five hits and a Southern Maine error. Wildman, a senior rightfielder, hit his 14th home run to open the inning and Galemba, a junior DH, tied the game with his third homer of the year and the Warriors followed with three unearned runs. Sophomore third baseman **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** reached on an infield error, moved to second on a balk and to third on a sacrifice bunt by sophomore first baseman **Chris DeStantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)**. No. 9 hitter **Tom Koch's (WARWICK, RI)** bunt single plated Garofalo to give Eastern a 4-3 lead and two insurance runs scored on senior second baseman **Eugene Julien's (BROCKTON, MA)** RBI double.

Senior lefty **Jeremy Hall (NORTHFIELD, VT)** allowed a double in the ninth inning to earn his first save of the season.

In a battle of undefetaed starting pitchers, sophomore lefty **Ryan DiPietro (BERLIN)** fanned 15 batters and walked three in pitching into the eighth inning, allowing only one earned run on four hits. Freshman lefty **Matt Cremins (STOUGHTON, MA)** got the final out of the eighth inning and earned his first college win in his first decision when Eastern rallied in the ninth. DiPietro entered the game ranked first nationally in ERA and fourth in strikeouts per game.

(more)

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

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

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

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With the ninth-inning home run, Wildman set a program record with 395 career total bases. He also homered in the second game, giving him 15 this year and 32 in his four-year career. Only two players have hit more home runs in a season and only three have hit more in a career than Wildman.

In the second game, Eastern scored six runs in the top of the fifth to wipe out a 6-5 deficit en route to their 23rd northern win in 27 outings. Freshman catcher **Matt Cooney (ARLINGTON, MA)** was 5-for-5 with two RBI and scored three runs while freshman outfielder **Randy Re (DANBURY)** drove in three runs with three hits, scored twice and hit his first career home run.

Eastern has now won at least 30 games each of the last four years and in 21 of the last 32 seasons.

First Game
Eastern Conn. 6, U. of Southern Maine 3

Eastern Conn. (30-9, 12-1 little east)	010	000	005	--	6	9	2
Southern Maine (27-10-1, 10-3 little east)	000	000	210	--	3	7	1

Ryan DiPietro, Thomas Spirito (8), Matt Cremins (8), Jeremy Hall (9) and Adam Hevenor. Tip Fairchild (7-1), Jason Thibodeau (9) and Joe McGhee. WP-Cremins (1-0). Save-Hall (1). 2B-Eugene Julien (E), Ryan Bourque 2, Brian Marshall (S); HR-Dwight Wildman (14), Leon Galemba (3) (E).

Second Game
Eastern Conn. 14, U. of Southern Maine 7

Eastern Conn. (31-9, 13-1 little east)	032	060	210	--	14	17	2
Southern Maine (27-11-1, 10-4 little east)	003	301	000	--	7	14	4

Marc Cahill, Pat McDonough (3), Sam Handy (5), Jason Thibodeau (8), Eric Kent (9) and Joe McGhee, Shawn Herget (3), Max Arsenault (4). Sam Iverson, Michael Maruska (3), Ben O'Brien (4), Brian Wendell (7), Jeremy Hall (9) and Matt Cooney. WP-O'Brien (2-2). LP-McDonough (0-2). 2B-Chris DeSantis, Matt Cooney (E); 3B-Zach Mehrbach (E), Adam Lemieux, Ryan Bourque (S); HR-Dwight Wildman (15), Randy Re (1) (E).

little east conference

Thursday, May 6, 2004

WHEATON SCORES RUN IN 11th TO DOWN EASTERN BASEBALL 4-3
Lyons score unearned run with two outs to snap Eastern's five-game winning streak

NORTON, Mass. -- Two Eastern Connecticut State University relief pitchers allowed only three hits over the final seven innings but Wheaton College scored an unearned run with two out in the bottom of the 11th inning in a 4-3 victory Thursday afternoon at Sidell Stadium.

In a battle of the 2002 New England Regional Tournament finalists, Wheaton (20-19-1) scored twice to the the game 3-3 in the fourth and won the game on a hit, walk and outfield error with two out in the bottom of the 11th inning. Foiled in its effort to win its 30th game of the season, No. 4 nationally-ranked Eastern (29-9) had a five-game overall winning streak snapped and a four-game win streak against Wheaton.

Wheaton chased Eastern junior righty **Joe Riley (EAST HARTFORD)** when it tied the game with two runs on four hits and an error in the bottom of the fourth and won the game in the 11th. Bryan Duplissie walked and pinch runner Kevin Doherty legged it all the way home when John Ablondi's single to center was mis-handled.

Freshman lefty **Matt Cremins (STOUGHTON, MA)** and senior lefty **Ty Bongiovanni (MERIDEN)** limited the Lyons to three hits and one unearned run in relief of Riley. Cremins left the bases loaded by coming on to get the final out of the fourth before giving way to Bongiovanni (0-3) who stranded two runners by getting the final two outs when summoned in the eighth.

The Warriors broke a 1-1 tie with two runs in the top of the third on junior leftfielder **Jason Pekrul's (BERLIN)** RBI single and a sacrifice fly by junior centerfielder **Scott Hayward (MERIDEN)**.

Senior second baseman Eugene Julien (BROCKTON, MA) had three of Eastern's ten hits and scored Eastern's first run on senior rightfielder **Dwight Wildman's (SEYMOUR)** ground ball in the first inning. Junior DH **Leon Galemba (FAIRFIELD)** had two hits. Julien was stranded at third base in the fifth after stroking a two-out triple.

Senior righty Trevor Alexander, a relief pitcher in Eastern's 4-2 win in the 2002 regional championship match., pitched the first ten innings but senior righty Matt Parlato (3-1) was credited with the win by pitching a 1-2-3 11th inning.

Eastern closes out the regular season Saturday when it visits the University of Southern Maine Saturday for a noon doubleheader. A split gives Eastern the regular-season title and the No. 1 seed in the six-team double-elimination conference tournament, which would get underway Wednesday at the ECSU Baseball Stadium. Two losses would make Southern Maine the regular-season champion and No. 1 seed and tournament host.

Wheaton College 4 Eastern Conn. 3

Eastern Conn. (29-9)	102	000	000	00	--	3	10	3
Wheaton College (20-19-1)	100	200	000	01	--	4	9	1
Two out when winning run scored.								

Joe Riley, Matt Cremins (4), Ty Bongiovanni (8) and Adam Hevenor. Trevor Alexander, Matt Parlato (11) and Jeff Ambrosini. WP-Parlato (3-1); LP-Bongiovanni (0-3). 2B-Brandon Leonard (W); 3B-Eugene Julien (E).

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

little east conference
Tuesday, May 4, 2004

EASTERN BASEBALL WINS FIFTH STRAIGHT DECISION, 5-2 *Senior Jeremy Hall remains unbeaten (11-0) in the regular season in his career*

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Senior lefty **Jeremy Hall** (NORTHFIELD, VT) won his 11th regular-season decision without a loss, pitching into the eighth inning in Eastern Connecticut State University's 5-2 win over Tufts University Tuesday night in the Warriors' final regular-season home baseball game of the season.

A winner of five straight, Eastern (29-8) closes out its home regular season with its 14th home win in 17 decision and defeated Tufts (18-14) for the fourth time in the last five meetings.

Hall (7-0) allowed only one run on three hits through the first seven innings before giving way to junior righty **Ben O'Brien** (MONTVILLE) with two runners aboard and one out in the eighth and Eastern leading 5-1. John Rothermel singled in Tufts' second run of the game but O'Brien got an inning-ending double play to escape further damage.

Hall is 11-0 in the regular season in his career and a winner of 15 of 16 decisions overall in four years. He was charged with both Tufts runs while fanning eight and walking five.

The Warriors, ranked fourth nationally and first in New England, scored twice in the second and twice in the third to move out to a 4-0 lead. Junior DH **Leon Galemba** (FAIRFIELD) drove in two of the runs with his second home run of the year -- a solo home run with one out in the second and a two-out RBI single in the third.

Senior catcher **Adam Hevenor's** (NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI) ground ball plated sophomore third baseman **Marc Garofalo** (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI) from third with the second run of the second inning. In the third, junior leftfielder **Jason Pekar** (BERLIN) doubled to open the inning and scored on a single by senior second baseman **Eugene Julien** (BROCKTON, MA), hustling home when the throw to the plate was relayed to second to cut down Julien.

Junior centerfielder **Scott Hayward's** (MERIDEN) single plated Pekar (leadoff single) to make it 5-1 in the fifth.

Trailing 5-1, Tufts chased Hall in the eighth and threatened again in the ninth but O'Brien retired the potential tying run and ended the game when Matt Clement flied deep to left.

Galemba had three of Eastern's ten hits while Hayward had two.

Eastern visits Wheaton College Thursday at 4 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 5, Tufts U. 2

Tufts U. (18-14)	000	100	010	--	2	7	0
Eastern Conn. (29-8)	022	010	00x	--	5	10	1

Jeff Volinški (1-1), Dave Frew (4), Randy Newsom (7) and Bob Kenny. Jeremy Hall (7-0), Ben O'Brien (8) and Adam Hevenor. 2B-Jason Pekar, Scott Hayward (E); HR-Leon Galemba (2) (E).

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

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

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

little east conference

Saturday, May 1, 2004

EASTERN BASEBALL SWEEPS KEENE STATE IN LITTLE EAST

DiPietro ties 32-year-old strikeout record with one-hitter in opening victory

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Sophomore lefty **Ryan DiPietro (BERLIN)** tied a 32-year-old record by striking out 19 batters in a complete-game one-hit performance as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team shut out Keene State College 14-0 in the first game of a Little East Conference doubleheader Saturday afternoon on the way to a sweep.

In the second game, senior All-America righty **Joey Serfass (NEWINGTON)** won his 19th consecutive decision, pitching the first seven innings of a 13-5 victory.

Ranked fourth nationally, Eastern (28-8, 11-1) had 17 hits to back the effort of DiPietro, who carried a no-hitter into the ninth inning. DiPietro walked the first batter in the ninth and outfield reserve Zach Rokes spoiled the bid by lining a clean single through the right side.

DiPietro (7-0) pitched his third straight complete game, posting his second shutout in that span. He tied the program record of 19 strikeouts set by John Caneira against Castleton State on May 13, 1972. He walked five, facing only four batters over the minimum. DiPietro, who struck out 18 batters in a 3-1 conference win over Rhode Island College in his last start last Saturday, has 107 strikeouts and 17 walks and a 0.75 ERA in 72.0 innings this year. He is 17-1 lifetime.

Serfass (7-0) won his 31st game in 34 career decisions, avenging his last loss -- at the hands of Keene State -- with his 19th straight win. After giving up two runs on three hits in the first inning, Serfass settled down to shut out the Owls (13-19-1, 5-7) on four hits over the next six innings. He fanned seven without a walk in the game and has now struck out 60 batters and walked just six in 64 innings this year.

Seven of Eastern's 17 hits in the opener went for extra bases, with senior rightfielder **Dwight Wildman (SEYMOUR)** slamming his 13th home run of the year -- 30th of his four-year career. Sophomore second baseman **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** hit his first career home run and sophomore third baseman **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** his fourth of the year. Garofalo also doubled while sophomore DH **Greg Sullivan (NEEDHAM, MA)** had three hits and scored twice at the leadoff position. Wildman finished with three hits, three RBI and two runs scored while sophomore first baseman **Chris DeSantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)**, junior leftfielder **Jason Pekrul (BERLIN)** and Garofalo all drove in two runs. Pekrul also had three hits while junior centerfielder **Scott Hayward (MERIDEN)** had two hits, drove in three runs and scored three.

Wildman's six total bases give him 390 in his career, five shy of establishing a career record.

Eastern broke a 2-2 tie by scoring five runs in the sixth and six in the seventh of the second game. Pekrul added three more hits, scored four runs and drove in three. Senior second baseman **Eugene Julien (BROCKTON, MA)** capped the six-run seventh inning with his first career grand slam -- the fourth by an Eastern player this year. Julien was 2-for-3 with a walk, five RBI and a run scored while junior DH **Leon Galemba (FAIRFIELD)** was 3-for-4 with two runs scored.

In the doubleheader, Pekrul reached safely seven ^{times} hits. He was 6-for-9 with a walk, scored five runs and drove in five.

Eastern hosts Tufts University Monday, May 7
E-MAIL: bmolta@easternct.edu

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

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

First Game
Eastern Conn. 14, Keene State College 0

Keene State (13-18-1, 5-6 little east)	000	000	000	--	0	1	5
Eastern Conn. (27-8, 10-1 little east)	030	542	00x	--	14	17	0

Corey Bell (2-2), Brian Dimitruk (4), Jason Shea (5), Mike Corsano (7) and Tim Kendrick, Greg Preston (7). Ryan DiPietro (7-0) and Adam Hevenor. 2B-Scott Hayward, Marc Garofalo, Tom Koch (E); 3B-Jason Pekar (E); HR-Zach Mehrbach (1), Dwight Wildman (13), Garofalo (4).

Second Game
Eastern Conn. 13, Keene State College 5

Keene State (13-19-1, 11-1 little east)	200	000	030	--	5	9	2
Eastern Conn. (28-8, 11-1 little east)	001	015	60x	--	13	12	1

Peter Bergeron (1-5), Ryan Kohler (6), Mike Wiseman (7) and John Grainger. Joey Serfass (7-0), Thomas Spirito (8), Michael Maruska (8) and Adam Hevenor, Matt Cooney (8). 2B-Mike Masseur, Justin Hickman, Grainger, Pat Austin (K), Leon Galembo (E); 3B-Marc Garofalo, Zach Mehrbach (E); HR-Jeremy Schilling (K), Eugene Julien (E) (2).

little east conference

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

JOE RILEY PITCHES EASTERN BASEBALL PAST WESLEYAN 4-1
Junior righty handcuffs Cardinals on two singles over seven innings

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Junior righty **Joe Riley (EAST HARTFORD)** handcuffed Wesleyan University on two singles over seven innings and **Jason Pekrul (BERLIN)** and **Eugene Julien (BROCKTON, MA)** hit consecutive home runs to open the sixth inning and lift the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 4-1 victory Wednesday night at the ECSU Baseball Stadium.

The win is the 18th in 21 northern games this year and tenth straight over Wesleyan (10-21-1) for Eastern (26-8), ranked fourth nationally and tied for first in the New England region.

In pitching seven innings and winning his second straight northern start, Riley (2-1) gave up only two singles -- both to freshman leftfielder Rob Coughlin -- while striking out eight and walking four. After surrendering Coughlin's two-out single in the second, Riley was unhittable until Coughlin reached on a two-out, infield single in the seventh.

Pekrul, a junior leftfielder and leadoff hitter, and Julien, a senior second baseman sparked a three-run sixth inning with consecutive home runs that gave the Warriors a 4-0 lead. The homer was the first career one for Pekrul and second in the career of Julien.

Junior DH **Leon Galemba (FAIRFIELD)** had staked Riley to a 1-0 lead in the second when he plated senior rightfielder **Dwight Wildman (SEYMOUR)** with a one-out double. Wildman was hit by a pitch to open the inning, then stole second. Wildman scored the team's third run of the sixth inning when he doubled, stole third and scored on a wild pitch.

Senior lefty **Ty Bongiovanni (MERIDEN)** closed out the win by fanning three and allowing one run on two hits over the final two innings. Sophomore first baseman Alexander Brooks spoiled the shutout bid when he homered to left leading off the ninth. Senior shortstop Angus Fredenburg kept Wesleyan's rally alive when he singled with two out in the ninth but Bongiovanni got a swinging strikeout to end the game.

Since allowing four earned runs without getting an out in his season-debut March 7, Riley has fashioned a 2.54 ERA in 21 1/3 innings. Up north, he is 2-0 with a 3.07 ERA in 17 2/3 innings.

Eastern hosts Keene State College in a Little East Conference noon doubleheader Saturday.

Eastern Conn. 4, Wesleyan U. 1

Wesleyan U. (10-21-1)	000	000	001	--	1	4	0
Eastern Conn. (26-8)	010	003	00x	--	4	5	0

Charlie Munzig (1-4), Brian Mahr (4), Andre Sternberg (6), Tom Bloss (8) and Mac Clonan. Joe Riley (2-1), Ty Bongiovanni (8) and Adam Hevenor. 2B-Dwight Wildman, Leon Galemba (E); HR-Alexander Brooks (7) (W), Jason Pekrul (1), Eugene Julien (1) (E).

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

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

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

little east conference

Sunday, April 25, 2004

BEHIND SERFASS, EASTERN BASEBALL TRIMS WESTERN CONN. *Senior All-America becomes program's third 30-game winner with 5-3 LEC victory*

DANBURY, Conn. -- Senior All-America **Joey Serfass (NEWINGTON)** became the third pitcher in the 56-year history of the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball program to win 30 games when he pitched a complete-game seven-hitter in a 5-3 Little East Conference win over Western Connecticut State University Sunday at Westside Field.

By sweeping Western (16-14, 6-4 little east) in the home-and-home series, Eastern (25-8, 9-1 little east) moves a game-and-a-half ahead of second place University of Southern Maine in the conference standings. Eastern is the defending conference regular season and playoff champion and improves its eight-year conference regular-season record to 96-13.

Serfass, last year's conference Pitcher-of-the-Year and a second-team NCAA Division III All-America, carried a 5-1 lead into the sixth inning before the Colonials scored twice on three hits -- Justin McCulloch and Josh Coleman doubling and Anthony Puccio contributing an RBI single -- to cut the gap to 5-3. Serfass got a ground ball to subdue the threat and faced only ten batters over the final three innings -- the only batter reaching got aboard on a wild pitch after striking out -- and didn't allow a hit.

The Warriors collected six of their eight hits to move out to a 5-0 lead after three at-bats. Leading 2-0, Eastern chased senior righty Jay McIntyre during a three-run third inning. Junior shortstop **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** had a two-out RBI single down the left field line and junior leftfielder **Jason Pekrul (BERLIN)** followed with an RBI single down the right field line to give Eastern a 2-0 lead in the second. In the third, sophomore third baseman **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** delivered an RBI single to center and Koch drove in two more runs with a single to right off Western sophomore reliever Zane Honious.

Eastern sophomore first baseman **Chris DeSantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)** had his 17-game hitting streak halted. DeSantis walked and was hit-by-pitch and scored a run in four plate appearances.

Serfass (6-0) struck out nine, walked one and hit a batter in recording his 18th consecutive overall win over a three-year period. Serfass, who has won 25 of his last 26 decisions, has won his last 21 straight regular-season decisions since losing at Wheaton College (MA) April 13, 2001 -- the only regular-season loss in 24 career decisions. With the win, Serfass joins 30-game winners Steve Thomas ('76) and John Caneira ('74). Thomas is the program's all-time pitching leader with 40 wins, with Caneira at 37. Serfass's career winning percentage of 90.9 (30-3) is the best among 20-game winners.

Eastern hosts Wesleyan University Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 5, Western Conn. 3

Eastern Conn. (25-8, 9-1 little east)	023	000	000	--	5	8	1
Western Conn. (16-14, 6-4 little east)	001	002	000	--	3	7	0

Joey Serfass (6-0) and Adam Hevenor. Jay McIntyre (1-3), Zane Honious (3) and Adam Kaplan. 2B-Justin McCulloch 2, D.J. Mulhall, Josh Coleman (W).

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

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

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Willimantic, CT 06226

little east conference

Saturday, April 24, 2004

EASTERN'S DiPIETRO STRIKES OUT 18 IN WARRIORS' LEC SPLIT

Rhode Island College rebounds for 10-5 win in Little East baseball nightcap

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Eastern Connecticut State University sophomore lefty **Ryan DiPietro (BERLIN)** won his 16th career game in 17 decisions in the opener and equalled the second-most strikeouts by a pitcher in program history as the Warriors downed Rhode Island College 3-1 en route to a split of Saturday's Little East Conference doubleheader at the ECSU Baseball Stadium.

In the nightcap, Rhode Island (12-14, 2-8 little east) broke a streak of 20 straight losses to Eastern by scoring five runs on three hits and two Eastern errors in the sixth inning in handing the Warriors (24-8, 8-1 little east) their first conference loss after eight wins.

In the first game, DiPietro (6-0) pitched his second complete game in his last two starts. He allowed seven hits and one (earned run), walking two. He entered the week ranked 18th nationally in strikeouts per game and now has 88 in 63.0 innings (12.6) and a 1.10 ERA. In support of DiPietro, senior rightfielder **Dwight Wildman (SEYMOUR)** hit his 12th home run of the year -- equalling the most in a season in 13 years -- and junior shortstop **Tom Koch (WARWICK)** snapped a 1-1 tie with a solo home run -- his first of the year -- in the fifth. Senior catcher **Adam Hevenor (NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** scored on a wild pitch to make it 3-1 in the seventh. Rhode Island tied the game when junior centerfielder Glenn Dusablon hit a solo home run -- his second of the year -- in the third inning.

Eastern Hall of Fame pitcher John Caneira -- who went on to a major league career -- holds the program record of 19 strikeouts, set 22 years ago. DiPietro becomes the fourth pitcher to record as many as 18, first in seven years.

In salvaging the split, Rhode Island erased deficits of 3-0 after three innings and 4-3 after five to go ahead for good by scoring five runs on three hits and two Eastern errors in the sixth. The Anchormen chased starting senior lefty **Jeremy Hall (NORTHFIELD, VT)** in that inning. Junior centerfielder Glenn Dusablon drove in the tying run with a single and the next two runs scored on infield errors. Sophomore rightfielder Mike Naylor plated the final two runs with a two-out, two-run double.

Five Rhode Island players had two hits in the second game, with junior leftfielder Chris Higgins scoring three runs and Naylor driving in three and senior first baseman Eric Gibree driving in two. Hevenor had three hits and sophomore third baseman **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** two for Eastern.

Sophomore first baseman **Chris DeSantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)** extended his hitting streak to 17 with a hit in each game. DeSantis, second only to Wildman (.434) in batting this year (.386) singled in the fourth inning of the first game and legged out an infield single in the eight inning of the nightcap.

Eastern visits Western Connecticut State University (15-12, 6-3 little east) Sunday at noon. The Warriors held on for a 7-6 win over the Colonials April 4 at the ECSU Baseball Stadium. Senior All-America **Joey Serfass (NEWINGTON)** may open on the mound for Eastern, shooting to become the third 30-game winner (against three losses) in program history.

Linescore, Pg. 2

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

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Saturday, April 24, 2004
Baseball

First Game
Eastern Conn. 3, Rhode Island College 1

Rhode Island College (11-14, 1-8 little east)	001	000	000	--	1	7	0
Eastern Conn. (24-7, 8-0 little east)	010	010	10x	--	3	7	0

Jeremy Edwards (1-2), Bruce Taraska (8) and Eric Kelly. Ryan DiPietro (6-0) and Adam Hevenor.
2B-Eric Kelly (R), HR-Glenn Dusablon (2), Dwight Wildman (12), Tom Koch (1) (E).

Second Game
Rhode Island College 10, Eastern Conn. 5

Rhode Island College (12-14, 2-8 little east)	000	125	002	--	10	12	0
Eastern Conn. (24-8, 8-1 little east)	003	010	010	--	5	13	2

Jim Milano (3-3), Brandon White (9) and Tim Henault. Jeremy Hall, Ben O'Brien (5), Matt Cremins (6), Michael Maruska (6), Thomas Spirito (9) and Adam Hevenor. LP-O'Brien (1-2). 2B-Chris Higgins, Brandon White, Mike Naylor, Eric Gibree, Chris Smaldone (R), Zach Mehrbach (E); 3B-Scott Hayward (E); HR-Gibree (2) (R).

little east conference

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

WILDMAN'S STREAK COMES TO AN END IN EASTERN BASEBALL VICTORY
Senior goes 0-for-3 with a walk and hit-by-pitch in 8-3 win over Bridgewater State

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Senior rightfielder **Dwight Wildman's** (SEYMOUR) program-tying 31-game hitting streak came to an end Wednesday night when the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team defeated Bridgewater State College 8-3 at the ECSU Baseball Stadium.

Wildman, who had tied the program record by hitting safely in 31 straight games --- the last two of last year and the first 29 of this year -- was 0-for-3 with a walk and hit-by-pitch against three Bridgewater pitchers. Wildman struck out looking to end the first inning, grounded out to third base with the bases loaded to end the second, drew a leadoff walk in the fourth, flew out to center field in the fifth, and was hit by a pitch on the second offering from Bridgewater freshman reliever Mike Bertolino with a runner on second in the seventh.

Wildman shares the record with Joe Funaro, who ended his career with a 31-game hitting streak in 1995.

Freshman righty **Sam Iverson** (NEW MILFORD) tied his season-high with 11 strikeouts over the first six innings to earn his fourth win without a loss for Eastern (23-7), ranked first in New England and fourth nationally. Iverson allowed only three hits and two (earned) runs while walking five.

The bottom three hitters in the Eastern order combined for eight of the team's 15 hits, scored five runs and drove in three. Sophomore first baseman **Chris DeSantis** (SHREWSBURY, MA), the No. 7 hitter, was 3-for-5 with a run scored and extended his hitting streak to 15. DeSantis had had just one hit in each of his five previous games. No. 8 hitter **Adam Hevenor** (NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI), a senior catcher, was 3-for-4 with a walk, two runs and an RBI while No. 9 hitter **Tom Koch** (WARWICK, RI) was 2-for-4 with two RBI and two runs scored.

Leading 3-1, Eastern sent eight batters to the plate in the third inning and scored four runs. Hevenor drove in the first run with a single, Koch doubled down the left field line for the second run and senior second baseman **Eugene Julien** (BROCKTON, MA) singled down the left field line with two outs to plate the final two runs.

Bridgewater (15-8), ranked seventh in New England, had a seven-game winning streak snapped. Trailing 8-1, the Bears scored single runs in the seventh and eighth but left a total of four runners aboard in their last three at-bats. No. 3 hitter Ryan Fitzgerald, a junior shortstop, reached safely three times with walks and also drove in a run while senior catcher Joe Harkins was 2-for-4 and scored a run.

(more)

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Eastern improves to 15-2 up north with this fourth straight win over the Bears. The game was a re-match of last year's New England Regional Tournament championship, won by Eastern

Eastern, which was playing its eighth game in a seven-day stretch, hosts Rhode Island College in a noon Little East Conference doubleheader Saturday.

Eastern Conn. 8, Bridgewater 3

Bridgewater State (15-8)		001	000	110	--	3	5	0
Eastern Conn. (23-7)	034	100	00x	--	8	15	1	

Josh Fortin (1-2), Derek Landry (3), Mike bertolino (7) and Joe Harkins. Sam Iverson (4-0), Michael Maruska (7), Thomas Spirito (9) and Adam Hevenor. 2B-Harkins (B), Hevenor, Leon Galemba, Tom Koch (E); 3B-Mike Richard (B).

little east conference

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

MONTCLAIR WINS BATTLE OF FORMER NATIONAL CHAMPS, 4-3

Eastern senior Dwight Wildman ties program record by hitting in his 31st straight game

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Ethan Boyd and Mike Weiss stroked RBI singles in the fifth inning as the Montclair State University baseball team overtook Eastern Connecticut State University 4-3 Tuesday in a battle between teams which have combined for seven NCAA Division III national championships.

The win is the third straight, seventh in its last eight and tenth in its last 12 for Montclair State (16-8), which presented 17th-year head coach Norm Schoenig (500-231-8) with his 500th coaching victory. The Red Hawks have won national titles in 1987, 1993 and 2000, Eastern in 1982, 1990, 1998 and 2002.

Eastern (22-7) senior **Dwight Wildman (SEYMOUR)** had two hits and tied Joe Funaro's 1995 record by hitting in his 31st consecutive game. Wildman has hit safely in all 29 games this year after collecting a hit in each of last year's final two games at the NCAA Division III national tournament.

Eastern is ranked first in the New England Region and fourth nationally, Montclair fifth in the Mid-Atlantic Region. The Warriors had spoiled Montclair's season-opener with a 5-1 win March 6 at Salisbury, MD. The loss is only the second in 16 northern games for the Warriors.

The Warriors had taken a brief 3-2 lead by scoring three times in the bottom of the fourth before Montclair tied the game and went ahead for good in the fifth on Boyd's one-out RBI single and Weiss's two-out RBI single, which chased and made a loser of Eastern starting lefty **Ty Bongiovanni (MERIDEN)**. Bongiovanni (0-2) gave up two runs on three hits in the first inning but carried a 3-2 lead into the fifth after the Warriors scored three times in the fourth. Junior centerfielder **Scott Hayward (MERIDEN)** plated Wildman (leadoff double) with the first run. Senior catcher **Adam Hevenor (NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** tied the game with an RBI single and sophomore DH **Greg Sullivan's (NEEDHAM, MA)** ground ball drove in the go-ahead run.

Sophomore righty Alex Thompson preserved the win by recording his fourth save of the year in relief of freshman righty Shawn Ellerson. Thompson retired the final seven batters in order, allowing only the first batter he faced to drive the ball out of the infield.

Boyd, a junior rightfielder, and Weiss, a senior second baseman, had also each driven in a run in the first inning, Boyd with a single and Weiss with a triple.

With his 56th and 57th hits of the year, Wildman upped his team-leading average nine points to .460. He has 11 doubles, 12 home runs, 50 RBI, 41 runs and 103 total bases. In 1995, Funaro hit safely in the final 31 games of his career en route to the record and first team All-America honors.

(more)

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Eastern plays its eighth game in seven days Wednesday at 7 p.m. when it hosts Bridgewater State College in a re-match of last year's New England Regional title game, won by Eastern at the ECSU Baseball Stadium. The Bears are ranked seventh in New England.

Montclair State U. 4, Eastern Conn. 3

Montclair State U. (16-8)	200	020	000	--	4	8	1
Eastern Conn. (22-7)	000	300	000	--	3	7	0

Shawn Ellerson (2-2), Alex Thompson (7) and Rob Blackburn. Ty Bongiovanni (0-2), Matt Cremins (5), Ben O'Brien (9) and Adam Hevenor. Save-Thompson (4). 2B-Dwight Wildman (E); 3B-Mike Weiss (M).

little east conference

Saturday, April 17, 2004

EASTERN BASEBALL SHUTS OUT UMASS DARTMOUTH TWICE

DiPietro, Serfass extend personal winning streaks, Wildman hits in 28th straight

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. -- Sophomore **Ryan DiPietro (BERLIN)** and senior **Joey Serfass (NEWINGTON)** extended personal pitching winning streaks and senior **Dwight Wildman (SEYMOUR)** extended his hitting streak to 28 straight games as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team swept the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth 7-0, 13-0 Saturday afternoon at Corsair Park.

DiPietro and Serfass each won their fifth games of the year without a loss, with DiPietro winnings his 13th straight overall and Serfass his 17th straight dating back to last year. Serfass moved into third place all-time with his 29th career win against three losses while DiPietro improved to 15-1 lifetime. Serfass has a 1.69 ERA this year, DiPietro 0.83.

Eastern (20-6, 7-0 little east), the defending conference regular season and playoff champion, has won at least 20 games in 33 straight seasons. The Warriors are 12-1 up north this year.

DiPietro pitched his first career shutout in the opener, stopping the Corsairs (13-10, 4-3 little east) on five hits while fanning seven and walking three. Serfass allowed five hits over the first seven innings of the nightcap, combining on the win with junior **Ben O'Brien (MONTVILLE)**. Serfass fanned five and walked one. UMass did not have an extra-base hit on the day.

Wildman has hit safely in all 26 games this year and extended his overall hitting streak to 28. The Eastern record is 31, set by Joe Funaro in 1995. Wildman had two hits in each game, including his ninth home run of the season in the ninth inning of the first game. The homer was the 26th in the career of Wildman, ranked sixth all-time in that category.

Wildman had two hits in each game. Junior **DH Leon Galemba (FAIRFIELD)** and senior second baseman **Eugene Julien (BROCKTON, MA)** also had two hits in the first game, with Galemba driving in two runs and Julien stealing two bases. Junior leftfielder **Jason Pekrul (BERLIN)** had three hits and an RBI in the nightcap, senior catcher **Adam Hevenor (NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** and junior centerfielder **Scott Hayward (MERIDEN)**

(more)

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Willimantic, CT 06226

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joining Wildman with two hits in the nightcap. Hevenor drove in three runs and Hayward two in the second game and Wildman scored three.

This year, Wildman is batting a team-leading .434 with 49 hits, 87 total bases and 44 RBI.

Eastern hosts Trinity College Sunday at 4 p.m. The Warriors are ranked fourth nationally and first in the NCAA New England Region, Trinity 12th nationally and second in the region.

First Game
Eastern Conn. 7, Massachusetts Dartmouth 0

Eastern Conn. (19-6, 6-0 little east)	500	010	001	--7	11	1
UMass Dartmouth (13-9, 4-2 little east)	000	000	000	--0	5	2

Ryan DiPietro (5-0) and Adam Hevenor. Kyle Darrow (3-2), Eric Griswold (9) and John Macone. 2B-Chris DeSantis (E); HR-Dwight Wildman (9) (E).

Second Game
Eastern Conn. 13, Massachusetts Dartmouth 0

Eastern Conn. (20-6, 7-0 little east)	020	072	200	--13	18	2
UMass Dartmouth (13-10, 4-3 little east)	000	000	000	--0	5	3

Joey Serfass (5-0), Ben O'Brien (8) and Adam Hevenor, Matt Cooney (9). Will Mahoney (3-2), Michael Maclean (5) and John Macone. 2B-Marc Garofalo 2, Dwight Wildman, Adam Hevenor (E).

little east conference

Monday, April 19, 2004

WITH FIVE HITS, WILDMAN SPARKS BASEBALL WIN OVER SUFFOLK

Senior homers and doubles and extends hitting streak to 30 in 13-6 win

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Senior rightfielder **Dwight Wildman (SEYMOUR)** continued his assault on the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball recordbooks with his second five-hit game of the year in extending his hitting streak to 30 games as the Warriors defeated Suffolk University 13-6 Monday afternoon at the ECSU Baseball Stadium.

In a confrontation of the No. 1 and No.3-ranked teams in the New England region and No. 4 and No. 24-ranked teams in Division III, Eastern (22-6) broke open a tight game by batting around in the sixth and seventh innings and scoring seven runs to defeat Suffolk (23-9) for the fourth straight time.

For the second time this year, Wildman was 5-for-5 in a game. Among the hits were his 12th double of the season and 11th home run -- fourth in six games. He hiked his average 24 points to .451 and slugging percentage to .820. His five RBI give him 50 in 28 games this year -- two shy of his total in 51 games a year ago. He also recorded his 100th total base of the year.

Wildman has hit safely in all 28 games this year after hitting in the final two games of 2003 to pull to within one of tying Joe Funafo's program-record 31-game hitting streak, set in 1995.

The top four hitters in the lineup combined for 11 of the team's 16 hits, eight runs and nine RBI. Leadoff hitter **Jason Pekar (BERLIN)** was 2-for-6 with a triple and run scored; No. 2 hitter **Eugene Julien (BROCKTON, MA)** was 2-for-3 with two runs and two RBI; No. 3 hitter **Scott Hevenor (MERIDEN)** was 2-for-4 with three runs and two RBI and Wildman was 5-for-5 with three runs scored. It was his third game this year with five RBI.

Junior righty **Joe Riley (EAST HARTFORD)** gained his first win of the year against a loss, leaving with a 10-5 lead. Riley allowed only two earned runs on six hits while fanning four over the first seven innings. Three Eastern pitchers combined for six strikeouts and no walks.

Sophomore first baseman **Chris DeSantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)** reached safely three times with a two-run single, walk and hit-by-pitch to run his hitting streak to 14.

Leading 6-5, Eastern broke the game open with four runs on four hits and a Suffolk error in the sixth and added three runs three hits in the seventh. Wildman hit a two-run home run and singled and scored two runs in those two innings while Hayward had a pair of RBI singles and scored twice. Sophomore third baseman **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** reached twice with a walk and RBI single in those two innings while DeSantis reached twice with a walk and hit-by-pitch.

(more)

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Willimantic, CT 06226

22222222

In the game, No. 9 hitter **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** reached three times with two singles and a walk, scored two runs and stole two bases.

Suffolk cleanup hitter Tamayo Manzanillo hit his ninth and tenth home runs of the year, cracking solo home runs in the fifth and eighth.

The Warriors, now 14-1 up north, host Montclair State University Tuesday at 4 p.m. .

Eastern Conn. 13, Suffolk U. 6

Suffolk U. (23-9)	003	110	010	-	6	8	3
Eastern Conn. (22-6)	104	104	30x	--	13	16	4

Jared Blandino (3-3), Rony Mercado (5), Eddie Del Carmen (6), Ryan Clark (7), Anthony Del Prete (7), Ryan Nelson (8) and Trevor Grimshaw. Joe Riley (1-1), Ben O'Brien (8), Thomas Spirito (9) and Matt Cooney, Adam Hevenor (7). 2B-Matt Batchelder, Greg Zwolinski (S), Dwight Wildman (E); 3B-Jason Pekrul (E); HR-Tamayo Manzanillo 2 (10) (S), Wildman (11) (E).

little east conference

Sunday, April 18, 2004

EASTERN BASEBALL WINS BATTLE OF TOP NE TEAMS, 4-3

Hall pitches CG five-hitter, Warriors win with unearned run in ninth over Trinity

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Senior left-handed pitcher **Jeremy Hall (NORTHFIELD, VT)** recovered from a first-inning home run to record his first complete game of the year and an outfield error on **Scott Hayward's (MERIDEN)** ninth-inning single provided the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team with a 4-3 win over Trinity College Sunday night at the ECSU Baseball Stadium.

Ranked fourth in Division III and first in the New England region, Eastern (21-6) erased 2-0 and 3-2 deficits to defeat Trinity (22-4) for the fifth straight time and snap the Bantams' 11-game winning streak. Trinity is ranked 12th nationally and second in the New England region. The Warriors are 13-1 up north and 7-1 at home in 2004. Both teams won regional tournaments last year and competed in the NCAA Division III national tournament.

Eastern tied the game 3-3 on senior rightfielder **Dwight Wildman's (SEYMOUR)** tenth home run of the season -- a solo shot over the scoreboard in left-center -- and won it with none out in the bottom of the ninth when sophomore third baseman **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** scored from first base on Hayward's single to center. Garofalo, who drew the team's only walk to open the inning, was running on the pitch and continued home when the ball was misplayed in center. Hayward had fouled off a sacrifice bunt attempt prior to delivering the final hit.

Wildman hit his game-tying home run in the sixth off Trinity starter Chris Rodday after hitting a foul home run on the prior pitch. It was the only hit of the game for Wildman, who extended his hitting streak to 29 games (all 27 this year). The Eastern record is 31, set in 1995 by Joe Funaro.

After giving up a two-run home run to Trinity second baseman Jeff Natale in the first inning, Hall (6-0) settled down to shut down the Bantams on four hits and one run the rest of the way. After Natale's third home run of the season in the first, Trinity was silenced until it scored the go-ahead run in the sixth after there were two out and no one on base. The Bantams had three straight hits to score the go-ahead run, with Brendan Timmins driving in Robert O'Leary (two-out double) with a double to left.

(more)

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

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

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

222222222222

Hall equalled his career-high with ten strikeouts while walking three.

Trailing 2-0, the Warriors scored single runs in the fourth and fifth to tie the game. Three Trinity errors paved the way for the first run and junior shortstop **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** scored all the way from second base on senior second baseman **Eugene Julien's 9BROCKTON, MA)** ground ball to shortstop to tie the game 2-2 in the fifth.

In pitching his first complete game of the year, Hall remained undefeated in his career in the regular season and improved to 14-1 lifetime.

Eastern hosts Suffolk University Monday at 4 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 4, Trinity College 3

Trinity (22-4)	200	001	000	--	3	5	4
Eastern Conn. (21-6)	000	111	001	--	4	7	1

None out when winning run scored.

Chris Rodday, Gabe Rotman (7), Greg Talpey (9) and Andrew Fries. Jeremy Hall (6-0) and Adam Hevenor. LP-Talpey (2-1). 2B-Robert O'Leary, Brendan Timmins (T); HR-Jeff Natale (3) (T), Dwight Wildman (10) (E).