
little east conference

Saturday, May 14, 2005

RHODE ISLAND SECURES FIRST LITTLE EAST BASEBALL TITLE

Anchormen sweep field to reach NCAA tournament for first time since 1980

MANSFIELD, Conn. – The fifth-seeded Rhode Island College baseball team completed an improbable sweep of the top four seeds with a 6-3 win over fourth-seeded Western Connecticut State College in the title game of the 2005 Little East Conference Tournament Saturday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

By winning its first conference tournament title in the nine-year history of the event, Rhode Island (19-19) qualifies automatically for the NCAA tournament. It will be its first NCAA appearance since reaching the tournament three straight seasons through 1980.

Needing two wins over Rhode Island to win its second tournament title in four years, Western (18-22) scored the first run of the game in the top of the first inning but the Anchormen took the lead for good with two in the bottom of the inning and rode the five-hit pitching of senior righty **James Milano (JOHNSON, RI)** to its fourth straight tournament victory. Rhode Island opened the tournament by besting second-seeded Keene State College, 8-3, and defeated third-seeded University of Southern Maine, 7-4 before eliminating two-time defending champion and top seed Eastern Connecticut State university, 6-3 Friday night.

A winner of only one of six decisions during the regular season, Milano gave his team its fourth quality start of the tournament. He took a 6-1 lead into the sixth inning before walking two and giving up two hits as the Colonials rallied to close the gap to 6-3. Making his second tournament appearance, freshman righty **Eric Fama (WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY)** came on at that point to face the tying run but got a ground ball to end the inning. Fama earned the staff's second save. Rhode Island starters also pitched two complete games.

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Freshman rightfielder **Robert Doyon (DOUGLAS, MA)** was 3-for-4 with three RBI and two runs scored in the title game to earn tournament Most Outstanding Player honors. Doyon put Rhode Island ahead for good against Western with a two-out, two-run single through the middle in the first inning. He also doubled and scored leading off the fourth to make it 3-1 and doubled home a run and scored in the fifth to make it 6-1. In the tournament, Doyon batted .412 (7-for-17) with six RBI and three runs scored and also had 11 putouts and an assist without an error in the field. He was one of four Rhode Island freshmen to see time in the championship game.

To reach the championship round, Western had overcome a first-game loss to Southern Maine to defeat Eastern Thursday and sixth-seeded Massachusetts Boston Friday. The Colonials scored an unearned run off Milano in the top of the first inning after getting leadoff singles from junior rightfielder **Nick Parker (OLD SAYBROOK, CT)** and senior third baseman **D.J. Mullhall (STRATFORD, CT)**. After scoring the first run, however, Western managed only three more baserunners until the sixth. One of the baserunners was erased on an infield double play.

Until this year, Rhode Island had won only three games in this tournament, with only one coming in the double-elimination portion. The other two had come in play-in games. They had lost two straight each of the past two years and did not qualify in 2001 and 2002.

Rhode Island College 6, Western Conn. 3

Western Conn. (18-22)	100	002	000	--	3	6	1
Rhode Island (19-19)	200	130	00x	--	6	8	1

Josh Bertash (2-4), Zane Honious (5) and Adam Kaplan. James Milano (2-5), Eric Fama (6) and Tim Henault. 2B-Robert Doyon 2, Matt Brannon. (R).

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Rhode Island College 6, Western Conn. 3

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Rhode Island (19-19)	200	130	00x	--	6	8	1

Josh Bertash (2-4), Zane Honious (5) and Adam Kaplan. James Milano (2-5), Eric Fama (6) and Tim Henault. 2B-Robert Doyon 2, Matt Brannon. (R).

Eastern Baseball Press Box 860-465-5042

Friday, May 13, 2005

EASTERN BASEBALL SURVIVES IN LITTLE EAST TOURNAMENT

Warriors squander early lead, score four unearned runs in 9-5 win over USM

MANSFIELD, CT -- The top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team scored four unearned run in the top of the eighth inning and went on to a 9-5 win over third-seeded University of Southern Maine in an elimination game of the 2005 Little East Conference Tournament Friday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium on the Eastern Connecticut State University campus.

The win gives two-time defending tournament champion Eastern (30-12) its fifth straight 30-win season and keeps the Warriors alive in the original six-team, double-elimination field. Eastern, which has won its last three over Southern Maine (25-14) in this tournament, was scheduled to face fifth-seeded Rhode Island College (17-19) Friday night at 7 p.m. Southern Maine, which lost to Eastern in last year's championship round, is eliminated after losing two of three in the tournament.

Eastern never trailed in the game but squandered leads of 4-0 after three innings and 5-4 after six innings. With the score tied 5-5, the Warriors scored four unearned runs with two out in the eighth inning. With the bases loaded and the score tied, **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** grounded a potential inning-ending ground ball to short, but the flip to second base was dropped as two runs scored.. **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** then had his second two-run hit of the day when he doubled into the left-center field gap to make it 9-5.

Garofalo's two-run triple on the first pitch from reliever **Tip Fairchild (MONMOUTH, ME)** highlighted a four-run first inning for Eastern but the Huskies came back to tie the game with four runs in the bottom of the fourth on five hits, a walk and hit-by-pitch. The Huskies chased Eastern freshman starter **Joe Esposito (EAST HAVEN, CT)** when they batted around in the inning. Two singles and a walk loaded the bases and No. 9 hitter **Joe Ganley (KEENE, NH)** drove in the first run with a single to center. Esposito, who had

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worked into the eighth inning in Eastern's 20-5 win over Southern Maine during the regular season, then hit leadoff hitter **Nick Vardaro (NORWOOD, MA)** to force in the second run and **Ryan Bourque's (SANFORD, ME)** two-run double down the right field line tied the game at 4-4.

A leadoff double by Mehrbach and **Leon Galemba's (FAIRFIELD, CT)** RBI single pushed Eastern ahead again in the fifth, but the Huskies tied the game in the seventh when freshman **Eddie Skeffington (EVERETT, MA)** doubled with one out and scored on Fairchild's two-out single.

Eastern redshirt freshman **Trey Bongiovanni (MERIDEN, CT)** and senior **Ben O'Brien (MONTVILLE, CT)** combined to work the final 5 2/3 innings, allowing only one run on seven hits. Bongiovanni was called upon after Bourque's two-run double in the fourth. With runners on second and third, Bongiovanni kept the score tied by getting a strikeout and fly ball to right to end the inning.

Eastern's top five hitters in the lineup combined for 11 hits, eight runs and six RBI. Garofalo was 3-for-5 with four RBI and a run scored. Mehrbach scored three runs, leadoff hitter **Jason Pekrul (BERLIN, CT)** was 3-for-4 with two runs scored and **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** was 2-for-4 with two runs and an RBI.

Skeffington led Southern Maine with four hits, Fairchild and freshman **Rich McGraw (SIMSBURY, CT)** picking up two hits each.

Eastern Conn. 9, U. of Southern Maine 5

Eastern Conn. (30-12)	400	010	040	--	9	13	1
Southern Maine (25-14)	000	400	100	--	5	12	2

Joe Esposito, Matt Cremins (4), Trey Bongiovanni (4), Ben O'Brien (7) and Matt Cooney. Brett Rogers, Tip Fairchild (1), Pat Foley (8) and Max Arsenault. 2B-Jason Pekrul, Zach Mehrbach, Marc Garofalo (E), Ryan Bourque, Eddie Skeffington, Rich McGraw (S); 3B-Marc Garofalo (E).

Friday, May 13, 2005

WESTERN BASEBALL MOVES INTO LEC TOURNEY TITLE ROUND

Colonials blast Massachusetts Boston, 9-2; will play at noon on Saturday

MANSFIELD, CT – **T.J. Tarantino (RUTHERFORD, NJ)** drove in four runs with a first-inning single and sixth-inning home run to power the fourth-seeded Western Connecticut State University baseball team to a 9-2 win over sixth-seeded University of Massachusetts Boston Friday afternoon in the 2005 Little East Conference Tournament at the Eastern Baseball Stadium on the Eastern Connecticut State University campus.

With its second straight tournament win after an opening loss, Western (18-21) moves into the championship round of the tournament and will face either top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University or fifth-seeded Rhode Island College Saturday at noon. Coming off its first tournament win ever Thursday, UMass (17-22) is eliminated from the tournament with a 1-2 record.

Two-time defending tournament champion Eastern faces undefeated Rhode Island College tonight at 7:30 p.m. A Rhode Island win would eliminate once-beaten Eastern and leave the Anchormen as the only unbeaten team in the tournament. The Anchormen would then have two chances against Western to win its first tournament title. An Eastern win against Rhode Island would move the Warriors into a 4 p.m. championship game and drop the Anchormen into a noon elimination game against Western. Eastern would face the Rhode Island-Western winner for the tournament title.

Western, which lost twice to UMass Tuesday night in the regular season finale here, scored three runs in the first and three in the third to move out to a 6-1 lead. The Colonials rode the seven-hit pitching of freshman **Jamie Garland (EAST MEADOW, NY)**, who earned his first career win after three losses.

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Trailing 1-0, Western scored three runs in the bottom of the first inning on **Adam Kaplan's (STRATFORD, CT)** RBI single and Tarantino's two-out, two-run single. The Colonials added three more in the third to make it 6-1 on two-out run-scoring hits by No. 8 hitter **Dennis Barrett (STATEN ISLAND, NY)** and No. 9 hitter **Kevin Darcey (LEVITTOWN, NY)**.

Four UMass pitchers combined to give up 14 hits, walk nine and hit two batters. Six batters who reached either by walk or hit-by-pitch scored, including all three in the third inning.

Western's 2-through-6 batters each had two hits. In addition to four RBI, Tarantino had two hits and scored two runs. Adam Kaplan was 2-for-3 with three runs scored and an RBI and No. 3 hitter **Eben McKnight (WINDSOR, CT)** was 2-for-4 with two runs scored. Darcey had three hits and drove in a run.

In his fourth career start, Garland fanned two and walked four in pitching the first seven innings.

Western Conn. 9, Massachusetts Boston 2

UMass Boston (17-22)	100	000	100	--	2	9	0
Western Conn. (18-21)	303	012	00x	--	9	14	1

Nick Conway (1-5), Ryan Blanchard (3), Bob Kniffen (6), Chuck Ritterson (8) and Jeran Mondalto. Jamie Garland (1-3), Rob Malinowski (8) and Adam Kaplan. 2B-David Waters (MB); HR-T.J. Tarantino (3 (W)).

Friday, May 13, 2005

THIBAUT'S FIVE-HITTER LEADS RIC INTO LEC TOURNAMENT FINALS

Freshman stymies No. 1 seed Eastern Conn. as Anchormen eliminate Warriors, 6-3

MANSFIELD, CT – Freshman righty **Eric Thibault (SOMERSET, MA)** pitched a complete-game five-hitter as the fifth-seeded Rhode Island College baseball team eliminated top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University, 6-3 Friday night to move to within one win of capturing its first Little East Conference Tournament title at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

The win is the third without a loss in the tournament for Rhode Island (18-19), which has two chances to defeat fourth-seeded Western Connecticut State University (18-21) Saturday to claim the title. The championship round gets underway at noon.

Western remained alive in the double-elimination tournament Friday afternoon by eliminating sixth-seeded University of Massachusetts Boston, 9-2. The win was the second straight for the Colonials after an opening 4-2 loss to third-seeded University of Southern Maine. As the No. 3 seed, Western won the 2002 tournament title, defeating Southern Maine here in the final.

Thibault (4-2), who was roughed up in a relief role in Rhode Island's 12-0 loss to Eastern April 30, was staked to a 5-0 lead after two innings. Although three of the hits he allowed went for extra bases, he never gave up more than one hit in an inning. He fanned eight and walked two in posting his fourth complete game in seven starts.

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The Anchormen scored three runs in the top of the first against three Eastern pitchers after there were two out and no one on base, and added two more runs in the second inning. Freshman **Robert Doyon (DOUGLAS, MA)** drove in two runs in the first with a double to right-center while **Jim Connell (SMITHFIELD, RI)** and and No. 4 hitter **Matt Brannon (CRANSTON, RI)** each drove in a run with singles to help the Anchormen to the 5-0 lead.

Brannon, who saved his team's 7-4 win over Southern Maine Thursday night, had three hits, as did No. 8 hitter **Chris Smaldone (JOHNSON, RI)**.

In reaching the final, Rhode Island has defeated the top three tournament seeds in Eastern, No. 2 Keene State and Southern Maine. During the regular season, Rhode Island was swept by Eastern and Southern Maine and swept Keene State.

Entering the tournament, the Anchormen had lost nine of 12 games in five years of conference tournament play, with only one of their wins coming in the double-elimination portion of the tournament. They were eliminated in two straight in 2003 and 2004 and did qualify in 2001 and 2002. Prior to 2005, the Anchormen had lost 20 of 21 conference games against Eastern, including both playoff games.

Rhode Island College 6, Eastern Conn. 3

Rhode Island (18-19)	320	010	000	--	6	13	0
Eastern Conn. (30-13)	001	110	000	--	3	5	0

Eric Thibault (4-2) and Tim Henault. Sam Iverson (3-3), Joe Esposito (1), Brian Wendell (1), Matt Cremins (3), Ryan DiPietro (8) and Matt Cooney. 2B-Robert Doyon, Chris Smaldone, Jamie Aldopoulos (R), Chris DeSantis (E); 3B-Leon Galemba (E); HR-DeSantis (3) (E).

Eastern Baseball Press Box 860-465-5042

Thursday, May 12, 2005

UMASS BOSTON BASEBALL WINS FIRST LITTLE EAST TOURNEY GAME

Behind Tardugno's complete game, Beacons eliminate No. 2 seed Keene State

MANSFIELD, CT – Sophomore righty **Evan Tardugno (METHUEN, MA)** pitched his fifth complete game of the season and **Pat Donovan (LOWELL, MA)** drove in three runs as sixth-seeded University of Massachusetts Boston eliminated second-seeded Keene State College from the 2005 Little East Conference Baseball Tournament Thursday afternoon, 6-0, at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

The win is the first-ever for UMass (17-21) in the nine-year history of the tournament and advances the Beacons to play Friday at 3:30 p.m. against an undetermined opponent.

The Beacons were making their first-ever trip to the double-elimination portion of the tournament after losing play-in games three times previously. Keene (22-15), which had earned its highest seed ever in this tournament, had swept UMass Boston during the regular season.

A winner of four of its last six after snapping a six-game losing streak, UMass broke from a one-run lead by scoring three times in the bottom of the sixth and twice in the bottom of the seventh. Donovan, the losing pitcher in Wednesday's loss to top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University, drove in a run in the sixth with a single and plated both runs in the seventh with a two-out double. He took over the team lead from Tardugno with 33 RBI.

In recording his first shutout of the year, Tardugno allowed ten hits and walked two but helped himself by picking four Keene State runners off base: two at third base, one at second and one at first. In a scoreless game, Tardugno picked a runner off third to end the second and picked a runner off second for the second out of the third. He also picked a runner off third for the second out of the fifth and a runner off first for the first out of the sixth.

The only run Tardugno would need was unearned and came in the bottom of the third inning on an infield error and **Darwin Gonzalez' (LAWRENCE, MA)** single up the middle.

Massachusetts Boston 6, Keene State College 0

Keene State (22-15)	000	000	000	--	0	10	1
UMass Boston (17-21)	001	003	20x	--	6	10	0

Phil Mabey (3-3), Mike Wiseman (6), James Slack (7) and John Grainger. Eric Tardugno (4-4) and Jeran Mondalto. 2B-Grainger, Mike Masseur (K), Pat Donovan, Mondalto (MB).

Eastern Baseball Press Box 860-465-5042

Thursday, May 12, 2005

WESTERN KNOCKS OFF TOP-SEEDED EASTERN IN LEC BASEBALL

Colonials stay alive in tournament, snap Warriors' eight-game LEC streak

MANSFIELD, CT – **Eben McKnight (WINDSOR, CT)** drove in **Nick Parker (OLD SAYBROOK, CT)** from third base with a one-out single in the bottom of the seventh inning to snap a tie and give fourth-seeded Western Connecticut State University a 5-4 victory over top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University Thursday afternoon on the second day of the Little East Conference Baseball Tournament at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

With the win, Western (17-21) stays alive in the tournament and advances to play sixth-seeded University of Massachusetts Boston (17-21) Friday at 3:30 p.m. Two-time defending champion Eastern (29-12), which had a string of eight straight wins in this tournament snapped, plays at noon Friday against the loser of Thursday's late game between Rhode Island College and the University of Southern Maine. Rhode Island and Southern Maine entered tonight's game after tournament-opener wins.

Western, which has beaten Eastern twice in three games this year, squandered a 4-1 lead but scored the decisive run in the seventh. With one out, Eastern reliever **Ben O'Brien (MONTVILLE)** walked Parker. D.J. Mulhall singled him to third and McKnight slapped an RBI single into left field.

Mike Troester (NEW MILFORD, CT) allowed only one hit after relieving starter **Brian Krost (STAMFORD)** with one out and the go-ahead run on first in the top of the seventh inning. Troester (2-1) allowed two baserunners the rest of the way. He ended the seventh by getting a fly ball to center and a ground ball to first and left the tying run stranded at second in the ninth by striking out Eastern's top hitter – **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** – on a called strike.

Jon Lynch (GLASTONBURY) had two hits and drove in two runs for Western. He gave the Colonials a 1-0 lead in the first with an infield single and walked with the bases loaded in the fifth to give Western a 4-1 lead.

Trailing 4-1, Eastern tied the game in the sixth by scoring three runs on three hits and an error but Krost got an infield ground ball to leave the bases loaded. **Chris DeSantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)** drove in the first run of the inning with a sacrifice fly, **Randy Re (DANBURY)** plate one with a double and the tying run scored on an infield error.

Western Conn. 5, Eastern Conn. 4

Eastern Conn. (29-12)	000	103	000	-	4	8	1
Western Conn. (17-21)	120	010	10x	-	5	8	3

Matt Cremins, Ben O'Brien (5), Brian Wendell (7) and Matt Cooney. Brian Krost, Mike Troester (7) and Adam Kaplan. WP-Troester (2-1); LP-O'Brien (2-1). 2B-Randy Re (E).

Eastern Baseball Press Box 860-465-5042

Thursday, May 12, 2005

RHODE ISLAND LONE UNBEATEN IN LEC BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

Five-run sixth inning leads Anchormen past Southern Maine, 7-4

MANSFIELD, CT – The fifth-seeded Rhode Island College baseball team erased a two-run deficit by scoring five runs in the bottom of the sixth inning in a 7-4 win over third-seeded University of Southern Maine in a winners' bracket game of the 2005 Little East Conference Baseball Tournament Thursday night at the Eastern Baseball Stadium on the Eastern Connecticut State University campus.

The win is the second in as many tournament games for Rhode Island (17-19), which is the only remaining undefeated team in the original six-team, double-elimination tournament. The Anchormen, who had won only one game in the double-elimination stage of the tournament in eight years prior to 2005, will play Friday night at 7 p.m. They will play the winner of a noon game between Southern Maine (25-13) and top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University.

Trailing 4-2, Rhode Island batted around in the sixth inning against three Southern Maine pitchers. Two walks with one out began the rally and leadoff hitter **Peter Olson (NORTH PROVIDENCE, RI)** tied the game

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with a one-out, two-run double. After an infield error, Olson scored the go-ahead run on **Chris Higgins' (SWANSEA, MA)** double. **Jim Connell's (SMITHFIELD, RI)** RBI single and a wild pitch pushed the lead to 7-4.

Batting eighth and ninth, respectively, in the Rhode Island order, **Chris Smaldone (JOHNSON, RI)** and **Jamie Aldoupolis (ASHLAND, MA)** reached base seven times on three hits, three walks and an error, scored three runs and drove in two. Four runners who reached via either a walk or error scored for the Anchormen.

Lefty reliever **Matt Brannon (CRANSTON, RI)** left two runners stranded in the eighth inning with an inning-ending strikeout and pitched a 1-2-3 ninth to gain his second save.

Southern Maine, which has reached the championship round of six of eight previous tournaments, had 13 hits and also had four batters reach on walks but stranded 11 runners. Rhode Island also played flawless defense.

Southern Maine leadoff hitter **Nick Vardaro (NORWOOD, MA)** reached safely three times with a single, double and walk, scored two runs and drove in a run. Every batter had at least one hit in the Husky lineup.

The win avenges two regular-season loss at the hands of Southern Maine for Rhode Island, who had opened the tournament Wednesday by downing second-seeded Keene State College, 8-3.

Rhode Island College 7, University of Southern Maine 4

Southern Maine (25-13)	002	200	000	-	4	13	3
Rhode Island (17-19)	020	005	00x	-	7	8	0

Josh Armandi (5-2), Erik Kent (6), Tip Fairchild (6), Pat Foley (7) and Max Arsenault. Wade Briggs, Eric Fama (8), Matt Brannon (8) and Tim Henault. 2B-Nick Vardaro, Arsenault (S), Peter Olson, Chris Higgins, Chris Smaldone (R).

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

EASTERN WINS LITTLE EAST TOURNAMENT OPENER, 5-1

Ryan DiPietro pitches four-hitter through eight innings in win over UMass Boston

MANSFIELD, CT – All-America junior lefty **Ryan DiPietro (KENSINGTON, CT)** pitched a four-hitter over eight innings as the top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team opened the 2005 Little East Conference Tournament with a 5-1 win over sixth-seeded University of Massachusetts Boston Wednesday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

The two-time defending tournament champion Eastern (29-11) advances in the winners' bracket and will play Thursday at 3:30 p.m. against the loser of Wednesday's 7 p.m. game between third-seeded University of Southern Maine and fourth-seeded Western Connecticut State University. Making its first trip to the double-elimination portion of this tournament, UMass Boston (16-21) plays an elimination game Thursday at noon against the loser of Wednesday's 3:30 p.m. game between Rhode Island College-Keene State College.

DiPietro (8-1) improved to 29-3 lifetime with the win. He allowed only four hits and one run while striking out ten and walking six. The only run he allowed was a solo home run by David Waters (MILLIS, MA) with one out in the second inning. **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** drove in two first-inning runs for Eastern with a double after Jason Pehrul (BERLIN, CT) had reached on hit-by-pitch and **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** reached on a bunt single. Garofalo then scored all the way from second on **Chris DeSantis' (SHREWSBURY, MA)** sacrifice fly to center.

Koch's sacrifice fly made it 4-1 in the fifth and Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH) made it 5-1 with an RBI single in the seventh.

Trailing by four in the eighth, UMass loaded the bases on single and two walks but DiPietro ended the threat with a strikeout.

Mehrbach had three of Eastern's ten hits, recording his 100th career hit with a third-inning single. In his second start of the year, redshirt freshman second baseman **Jared Nelson (WILLIMANTIC, CT)** reached three times with two hits and a walk and scored twice.

Game 1

Eastern Conn. 5, Massachusetts Boston 1

UMass Boston (16-21) 010 000 000 -- 1 4 1
Eastern Conn. (29-11) 300 010 10x -- 5 10 0

Pat Donovan (2-5), Ryan Blanchard (7) and Jeran Mondalto. Ryan DiPietro (8-1), Brian Wendell (9) and Matt Cooney. 2B-Marc Garofalo (E); HR-Dave Waters (3) (MB).

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

FIFTH-SEEDED RHODE ISLAND UPENDS NO. 2 KEENE STATE

Anchormen open Little East Conference baseball tournament with 8-3 victory

MANSFIELD, CT – Fifth-seeded Rhode Island College knocked out Keene State College starter **Ryan Kohler (ALSTEAD, NH)** during a five-run second inning and went on to an 8-3 win over the second-seeded Owls in an opening-round game of the 2005 Little East conference Baseball Tournament Wednesday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Rhode Island (16-19) moves into a winner's bracket game Thursday night at 7 p.m. against the winner of Wednesday night's game between third-seeded University of Southern Maine and fourth-seeded Western Connecticut State University. Keene (22-14) faces sixth-seeded Massachusetts Boston Thursday at noon in an elimination game. UMass Boston lost, 5-1, to top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University in Wednesday's first game.

Rhode Island's **Glenn Dusablon (NORTH SMITHFIELD, RI)** allowed ten hits but was backed by a 14-hit attack in recording his fifth win without a loss this year. Dusablon carried six-hitter and an 8-1 lead into the eighth inning before the Owls scored twice on Greg Ford's fourth home run of the year – a two-run shot with no one out.

Leading 1-0, Rhode Island exploded for five runs on four runs in chasing Kohler. A hit batter with the bases loaded forced in the first run and **Peter Olson (NORTH PROVIDENCE, RI)** and **Matt Brannon (CRANSTON, RI)** plated two each with singles. Brannon's two-run single greeted Keene pitcher **Mike Corsano (CORTLANDT MANOR, NY)**.

Leadoff batter Olson finished with two hits, two runs and two RBI and Brannon was 4-for-4 with three RBI and a run scored.

Game 2 Rhode Island College 8, Keene State College 3

Rhode Island (16-19)	150	010	100	--	8	14	0
Keene State (22-14)	010	000	020	--	3	10	0

Scott Dusablon (5-0) and Chris Smaldone. Ryan Kohler (4-2), Mike Corsano (2), Jason Shea (7) and John Grainger. 2B-Peter Olson, Robert Doyon, Chris Martin (R), Jeremy Schilling (K); HR-Greg Ford (4) (K).

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

BREWER'S BLAST PROPELS USM BASEBALL TO WIN IN LEC OPENER

Cleanup hitter homers in eighth to snap tie and spark Huskies past WesternConn., 4-2

MANSFIELD, CT -- **Brandon Brewer's (CUMBERLAND, ME)** team-leading sixth home run of the game -- a two-run blast to dead center with two out in the eighth inning -- propelled third-seeded University of Southern Maine to a 4-2 win over fourth-seeded Western Connecticut State University Wednesday night in an opening game of the 2005 Little East Conference Baseball Tournament at the Eastern Baseball Stadium on the Eastern Connecticut State University campus.

The win avenges two regular-season losses for Southern Maine (25-12) at the hands of Western (16-21) and vaults the Huskies into a winners' bracket game of the six-team, double-elimination tournament Thursday night at 7 p.m. Southern Maine will face fifth-seeded Rhode Island College (16-19), which upended second-seeded Keene State College (22-14) in Wednesday's second first-round game. Keene will meet sixth-seeded Massachusetts Boston (16-21) in an elimination game Thursday at noon. Top-seeded and two-time defending tournament champion Eastern Connecticut (29-11) will face Western Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Eastern downed UMass Boston, 5-1, in Wednesday's first first-round game.

Brewer's home run came on a 2-0 pitch and made a winner of **Tip Fairchild (MONMOUTH, ME)**, who had relieved starter **Peter Bergeron (KEENE, NH)** in the top of the eighth inning of a 2-2 tie. Upon entering with a runner on first base, Fairchild (5-2) completed a walk to move the go-ahead run into scoring position but got a strikeout to end the threat.

With one out in the bottom of the eighth, **Max Arsenault (BOOTHBAY, ME)** doubled off complete-game loser **Zane Honious (WALLINGFORD, CT)**. With first base open, Western chose to pitch to Brewer, who unloaded a 2-0 offering over the 407 mark in center field.

Arsenault's first double of the game in the first inning had given Southern Maine a 1-0 lead and freshman **Eddie Skeffington's (EVERETT, MA)** fifth home run of the year with one out in the second made it 2-0. Western tied the game in the fourth when No. 7 hitter **T.J. Tarantino (RUTHERFORD, NJ)** doubled home two runs with two out. The Colonials had four of their six hits in the game in that inning.

Bergeron, a sophomore transfer from Keene State, fanned 11 and walked four while Honious (2-2) struck out four and walked two in his first complete game in seven starts this year.

(more)

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Game 3
U. of Southern Maine 4, Western Conn. 2

Western Conn. (16-21)	000	200	000	-	2	6	0
U. of Southern Maine (25-12)	110	000	02x	-	4	8	0

Zane Honious (2-2) and Adam Kaplan. Peter Bergeron, Tip Fairchild (8) and Max Arsenault. WP-Fairchild (5-2). 2B-T.J. Tarantino (W), Arsenault 2, Brandon Brewer (S); HR-Brewer (6), Skeffington (5) (S).

Wednesday, May 11, 2005
Eastern Conn. 860-465-5042

**little east conference
Baseball Tournament
At Mansfield, CT**

**Game 1
Eastern Conn. 5, Massachusetts Boston 1**

UMass Boston (16-21) 010 000 000 -- 1 4 1
Eastern Conn. (29-11) 300 010 10x -- 5 10 0

Pat Donovan (2-5), Ryan Blanchard (7) and Jeran Mondalto. Ryan DiPietro (8-1), Brian Wendell (9) and Matt Cooney. 2B-Marc Garofalo (E); HR-Dave Waters (3) (MB).

**Game 2
Rhode Island College 8, Keene State College 3**

Rhode Island (16-19)	150	010	100	--	8	14	0
Keene State (22-14)	010	000	020	--	3	10	0

Scott Dusablon (5-0) and Chris Smaldone. Ryan Kohler (4-2), Mike Corsano (2), Jason Shea (7) and John Grainger. 2B-Peter Olson, Robert Doyon, Chris Martin (R), Jeremy Schilling (K); HR-Greg Ford (4) (K).

**Game 3
U. of Southern Maine 4, Western Conn. 2**

Western Conn. (16-21)	000	200	000	-	2	6	0
U. of Southern Maine (25-12)	110	000	02x	-	4	8	0

Zane Honious (2-2) and Adam Kaplan. Peter Bergeron, Tip Fairchild (8) and Max Arsenault. WP-Fairchild (5-2). 2B-T.J. Tarantino (W), Arsenault 2, Brandon Brewer (S); HR-Brewer (6), Skeffington (5) (S).

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

EASTERN WINS LITTLE EAST TOURNAMENT OPENER, 5-1

Ryan DiPietro pitches four-hitter through eight innings in win over UMass Boston

MANSFIELD, CT -- All-America junior lefty **Ryan DiPietro (KENSINGTON)** pitched a c four-hitter over eight innings as the top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team opened the 2005 Little East Conference Tournament with a 5-1 win over sixth-seeded University of Massachusetts Boston Wednesday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

The two-time defending tournament champion Eastern (29-11) advances in the winners' bracket and will play Thursday at 3:30 p.m. against the loser of Wednesday's 7 p.m. game between third-seeded University of Southern Maine and fourth-seeded Western Connecticut State University. Making its first trip to the double-elimination portion of this tournament, UMass Boston (16-21) plays an elimination game Thursday at noon against the loser of Wednesday's 3:30 p.m. game between Rhode Island College-Kecene State College.

DiPietro (8-1) improved to 29-3 lifetime with the win. He allowed only four hits and one run while striking out ten and walking six. The only run he allowed was a solo home run by David Waters (MILLIS, MA) with one out in the second inning. **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** drove in two first-inning runs for Eastern with a double after Jason Pehrul (BERLIN, CT) had reached on hit-by-pitch and **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** reached on a bunt single. Garofalo then scored all the way from second on **Chris DeSantis' (SHREWSBURY, MA)** sacrifice fly to center.

Koch's sacrifice fly made it 4-1 in the fifth and **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** made it 5-1 with an RBI single in the seventh.

Trailing by four in the eighth, UMass loaded the bases on single and two walks but DiPietro ended the threat with a strikeout.

Mehrbach had three of Eastern's ten hits, recording his 100th career hit with a third-inning single. In his second start of the year, redshirt freshman second baseman **Jared Nelson (WILLIMANTIC, CT)** reached three times with two hits and a walk and scored twice.

Eastern Conn. 5, Massachusetts Boston 1

UMass Boston (16-20) 010 000 000 -- 1 4 1
Eastern Conn. (29-11) 300 010 10x -- 5 10 0

Pat Donovan (2-5), Ryan Blanchard (7) and Jeran Mondalto. Ryan DiPietro (8-1), Brian Wendell (9) and Matt Cooney. 2B-Marc Garofalo (E); HR-David Waters (3) (MB).

little east conference

Sunday, May 8, 2005

EASTERN BASEBALL WINS FOURTH STRAIGHT LEC TITLE

Warriors rally for second-game win to gain top seed for upcoming tournament

KEENE, NH -- The Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team broke a tie by scoring four unearned runs in the top of the ninth inning in an 8-4 victory over Keene State College to gain a split of Sunday's regular-season ending Little East Conference doubleheader and clinch the top seed in the upcoming conference tournament.

Needing one win to earn its fourth straight outright regular-season championship (28-11, 11-3 little east), Eastern lost the first game by a score of 1-0 and trailed 3-1 late in the second game before rallying in the final two innings.

For the fourth straight year, Eastern will host the six-team, double-elimination tournament beginning Wednesday at the Eastern Baseball Stadium. The Warriors have won the last two tournament titles at home after Western Connecticut claimed the 2002 championship at Mansfield.

Keene (22-13, 9-5 little east) finishes with a share of second place in the final conference standings with the University of Southern Maine and is the guaranteed No. 2 seed. Western Connecticut State University is three games back with a 7-5 record but has a makeup doubleheader Tuesday with the University of Massachusetts Boston. If Western sweeps, the Colonials will forge a three-way tie for second in the final regular-season standings and will be the No. 3 seed and Southern Maine the No. 4 seed. If Western splits or loses two, the Colonials will drop to the No. 4 seed and Southern Maine will be the No. 3 seed. Rhode Island College and Massachusetts Boston are guaranteed as the No. 5 and No. 6 seed, respectively. UMass Dartmouth and Plymouth State did not qualify.

(more)

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Trailing 3-1 in the second game against Keene, Eastern scored three runs in the eighth inning to take a 4-3 lead. After Keene tied the game on John Grainger's second home run of the season in the bottom of the eighth inning, the Warriors scored four unearned runs with two out in the top of the ninth inning on two singles, two walks and an error. The first two runs scored on an infield error with the bases loaded and two more came in on sophomore centerfielder **Randy Re's (DANBURY)** two-run single.

The Warriors had taken the lead in the eighth inning of the second game on four hits and a walk. Junior third baseman **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** and junior rightfielder **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** had back-to-back RBI singles to tie the game and the go-ahead run came in when Re hit into a double play.

Needing two wins to finish with a share of the regular-season title and garner the No. 1 seed, Keene snapped a six-game losing streak at the hands of Eastern by winning the first game on junior Jeremy Schilling's two-out RBI single in the bottom of the ninth inning. Locked in a scoreless duel with Keene sophomore lefty Rick Stromgren, Eastern freshman righty **Joe Esposito (EAST HAVEN)** retired the first two batters in the ninth but surrendered three straight singles in losing his second straight decision. Esposito (5-3) allowed eight hits while fanning seven and walking one. Stromgren (4-1) stopped Eastern on four hits to record his first complete game and first shutout.

Senior shortstop **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** set an Eastern career record for assists in the first inning of the first game. His second assist of the game broke Nick Tempesta's Eastern record of 518. Koch totaled 14 assists in the doubleheader and now has 531 – 12 behind the New England Division III record of 543. Defensively, Eastern played perfect defense in both games.

Junior first baseman **Chris DeSantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)** had two hits in the second game to reach the 100-career hit club at Eastern. His 100th hit at Eastern came on a single in Eastern's three-run eighth inning. Mehrbach had three hits on the afternoon to give him 99 in his career.

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First Game
Keene State College 1, Eastern Conn. 0

Eastern Conn. (27-11, 10-3 little east)	000	000	000	--	0	4	0
Keene State (22-12, 9-4 little east)	000	000	001	--	1	8	1

Two out when winning run scored.

Joe Esposito (5-3) and Matt Cooney. Rick Stromgren (4-1) and John Grainger.
2B-Grainger (K).

Second Game
Eastern Conn. 8, Keene State College 4

Eastern Conn. (28-11, 11-3 little east)	001	000	034	--	8	13	0
Keene State (22-13, 9-5 little east)	003	000	010	--	4	10	2

Matt Cremins, Alex Narus (3), Trey Bongiovanni (3), Ben O'Brien (6), Brian Wendell (7) and Matt Cooney. Jon Young, James Slack (8), Mike Wiseman (7), Greg Ford (9) and John Grainger. WP-Wendell (3-0); LP-Ford (1-1). 2B-Jared Nelson, Tom Koch (E), Grainger (K); HR-Grainger (2) (K).

little east conference

Thursday, May 05, 2005

PITCHING OF DiPIETRO, O'BRIEN, LIFT EASTERN BASEBALL TO 5-3 WIN
In battle of nationally-ranked teams, Eastern jumps to early lead, hangs on against Wheaton

MANSFIELD, CT – All-America junior lefty **Ryan DiPietro (KENSINGTON)** pitched a seven-hitter over the first six innings and senior righty **Ben O'Brien (MONTVILLE)** notched his sixth save as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team downed Wheaton College (MA) 5-3 Thursday night in a battle of nationally-ranked Division III teams.

Eastern (27-10) scored four runs in the first three innings and O'Brien stranded the tying run in scoring position in both the seventh and eighth innings as the Warriors won their 21st game in 26 northern outings and improved to 16-2 at home. Eastern is ranked 13th nationally in Division III and third in New England. Wheaton (28-9), which had a six-game winning streak stopped, is rated 24th nationally and second in New England.

Wheaton has already clinched a spot in the NCAA Division III New England Regional Tournament after winning the New England Men's and Women's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Monday with a 9-6, 11-inning win over Springfield College.

DiPietro (7-1) won his 28th career game against three losses, tying Jeff Brewer for fourth all-time on the career win chart. He carried a shutout and a 4-0 lead into the sixth before the Lyons scored three runs on a leadoff double by Rafael Castillo, RBI single by cleanup batter Mark Baumer and a two-run home run by freshman Scott Guillerault. He fanned ten and walked two.

O'Brien pitched the final three scoreless innings to gain his sixth save – fifth in his last ten appearances. O'Brien stranded the tying run at second in the seventh after a leadoff error and stolen base moved the tying run to second and left the tying run at third in the eighth by getting a strikeout and fly ball to right. O'Brien allowed two hits while fanning three without a walk.

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After Eastern scoring an unearned run in the first, junior third baseman Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH) singled home two runs with two out in the second to make it 3-0 and No. 8 hitter **Alex Cardona (WEST HAVEN)** made it 4-0 in the third with a sacrifice fly that scored sophomore centerfielder **Randy Re (DANBURY)**.

Batting ninth in the order, sophomore catcher **Matt Cooney (ARLINGTON, MA)** scored twice after reaching on a fielder's choice in the second and doubling to lead off the eighth.

Senior shortstop **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** had a seventh-inning assist to move to within one of tying Nick Tempesta's career record of 518 assists set between 1998 and 2001. The New England Division III record for assists is 543. Junior first baseman Chris DeSantis recorded his 99th collegiate hit (98th at Eastern) when he singled to lead off the seventh.

Eastern looks to win its fourth straight Little East Conference regular-season title Saturday when it visits Keene State College for a noon doubleheader. The Warriors need one win to clinch the title and host the conference tournament which gets underway Wednesday.

Eastern Conn. 5, Wheaton College (MA) 3

Wheaton College (28-9)	000	003	000	--	3	9	3
Eastern Conn. (27-10)	121	000	01x	--	5	9	1

Louie Bernardini (1-3), Brian Hughes (6), Kevin Doherty (7), Josh Moore (8) and Adam Laplante. Ryan DiPietro (7-1), Ben O'Brien (7) and Matt Cooney. 2B-Rafael Castillo, Mark Baumer, Brandon Leonard (W), Matt Cooney (E); HR-Scott Guillerault (5) (W);

Eastern
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Sports News

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little east conference

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

FIVE-RUN THIRD INNING CARRIES TUFTS PAST EASTERN BASEBALL
Warriors can't build upon Mehrbach's first-inning home run in non-conference loss

MEDFORD, MA – The Tufts University baseball team snapped a tie by scoring five runs on five hits and an error in the bottom of the third inning and went on to an 8-2 non-conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday afternoon at Huskins Field.

Ranked fourth in New England, Tufts (21-8) utilized six pitchers in winning its fourth straight game and defeating Eastern (26-10) for the second straight year. Eastern, 20-5 up north, falls to 11-8 away from home. The Warriors are ranked third in New England.

After junior third baseman **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** hit a two-run home run to give Eastern an early lead in its first at-bat, Tufts tied the game with two runs in the first against sophomore **Sam Iverson (NEW MILFORD)**, then chased the righty in the third when it scored five runs on five hits and an Eastern error.

Five different players drove in a run and five different players scored a run for Tufts, which tied the game in the first on sophomore third baseman Kyle Backstrom's double and went ahead for good in the third on senior designated hitter Greg Hickey's RBI single.

Eastern relievers **Trey Bongiovanni (MERIDEN)**, **Brian Wendell (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** and **Andrew LeBrun (STONEHAM, MA)** limited the Jumbos to just one run and four hits after the third inning. Bongiovanni pitched 3 1/3 scoreless innings, allowing only two hits before giving way to Wendell after Hickey's two-out double in the sixth.

(more)

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Five Tufts relievers shut out Eastern over the final eight innings, the Warriors managing only seven hits.

Three batters into the game, Eastern led 2-0 when Mehrbach hit his second home run of the year. Junior leftfielder **Greg Sullivan (NEEDHAM, MA)** had drawn a one-out walk prior to Mehrbach's third career blast.

Mehrbach was 2-for-2 to push his average back over .400 to .401 and move to within five of his 100th career hit. Senior designated hitter **Leon Galemba (FAIRFIELD)** delivered two hits, as did outfield reserve **Eric O'Toole (WATERBURY)**.

The early departure was the second in his last two starts for Iverson (3-2), who was lifted one batter into the third inning April 18 in an 11-10 home win over Suffolk University. Against Tufts, Iverson gave up six hits in 2 1/3 innings and was charged with seven runs, only four of which were earned.

Eastern hosts Albertus Magnus College Wednesday night at 7 p.m.

Tufts University 8, Eastern Conn. 2

Eastern Conn. (26-10)	200	000	000	--	2	9	1
Tufts U. (21-8)	205	000	10x	--	8	11	1

Sam Iverson (3-2), Trey Bongiovanni (3), Brian Wendell (6), Andrew LeBrun (8) and Matt Cooney. Jeremy Davis, Carlos Lopez (2), Erik Johanson (4), Jason Protano (6), Adam Telian (7), Aaron Narva (9) and Bob Kenny. WP-Lopez (2-0). 2B-Randy Re (E), Jeff Volinski, Greg Hickey, Kyle Backstrom, Chris Decembrele (T); HR-Zach Mehrbach (2) (E).

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Tufts U. (21-8)	205	000	10x	--	8	11	1

Sam Iverson (3-2), Trey Bongiovanni (3), Brian Wendell (6), Andrew LeBrun (8) and Matt Cooney. Jeremy Davis, Carlos Lopez (2), Erik Johanson (4), Jason Protano (6), Adam Telian (7), Aaron Narva (9) and Bob Kenny. WP-Lopez (2-0). 2B-Randy Re (E), Jeff Volinski, Greg Hickey, Kyle Backstrom, Chris Decembrele (T); HR-Zach Mehrbach (2) (E).

little east conference

Sunday, May 1, 2005

WESTERN'S KROST SILENCES EASTERN BASEBALL 8-2

Junior transfer carries no-hitter into eighth in Colonials' Little East win

DANBURY, Conn. – Junior righty Brian Krost carried a no-hitter into the eighth inning, eventually settling for a complete-game two-hitter as the Western Connecticut State University baseball team defeated Little East Conference leader Eastern Connecticut State University, 8-2 Sunday afternoon at Westside Field.

Krost (4-3), a first-year transfer from the University of Rhode Island, didn't allow a hit and allowed only five baserunners through seven innings and carried an 8-0 lead into the eighth. He hit senior shortstop **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** leading off the eighth and with one out, surrendered his first hit and run when Eastern senior leftfielder **Jason Pekrul (BERLIN)** singled to left-center field, scoring Koch from second. In the ninth, Krost walked leadoff batter **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)**. With one out, junior first baseman **Chris DeSantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)** drove in Garofalo from second with a single to center.

Eastern (25-9, 9-2 little east) freshman righty **Joe Esposito (EAST HAVEN)** was driven from the game after walking the leadoff batter in the third inning. He was charged with four (earned) runs on six hits while walking three and striking out none. The loss was the first for Esposito (5-2) after five straight wins. His only previous loss came in a 19-0 loss at Salisbury University nearly two months ago.

Western (14-15, 5-3 little east) collected 15 hits off five Eastern pitchers, scoring three times in the bottom of the first and three more in the third. Eleven of Western's hit were singles.

Western's T.J. Tarantino was 4-for-5, Andy Powers 3-for-3 and Eben McKnight 3-for-4. Jon Lynch had two doubles and Chris Kaplan drove in two runs and scored two.

The win snaps a streak of 23 straight losses to Eastern, including a 14-0 setback earlier this year at the Eastern Baseball Stadium. Eastern holds a 56-3 series lead.

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Eastern visits Rhode Island College Monday at 3:30 p.m. for a Little East Conference single game. That game was rained out Saturday after Eastern won a rain-shortened opener, 12-0 behind junior lefty **Ryan DiPietro's (KENSINGTON)** no-hitter.

A winner of the last three conference regular-season titles, Eastern needs at least two wins in its three remaining regular-season conference games to finish with at least a share of the title. The No. 1 seed will host the six-team, double-elimination tournament May 11-14.

Western Conn. 8, Eastern Conn. 2

Eastern Conn. (2j5-9, 9-2 little east)	000	00	011	--	2	2	1
Western Conn. (14-15, 5-3 little east)	303	001	10x	--	8	15	0

Joe Esposito (5-2), Trey Bongiovanni (3), Justin Koutros (3), Scott Cavaoli (4), Andrew LeBrun (7) and Matt Cooney, Hector Colon (8). Brian Krost (4-3) and Adam Kaplan. 2B-Jon Lynch 2, A. Kaplan, T.J. Tarantino (W).

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

Athletic Department News

181 White Street - Danbury, Connecticut - 06810

FOR RELEASE IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Scott Ames - Sports Information Specialist - (203) 837-9014

April 24, 2005 - FAXED AT 7:45 p.m.

BRIAN KROST NEARLY NO HITS EASTERN CONNECTICUT IN COLONIALS 8-2 WIN*Junior righty strikes out 10 with no hitter into the 8th Inning*

DANBURY, CT – Junior right hander **Brian Krost (Stamford, CT)** carried a no-hitter into the eight inning and kept Eastern Connecticut State University hitters off balance all afternoon as the Western Connecticut State University baseball team defeated the Warriors, 8-2 in the Little East Conference Westside Field Sunday afternoon.

Krost, a transfer from University of Rhode Island, allowed two earned runs, walked four and hit three batters. He improves to 4-3 on the season and has now defeated two powerful LEC opponents on back-to-back weekends. He went the distance last weekend in the Colonials 8-6 come-from-behind victory over Southern Maine.

The Colonials' victory on Sunday broke a 23-game win streak by Eastern Connecticut. WestConn last defeated the Warriors, 9-7 in Willimantic on May 3, 1995.

The Warriors' **Jason Pekrul (Berlin, CT)** broke up the no hitter with one out in the eighth with a line drive to left center field. **Chris DeSantis (Shrewsbury, MA)** added a single to center in the ninth inning.

The Colonials, which led 8-0 through seven innings, belted out 15 hits on the afternoon including four doubles.

TJ Tarantino (Rutherford, NY) went 4-for-5 with one RBI.

Eben McKnight (Windsor, CT) came to the plate with bases loaded in the third inning after Eastern intentionally walked WestConn's leading hitter **DJ Mulhall (Stratford, CT)** for the second time. He was immediately hit by a pitch for the ninth time this season, forcing in the Colonials' sixth run. McKnight went 3-for-4 on the afternoon.

Chris Kaplan (Stratford, CT) helped get WestConn out to a 3-0 lead in the first inning when he laced a two-RBI double down the right field line off starter and loser **Joe Esposito (East Haven, CT)**.

Esposito was the first of five pitchers for the Warriors on Sunday. He went two innings, allowed six hits and walked four before being replaced by **Trey Bongiovanni (Meriden, CT)**. Esposito falls to 5-2 on the year.

Andy Powers (Stratford, CT) went 3-for-3 and had two RBIs for Western Connecticut

WestConn improves to 14-15 overall and 5-3 in the league. Eastern Connecticut, the nation's 13th ranked team in Division III, drop to 25-9 overall and 9-2 in the LEC.

WestConn hosts Mitchell College at Westside Field this Tuesday at 4 p.m.

little east conference

Saturday, April 30, 2005

EASTERN'S DiPIETRO NO-HITS RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE 12-0

Becomes first pitcher in program history to be part of two no-hitters

PROVIDENCE, RI – Junior left-handed pitcher **Ryan DiPietro (KENSINGTON)** pitched a no-hitter and fanned 11 batters in a game stopped after six innings due to rain as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team defeated Rhode Island College 12-0 Saturday in a Little East Conference game Saturday. The second game was postponed and is scheduled to be played Monday at 3:30 p.m. at Rhode Island College.

DiPietro (6-1) becomes the first Eastern pitcher to be part of two no-hitters in his career. On March 29, he threw seven perfect innings before eventually combining on a no-hitter with **Brian Wendell (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** in a 7-0 home win over Westfield State College in the northern opener. With his 27th win in 30 career decisions, DiPietro moves into sole possession of fourth place all-time in wins, one behind Jeff Brewer ('83).

DiPietro and Rhode Island senior righty James Milano were locked in a scoreless battle before Eastern (25-8, 9-1 little east) scored five runs in the fourth on three hits and three errors and broke it open with seven more runs on seven hits in the fifth.

Senior leftfielder **Jason Pekar (BERLIN)**, sophomore second baseman **Alex Cardona (WEST HAVEN)** and sophomore catcher **Matt Cooney (ARLINGTON, MA)** had a hit in both of those innings for Eastern, which capitalized on three Rhode Island (12-15, 5-4 little east) errors to score four unearned runs in the fourth. Junior third baseman **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** drove in three runs in the two scoring innings with a sacrifice fly and two-run double; Pekar drove in two with a two-run single, Cardona drove in two with a double and single, Cooney drove in a pair with a double and sophomore centerfielder **Randy Re (DANBURY)** drove in two with a two-run home run. The homer came in the fifth and was his team-leading sixth of the year and fourth in the last eight games. In those eight games, Re is batting .441 (15-for-34) with 15 RBI, 13 runs and six stolen bases.

(more)

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Six Eastern batters finished with at least two hits, with Pekrul collecting three. Rhode Island was the only team to defeat Eastern in 14 conference regular-season games last year.

In winning 19 of 22 games up north, Eastern is batting .371 and averaging 9.9 runs and 14.1 hits.

Eastern visits Western Connecticut State University Sunday at 1 p.m. Freshman righty **Joe Esposito (EAST HAVEN)** is expected to open on the mound. Esposito is 5-1 with a 1.77 ERA. Sophomore lefty **Rob Cremins (STOUGHTON, MA)** is scheduled to face Rhode Island Monday.

Eastern Conn. 12, Rhode Island College 0

Eastern Conn. (25-8, 9-1 little east)	000	570	--	12	14	1
R.I. College (12-15, 5-4 little east)	000	000	--	0	0	3

Ryan DiPietro (6-1) and Matt Cooney. James Milano (1-5), Eric Thibault (5) and Tim Henault. 2B-Zach Mehrbach, Leon Galemba, Alex Cardona, Matt Cooney (E); HR-Randy Re (E) (6).

little east conference

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

EASTERN BASEBALL PULLS AWAY FROM WESLEYAN, 12-3
Warriors score eight runs in final three innings, improve northern record to 18-3

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. -- Alex Cardona (WEST HAVEN) and Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI) combined for four hits, five runs and four RBI to help lift the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 12-3 win over Wesleyan University Wednesday afternoon.

Ranked 13th nationally, Eastern (24-8) scored eight runs in its final three at-bats to move out from a tight 4-3 advantage and defeat Wesleyan (5-20) for the 11th straight time. The Warriors have won 18 of 21 games up north this year.

Cardona, a first-year sophomore second baseman, was 2-for-3 with his third home run of the season, three runs scored and two RBI. Koch, a senior shortstop, was 2-for-3 with two runs scored and two RBI. With Eastern trailing 2-0, Cardona hit his second home run in three games with one out in the second and junior leftfielder Greg Sullivan (NEEDHAM, MA) tied the game when he drove in Koch with a bunt single. Koch put Eastern ahead for good in the fourth with a two-run, opposite-field double to right.

Senior leftfielder Jason Pekrul (BERLIN) came off the bench to pick up two hits in two at-bats and also robbed Wesleyan senior catcher Mac Clonan of a leadoff home run in the seventh with a running catch that propelled him over a four foot high temporary fence.

Leading 4-3, the Warriors scored three unearned runs without a hit in the seventh when the Cardinals committed four of their seven errors. Eastern blew the game open in the ninth by scoring five runs on three hits, two walks, two sacrifice flies and an error. Sophomore Eric O'Toole (WATERBURY) plated two of the runs with a pinch bases-loaded single.

Junior right-handed pitcher Alex Narus (PROSPECT) won his second game in a week, pitching into the seventh inning and leaving with a 7-3 lead. Narus, who won his first game at Eastern in a starting role, allowed five singles while fanning five and walking one. Narus had pitched 3 2/3 innings in relief last Wednesday in a 10-7 win at Bridgewater State -- his first win at Eastern.

Eastern visits Rhode Island College Saturday at noon for a Little East Conference doubleheader.

Eastern Conn. 12, Wesleyan U. 3

Eastern Conn. (24-8)	020	200	305	--	12	11	0
Wesleyan U. (5-20)	210	000	000	--	3	5	7

Alex Narus (2-1), Sam Iverson (7), Brian Wendell (9) and Hector Colon, Zack Lamkin (9). Louis Gabel (0-2), Kit Tholen (5), Tim Truncellito (9), Charlie Munzig (9) and Mac Clonan. 2B-Tom Koch (E); HR-Alex Cardona (3).

little east conference

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

NO. 1 TRINITY COLLEGE DOWNS NO.2 EASTERN BASEBALL, 8-4

Fries' two-run double in sixth inning gives Bantams the lead for good

HARTFORD, Conn. -- Senior catcher Andrew Fries doubled home two runs to snap a tie in the sixth inning and the Trinity College baseball team went on to an 8-4 win over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday afternoon in a battle of the top two-ranked Division III teams in New England.

Ranked No. 7 nationally, Trinity (24-5) broke a five-game losing streak at the hands of No. 13 Eastern (23-8). The Warriors had won five straight this year and 17 of 19 northern games heading into the contest.

Trailing 3-2, Trinity tied the game in the bottom of the fourth inning with an unearned run that was driven in by freshman Chandler Barnard's two-out single. The Bantams went ahead for good when they scored two runs in the sixth on three hits, an infield error, sacrifice bunt and intentional walk. An error, single, sacrifice bunt and intentional walk loaded the bases for Fries, who doubled to center to plate two runs and give the Bantams a 5-3 lead.

Trinity's 2-3-4 batters of Barnard, senior third baseman Jeff Natale and junior first baseman Erik Paisley combined for eight of their team's 14 hits, scored three runs and drove in two.

Junior first baseman **Chris DeSantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)** had three of Eastern's 13 hits, sophomore centerfielder **Randy Re (DANBURY)** and junior utility player **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** each contributing two hits.

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

Trinity College 8, Eastern Conn. 4

Eastern Conn. (23-8)	002	100	100	--	4	13	5
Trinity (24-5)	200	102	03x	--	8	14	1

Matt Cremins, Trey Bongiovanni (6), Ben O'Brien (6), Brian Wendell (8) and Matt Cooney. Kyle Cox, Mark Tremblay (5), Tim Kiely (7) and Andrew Fries. WP-Tremblay (1-0). LP-Bongiovanni (3-2). 2B-Jeff Natale, Andrew Fries (T); 3B-Aaron Goldstein (T).