
little east conference

Sunday, April 24, 2005

ESPOSITO, DiPIETRO PITCH EASTERN BASEBALL PAST UMD
Led by Koch, Garofalo, Warriors collect 25 hits in Little East Conference sweep

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Freshman righty **Joe Esposito (EAST HAVEN)** won his fifth straight decision in the opener and junior lefty **Ryan DiPietro (KENSINGTON)** struck out his 300th career batter in the nightcap in sparking the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 7-0, 8-1 Little East Conference sweep of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Sunday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Ranked 13th nationally, Eastern (23-7, 8-1 little east) improved its northern record to 17-2 and its home record to 14-2 and is now 17-2 against UMass Dartmouth (9-21, 3-7 little east) in nine years of regular-season conference play.

In search of its fourth straight regular-season title, Eastern has opened up a 2 ½ game lead in the conference over Keene State and Rhode Island College, both at 5-3. The University of Southern Maine (4-3) fell three games off the pace and into a tie for fourth place with Western Connecticut State University after being swept by the host Colonials Sunday. Each conference team is scheduled to play 14 regular-season conference games. The No. 1 seed in the final regular-season standings hosts the six-team, double-elimination conference tournament, which is scheduled for May 11-14.

Esposito (5-1) and DiPietro (5-1) pitched the first seven innings of their respective games. Esposito lowered his northern ERA to 1.10 in 32 1/3 innings by combining on a shutout. He scattered five hits while striking out eight and walking two. He has allowed runs in only one of his last six games – giving up four in 7 2/3 innings in a 20-5 win over Southern Maine last Saturday.

DiPietro, who had a 16-game regular-season winning streak broken last Saturday in an 8-0 loss to Southern Maine, allowed one (earned) run on seven hits while fanning ten and walking one. DiPietro's first five outs came by strikeout. He ended the third inning by fanning cleanup hitter Chris Waymon for his seventh of the game and the 300th of his

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career. He becomes only the second Eastern pitcher to fan as many as 300 batters in a career, joining eventual major leaguer John Caneira, who struck out 547 between 1971 and 1974.

Seven of Eastern's 25 hits in the doubleheader went for extra bases, with nine batters collecting at least two hits, four scoring at least two runs and four driving in at least two runs.

Senior shortstop **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)**, senior leftfielder **Jason Pekarul (BERLIN)** and sophomore centerfielder **Randy Re (DANBURY)** continued their torrid hitting in the doubleheader. Koch went 4-for-7 with two RBI to raise his batting average in the last six games to .579 (11-for-19) with four doubles, 11 RBI and five runs; Pekarul, batting leadoff, was 3-for-9 with a run scored and is now batting .409 (9-for-22) in his last five games; and Re was 3-for-7 with three runs scored and an RBI and is batting .500 (12-for-24) with three doubles, three home runs, ten runs scored and seven RBI during a six-game hitting streak.

Junior utility player **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** was 4-for-4 with four RBI and three runs scored in the first game. Batting cleanup, Garofalo drove in the first run of the game with a single and later scored in the first inning, singled in the third inning, tripled in two runs and scored in the fifth and followed Re's leadoff home run in the seventh with his third homer of the year.

In the second game, first-year sophomore second baseman **Alex Cardona (WEST HAVEN)** had two hits, scored two runs and hit a three-run home run to left in the seventh inning.

Koch is second on the team in batting this year with a .373 average, with Garofalo at .354, Re at .330 and Pekarul at .328.

Eastern visits Trinity College Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. for a non-conference game. Trinity is ranked first in New England, Eastern third.

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Sunday, March 24, 2005 -- Baseball

Game 1

Eastern Conn. 7, Massachusetts Dartmouth 0

UMass Dartmouth (9-20, 3-6 little east)	000	000	000	--0	8	2
Eastern Conn. (22-7, 7-1 little east)	200	030	20x	--7	11	1

Lee Marques (3-2), Brian Vanasse (7) and Mike Maclean. Joe Esposito (5-1), Ben O'Brien (8), Andrew LeBrun (9), Brian Wendell (9) and Matt Cooney. 2B-Jeremy Robidoux (M), Zach Mehrbach (E); 3B-Marc Garofalo (E); HR-Randy Re (5), Garofalo (3) (E).

Game 2

Eastern Conn. 8, Massachusetts Dartmouth 1

UMass Dartmouth (9-21, 3-7 little east)	001	000	000	--1	7	1
Eastern Conn. (23-7, 8-1 little east)	010	400	30x	--8	14	1

Dan DeCosta (0-6), Rob Gleavy (7) and John Macone. Ryan DiPietro (5-1), Trey Bongiovanni (8), Scott Cavaoli (9) and Matt Cooney. 2B-Doug Hittinger (M), Randy Re, Chris DeSantis (E); HR-Alex Cardona (2) (E).

little east conference

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

EASTERN BASEBALL RALLIES PAST BRIDGEWATER STATE 10-7

Warriors tie the game with three in sixth, Galemba hits go-ahead HR in seventh

BRIDGEWATER, Mass. – The Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team tied the game with three runs in the sixth inning and senior designated hitter **Leon Galemba (FAIRFIELD)** hit a go-ahead home run leading off the seventh in a 10-7 non-conference win over Bridgewater State College Wednesday afternoon at Alumni Park.

With its seventh straight win over Bridgewater (18-8), No. 13 nationally-ranked Eastern (21-7) improves to 15-2 up north. Eastern is ranked third in New England, Bridgewater seventh.

Trailing 7-4, Eastern tied the game in the sixth on RBI singles by junior rightfielder **Greg Sullivan (NEEDHAM, MA)** and sophomore catcher **Matt Cooney (ARLINGTON, MA)** with none out and a ground ball by senior leftfielder **Jason Pekrul (BERLIN)**. Galemba put Eastern ahead for good when he hit a 1-0 pitch over the left field fence for his third home run of the year and sophomore centerfielder **Randy Re (DANBURY)** added two insurance runs with his team-leading fourth home run of the year with two out in the eighth.

As the second of five Eastern pitchers, junior righty **Alex Narus (PROSPECT)** won his first game at Eastern. Narus, who won two games at Division I Manhattan in 2003, replaced left-handed starter **Matt Cremins (STOUGHTON, MA)** while the Bears were taking a 7-4 lead with four unearned runs in the fourth. Narus recorded the final out of the fourth when Re threw out Christian Perry at home on a single by Steve Smith and scattered three hits until giving way to junior righty **Brian Wendell (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** with two on and one out in the eighth and Eastern leading 10-7. Wendell got a strikeout but then walked the bases loaded before junior lefty All-America **Ryan DiPietro (KENSINGTON)** came on to strand three runners when he got a comebacker to the mound.

Senior righty **Ben O'Brien (MONTVILLE)** faced four batters in the ninth – striking out two – to record his fourth save of the year – third in his last six appearances.

Sullivan and Galemba each had three hits in Eastern's 14-hit attack while Re and Pekrul had two each. Sullivan drove in a run with a triple and later scored when the Warriors scored twice to tie the game 3-3 in the second. He finished with three RBI and scored two runs while Re scored three times and drove in two and Galemba scored twice. During a six-game hitting streak, Sullivan is 8-for-19 (.421) with six runs scored. In the last three games, Re is 8-for-13 (.615) with seven runs scored, six RBI and three stolen bases.

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Junior infielder **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** was hitless in six plate appearances that ended his 14-game hitting streak. Mehrbach flied out three times, lined out and grounded out once and had a sacrifice bunt.

Bridgewater freshman leftfielder Steve Smith was 4-for-5 to extend his hitting streak to all 26 games this year. Senior shortstop Ryan Fitzgerald was 2-for-5 with three RBI and two runs scored. Fitzgerald's third home run of the season gave the Bears a 3-1 lead in the first inning.

Eastern hosts Massachusetts Dartmouth Saturday at 2 p.m. in a Little East Conference doubleheader.

Eastern Conn. 10, Bridgewater State College 7

Eastern Conn. (21-7)	121	003	120	--	10	14	3
Bridgewater State (18-8)	300	400	000	--	7	11	6

Matt Cremins, Alex Narus (4), Brian Wendell (8), Ryan DiPietro (8), Ben O'Brien (9) and Matt Cooney. Jon Souza, Josh Fortin (6) and Jon Lombardi. WP-Narus (1-1). LP-Fortin (1-1). Save-O'Brien (4). 2B-Tom Koch (E), Christian Perry, Ryan McCann (B); 3B-Greg Sullivan (E); HR-Leon Galemba (3), Randy Re (4) (E), Ryan Fitzgerald (3).

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little east conference

Monday, April 18, 2005

EASTERN BASEBALL OUTSLUGS SUFFOLK 11-10

Warriors rally from early deficit to post 34th straight 20-win season

MANSFIELD, Conn. – **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** drove in two runs with a two-strike, opposite-field single to right to spark a three-run seventh inning that helped carry the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to an 11-10 win over Suffolk University Monday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Ranked 13th nationally and third in New England, Eastern (20-7) recorded its 34th straight 20-win season with its fifth straight victory over Suffolk (16-10). The Rams, 12-4 up north, are ranked in a time for eighth in New England.

Suffolk scored three runs in the top of the seventh to tie the game 8-8 but the Warriors went ahead for good by scoring three times in the bottom of the inning. Freshman righty Greg DiMarco (0-1) took over on the mound for Suffolk to start the seventh but Eastern loaded the bases on a leadoff double by sophomore centerfielder **Randy Re (DANBURY)**, a walk to junior DH **Ryan DiPietro (KENSINGTON)** and a sacrifice bunt fielder's choice by junior rightfielder **Greg Sullivan (NEEDHAM, MA)**. Koch, a senior shortstop, then doubled down the right field line on an 0-2 pitch to plate Re and DiPietro with the go-ahead runs and Sullivan scored from third to make it 11-8 when sophomore catcher **Matt Cooney (ARLINGTON, MA)** grounded into a double play.

Both teams bounced back from deficits to tie the game 8-8. Trailing 4-0, the Warriors scored three times in the bottom of the fourth to tie the game on an RBI double by DiPietro, sacrifice fly by Koch and an infield ground ball. Trailing 5-4, Eastern scored four times in the bottom of the sixth to move out to an 8-5 lead. Koch's RBI double tied the game and junior first baseman **Chris DeSantis (SHREWBURY, MA)** gave Eastern a three-run lead when he drove a 1-2 pitch from starter Rony Mercado over the right field fence.

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Re reached safely four times with three hits and a walk and scored two runs while DeSantis and Koch each drove in four runs with two hits. Sullivan scored the tying run in the fourth, the first run in the four-run sixth and the last run in the seventh which proved to be the margin of victory.

Senior first baseman and cleanup hitter Tamayo Manzanillo drove in six runs for Suffolk by collecting five of his team's 17 hits. He gave the Rams a 1-0 lead with an RBI single in the first, doubled and scored leading off the third, gave Suffolk a 5-4 lead with an RBI single in the sixth, tied the game 8-8 with a two-run, two-out single in the seventh, and hit a two-run home run with one out in the ninth to cut Eastern's lead to one. The hit was the only one allowed by winning pitcher **Brian Wendell (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)**, who had come on to end Suffolk's three-run seventh by getting an inning-ending foul out to third. Wendell (2-0), a junior righty, put the tying run on first with a walk after Manzanillo's home run in the ninth but forced a game-ending double play, began by Koch at short.

For Eastern, junior infielder **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** hit safely in his 14th straight game when he doubled and scored the team's first run on DeSantis' two-out single in the third.

Senior centerfielder and leadoff hitter Mike Maguire had four hits and scored two runs. Batting behind Maguire, sophomore second baseman Dave DeMaria had two hits, scored twice and drove in two runs while junior rightfielder Trevor Grimshaw reached safely four times and scored two runs. He had two singles and was hit by pitch twice.

In 16 northern games, Eastern has won 14 and is batting .377 and averaging 14.6 hits per game. Among regulars, Mehrbach is batting .472 up north (.446 overall) and Koch .429 (.363 overall).

Eastern isits No. 7 Bridgewater State College Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 11, Suffolk U. 10

Suffolk (16-10)	121	001	302	--	10	17	1
Eastern Conn. (20-7)	001	304	300	--	11	14	2

Rony Mercado, Greg DiMarco (7) and Marc Exarhopoulos. Sam Iverson, Trey Bongiovanni (3), Ben O'Brien (6), Brian Wendell (7) and Matt Cooney. WP-Wendell (2-0). 2B-Tamayo Manzanillo (S), Zach Mehrbach, Randy Re, Ryan DiPietro, Tom Koch (E); HR-Manzanillo (9), Kevin Reedy (1) (S), Chris DeSantis (2) (E).

Saturday, April 16, 2005

MEHRBACH POWERS EASTERN BASEBALL TO LITTLE EAST SPLIT
Junior infielder extends hitting streak to 13 in 8-0 loss, 20-5 win over USM

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Junior infielder **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** had six hits and drove in four runs in extending his hitting streak to 13 games and sparking the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a Little East Conference doubleheader split with the University of southern Maine Saturday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

All-New England junior righty Tip Fairchild (Monmouth, ME) stymied Eastern on six hits in the first game in pitching his first shutout of the year in Southern Maine's (13-6, 3-1 little east) 8-0 first-game win that snapped Eastern's 11-game winning streak.

In the second game, the Warriors pummeled five Southern Maine pitchers for 22 hits and freshman **righty Joe Esposito (EAST HAVEN)** won his fourth straight decision in a 20-5 victory that was the Warriors' 13th win in 15 northern games. It was the most runs scored in a regular-season conference game between the two teams and the most against Southern Maine for Eastern since it won 23-3 in the 1987 NCAA Division III Northeast Regional Tournament championship round at the old Alumni Field.

On Saturday, the top three teams in the conference all split doubleheaders. In addition to this split, Keene State College split with Massachusetts Dartmouth. Eastern, which has won the last three regular-season conference titles outright, leads Keene State (4-1) by one game, with Southern Maine a half-game behind Keene. Each team is scheduled to play 14 regular-season conference games.

Mehrbach raised his team-leading batting average to .458 by going 6-for-9 on the day and matched sophomore centerfielder **Randy Re (DANBURY)** with four RBI. Mehrbach, who was 12-for-18 in four games this week, had three of Eastern's hits in the opener against Fairchild (4-1) and three more to go along with four RBI in the nightcap. In the second game, he had RBI singles in the third, fifth and seventh innings and a run-scoring sacrifice fly in the fourth.

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Eleven players had hits in the doubleheader for Eastern, ranked 13th nationally in Division III. Batting eighth in the order, senior shortstop **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** drove in three runs and scored four with four hits in the second game. He singled and scored in the third, doubled and second in the fourth, drove in a run with a single and scored in the sixth and drove in two runs with a double and scored in the seventh.

In the second game, No 1-2-3 hitters **Jason Pekrul (BERLIN)**, Mehrbach and Re each had three hits and combined to drive in ten runs and score six. Batting ninth, sophomore catcher **Matt Cooney (ARLINGTON, MA)** was 3-for-3 with two runs scored and two RBI. Re hit a there-run home run in the third, junior rightfielder **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** a solo home run leading off the second and junior first baseman **Chris DeSantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)** a solo home run leading off the fifth.

Esposito, who has not lost since March 6, extended a personal streak of innings without allowing an earned run to 31 before the Huskies broke through for a run in the sixth on two walks, two singles and a sacrifice fly. Esposito gave up seven hits and four (earned) runs before giving way to junior righty **Brian Wendell (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** with two out in the eighth. Esposito fanned eight and walked three.

All-America junior lefty **Ryan DiPietro (KENSINGTON)** lost the opener, ending a string of 16 straight regular-season victories. DiPietro was lifted with one out in the seventh. He allowed five runs (three earned) on eight hits with four strikeouts and three walks. His strikeout total moves him to within seven of becoming the second pitcher in program history with as many as 300 career strikeouts. The loss was only the third against 25 career wins for DiPietro, whose losses have all come to teams which have won Division III national championships.

With the first-game win, Southern Maine stopped a five-game losing streak at the hands of Eastern, which has won ten of the last 14 meetings with the former two-time national champions. Southern Maine broke a scoreless tie with three runs in the top of the sixth and went on to score all of its runs in its final four at-bats. Fairchild opened the sixth with a single and scored the first run of the game. Sophomore first baseman Joe McGhee (Walpole, MA), sophomore catcher Max Arsenault (Boothbay, ME) and freshman centerfielder Eddie Skeffington (Everett, MA) contributed run-scoring singles in the inning.

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With one out in the fourth inning of the first game, Eastern junior rightfielder **Greg Sullivan (NEEDHAM, MA)** recorded his 100th career hit in his 106th career game with a single up the middle.

Eastern hosts Suffolk University Monday at 4 p.m.

Game 1

U. of Southern Maine 8, Eastern Conn. 0

Southern Maine (13-5, 3-0 little east)	000	003	320	--	8	12	0
Eastern Conn. (18-7, 5-1 little east)	000	000	000	--	0	6	3

Tip Fairchild (4-1) and Max Arsenault. Ryan DiPietro (4-1), Ben O'Brien (7), Andrew LeBrun (7), Justin Koutros (8), Alex Narus (9) and Matt Cooney, Hector Colon (9). 2B-Ryan Bourque, Joe McGhee, Eddie Skeffington (S), Randy Re (E).

Game 2

Eastern Conn. 20, U. of Southern Maine 5

Southern Maine (13-6, 3-1 little east)	000	002	021	--	5	8	1
Eastern Conn. (19-7, 6-1 little east)	014	423	60x	--	20	22	0

Peter Bergeron (3-2), Pat Foley (4), Sam Warner (6), Andrew Portwine (7), Brandon Brewer (8) and Max Arsenault. Joe Esposito (4-1), Brian Wendell (8) and Matt Cooney, Zack Lamkin (9). 2B-Ryan Bourque (S), Tom Koch 2, Leon Galcmba (E); HR-Tip Fairchild (3), Eddie Skeffington (1) (S), Randy Re (3), Marc Garofalo (2), Chris DeSantis (1) (E).

little east conference

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

EASTERN BASEBALL POUNDS SPRINGFIELD FOR 11th STRAIGHT
Warriors improve northern record to 12-1 with 14-2 victory over Pride

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. – Twelve players contributed a hit in a 17-hit attack as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team rolled to a 14-2 non-conference win over Springfield College Wednesday afternoon at Berry-Allen Field.

Ranked 13th nationally, Eastern (18-6) won its 11th straight game and upped its northern record to 12-1. The road game was only the Warriors' second since March 25.

Sixteen of Eastern's hits were singles, the Warriors scored eight unanswered runs in their first three at-bats. Redshirt freshman righty **Trey Bongiovanni (MERIDEN)** won his third game in his fourth decision. In his first collegiate start (eighth appearance), Bongiovanni stopped Springfield (8-13) on five hits and one (earned) run. He fanned two and walked two over a season-high six innings.

The top seven players in the order who came to bat had at least one hit and combined for 12 hits, scored eight runs and drove in seven. Junior second baseman **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** extended his hitting streak to 11 games with his 13th multiple-hit game of the year. Mehrbach, who is batting .600 (15-for-25) in his last six games, was 3-for-4 with two RBI and a run scored. Adding two hits each were redshirt freshman **Jared Nelson (WILLIMANTIC)**, junior first baseman **Chris DeSantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)** and junior third baseman **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)**. Nelson was a late-inning replacement for Mehrbach. Sophomore catcher **Matt Cooney (ARLINGTON, MA)** stroked his first career home run leading off the second inning.

Staked to an 8-0 lead, Bongiovanni pitched four scoreless innings before the Pride scored their first run in the fifth after there were two out on a walk and two singles. Right-handed Springfield College junior ace Jon Davis (3-3) was knocked from the box in the third inning after allowing eight runs (seven earned) on seven hits.

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In 13 games up north, Eastern is averaging 14.7 hits per game and batting .379 with a .964 fielding percentage and 1.54 ERA.

The three-time defending regular-season Little East Conference champion, Eastern hosts the University of Southern Maine Saturday in a conference doubleheader beginning at noon.

Eastern Conn. 14, Springfield College 2

Eastern Conn. (18-6)	215	000	510	--	14	17	0
Springfield College (8-13)	000	010	100	--	2	8	8

Trey Bongiovanni (3-1), Alex Narus (7), Justin Koutros (8), Andrew LeBrun (9) and Matt Cooney, Hector Colon (8). 2B-Adam Tarquini, Matt Basteri (S); HR-Cooney (1) (E).

little east conference

Monday, April 11, 2005

BEHIND 16-HIT ATTACK, EASTERN WINS TENTH STRAIGHT, 7-3

Top four hitters in lineup collect ten hits, score four runs and drive in four

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Junior infielder **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** extended his hitting streak to ten games with his 12th multiple-hit game of the year to pace the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 7-3 win over Babson College Monday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Ranked 13th nationally and second in New England, Eastern (17-6) won its tenth straight game, improving its northern record to 11-1 and home record to 10-1. The game was a re-match of last year's NCAA Division III New England Regional Tournament second-round game, won 8-0 by Eastern here over Babson (9-10).

Eight of ten batters who came to the plate contributed a hit to a 16-hit attack for Eastern, which is batting .382 up north.

Batting 1-2 in the lineup, senior leftfielder **Jason Pekarul (BERLIN)** and Mehrbach each had three hits, scored two runs and drove in one while No. 3 hitter **Chris DeSantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)** and cleanup hitter **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** each had two hits. DeSantis drove in two runs with singles in the first and third. Sophomore centerfielder **Randy Re (DANBURY)** reached safely with two hits and a walk and drove in runs with singles in the third and fourth innings. Senior shortstop **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** also reached three times with two singles and a walk, scored two runs and drove in one.

Mehrbach, named the Offensive Player-of-the-Week in the Little East Conference today, has hit safely in 21 of 23 games this year and reached safely in all but one. By going 3-for-5, he raised his team-leading batting average 15 points to ~~.44~~. This year, he has had four hits in a game twice, three hits three times and two hits seven times.

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Sophomore lefty **Matt Cremins (STOUGHTON, MA)** allowed only one unearned run on ten hits while fanning two and walking two over the first six innings to gain his first win of the season and second of his career. It was the first win as a starter for Cremins (1-2), who was making his fourth career start. He also won his first home game and lowered his earned run average from 2.95 to 2.31.

Babson, which is 9-5 up north, got three hits from sophomore shortstop and leadoff hitter Billy Schmitt (Fairview, NJ) and two hits from sophomore first baseman Ryan Campell (Manchester, NH), freshman leftfielder Jay Verrill (Auburn, ME) and freshman third baseman John Hudspeth (Mount Laurel, NJ). Babson had five freshmen in its starting lineup, among them starting right-handed pitcher Sam Whelan (Milton, MA).

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

Eastern Conn. 7, Babson College 3

Babson College (9-10)	000	100	002	--	3	13	2
Eastern Conn. (17-6)	111	200	10x	--	7	16	2

Sam Whelan (2-2), Jeff Musante (7), Tom Fitzgerald (7), John Hudspeth (8) and Ted Dziuba. Matt Cremins (1-2), Ben O'Brien (7), Brian Wendell (9) and Matt Cooney. 2B-Dziuba, Hudspeth (B), Zach Mehrbach (E).

little east conference

Sunday, April 10, 2005

SURGING EASTERN BASEBALL TEAM BOUNCES ALBERTUS, 20-4
Fourteen players contribute hit, run or RBI as Warriors win ninth straight

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Fourteen different players contributed a hit, run or RBI in a 22-hit attack as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team downed Albertus Magnus College 20-4 Sunday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

The win is the ninth straight for Eastern (16-6) and tenth in 11 northern games in the last 13 days. The Warriors completed a 6-0 week with the victory over Albertus (4-11), which has lost four straight.

Nine of Eastern's hits went for extra bases, with the Warriors tying a program record with four triples. Four pitchers combined on a five-hitter with 12 strikeouts.

Sophomore second baseman **Alex Cardona (WEST HAVEN)**, who was the starting shortstop at Albertus last year, doubled and triple and finished with season-highs for hits (4), RBI (4) and runs (2) as one of seven players with two or more hits. Freshman rightfielder **Dan Olmstead (CLINTON, NY)** came off the bench to go 3-for-3 with three runs scored. Others picking up two hits were redshirt freshman infielder **Jared Nelson (WILLIMANTIC)**, sophomore centerfielder **Randy Re (DANBURY)**, senior DH **Leon Galemba (FAIRFIELD)**, senior pitcher **Ben O'Brien (MONTVILLE)** and junior catcher **Hector Colon (HARTFORD)**. The at-bats were the first in the career of O'Brien while Colon had a triple and first career home run, drove in three runs and scored two in his first career start.

Junior infielder **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** doubled and scored in the second inning to extend his hitting streak to nine games. Mehrbach has hit safely in all but two games this year and is batting .429 in 11 northern games.

Sophomore righty **Sam Iverson (NEW MILFORD)** pitched the first five innings to gain his third win in fourth decisions. He fanned four and walked three and allowed five hits and three runs (two earned) to post his seventh career win in eight decisions. Junior righty **Brian Wendell (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** pitched the final two innings, fanning the first five batters he faced.

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Eastern plays its 11th home game in 12 northern contests Monday at 4 p.m. when it hosts Babson College. Eastern defeated Babson 8-0 in the second round of last year's NCAA Division III New England Regional Tournament here.

Eastern Conn. 20, Albertus Magnus College 4

Albertus Magnus (4-11)	002	010	100	--	4	5	3
Eastern Conn. (16-6)	434	320	13x	--	20	22	3

Bryan Burk (0-2), Jeff Komaromi (3), Steve Permar (5), Jon Robert Bagley (8) and Vin Rispoli, Steve Carosella (5). Sam Iverson (3-1), Trey Bongiovanni (6), Bryan Gilblair (7), Brian Wendell (8) and Hector Colon. 2B-Brian Tiriolo (A), Jason Pekarul, Zach Mehrbach, Ben O'Brien, Alex Cardona (E); 3B-Tom Pelliccia (A), Cardona, Tom Koch, Hector Colon, Zack Lamkin (E); HR-Colon (1) (E).

little east conference

Saturday, April 9, 2005

MEHRBACH, ESPOSITO LEAD EASTERN BASEBALL TO LEC SWEEP

Warriors rally in first game, ride Esposito's three-hitter in nightcap vs. UMB

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Junior infielder **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** raised his team-leading average to .414 by going 6-for-9 with three RBI and two runs scored and freshman righty **Joe Esposito (EAST HAVEN)** pitched a complete-game shutout in the nightcap to lift the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to a 6-4, 7-0 Little East Conference sweep of the University of Massachusetts Boston Saturday night at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Ranked No. 17 nationally, Eastern (15-6, 5-0) has won eight straight and improved to 9-1 up north. UMass (10-8, 1-2) had a three-game winning streak snapped and is 0-18 all-time against Eastern.

Mehrbach, who has hit safely in all but two games this year, recorded his tenth and 11th multiple hit games of the year in the doubleheader. He was 2-for-4 with a double, two RBI and a run scored in the first game and 4-for-5 with a run scored and RBI in the second game.

Esposito (3-1) pitched a three-hitter and fanned a career-high 12 – just four less than his season total entering the game -- and walked only two in pitching the team's first complete-game shutout this year. With the help of two double plays, Esposito faced just four batters over the minimum of 27. He did not allow a hit after a leadoff single in the fifth, facing only 17 batters over the final five innings. Beginning with an inning-ending double play in the fifth, he retired 13 straight until Darwin Gonzalez reached on a one-out error in the ninth.

Since allowing four earned runs in 2 1/3 innings in losing his debut a month ago, Esposito is 3-0 in five appearances with a 0.31 ERA in 28 2/3 innings. He has 26 strikeouts and seven walks and has given up only 11 hits in that span. He has not allowed an earned run in his last four appearances and in his last 25 2/3 innings.

In the first game, Eastern scored four runs in the eighth inning to wipe out a 4-2 deficit. Mehrbach drove in the tying and go-ahead runs with a single through the right side to help make a winner of junior All-America lefty **Ryan DiPietro (KENSINGTON)**. DiPietro (4-0) won his 25th career game in 27 decisions and 16th straight regular-season win by giving up only one earned run through the first seven innings. He allowed seven hits and fanned seven with two walks. Senior righty **Ben O'Brien (MONTVILLE)** earned his third save with two hitless innings. In the

(more)

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eighth, UMass put two runners aboard on errors but O'Brien got an infield pop to end the threat.

Sophomore catcher **Matt Cooney (ARLINGTON, MA)** was 4-for-7 in the doubleheader and drove in two runs while senior DH **Leon Galemba (FAIRFIELD)** was 3-for-6 with two runs scored. Galemba hit his second home run of the year – an opposite-field solo shot in the second inning – to give Eastern an early 2-0 lead in the first game but the two Eastern errors led to three unearned runs in the fourth when the Beacons surged to a 3-2 lead.

Eastern hosts Albertus Magnus College Sunday at noon.

Eastern Conn. 6, Massachusetts Boston 4

Eastern Conn. (14-6, 4-0 little east)	110	000	040	--	6	9	4
UMass Boston (10-7, 1-1 little east)	000	201	000	--	4	7	0

Ryan DiPietro (4-0), Ben O'Brien (8) and Matt Cooney. Evan Tardugno (1-1), Chuck Ritterson (8), Nick Conway (8) and Jeran Mondalto. Save-O'Brien (3). 2B-Zach Mehrbach, Marc Garofalo (E), Jose Morales (MB); HR-Leon Galemba (3) (E).

Eastern Conn. 7, Massachusetts Boston 0

Eastern Conn. (15-6, 5-0 little east)	101	101	003	--	7	11	1
UMass Boston (10-8, 1-2 little east)	000	000	000	--	0	3	5

Joe Esposito (3-1) and Matt Cooney. Pat Donovan (0-3), Nate Conway (7), Jaime Soto (9) and Jeran Mondalto. 2B-Chris DeSantis (E); 3B-Jason Pekar (E).

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little east conference

Thursday, April 7, 2005

EASTERN BASEBALL RALLIES PAST FRAMINGHAM STATE 6-4

Stellar relief allows Warriors to erase four-run first inning deficit

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Three relief pitchers limited Framingham State College to three hits and sophomore centerfielder **Randy Re (DANBURY)** hit a game-tying two-run home run after a dropped foul ball prolonged his at-bat as the No. 17 nationally-ranked Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team rallied to a 6-4 victory Thursday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

The win is Eastern's (13-6) sixth straight in a seven-day period and improves the Warriors northern record to 7-1. Framingham (6-5) has lost all 13 games against Eastern in this series.

Framingham State senior catcher Matt Vaccaro (Shrewsbury, MA) hit a two-out grand slam off Eastern junior righty **Alex Narus (PROSPECT)** in the first inning but Eastern got stellar relief pitching the rest of the way, tied the game on Re's two-run home run in the bottom of the fourth and went ahead for good on junior first baseman **Chris DeSantis' (SHREWSBURY, MA)** two-out single in the fifth.

With Eastern trailing 4-2 in the fourth, junior righty **Justin Koutros (EAST PROVIDENCE, RI)** rescued Narus by getting two ground balls to strand two runners and went on to his first collegiate win in his fourth appearance. Koutros, freshman lefty **Andrew LeBrun (STONEHAM, MA)** and senior righty **Ben O'Brien (MONTVILLE)** shut out Framingham, allowing only one hit each while striking out three and walking two. O'Brien replaced Koutros with a runner aboard and Eastern leading 6-4 in the eighth and survived an infield error to get out of the inning. In the ninth, he struck out the potential tying run to end the game and record his second save of the year.

(more)

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Down 4-0, Eastern got two runs back in the bottom of the first on three hits – including junior third baseman **Marc Garofalo's (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** RBI single – and two Framingham errors. In the fourth, Re hit his second home run – a two-run blast to left-center that tied the game – after a dropped fly ball in the left field foul area prolonged his time at bat. In the fifth, junior DH **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** singled and stole second and DeSantis stroked a run-scoring single through the left side. Garofalo provided an insurance run when he tripled with two out in the seventh and raced home on an infield error.

DeSantis was 3-for-3 and also reached with a walk while Mehrbach and Garofalo each had two hits. Garofalo scored twice.

Eastern faces Massachusetts Boston Saturday in a Little East Conference noon doubleheader to be played at Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Eastern Conn. 6, Framingham State College 4

Framingham State (6-5)	400	000	000	--	4	7	5
Eastern Conn. (13-6)	200	210	10x	--	6	11	3

Evan Beauvais (1-1), Brandon Rizzo (6) and Matt Vaccaro. Alex Narus, Justin Koutros (4), Andrew LeBrun (7), Ben O'Brien (8) and Leon Galemba. WP-Koutros (1-0). Save-O'Brien (2). 2B-Dave Brumby (F); 3B-Marc Garofalo (E); HR-Vaccaro (3) (F), Re (2) (E).

little east conference

Wednesday, April 06, 2005

EASTERN BASEBALL DOWNS AMHERST 7-1, NOW 6-1 UP NORTH
No. 17 Warriors score six runs in first two innings in NCAA tourney re-match

MANSFIELD, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team scored three runs on three hits and an error in each of its first two at-bats in defeating Amherst College 7-1 Wednesday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium for its sixth win in seven northern games.

Ranked No. 17 nationally, Eastern (12-6) had 12 hits against six Amherst (5-3) pitchers in the first meeting with the Lord Jeffs since winning 5-2 here in the opening round of last year's NCAA Division III New England Regional Tournament.

Sophomore **Sam Iverson (NEW MILFORD)**, redshirt freshman **Trey Bongiovanni (MERIDEN)** and senior **Ben O'Brien (MONTVILLE)** combined on a six-hitter. Iverson was denied his seventh career win in eight decisions when he left the game with an injury after being struck by a batted ball with two out in the top of the fifth inning. Bongiovanni (2-1) was credited with the win with 3 1/3 innings of two-hit relief. Iverson shut the door after Amherst scored in its first at-bat on a double and infield single. Iverson gave up four hits and walked three without striking out a batter.

Trailing 1-0, Eastern scored six runs in its first two at bats on six hits and two Amherst errors which paved the way for three unearned runs. Junior third baseman **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** drove in three runs with a first-inning double and second-inning sacrifice fly while junior first baseman **Chris DeSantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)** drove in a run in each inning with a sacrifice fly and single.

Sophomore catcher **Matt Cooney (ARLINGTON, MA)** had three hits for Eastern, drove in a run and scored one while Garofalo and sophomore centerfielder **Randy Re (DANBURY)** each had two hits.

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In seven northern games, Eastern is batting .389 and fielding at .979 with a 1.29 earned run average. The Warriors have allowed only four runs in six wins up north.

Eastern host Framingham State College Thursday at 4 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 7, Amherst College 1

Amherst College (5-3)	100	000	000	--	1	6	3
Eastern Conn. (12-6)	330	010	000	--	7	12	1

Chris Edgar (1-1), Brian Donahue (2), Joe Vladeck (4), Ed Imperatore (6), Nick Kehoe (7), Rob Anderson (8) and Josh Card. Sam Iverson, Trey Bongiovanni (5), Ben O'Brien (9) and Matt Cooney. WP-Bongiovanni (2-1). 2B-Dave Powers (A), Zach Mehrbach, Marc Garofalo (E).

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

EASTERN BASEBALL WINS FOURTH STRAIGHT, DOWNS MONTCLAIR

Warriors break tie in top of ninth, Esposito leaves bases loaded in ninth in 2-1 win

LITTLE FALLS, NJ -- Freshman pinch hitter **Ed Kloepping** singled in a run to tie the game in the bottom of the eighth inning, but No. 17 Eastern Connecticut State University (11-6) tacked on a run in the top of the ninth and then escaped a bases-loaded jam to gain a 2-1 baseball win over Montclair State University (5-7) today at Yogi Berra Stadium.

Freshman righty **Joe Esposito (EAST HAVEN)** picked up his second win for the Warriors, after allowing just two hits over 1.2 innings with four strikeouts. The Red Hawks loaded the bases in the bottom of the ninth with two outs, on two walks and a DeCastro strikeout that was nullified by a wild pitch, but Esposito struck out Kloepping to end the game. Esposito had won his first collegiate game Friday by pitching the first seven innings in a 27-0 Little East Conference win over Plymouth State University.

The Warriors scored the winning run in the top of the ninth as sophomore pinch-runner **Eric O'Toole (WATERBURY)** took over for junior pinch-hitter **Ryan DiPietro**, who had doubled with one out, with O'Toole then scoring on a double by senior shortstop **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)**, who went 2-for-4 on the day.

The win is the second this year over Montclair State for Eastern, which won 9-4 March 5. The Warriors have won four straight and five of six up north.

Sophomore **Jairo Mendez** took the loss for MSU, falling to 2-4 after surrendering just two hits and one run in pitching the last three innings. ECSU sophomore lefty starter **Matt Cremins (STOUGHTON, MA)** left in the eighth inning with one out after striking out five hitters and allowing just three hits, two walks and one run. MSU freshman starter **Tim Stringer** tossed the first six innings for the Red Hawks, fanning eight batters to go along with five hits, three walks and one run allowed.

ECSU senior outfielder **Jason Pekrul (NEW BRITAIN)** scored the game's first run in the top of the third inning when he led off with a double to left center, took second on a single by junior infielder **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)**, and then scored off an MSU double play. The score held up until the bottom of the eighth, when Montclair State 2B **Marc DeCastro** singled through the right side, took second on a wild pitch, and then scored on Kloepping's single through the right side to tie the game. It was Kloepping's second pinch-hit RBI single in as many games.

Eastern hosts Amherst College Wednesday at 4 p.m

little east conference

Sunday, April 3, 2005

EIGHT-RUN FIFTH PROPELS EASTERN BASEBALL PAST WESTERN

DiPietro (3-0) records 15th straight regular-season win in 14-1 LEC victory

MANSFIELD, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team scored eight runs on nine hits in the fifth inning on the way to a 14-1 Little East Conference victory over Western Connecticut State University Sunday afternoon at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Ranked 17th nationally, Eastern (10-6, 3-0 little east) has won three conference games in two days by a margin of 52-2 and has outhit its opponent 59-16 in those games.

Leading 3-0, the Warriors (2-8, 0-1 little east) sent 12 batters to the plate in the fifth, scoring eight runs on nine hits and chasing Western sophomore righty Josh Bertash (Tolland, CT). A single to center and two bunt singles loaded the bases and junior first baseman **Chris DeSantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)** plated the first run with a ground ball. Junior DH **Greg Sullivan (NEEDHAM, MA)** made it 6-0 with a two-run single and senior shortstop **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** and sophomore catcher **Matt Cooney (ARLINGTON, MA)** and greeted junior righty Zane Honious (Wallingford) with back-to-back two-run doubles.

Junior rightfielder **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** and senior leftfielder **Jason Pekarul (BERLIN)** each had three of Eastern's 17 hits. Sullivan finished with three RBI and Koch, Cooney, Pekarul and junior third baseman **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** two each. Senior **Leon Galembo (FAIRFIELD)** came off the bench to record his 100th career hit with a single in the seventh inning.

Eastern stands 56-2 all-time against Western and has won the last 23 straight.

Junior lefty **Ryan DiPIETRO (KENSINGTON)** won his third straight decision this year and improved to 24-2 lifetime with his 15th straight regular-season win. After pitching 7 1/3 hitless and scoreless innings in a 7-0 win over Westfield State College last

(more)

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Tuesday, DiPietro pitched 5 1/3 scoreless innings against Western until the Colonials broke through for an unearned run in the sixth. DiPietro, who lowered his ERA from 1.64 to 1.29, gave up three hits while fanning five and walking three.

With the win, DiPietro moved into a tie for sixth place all-time, equaling Brian Murphy '79. Steve Thomas '76 holds the career win record with 40. DiPietro's strikeouts give him 282 in his career moves him to within two of second place all-time. John Caneira '74 is the all-time strikeout leader with 547.

Eastern hosts Amherst College Wednesday at 4 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 14, Western Conn. 1

Western Conn. (2-8, 0-1 little east)	000	001	000	--	1	4	3
Eastern Conn. (10-6, 3-0 little east)	030	080	30x	--	14	17	1

Josh Bertash (0-2), Zane Honious (5), Jarret Coleman (7), Dave Reichelt (7), Tim DeJohn (8) and Adam Kaplan. Ryan DiPietro (3-0), Trey Bongiovanni (7), Ben O'Brien (9) and Matt Cooney, Hector Colon (8). 2B-Eben McKnight (W), Zach Mehrbach, Tom Koch, Matt Cooney (E).

little east conference

Friday, April 1, 2005

EASTERN BASEBALL SWEEPS PLYMOUTH IN LEC OPENERS

No. 17 nationally-ranked Warriors collect 42 hits in 27-0, 11-1 victories over Panthers

MANSFIELD, CT – Three-time defending Little East Conference regular-season baseball champion Eastern Connecticut State University collected 42 hits and five pitchers limited Plymouth State University to eight hits as the Warriors posted 27-0, 11-1 victories in the conference openers for both programs Friday at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

Ranked 17th nationally, Eastern (9-6) raised its season batting average from .306 to .335 against six Plymouth (3-9) pitchers and the staff lowered its ERA from 5.02 to 4.40.

Led by junior third baseman **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)**, Eastern got hits from 17 and RBI from 12 different players. Mehrbach raised his average from .354 to .407 by going 7-for-11 with five runs scored and four RBI. He also reached once when hit by pitch. Senior leftfielder **Jason Pekrul (BERLIN)** was 4-for-9 with four runs scored. Pekrul's first hit of the day in the first inning of the opener – an infield single to short – gave him 100 hits in his four-year career. Senior DH **Leon Galemba (FAIRFIELD)** was 4-for-7 with four RBI and four runs scored to move to within one of 100 career hits. Junior **Greg Sullivan (NEEDHAM, MA)** had three hits and drove in a team-high six runs -- giving him 50 RBI in his three-year career and moving him to within six of 100 career hits. Sullivan came off the bench in the first game to record two hits and two RBI.

Other hitters contributing three hits on the day for Eastern were sophomore second baseman **Alex Cardona (WEST HAVEN)**, senior shortstop **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** and junior first baseman **Matt Riemer (ELLINGTON)**. Riemer drove in four runs and Cardona and Koch three each. Redshirt freshman **Trey Bongiovanni (MERIDEN)**, a shortstop, had his first hit and RBI. Also contributing their first career hits were freshman catcher **Zack Lamkin (MIDDLETON, MA)** and redshirt freshman second baseman **Jared Nelson (WILLIMANTIC)**.

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Twelve of Eastern's hits were doubles, with junior rightfielder **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** hitting his first home run of the season in the second game. On the day, Garofalo had two hits, scored four runs and drove in two.

Freshman righty **Joe Esposito (EAST HAVEN)** won his first collegiate game in his first third start, allowing only two singles through the first seven innings of the opener. Esposito (1-1) fanned five and walked two. Sophomore righty **Sam Iverson (NEW MILFORD)** gained his second win in three decisions by pitching a five-hitter through the first six innings of the second game. He allowed one (earned) run while fanning one without a walk.

Senior centerfielder Derek Guimond (Lewiston, ME) had two of Plymouth's three hits in the first game and sophomore first baseman Jamie Aceto (Cumberland, RI) had two of his team's five hits in the nightcap.

Eastern returns to conference action Sunday, hosting Western Connecticut State University at 1 p.m.

Game 1
Eastern Conn. 27, Plymouth State U. 0

Plymouth State (3-8, 0-1 little east)	000	0 00	000	--	0	3	4
Eastern Conn. (8-6, 1-0 little east)	100	4(10)4	35x	--	27	24	0

Chip Hale (1-2), Jim vanGyzen (5), Scott Cote (7), Steve Wheeler (8) and John Pogorzelski. Joe Esposito (1-1), Justin Koutros (8) and Matt Cooney, Hector Colon (7). 2B-Zach Mehrbach, Dan Olmstead, Leon Galemba, Jared Nelson, Matt Cooney, Colon (E).

Game 2
Eastern Conn. 11, Plymouth State U. 1

Plymouth State (3-9, 0-2 little east)	000	100	000	--	1	5	1
Eastern Conn. (9-6, 2-0 little east)	203	001	14x	--	11	18	3

Ben Pietro (1-1), Ryan Lavelle (6) and Brandon Hodge. Sam Iverson (2-1), Ben O'Brien (7), Brian Wendell (9) and Matt Cooney, Zack Lamkin (9). 2B-Hodge (P), Jason Pekrul, Zach Mehrbach, Greg Sullivan, Chris DeSantis, Leon Galemba, Matt Riemer (E); HR-Marc Garofalo (1) (E).

little east conference
Thursday, March 31, 2005

WESTERN NE SNAPS LOSING STREAK AGAINST EASTERN BASEBALL *In a battle of 2004 NCAA qualifiers, Golden Bears end 30-game skid, 6-5*

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Western New England College No. 9 hitter Garrison Ward hit a three-run home run in the fourth inning and freshman lefty Chris Anderson fanned six in three innings of relief to lift the Golden Bears to a 6-5 victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Thursday evening at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

In a battle of 2004 NCAA tournament qualifiers and current regionally-ranked teams, Western New England (7-1) ended a 30-game losing streak at the hands of Eastern (7-6). The Golden Bears' only previous win over Eastern in 34 tries had come by a score of 7-5 in 1976.

Eastern is ranked fifth in New England and 17th nationally, Western New England sixth in New England.

Ward, a sophomore centerfielder making his first career start, gave Western New England the lead for good, 5-3, with a three-run home run in the fourth and added an RBI double to give the Golden Bears a 6-4 lead in the sixth. Ward was 4-for-11 in his career without an extra-base hit prior to this game.

Anderson gained his second save with three hitless innings, fanning six without a walk. Anderson was summoned in place of All-New England junior righty Jason Connelly (3-0) with a runner on in the seventh and Western New England leading 6-5. Anderson committed an error on a bunt after replacing Connelly that moved the tying run to second, but retired the final nine batters in order – six by strikeout – to close out the win.

Western New England's defense turned three double plays to end the third, fifth and sixth innings, with Connelly starting the first two. Trailing 5-3, Eastern got a run back in the fifth on sophomore centerfielder **Randy Re's (DANBURY)** RBI single. Re, however, was cut down trying to go from first to third when junior **rightfielder Mark Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN)** grounded out to short.

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Trailing 1-0, Eastern tied the game when junior first baseman **Chris DeSantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)** doubled to lead off the inning and came home on senior DH **Leon Galemba's (FAIRFIELD)** single to center. Eastern took its only lead, 3-1 in the third on an RBI double by Garofalo and an infield ground ball that scored Re from third.

Western New England's four-run rally in the fourth began after there were two out and none on. A walk on a 3-2 pitch and a single began the rally and freshman first DH Travis Schwamb drove in the first run with a single to center. Ward hit the first pitch from Eastern starer **Alex Narus (PROSPECT)** over the left field fence to give the Golden Bears a 5-3 lead.

Western New England freshman third baseman Ryan Kravontka had three of his team's eight hits, driving in the first run of the game with a two-out single in the second. Eastern senior leftfielder **Jason Pekarul (BERLIN)** and Re each had two of Eastern's nine hits, Pekarul moving to within one of 100 in his four-year career. Four Eastern pitchers combined to strike out 11 batters, with sophomore lefty **Matt Cremins (STOUGHTON, MA)** fanning five in 2 2/3 innings and allowing a hit and walk.

Eastern hosts Plymouth State University Friday at 1 p.m. in a Little East Conference doubleheader.

Western New England College 6, Eastern Conn. 5

Western NE (7-1)	010	401	000	--	6	8	4
Eastern Conn. (7-6)	012	011	000	--	5	9	0

Jason Connelly (3-0), Chris Anderson (7) and Matt Hackney. Alex Narus (0-1), Trey Bongiovanni (4), Matt Cremins (6), Brian Wendell (8) and Matt Cooney. Save-Anderson (2). 2B-M. Hackney, Garrison Ward, Chris Mahoney (W), Jason Pekarul, Marc Garofalo, Chris DeSantis (E); HR-Ward (W) (1).

little east conference

Tuesday, March 29, 2005

EASTERN'S DiPIETRO, WENDELL COMBINE ON BASEBALL NO-HITTER
DiPietro loses perfect game in eighth as Warriors blank Westfield State 7-0

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Junior lefty **Ryan DiPietro (KENSINGTON)** pitched seven perfect innings and settled for a combined no-hitter as the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team team opened its 2005 home season with a 7-0 victory over Westfield State College Tuesday afternoon at the ECSU Baseball Stadium.

DiPietro (2-0) retired the first 21 batters in order -- allowing only three balls out of the infield -- before Westfield State (4-7) freshman centerfielder Matt Tirrell reached safely when his fly ball was misplayed in right field. DiPietro then walked senior third baseman Matt Gurley on eight pitches and, after recording his 15th strikeout, was lifted in favor of junior righty **Brian Wendell (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)**. Wendell hit the first batter he faced with his first pitch but escaped with an inning-ending double play. Wendell preserved the tenth no-hitter in program history (first combined) by striking out the side in the ninth.

DiPietro, the 2005 NCAA Division III national pre-season Player-of-the-Year, improved to 23-2 lifetime with his 14th straight regular-season win. Beginning with the last out of the fifth, he fanned seven straight before Tirrell opened the eighth with the fly ball to right. Until the eighth, Westfield's best chance for a baserunner came in the second inning, but Eastern (7-5) senior leftfielder **Jason Pekrul (BERLIN)** made a backhanded grab of sophomore catcher Chris Hebert's drive while racing toward the left field line for the final out of the inning.

Ranked 17th nationally and fifth in New England, the Warriors recorded 18 hits off three Westfield pitchers, with every player contributing at least one.

Eastern's 3-4-5 hitters of sophomore centerfielder **Randy Re (DANBURY)**, junior rightfielder **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** and junior first baseman **Chris DeSantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)** combined for eight hits (including a double and triple), four RBI and three runs scored. Batting cleanup, Garofalo reached

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safely four times with two singles and a triple and a walk. In the first inning, he drove in the first run with a two-out infield single and scored the second. on DeSantis' double to right-center. His two-run triple in the fourth made it 6-0. Re collected two of Eastern's seven infield singles and also singled down the third base line, stole a and base and scored in the eighth.

Batting eighth, senior shortstop **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** had three hits -- legging out two infield ground balls -- and scored a run.

The home-opening win is the 21st in the last 22 years for Eastern and eighth straight over Westfield. In last year's 16-0 home-opening win over Westfield, DiPietro was the starting and winning pitcher, combining on a three-hitter. He fanned 12 and allowed only two hits and a walk over the first six innings.

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

Eastern Conn. 7, Westfield State College 0

Eastern Conn. (7-5)	200	400	010	--	7	18	1
Westfield State (4-7)	000	000	000	--	0	0	1

Ryan DiPietro (2-0), Brian Wendell (8) and Matt Cooney. Joe Tremblay (1-2), Mike Domurad (8), Russ Lloyd (9) and Chris Hebert. 2B-Jason Pekrul, Chris DeSantis, Alex Cordona (E); 3B-Marc Garofalo (E).

little east conference

Thursday, March 24, 2005

10

EASTERN BASEBALL ROUTED BY CAL STATE EAST BAY

Six pitchers can't stop Pioneers, who pull away from Warriors in 12 victory

HAYWARD, CA -- Cal State East Bay roughed up three Eastern Connecticut State University pitchers in the seventh inning by scoring five runs on four hits, two walks, a hit batter and an infield error in a 12-2 win Thursday afternoon.

The loss for No. 6 nationally-ranked Eastern (6-4) follows Wednesday night's 10-7 victory over No. 4 Chapman University and drops the Warriors' record in California to 5-2.

Trailing 5-0, Eastern got two back in the seventh but the Cal State (9-9-1) countered with five runs in the bottom of the inning on four hits off three Eastern pitchers. The Pioneers sent 11 batters to the plate in the inning, collecting a double and three singles and being aided by two walks, a hit batter and an infield throwing error. No. 9 hitter Chris Wallinger drove in two runs with a single through the left side and another run was later walked across the plate.

With Eastern trailing 2-0, starter **Rob Cremins (STOUGHTON, MA)** was lifted after giving up a single and walk to open the fifth and senior centerfielder Archie Gilbert greeted junior righty **Brian Wendell (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** with a three-run home run that made it 5-0. Eastern got two back in the top of the seventh on a pinch two-run single by sophomore **Alex Cardona (WEST HAVEN)** before the hosts scored seven runs in their final two at-bats against four first-year pitchers.

(more)

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Three Cal State pitchers held Eastern to seven singles by seven different hitters.

Eastern closes out its California trip Friday against Whitworth College at 6 p.m. ET in a game played at the University of La Verne.

Baseball
At Hayward, CA

Cal State East Bay 12, Eastern Conn. 2

Eastern Conn. (6-4)	000	000	200	--	2	7	2
Cal State (9-9-1)	200	030	52x	--	12	11	4

Matt Cremins (0-2), Brian Wendell (5), Bryan Gilblair (7), Scott Cavaoli (7), Andrew LeBrun (8), Brian Schillin g98) and Matt Cooney, Hector Colon (7). Gerrit Schoonhoven (3-0), Trevor Lewis (8), Ulysses Garcia (9) and Ben Lopez, Steven Shinkwin (9). 2B-Archie Gilbert, Randall Williams, Joe Bellotti ©; HR-Gilbert. ©

#8, #9

Wednesday, March 25, 2005

EASTERN BASEBALL SPLITS TWO GAMES IN CALIFORNIA

No. 6 Warriors score five in eighth to down No. 4 Chapman

ORANGE, CA -- Senior righty **Ben O'Brien (MONTVILLE)** pitched five hitless innings and the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team scored five runs in the top of the eighth inning to down Chapman University 10-7 in a battle of nationally-ranked teams Wednesday night at Hart Park.

Trailing 7-5, Eastern (6-3) rallied for five runs in the top of the eighth inning -- scoring the go-ahead run on a throwing error at third base -- to hand Chapman (18-3) its first loss after eight straight wins. The Warriors were ranked sixth in the NCAA Division III pre-season poll, the Panthers fourth.

In the completion of a suspended game earlier Wednesday, the University of Redlands (6-12) scored three runs in the bottom of the seventh to snap a tie and snap the Warriors' four-game winning streak with a 9-5 victory.

The third of three Eastern pitchers, O'Brien (2-0) shut down Chapman over the final five innings without allowing a hit or a run.. O'Brien entered the game with two runs in and a runner on in the second and no one on in the fifth inning and the Warriors trailing 6-5. He gave up a run on a sacrifice fly that gave the Panthers a 7-5 lead, then held Chapman off the board until Eastern rallied for five runs on six hits and an error in the eighth.

Sophomore catcher **Matt Cooney (ARLINGTON, MA)** drove in the first run of the eighth with a triple, and scored the second run on sophomore outfielder **Eric O'Toole's (WATERBURY)** pinch single. O'Toole scored the go-ahead run on a throwing error at third base and junior **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** and junior first baseman **Chris DeSantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)** scored insurance runs after reaching on a walk and single, respectively.

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Eastern reached three Chapman pitchers for 16 hits while three Eastern pitchers stopped the Panthers on five hits. Senior DH **Leon Galemba (FAIRFIELD)** and senior shortstop **Tom Koch (WARWICK, RI)** each had three hits while senior leftfielder Jason Pekrul (BERLIN) and Cooney each had two hits and drove in two runs.

Eastern All-America junior lefty **Ryan DiPietro (KENSINGTON)** allowed three hits over the first four innings and left with a 5-4 lead, giving way to first-year sophomore **Ron Isler (NEWTOWN)**. Isler was lifted in favor of O'Brien after the first three Chapman batters reached in the fifth.

The Eastern-Redlands game Tuesday was stopped with Eastern batting in the sixth and the game tied 5-5. When play resumed Wednesday afternoon, the Bulldogs scored three times in the seventh, helped by two hit batsmen, a sacrifice bunt and an intentional walk.

Redshirt freshman righty **Trey Bongiovanni (MERIDEN)** – the second of four Eastern pitchers – was saddled with the loss.

Tuesday, Eastern had taken a 5-4 lead by scoring two runs in the top of the fifth on RBI singles by Garofalo and O'Toole against three Redlands pitchers. Garofalo had three of Eastern's 11 hits and two RBI, junior second baseman **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** and DeSantis contributing two each.

Eastern faces Cal State Hayward Thursday night at 10 p.m. ET

little east conference
Sunday, March 20, 2005

EASTERN BASEBALL FINISHES 4-0 AT CALIFORNIA INVITATIONAL
Warriors pound Occidental 12-2, rally in eighth to edge Claremont-Mudd 3-2

CLAREMONT, Calif. – The Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team rallied for three runs without getting the ball out of the infield in the eighth inning to record a 3-2 win over host Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges Sunday night to complete a perfect four-game run in the 10th Annual California Invitational.

Earlier in the day, the Warriors ripped two Occidental College pitchers for 17 hits -- nine good for extra-bases hits -- in a 12-2 victory in a game also played at Claremont-Mudd.

Ranked sixth in Division III, Eastern (5-2) completed play in the tournament with four straight wins and returns to action Tuesday at the University of Redlands at 5:30 p.m. ET.

Warriors 3, Claremont-Mudd 2

The Warriors scored all of their runs without getting the ball out of the infield on two infield hits, a bunt single and two errors in their three-run eighth inning. The Warriors scored the tying and go-ahead runs when senior catcher **Leon Galemba's (FAIRFIELD)** ground ball was thrown away as Claremont was attempting to end the inning with a 6-4-3 double play. Eastern had also scored its first run on an infield error. Freshman pinch hitter **Dan Olmstead (CLINTON, NY)** and senior leftfielder **Jason Pekrul (BERLIN)** had reached on infield singles to shortstop to open the inning and Olmstead scored when Claremont made an error on junior second baseman **Zach Mehrbach's (LYME, NH)** sacrifice bunt. Mehrbach scored the tying run and sophomore centerfielder **Randy Re (DANBURY)** the go-ahead run after he had reached on a bunt single to load the bases.

All-America junior pitcher **Ryan DiPietro (KENSINGTON)** started the game in right field and helped the Warriors stay within two runs when he made a running catch at the base of the wall to end the eighth inning and strand two runners.

In relief of freshman righty **Joe Esposito (EAST HAVEN)**, junior righty **Brian Wendell (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** retired the final six batters in order to earn his first career win. After being driven from the mound in the third inning of his first career start two weeks ago, Esposito allowed only four hits and two runs (one earned) through seven innings against the Stags, fanning three, walking one and hitting two.

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Through seven innings, Claremont starter Morgan Cummins (1-1) was pitching a five-hit shutout with eight strikeouts and no walks before the Warriors rallied to snap a two-game losing streak at the hands of Claremont (7-11-1). In a 5-4 win over the University of La Verne Friday, Eastern erased a 4-1 deficit by scoring four times in the eighth inning.

Pekrul continued his torrid hitting in California with two hits, with Re also picking up two.

Warriors 12, Occidental 2

Sophomore righty **Sam Iverson (NEW MILFORD)** and first-year sophomore righty **Ron Isler (NEWTOWN)** combined on a five-hitter and Mehrbach and Galemba each had three hits to highlight a 17-hit attack as the Warriors bested Occidental (4-15-1) for the eighth straight time.

Galemba had two of the team's nine extra-base hits with a double and his sixth career home run. As the starting designated hitter, DiPietro had a double and triple in his first collegiate at-bats. Pekrul also had two hits while Galemba, Re, junior first baseman **Chris DeSantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)** and first-year sophomore **Alex Cardona (WEST HAVEN)** each drove in two runs. Cardona, a transfer from Albertus Magnus College, hit a pinch two-run home run in the ninth – his first home run at Eastern and second of his collegiate career.

Eastern scored six runs on seven hits (three doubles) in the second inning. DiPietro plated the first run with a double and Re contributed a two-run double later in the inning. DiPietro also tripled and scored in the eighth.

Iverson (1-0) improved his career record to 5-0 by limiting the Tigers to five hits in pitching a career-high seven innings. Both of the runs he allowed were earned. He fanned three and walked two. It was the first appearance for **Isler**, who was a redshirt freshman at Virginia Wesleyan College last year. He retired the final six batters in order.

Eastern Conn. 12, Occidental College 2

Eastern Conn. (4-2)	060	001	113	--	12	17	3
Occidental College (4-15-1)	000	011	000	--	2	5	1

Sam Iverson (1-0), Ron Isler (8) and Leon Galemba. Jayson Williams (1-3), Charles Moffett (8) and Adam Franks. 2B-Zach Mehrbach, Randy Re, Tom Koch, Ryan DiPietro, DanOlmstead, Leon Galemba (E), Tim Loper (O); 3B-DiPietro (E). HR-Leon Galemba 1, Alex Cardona 1 (E).

Eastern Conn. 3, Claremont-Mudd-Scripps 2

Claremont-Mudd (7-11-1)	001	010	000	--	2	4	2
Eastern Conn. (5-2)	000	000	03x	--	3	8	2

Morgan Cummins (1-1) and Robert Kurisu. Joe Esposito, Brian Wendell (8) and Matt Cooney, Hector Colon (9). WP-Wendell (1-0). 2B-Michael Miyamoto (C).

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Sports News

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little east conference

Friday, March 18, 2005

EASTERN BASEBALL OPENS CALIFORNIA INVITE WITH TWO WINS
Big late innings propel Warriors to 5-4, 9-3 victories in first games in California

CLAREMONT, Calif. – The Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team opened its eight-game, eight-day California trip by snapping the University of La Verne's seven-game winning streak with a come-from-behind 5-4 win in the first game of the 10th Annual California Invitational at Pomona-Pitzer Colleges.

In the second game of the day against host Pomona-Pitzer Colleges (7-11), the Warriors broke open a one-run game by scoring five runs in the top of the ninth on three singles, three walks and two errors in a 9-3 victory.

In the two wins, senior leftfielder **Jason Pekrul (BERLIN)** was 7-for-10 with three doubles. In relief in both games, senior right-handed pitcher **Ben O'Brien (MONTVILLE)** won the first game and saved the second game. He did not allow a hit in 3 2/3 innings on the day.

Eastern closes out tournament play Saturday against Occidental College at 11:30 a.m. ET and Claremont-Mudd-Scripps at 5:30 p.m. ET, both games at Claremont-Mudd.

Eastern 5, U. of La Verne 4

Coming off a 19-0 loss to Salisbury University in its most recent game 12 days ago, Eastern scored four runs in the bottom of the eighth to erase a 4-1 deficit and defeat the Leopards (12-3) for the third straight time.

In the eighth, Pekrul drove in the first run with a ground ball and sophomore centerfielder **Randy Re (DANBURY)** tied the game 4-4 with a bases-loaded two-run double that moved junior second baseman **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** to third. Junior third baseman **Marc Garofalo (SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI)** drove in Mehrbach with the go-ahead run with a single through the left side.

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In his second appearance of the season, O'Brien was credited with the win by pitching 1 2/3 hitless innings in relief. O'Brien was summoned when the Leopards were taking a 4-1 lead by scoring two insurance runs in the eighth. Nursing a one-run lead, O'Brien hit the leadoff batter in the ninth but stranded the tying run at second by ending the game with a fly ball to center and a ground ball to third.

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Junior lefty **Ryan DiPietro (KENSINGTON)** pitched the first 6 2/3 innings without allowing an earned run but was denied his 22nd career win when he was lifted with the Warriors trailing 2-1. He gave up only three hits while fanning six and walking one.

In five at-bats, Pekrul had his first career four-hit game to lead a 14-hit attack. He also drove in two runs. Junior rightfielder **Greg Sullivan (NEEDHAM, MA)** reached safely in all four plate appearances with two hits, a walk and hit-by-pitch. Sophomore catcher **Matt Cooney (ARLINGTON, MA)** walked twice and scored twice.

Eastern 9, Pomona-Pitzer Colleges 3

Senior shortstop **Tom Koch's (WARWICK, RI)** sacrifice fly scored Garofalo from third to snap a tie in the sixth inning and the Warriors added five insurance runs in the ninth to give redshirt freshman righty **Trey Bongiovanni (MERIDEN)** his first career win in his second appearance. Garofalo had singled and stole second and third before Koch plated him with a fly ball to give the Warriors a 4-3 lead.

In the five-run ninth, Mehrbach, Pekrul and Sullivan all contributed RBI singles and two scored on a throwing error on Garofalo's ground ball to third.

In his first career start, sophomore righty **Matt Cremins (STOUGHTON, MA)** was staked to a 1-0 lead on Mehrbach's second career home run in the third but was replaced by Bongiovanni while the Sagehens were taking a 2-1 lead in the fourth. After walking the leadoff batter in the eighth, Bongiovanni was relieved by O'Brien, who was credited with his second career save. O'Brien fanned one and walked one over the final two innings. Bongiovanni gave up one earned run on two hits and three walks over 3 1/3 innings. He struck out four.

Pekrul was 3-for-5 with a double and Mehrbach had two RBI.

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Eastern Conn. 5, U. of La Verne 4

La Verne (14-3)	100	000	120	--	4	4	0
Eastern Conn. (2-2)	010	000	04x	--	5	14	2

Scott Lindeen, Craig Neu (7), Kyle Darg (8), Anthony Ornelas (8) and B.J. DuBarry. Ryan DiPietro, Brian Wendell (7), Ben O'Brien (8) and Matt Cooney. WP-O'Brien (1-0). LP-Ornelas (0-1). 2B-Jason Pckrul, Leon Galemba, Greg Sullivan, Randy Re (E), DuBarry, Ryan Holmes (L).

Eastern Conn. 9, Pomona-Pitzer 3

Eastern Conn. (3-2)	001	021	005	--	9	10	1
Pomona-Pitzer (7-11)	000	210	000	--	3	7	4

Matt Cremins, Trey Bongiovanni (4), Ben O'Brien (8) and Matt Cooney. Mike Buika, Warren Klein (8) and Felipe Aguilar. WP-Bongiovanni (1-0). LP-Buika (1-3). Save-O'Brien (1). 2B-Jason Pckrul 2 (E), Aguilar (P). HR-Zach Mehrbach 1 (E).

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Sunday, March 6, 2005

EASTERN BASEBALL WINS ONE OF THREE IN MARYLAND

On opening weekend, Warriors defeat Montclair, lose twice to host Salisbury

SALISBURY, Md. – David Sutton's bases-clearing double highlighted a ten-run third inning and the Salisbury University baseball team went on to a 19-0 victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Sunday morning at Sea Gull Stadium.

The loss capped a three-game weekend trip for the No. 6 nationally-ranked Warriors (1-2), who split two games Saturday. No. 13 nationally-ranked Salisbury (9-1-1) erased an early four-run deficit to trim the Warriors 6-5 Saturday morning before Eastern bounced back behind All-America lefty pitcher **Ryan DiPietro (KENSINGTON)** to post a 9-4 win over Montclair State University (0-2) in an intra-region game Saturday afternoon.

Salisbury, which joined Eastern at last year's NCAA Division III national tournament but lost both of its games, completed a perfect weekend by outlasting Montclair State 16-13 later Sunday. The Sea Gulls have won eight straight this year and are 10-2-1 against Eastern in the last 13 meetings between the clubs. Traditionally, the Warriors are playing their first official games of the season at Salisbury.

Twelve different pitchers saw action for Eastern, half of them making their varsity debut.

Salisbury 19, Eastern Conn. 0

Facing seven first-year varsity Eastern pitchers, Salisbury pounded out 18 hits, seven of them doubles. Having played perfect defense in both of its games Saturday, Eastern committed three errors in helping the Gulls score ten times against three pitchers on just four hits. Salisbury chased Eastern freshman righty **Joe Esposito (EAST HAVEN)** by scoring twice and Sutton greeted first-year sophomore righty **Scott Cavaoli (LEOMINSTER, MA)** with a three-run double to make it 5-0. Greg Lemon later delivered a two-run single off freshman righty **Brian Schilling (WEYMOUTH, MA)**. Esposito and Cavaoli were making their Eastern debut and Schilling was making his second appearance.

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Junior first baseman **Chris DeSantis (SHREWSBURY, MA)** tied the game, 5-5, for Eastern with a ground ball in the sixth but Salisbury scored the go-ahead run in the bottom of the inning. Mike Johnson led off with a double, moved to third on a single and scored on the front end of a double steal.

The Warriors staked Iverson to a 4-0 lead in the second. Junior second baseman **Zach Mehrbach (LYME, NH)** and senior leftfielder **Jason Pekrul (BERLIN)** drove in runs in the inning, with the Warriors receiving help from an infield error.

As a late-inning defensive replacement, sophomore **Eric O'Toole (WATERBURY)** singled in his first varsity at-bat.

Mehrbach, Garofalo and Galemba led Eastern on the trip with four hits each, with Garofalo driving in a team-high three runs and DeSantis, Mehrbach and Re two each.

Salisbury U. 6, Eastern Conn. 5

Eastern Conn. (0-1)	040	001	000	--	5	9	0
Salisbury (7-1-1)	005	001	00x	--	6	8	3

Sam Iverson, Matt Cremins (3), Ben O'Brien (7) and Matt Cooney. Nick Dunk, Tom Howell (4), Dan Oleynik (7), Jason Lively (9) and B.J. Kittle. WP-Howell (1-0). LP-Cremins (0-1). Save-Lively (1). 2B-Marc Garofalo (E), Ryan McDougal, Mike Johnson, David Sullivan (S).

Eastern Conn. 9, Montclair State U. 4

Montclair State (0-1)	000	100	300	--	4	7	6
Eastern Conn. (1-1)	023	001	03x	--	9	14	0

Jairo Mendez (0-1), Marty Cabalar (4), Justin Lorentzen (4), Jay Cook (5), Alex Thompson (7), Lou Politan (8) and Rob Blackburn, Michael Nunes (7). Ryan DiPietro (1-0), Alex Narus (5), Justin Koutros (7), Brian Wendell (7), Brian Schilling (9) and Matt Cooney. 2B-Brian Butler, Tommy Warth (M), Leon Galemba 2, Marc Garofalo, Chris DeSantis (E); HR-Randy Re (E) (1).

Salisbury U. 19, Eastern Conn. 0

Eastern Conn. (1-2)	000	000	000	--	0	4	4
Salisbury (8-1-1)	00(10)	141	03x	--	19	18	2

Joe Esposito (0-1), Scott Cavaoli (3), Brian Schilling (3), Justin Koutros (4), James Spirito (5), Andrew LeBrun (6), Trey Bongiovanni (8) and Matt Cooney, Hector Colon (5). Greg Lasinski (2-0), Matt Peterson (7) and B.J. Kittle, Pete Callahan (6). 2B-Mike Williams 2, David Sutton 2, Greg Lemon, Andrew Baird, Matt Foster (S).