
little east conference

Saturday, Nov. 18, 2006

ELMS COLLEGE WINS EASTERN TIP-OFF BASKETBALL TITLE

In second tourney appearance, Blazers use 15-4 run in second half to pull away

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Five different players contributed buckets in a 15-4 run midway through the second half that lifted the Elms College men's basketball team to a 92-74 victory over host Eastern Connecticut State University in the championship game of the 2006 Eastern Tip-Off Basketball tournament at Francis. E. Geissler Gymnasium Saturday afternoon.

In its second tournament appearance in five years, Elms (2-0) won its first tournament championship, winning both tournament games by 18 points.

Leading by three, Elms outscored Eastern (1-1) 15-4 over a span of five minutes to move out to a 14-point, 75-61 lead with just under seven minutes left. The Blazers sank six of nine field goals in that stretch, with **John Ancrum (Harlem, NY)**, **Justin Davis (Huntington, NY)** and **David Williams (Hartford, CT)** hitting three-point field goals in that stretch.

Eastern, making its 22nd appearance in the final in 26 years, scored the final 15 points of the second half to wipe out a 15-point deficit and pull into a 41-41 tie at halftime. In that run, **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford, CT)** canned two three-pointers and **Anthony Bagley (New Haven, CT)** one. Bagley's came at the horn ending the first half.

Renato Lindmets (Ludlow, MA) was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player and was joined on the six-player all-tournament team by Ancrum and Williams. Lindmets, a foot-6 inch junior, had 19 points and 14 rebounds in the final and did not have a turnover in 29 minutes. In the tournament, Lindmets 40 points and 23 rebounds. He was 15-for-28 from the floor and nine of 13 from the free-throw line and committed only one turnover in 54 minutes.

(more)

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In the championship game, Ancrum had 14 points, eight assists and three steals, and Williams 15 points in the championship game. In an opening 99-81 win over Mitchell College (0-2) Friday, Williams totaled 23 points (9-for-16 from the floor). Ancrum had seven points, five rebounds, four assists and three steals in the opening win.

Kevin Zalucki (Enfield, CT) paced five Eastern double-digit scorers against Elms with 15 points and added a team-high ten rebounds. Zalucki had 13 points and seven rebounds in the second half. **Mike Parker (Windsor, CT)** had 14 points against Elms, **Ortiz** 13 points, **Matt Albon (Middlebury, CT)** 12 and **Leon Martin (Woodbury, CT)** 11. In Friday's 75-69 win over College of Mount Saint Vincent (1-1), Ortiz scored 20 points in his collegiate debut. He was 6-for-10 from the floor and 5-for-6 from the stripe. Martin collected his ninth double-double in his 47th career game Friday with 14 points and a game-high ten rebounds.

Martin and Ortiz represented Eastern on the all-tournament team, Martin repeating the honor from a year ago. In the tournament, Martin totaled 25 points and 13 rebounds and shot 57.1 per cent from the floor (9-for-15) and 87.5 per cent from the line (7-for-8). He turned the ball over only two times in 63 minutes. Ortiz totaled 33 points on 50.0 per cent shooting from the floor (10-for-20) and from three-point range (6-for-12) and 87.5 per cent from the foul line (7-for-8) in the tournament. In the title game, Ortiz committed only two turnovers in 35 minutes.

In Saturday's third-place game, **Derek Charlton (Yonkers, NY)** scored a game-high 22 points and **Kevin Garlan (Jackson Heights, NY)** added 19 in Mount Saint Vincent's 101-76 win over Mitchell. **Marquise King (Albany, NY)** of Mount Saint Vincent represented the Dolphins on the all-tournament team after tying the tournament game record with 36 points.

Eastern visits Trinity College Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

little east conference

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2006

EARLY SPURT CARRIES TRINITY PAST EASTERN M-BASKETBALL
Bantams never look back after scoring eight straight early in 72-55 victory

HARTFORD, Conn. – The scouting report on Trinity center Russ Martin was that he is a ‘threat in the post and looks to score’. He was all of that Tuesday night when the 6-foot-7 inch junior dropped in a game-high 25 points on 11-for-16 shooting in pacing the Bantams to a 72-55 non-conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University at Ray Oosting Gymnasium.

Looking for a repeat of last year’s thrilling two-point home win over Trinity (3-0) – Eastern’s second in four years over the Bantams – the Warriors were the victims of eight quick Trinity points in a span of less than two minutes Tuesday. That modest run boosted Trinity’s early advantage to nine points, 17-8, seven minutes into action, and Eastern (2-1) was never able to recover.

Trinity’s first-half lead topped off at 16 points, settled at 13 (38-25) at the break, and never fell into single digits in the second half.

In addition to his points, Martin led all players with nine rebounds, leading a balanced Trinity rebounding effort which had five players collecting five or more caroms. While Martin dominated inside, junior guard Patrick Hasiuk controlled the perimeter by scoring 16 points on 6-for-8 shooting. Nine of his points came on 3-for-4 shooting from three-point range. As a team, Trinity scored 21 points from behind the arc, nailing seven of 16 attempts.

While Eastern missed three shots and turned the ball over twice, Trinity scored its eight straight points in the early minutes of the game on a three-point field goal by sophomore forward Aaron Westbrook, a basket and free throw by Hasiuk and a hoop off an offensive rebound from junior forward Stephen Dunn.

Post players **Leon Martin (Woodbury)** and **Dan Trudeau (Rockville)** led Eastern with a dozen points each and combined for ten rebounds. Trudeau came off the bench, finishing only two points shy of his career-high scoring mark and adding four rebounds. Freshman guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford)**, who joined Martin on the Eastern Tip-Off Tournament all-tournament team last weekend, chipped in ten points. Senior guards **Geoffrey Richardson (Hartford)** and **Mike Parker (Windsor)** combined for 13 assists, Richardson totaling a career-high seven.

Eastern hosts Connecticut College Sunday at 3 p.m.

little east conference

Sunday, November 26, 2006

MARTIN SPARKS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL PAST CONN

Warriors hang on to down Camels by score of 63-60

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – **Leon Martin (Woodbury)** grabbed a key rebound off a missed free throw with 17.9 second left and canned two free throws seconds later to help lift the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 63-60 non-conference victory over Connecticut College Sunday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

With Conn College (2-2) trailing 61-56 with 70 seconds left, Will Lyons (Wilbraham, MA) sank a three-point field goal to cut the gap to two. Eastern (2-2) missed a runner in the paint on its next possession and Lyons was fouled trying to get off a shot with 17.9 seconds left. Lyon, who had taken only three free throws this year heading into the game, swished the first one to pull the Camels to within one, 61-60. After Eastern called timeout, Lyons' second attempt spun out and Martin was fouled while grabbing the rebound in a crowd. Martin hit both free throws with 15.1 second left to make it 63-60, and Conn was called for a traveling violation while attempting to get off a final shot.

Trailing by seven, 50-43, with just under eight minutes left, Eastern outscored the Camels 13-4 to take a 56-54 lead with just under four minutes left. **Mike Parker (Windsor)** sank both ends of a one-and-one with 5:30 left to draw the Warriors to within one, 54-53, then found Martin inside for a bucket that put Eastern ahead, 55-54. Martin was fouled on the play and canned the free throw to make it 56-54.

With Conn leading by seven, 50-43, and threatening to run away with the game, Albon swished a three-point to make it 50-46 with seven minutes left, and after Lyons hit a turnaround shot in the paint, Parker drilled a three-pointer off an inbound pass to keep Eastern close at 52-49 with 6:40 left.

Parker, a first-year senior transfer from Sacred Heart University, led Eastern with 17 points, seven assists and two blocked shots, while Martin (7-for-9 from the foul line) had 13 points. **Matt Albon (Middlebury)** came off the bench to deliver 13 points on 5-for-5 shooting from the floor. In his first career start, senior post player **Dan Trudeau (Rockville)** had ten points and a career-high eight rebounds.

As a team, Eastern sank 12 of 14 free throws. The Warriors were 11-of-13 from the line in the second half, all attempts coming in the final 11:30.

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Conn College post player Charles Stone (Hackensack, NJ) led all players with 21 points and helped the Camels to a 29-21 advantage in rebounds with seven. Lyons followed with 14 points and Christian Mosley (Virginia Beach, VA) added 11.

The win snaps a two-game losing streak for Eastern, which has beaten Conn the last three times the teams have met and six of the last seven.

Eastern hosts Wesleyan University Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

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Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2006

PARKER LEADS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL PAST WESLEYAN, 85-75

For Warriors, senior leads balanced effort with 17 points and ten assists

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – First-year senior guard **Mike Parker (Windsor)** had 17 points and ten assists and the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team shot over 60 per cent in the second half in an 85-75 non-conference victory over Wesleyan University Wednesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

With its second straight win, Eastern (3-2) snaps a five-game losing streak at the hands of Wesleyan (2-2) and concludes a three-game series against in-state New England Small College Athletic Conference foes with two wins in three outings. After losing by 17 points at Trinity College Nov. 21, the Warriors bounced back for a three-point home win over Connecticut College Sunday before the ten-point conquest of Wesleyan.

Parker, a first-year transfer from Sacred Heart, posted Eastern-highs in points and assists, finishing two points shy of his collegiate high in points and one assist shy of his collegiate best. Six of his points came on three dunks.

In addition to playing tight defense, senior guard **Geoffrey Richardson (Hartford)** came off the bench to hit all three of his first-half field goals in a one-minute span late in the first half that helped the Warriors assume a one-point, 36-35 halftime lead.

The Warriors got out of the gate quickly in the second half, outscoring the visitors 8-2 in the first minute to move out to a seven-point, 44-37 lead. Parker and senior post player **Dan Trudeau (Rockville)** set up freshman guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford)** and Richardson, respectively, for three-pointers, and Parker turned a Wesleyan turnover into a breakaway slam-dunk that gave Eastern the seven-point edge. Senior guard **Matt Albon's (Middlebury)** three-pointer with 12 minutes left pushed the lead into double-digits, 56-46, and the Warriors' defense never let the visitors slice the lead to less than six thereafter.

In a 49-point second half, Parker scored 13 points (4-for-5 FG) and handed out five assists, junior post player **Leon Martin (Woodbury)** (3-for-3) and Albon (3-for-4) adding nine points each and Ortiz eight and Richardson grabbed four rebounds. The team committed only three turnovers.

Parker was 6-for-9 from the floor in the game, Martin 6-for-8, Richardson 4-for-5 and

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Albon 5-for-8. In addition to shooting 57.7 per cent from the floor, Eastern committed only ten turnovers and forced 24 – 17 in the first half. Freshman guard **Anthony Bagley (New Haven)** came off the bench to can five of six free throws and hand out five assists in 19 minutes. He had eight points in the game.

Wesleyan senior center Robert Kelly led all players with 21 points and also had nine rebounds, junior forward Nick Pelletier adding 18 points and a game-high 11 rebounds and senior guard Jared Ashe 16 points and six assists.

Kelly, the team's top scorer and rebounder, did reach his season average in both categories, but was limited to only four points and four rebounds over the important first 20 minutes. An inside-out player, Pelletier proved to be Wesleyan's top threat throughout the night. Kelly and Pelletier combined to connect on 15 of 25 shot from the floor.

The defensive pressure in the backcourt applied by Parker, Ortiz and Bagley was in large part responsible for Wesleyan's high turnover total. That pressure also prevented Wesleyan from ever getting into a rhythm from three-point range, the Cardinals missing nine of 12 attempts.

Eastern opens Little East Conference play Saturday with a 1 p.m. game at Massachusetts Boston.

little east conference

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2006

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL DENIES UMASS BOSTON, 60-57

In Little East Conference opener, Warriors stifle defending conference playoff champions

BOSTON, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team held the University of Massachusetts Boston 25 points below its season's scoring average in winning its third straight game, 60-57, Saturday afternoon in the Little East Conference opener for both schools at the Clark Athletic Center.

The win snaps a three-game losing streak for Eastern (4-1, 1-0 little east conference) against UMass Boston (3-3, 0-1 little east conference), which defeated Eastern by four points in the conference tournament's opening round last year on the way to winning its first conference playoff title.

Freshman guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford)** scored 20 of his career-high 26 points to help the Warriors to a nine-point halftime lead (34-25) but the Beacons used a 15-5 run in the second half to pull to within one with eight minutes left, and led, 57-53, with just over two minutes left. With Eastern trailing by three, Ortiz canned his sixth three-point field goal of the game to tie the game at 57-all. Senior guard **Geoffrey Richardson (Hartford)** then stole the ball and was fouled with 13 seconds left while grabbing the rebound of Ortiz' shot that was blocked. Richardson sank both free throws, and junior post player **Kevin Zalucki (Enfield)** added an insurance free throw after the Beacons turned the ball over before they could attempt a game-tying or game-winning shot.

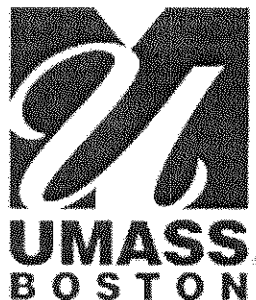
Behind conference scoring leader Amigo Paniagua (21.8 ppg.) and Tony Barros (20.0), UMass was averaging 82.4 points per game entering play. Eastern held Barros, last year's conference Player-of-the-Year, to 15 points in 38 minutes on 4-for-14 shooting, and Paniagua to four points on just four shots.

Ortiz scored 20 of Eastern's 34 first-half points by hitting eight of 11 field goals and four of seven free throws on the way to his game-high total. Junior post player **Leon Martin (Woodbury)** added 12 points and ten rebounds and Zalucki seven rebounds. The Warriors missed 14 of 24 free throws (41.7 per cent) but the hosts were not able to capitalize, missing 13 of 27 (51.9) and also turning the ball over 20 times.

Eastern hosts SUNY Purchase Thursday at 8 p.m.

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Sent: Saturday, December 02, 2006 8:15 PM
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Subject: NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Result: Eastern Connecticut State University 60, UMass Boston 57



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ORTIZ LEADS EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL OVER UMASS BOSTON, 60-57

BOSTON, MA – Freshman guard Edwin Ortiz poured in a career-high 26 points to lead the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team over host University of Massachusetts Boston, 60-57, today in the Little East Conference season opener at the Clark Athletic Center on the UMass Boston campus. The Beacons fall to 3-3 overall and 0-1 in the LEC, while the Warriors improve to 4-1 and 1-0.

UMass Boston trailed the entire second half, by as many as 11 points, until senior swingman **Tony Barros (Dorchester, MA)** drained a three-pointer and added a free throw to complete the rare four-point play, thus giving the Beacons a 53-52 edge with 5:02 showing in the second half. UMass Boston later took a 57-53 margin following a pair of **Amigo Paniagua (Santiago, DR)** free throws with 2:18 left in the game, but Geoff Richardson converted one of two free throws and Ortiz drilled his sixth three-pointer of the day to pull Eastern Connecticut State even at 57-57 with 1:24 left to play. Richardson later canned two more free throws to give the Warriors a two-point lead with 13 ticks left. The Beacons called a timeout with nine seconds left, but a traveling call with two seconds to go thwarted their final attempt to tie as Eastern Connecticut came away with the victory.

The Warriors owned a 22-21 margin with 4:17 to go in the first half, before closing out the half with a 12-4 run, paced by five points from Ortiz to take a 34-25 halftime advantage.

Eastern Connecticut State maintained a 43-32 lead with 13:53 showing on the second half clock, but UMass Boston chipped away before finally taking a lead following the Barros' four-point play.

Barros led the Beacons with 15 points and added five rebounds, four steals and two assists, while junior point guard **A.J. Titus (Roxbury, MA)** made all five of his field goal attempts to finish with 13 points in addition to a steal. Junior power forward **Eli Manna (Boston, MA)** also contributed with six points, nine boards, two blocks, a steal and an assist.

Ortiz was 10-17 from the field, including 6-11 from three-point range and added two rebounds, an assist and a steal for the Warriors. Leon Martin registered a double-double of 12 points and 10 rebounds to go with two assists and a steal, while Kevin Zalucki chipped in with seven points, seven rebounds, a steal, a block and an assist.

UMass Boston will be in action again on Thursday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. when it hosts Salem State College at the Clark Athletic Center on the campus of UMB, while Eastern Connecticut State hosts State University of New York-Purchase on December 7 at 8:00 p.m. at Geissler Gym.

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little east conference

Thursday, Dec. 7, 2006

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL ROUTS PURCHASE COLLEGE, 93-66
All 15 players in uniform see action as Warriors win fourth straight

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- All 15 players in uniform saw action as the Eastern Connecticut State university men's basketball team never trailed in a 93-66 non-conference win over Purchase College Thursday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

A winner of four straight, Eastern (5-2) led by 24 points at halftime and the lead never dipped below 22 the rest of the way. The Warriors shot 62.5 per cent from the floor in the first half while Purchase (2-5) missed 14 of 16 three-pointers in the game.

Junior **Leon Martin (Woodbury)** had 12 points, five rebounds and four assists in 20 minutes, senior **Geoffrey Richardson (Hartford)** adding 11 points (5-for-5 from the floor), senior **Mike Parker (Windsor)** ten points, five rebounds and five assists in 19 minutes and senior **Matt Albon (Middlebury)** had ten points off the bench.

Warren Walters, Justin Watlers and Michael Wimmer combined for 36 points for Purchase, combining to hit 15 of 28 field goals.

Eastern visits the University of Southern Maine Saturday at 3 p.m. in a Little East Conference game.

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Saturday, Dec. 9, 2006

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL POSTS FIFTH STRAIGHT VICTORY, 74-70
Warriors start their season with two conference wins for the first time in history

GORHAM, Maine -- Junior forward **Leon Martin (Woodbury)** scored seven of 19 points in the final four minutes of the game to lead the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 74-70 win over the University of Southern Maine in a Little East Conference men's basketball game Saturday afternoon at Hill Gymnasium on the Gorham campus.

The win is the fifth straight for Eastern (6-2, 2-0 little east) -- matching its longest ever under fifth-year head coach **Bill Geitner** -- and marks the first time in 21 years of conference play that the Warriors have won their first two conference games. It is the team's best start after eight games under Geitner and is the team's best start since it won seven of its first eight on the way to a 14-10 record in 1993/94. The win on their opponents' home court is also the Warriors second this year -- one more than a year ago.

Two games into a 14-game regular-season conference schedule, Eastern shares the top spot with defending regular-season conference champion Keene State College, and Western Connecticut State University, all at 2-0.

Southern Maine (2-5, 0-2 little east) has lost five straight after a 2-0 start. Both Eastern and Southern Maine shared last place in the conference a year ago, with both clubs losing first-round LEC tournament games. The Warriors were ranked fifth in this year's conference pre-season coaches' poll, the Huskies tied for sixth.

Martin was a perfect 7-for-7 from the charity stripe and combined with two teammates to scored 59 of the team's points. His point total was a season high and just one shy of his career-high. Martin, shooting 73.7 per cent from the line this year, added a team-high eight rebounds, four assists, three steals, three blocks and turned the ball over only once, while freshman guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford)** led all scorers with a game-high 21 points -- his third game this year of at least 20 points. First-year senior guard **Mike Parker (Windsor)** added an ECSU-high 19 points (equalling his collegiate-high), five rebounds and three assists. Ortiz, twice already this year named the LEC's weekly Rookie-of-the-Week, drained five three-pointers in the game, a key one coming in the final minutes.

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Eastern trailed by a bucket with four minutes left, but Martin scored five total points after grabbing offensive rebounds, and Ortiz converted a three-pointers to give Eastern a 72-68 lead with two minutes left. With trailing by that two-point margin, Martin grabbed his own miss and then scored the put-back to tie the game at 66. Ortiz followed with his fifth three-pointer on an assist from Martin for a quick five-point swing to put Eastern ahead by three 69-66 with three minutes left. Junior center Nick Gooding cut the lead to one, 69-68, connecting on a pair of free throws following a rebounding foul, but Eastern responded with a time-killing possession, grabbing a pair of offensive rebounds on its next trip down the court before Martin scored on a put-back and drew the foul to make the traditional three-point play for a 72-68 Warrior lead with two minutes remaining.

Daniels brought the Huskies to within two points, 72-70, with another set of free throws, but Eastern Connecticut was again able to cut 42 seconds off the clock in its next possession with another pair of offensive rebounds. The Warriors were unable to score, however, and Southern Maine had two looks at the basket in the final 28 seconds, but could not capitalize, before senior guard **Geoff Richardson (Hartford)** cleared the defensive glass on a missed USM shot with eight seconds remaining. Forced to foul, USM put Martin on the line in the final second of the game and he calmly sank two free throws to create the final four-point margin.

Three Southern Maine players reached double-digits in scoring for the Huskies, with double-doubles from Gooding and junior forward Drew Coppenrath. Gooding and Coppenrath each scored 14 points, while Gooding grabbed 11 rebounds and Coppenrath snagged a game-high 12 caroms. Freshman guard John Sewall tossed in 12 points and three assists while junior guard Josh Daniels chipped in with 10 points and a game-high seven assists.

Eastern opens play at the Bahama House Classic at Daytona Beach Jan. 2, facing Medaille College at 6 p.m. in a first-round game.

little east conference

Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL ROUTS MEDAILLE COLLEGE, 72-44
Warriors move into final of Bahama House Classic with sixth straight win

DAYTONA BEACH – Senior guard **Mike Parker** (Northwest Catholic HS/Windsor) contributed to 15 of the team's 18 first-half field goals by scoring six and assisting on nine others as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team routed Medaille College, 72-44, Tuesday night to move into the championship game of the 14th Annual Bahama House Classic.

Playing its first game in over three weeks, Eastern (7-2) stretched its winning streak to six – its longest under fifth-year head coach **Bill Geitner** – and equalled its best start after nine games since 1993/94. Medaille (3-7) was playing its first game since snapping a five-game losing streak just over two weeks ago.

Eastern faces host Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (12-3) in the 8 p.m. championship game. Ranked sixth nationally in NAIA Division II, the Eagles scored the first 21 points and eased to an 83-41 win over Albany College of Pharmacy in Tuesday's second first-round game. ERAU has won the title nine times, including the last three.

The point total is the lowest allowed by Eastern this year and marks the sixth time in nine games – fourth straight – that the Warriors have not allowed their opponent more than 70.

Leading by three points midway through the first half, Eastern got points from five different players to outscore the Mustangs, 12-2 over the next five minutes to take a 13-point, 25-12 lead. The Warriors led by 14 points at halftime and pushed the lead to 23, 50-27, four minutes into the second half.

A first-year Division I transfer who did not compete a year ago, Parker had 12 points, nine assists, eight steals and five rebounds in the first half. Because of the rout, he was limited to just six second-half minutes and finished the game with 14 points, ten assists, nine steals and seven rebounds. In the 12-2 run in the first half, Parker scored twice, assisted on two other baskets, and contributed a steal. Parker scored six of the team's 18 first-half field goals (on eight attempts) and set up nine others with assists. The assist total equals his highest total at Eastern and is one shy of his collegiate high.

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The Warriors set the tempo in the first half by bottling up Medaille junior guard James McNeil. McNeil, averaging 16.5 points this year after averaging over 25 a year ago, missed his first five shots from the floor. He finished the game with nine points (3-for-9 from the field) and seven turnovers and had a team-high five rebounds.

All 15 players in uniform saw action for Eastern, which also got double figures from freshman guard **Edwin Ortiz (East Cathlic HS/Hartford)**, junior post player **Kevin Zalucki (East Catholic HS/Enfield)** and junior forward **Leon Martin (Woodbury HS/Nonnewaug)**. Ortiz and Zalucki each had 12 points, Martin ten points and nine rebounds. The team's four double-figure scores combined to sink 21 of 34 field goals. Freshman guard **Jared Willis (Northwest Catholics HS/New Britain)** came off the bench for four steals, and along with Parker, helped Eastern force Medaille into 25 turnvoers and a field-goal percentage under 33 per cent.

Freshman post player **Mark Borysewicz (Coventry HS/Coventry)** scored his first collegiate points on his first shot, connecting on a short bank shot with 61 seconds left.

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Wednesday, January 3, 2007

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL CAN'T SOLVE EMBRY-RIDDLE
Eagles thwart Warriors in championship game of Bahama House Classic, 66-54

DAYTONA BEACH – The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team rallied from double-digit deficits in each half before falling to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, 66-54 in the title game of the 14th Annual Bahama House Classic Wednesday night.

The loss to Embry-Riddle (13-3), ranked No. 6 nationally among NAIA Division II schools, puts an end to Eastern's (7-3) longest win streak (six games) under fifth-year head coach **Bill Geitner**. The Eagles are 7-0 against New England opponents in tournament history and wrapped up their fourth straight title, tenth overall.

The Warriors never led in the game, but bounced back twice from double-digit deficits and trailed by only one point, 51-50, with just under eight minutes left. At that point, the Eagles reeled off eight straight points, six coming on a pair of three-point field goals and two more coming when junior guard Ryan Ridder tossed in a short bank shot while tumbling to the floor.

Freshman guard **Edwin Ortiz's** (East Catholic HS/Hartford) fourth three-point field goal of the game following an Embry-Riddle turnover pulled Eastern to within that one point margin, but the Warriors managed only one field goal and four points the rest of the way. Eastern missed four of six free throws over the final six minutes, two of those opportunities as the front of one-and-ones.

Eastern staged its first comeback midway through the first half, Trailing by 14 points, 26-12 nine minutes into action, the Warriors reeled off 12 of the next 15 points to cut the gape to five, 29-24, five minutes before the break. Ortiz canned two three-pointers and senior guard **Geoffrey Richardson** (Northwest Catholic HS/Hartford) one before senior post player **Dan Trudeau** (Rockville HS/Rockville) capped the spurt by scoring off a put-back.

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Senior guard **Mike Parker (Northwest Catholic HS/Windsor)**, who joined Ortiz as all-tournament selections from Eastern, sat out the final nine minutes of the first half after collecting two fouls in nine seconds. Parker also missed the final four minutes of the game after sustaining a right leg injury but is not expected to miss the team's next game.

Eastern overcame a decisive height disadvantage – Embry-Riddle featuring seven players standing 6-foot-6 or taller – by outrebounding the Eagles. Behind junior post player **Kevin Zalucki's (East Catholic HS/Enfield)** season-high 11 rebounds, the Warriors outrebounded the hosts by two, including a 13-7 advantage on the offensive boards.

Parker and Ortiz were Eastern's only players in double figures, each finishing with 15 points. Parker also had six rebounds and three blocked shots while Zalucki also blocked two shots.

Tournament MVP Denver Cobb, a 6-foot-2 inch sophomore guard, led all players with 20 points. Twelve of his points came on four three-point field goals. His final three-pointer with just over seven minutes left came from deep in the corner and answered Ortiz' three-pointer which had moved the Warriors to within 51-50.

In the tournament, Parker totaled 29 points (13-for-24 from the floor), 13 rebounds, 11 assists, ten steals, and five blocked shots. In the first half of Tuesday's 72-44 win over Medaille College, he had 12 points, nine assists, eight steals and five rebounds. Ortiz finished the tournament with 27 points (10-for-27 from the floor) and five rebounds. He sank six of 17 three-pointers. Ortiz was also named to the season-opening Eastern Tip-Off Tournament all-tournament team.

Eastern returns to Little East Conference play Saturday, hosting Rhode Island College at 3 p.m. in search of its third conference victory in as many games.

little east conference

Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007

RHODE ISLAND RALLIES PAST EASTERN IN OVERTIME

Anchormen hand Warriors first Little East men's basketball loss after two victories

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Sophomore **Cameron Stewart (Newport, RI)** scored on a putback to tied the game with 20 seconds left in regulation and the Rhode Island College men's basketball team never trailed in overtime in posting an 87-79 Little East Conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

The win is the seventh straight for Rhode Island (10-1, 2-1 little east conference) and fifth in a row over Eastern (7-4, 2-1 little east conference), which had won its first two conference games for the first time in the conference's 21-year history. The Warriors have lost two in a row after winning five straight.

The Anchormen trailed by 13 points in the final 30 seconds of the first half but rallied to tie the game at 49 nine minutes into the second half. Freshman **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford, CT)**, who sank eight three-point field goals on the way to a career-high 32 points, gave the Warriors a 71-69 lead with 35 seconds left. Rhode Island missed a game-tying shot on its next possession, but Stewart grabbed the rebound and put it back in with 19.7 seconds left. Eastern junior **Leon Martin (Woodbury, CT)** missed a potential game-winning shot at the horn ending regulation, an 18-footer from the right corner.

Rhode Island scored the first two buckets in overtime and never trailed thereafter. Senior **Brian Stanko (Swansea, MA)** hit a driving layup for the first points of overtime and sophomore **Tirrell Hill (Bronx, NY)** put back a missed shot to make it 75-71. Conversely, Eastern turned the ball over five times in the five-minute overtime, four of them coming on its first six possessions of OT. The Warriors finished with a season-high 28 turnovers while the visitors committed only 14, with just one coming in overtime.

(more)

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Hill led his team with 13 points after the break, while first-year sophomore **Bobby Bailey (Fall River, MA)** grabbed all ten of his rebounds after halftime. After shooting 29.0 per cent over the first 20 minutes, Rhode Island canned 53.1 per cent of its shots 17 of 32 after the break. As a team, Rhode Island outscored Eastern by 16 at the foul line, converting 31 of 39, including eight of ten in overtime.

Hill led Rhode Island with 23 points, Bailey adding 15 points and ten rebounds and senior **Kamari Williams (Springfield, MA)** 14 points (10-for-10 from the stripe). Leading scorer **Kinsey Durgin (Greenwood, ME)**, a senior, added 12 points, nine coming after the break.

Ortiz and Martin (24 points) combined to score 56 of Eastern's 79 points. Ortiz was 6-for-8 from three-point range in the first half on the way to his career-high point total. Martin connected on nine of 16 field goals and all five of his free throws and added a game and season-high 13 rebounds for his third double-double of the year.

Ortiz became the second player in as many years to ring up at least 30 points in a game -- current junior **Kris Johnson (Sturbridge, MA)** scored 31 last Feb. 9 at Keene State when he set the current game record of nine three-point field goals -- but became the first freshman in at least 28 years to achieve the feat.

Eastern played without senior guard **Mike Parker (Windsor, CT)**, who injured his leg in the team's loss at Embry-Riddle University Wednesday. Parker is averaging 12.0 points and 5.4 assists.

Eastern hosts Massachusetts Dartmouth Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in a Little East Conference game.

little east conference

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2007

ZALUCKI, ALBON SPARK EASTERN M-BASKETBALL

Pair combines for 35 points and 20 rebounds in 72-61 Little East win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Junior post player **Kevin Zalucki (East Catholic HS/Enfield)** and senior wing **Matt Albon (Holy Cross HS/Middlebury)** combined for 35 points and 20 rebounds to pace the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 72-61 Little East Conference victory over the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

The win is the seventh in the last nine games for Eastern (8-4, 3-1 little east conference) and the eighth in the last 12 outings against UMass Dartmouth (7-6, 2-2 little east conference). The Warriors snapped a two-game losing while the Corsairs have dropped four of their last six.

Albon recorded season-highs with 18 points and seven rebounds while Zalucki posted a season-high 17 points and ECSU-high 13 rebounds (he had 14 rebounds as a freshman at Rhode Island College in 2003/04). He also had three blocked shots. The pair combined to sink 12 of 17 field goals.

Starting in place of injury senior guard **Mike Parker (Northwest Catholic HS/Windsor)**, freshman guard **Anthony Bagley (Hamden Hall HS/New Haven)** had a season-high ten points and equalled his season high with six rebounds. Junior post player **Leon Martin (Nonnewaug HS/Woodbury)** added 13 points and eight rebounds.

Despite committing only 11 turnovers, UMass Dartmouth could not overcome 35.5 shooting percentage from the floor, including 5-for-20 from three-point range.

Trailing by five points at halftime, the Corsairs held Eastern scoreless from the floor over the first three minutes of the second half, outscoring the Warriors 10-1 to surge to a four-point, 38-34 lead. Over the next three minutes, the Warriors answered with seven in a row to take a lead they would not relinquish, 41-38. Albon scored the first five points of

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the run on a pair of driving layups and a free throw, and Zalucki capped the spurt by scoring inside. Zalucki set up his own basket by grabbing a rebound at the other end of the court, then following up a missed jumper by Martin. Bagley contributed two rebounds and an assist in those three minutes.

Senior forward Paul Pawlowski led the Corsairs with 13 points and three blocked shots while freshman guard Jeff Macchi had 12, and freshman forward V.J. Divine ten. Divine had a team-high seven rebounds for the Corsairs, who were outrebounded by 13.

Eastern visits Plymouth State University Saturday at 3 p.m.

little east conference

Saturday, Jan. 13, 2007

PLYMOUTH STATE'S BUZZER-BEATER BEATS WARRIORS

Winning basket with 2.6 seconds left spoils their Little East comeback effort, 52-51

PLYMOUTH, NH –Junior forward **Leon Martin (Nonnewaug HS/Woodbury)** and freshman guard **Edwin Ortiz (East Catholic HS/Hartford)** keyed an Eastern Connecticut State University comeback from 12 points down, but senior forward Mike Walcek's driving layup with 2.6 seconds left lifted Plymouth State University to a 52-51 Little East Conference win Saturday afternoon at Foley Gymnasium.

The win is the first in conference play for Plymouth (8-8, 1-4 little east conference) and is the 13th straight for the Panthers over Eastern (8-5, 3-2 little east conference). The Warriors, who have lost three of their last four, were edged in overtime by Rhode Island College for their previous conference loss.

Eastern trailed throughout the game and by 12 with 8:39 left before Martin (7 points) and Ortiz (6) sparked a 15-2 run that carried the Warriors into a 51-50 lead with 2:10 left. Eastern clung to that lead and had the ball in the final minute but committed an unforced turnover on a bad pass with 17.8 seconds left that set up Plymouth's winning play. After an Eastern timeout, the Panthers drove the length of the floor before Walcek took a pass from sophomore guard Ben Huntington and drove down the right side of the lane as time was running out. With Martin clinging to him but not wanting to foul, Walcek put up a shot off the glass which rolled on the rim and through the hoop with 2.6 seconds left. Eastern's desperation shot at the horn fell short.

The winning bucket was Plymouth's only field goal in the last nine minutes of play. The Warriors outscored the Panthers 17-4 until Walcek's winner -- with their four points coming from the foul line.

The Warriors welcomed the return to the lineup from a leg injury of senior guard **Mike Parker (Northwest Catholic HS/Windsor)**, but were without senior guard **Geoffrey Richardson (Northwest Catholic HS/Hartford)**, then lost junior post player **Kevin Zalucki (East Catholic HS/Enfield)** to a twisted right ankle with 2:09 left in the first half. Richardson did not accompany the team, due to academic commitments.

(more)

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With Eastern trailing by 12, 48-36 inside the final nine minutes, Martin converted a three-point play – Parker’s pass setting up the layup – then converted a drive moments later that made it 48-41 with 7:40 left. Ortiz, who missed eight of ten shots in the first half, then nailed consecutive three-pointers around a pair of Plymouth free throws that pulled Eastern to within three, 50-47, with four minutes left. After Plymouth missed a bomb from the corner, senior post player **Dan Trudeau (Rockville HS/Rockville)** contributed his first and only basket – a short baseline jump-hook off a pass from Parker which trimmed the gap to one, 50-49. Moments later, senior guard **Matt Albon (Holy Cross HS/Middlebury)** stole a pass and Martin swished the tying and go-ahead free throws after being fouled down low with 2:10 left. Plymouth couldn’t connect on two possessions over the next minute, with Ortiz grabbing Walcek’s missed three-pointer with 45 seconds left. The Warriors were unable to protect the one-point lead, however, giving the ball back to the hosts with 17.8 seconds left.

With Zalucki indisposed in the second half, first-year junior transfer **Ivan Pinder (Fitch Sr. HS/Baltimore, MD)** came off the bench to make a significant second-half contribution. Appearing in only his fifth game, the 6-foot-3 inch Pinder played a season-high 12 minutes and matched his season high with seven points by sinking three of four field goals, one of them a three-pointer. All of his points came in a span of five minutes in the second half. With the Warriors trailing by 14 points four minutes into the half, Pinder banked in a short jumper, and after Plymouth converted a free throw, Pinder sank his first three-pointer on his first attempt to make it a ten-point margin, 38-28 with 15 minutes left. Minutes later, he scored on a put-back to move Eastern to within seven, 41-34, with ten minutes left.

The game was a tale of two halves. Over the first 20 minutes, Plymouth shot 52.2 per cent from the floor (7-for-7 from the stripe) and Eastern just 29.2 as the Panthers outscored the Warriors by ten. In the second half, Eastern shot 57.9 per cent and Plymouth just 27.3 per cent as the Warriors posted a nine-point scoring advantage.

Martin led Eastern with 18 points (11 in the second half) and eight rebounds while Ortiz added 11 points and four rebounds. Senior forward Devin Ruocco had 17 points and eight rebounds without a turnover in 29 minutes for Plymouth. Walcek finished with 13 points, five rebounds and three assists and Huntington ten points.

Eastern visits Keene State College Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in a conference game.

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For Immediate Release

January 13, 2007

Contact: Kent Cherrington, SID

PSU Men's Basketball gets past Eastern Connecticut**Walcek's hoop in closing seconds clinches first LEC win for Panthers**

PLYMOUTH, N.H. – Senior Mike Walcek (Dover, N.H.) converted a lay-up with 2.6 seconds remaining Saturday afternoon, and Plymouth State University held on to defeat Eastern Connecticut State University, 52-51, in a Little East Conference men's basketball game at Foley Gymnasium.

The Panthers pulled out the win despite surrendering a 12-point lead in the final eight minutes. The Warriors battled back from down 12 to take a one-point lead (51-50) with two minutes remaining; only to have Walcek hit the winning shot in the final seconds. PSU picks up its first LEC win of the season, improving to 8-8 overall and 1-4 in the league, while Eastern drops to 9-5 overall and 3-2 in conference play.

Walcek finished with 13 points for the Panthers, while senior Devin Ruocco (Dover, N.H.) led the team with 17 points and eight rebounds. Sophomore Ben Huntington (Hampstead, N.H.) added 10 points to the cause.

Eastern got a game-high 18 points and eight boards from junior Leon Martin (Woodbury, Conn.) and 11 points from freshman Edwin Ortiz (Hartford, Conn.)

Plymouth State shot 52 percent in the opening half while holding the visitors to a 29 percent clip, giving the Panthers a 31-21 margin at halftime. PSU went cold in the second half, connecting at just a 27 percent rate, while Eastern heated up, knocking down 58 percent after the break.

The Panthers led 48-36 with less than nine minutes remaining, when Eastern outscored PSU 13-2 over the next six minutes. Martin canned a pair of free throws for ECSU with 2:09 on the clock, putting the visitors ahead 51-50. Both teams had opportunities in the final two minutes, but neither could convert until Walcek's running lay-up that won it.

PSU plays a pair of LEC road games this week, Tuesday at Southern Maine (7:30 p.m.) and Saturday at Western Connecticut (3:00 p.m.) ECSU is back in action Tuesday with a visit to Keene State (7:30 p.m.)

little east conference

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2007

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL STUNS CONFERENCE UNBEATEN KEENE

Parker's hoop with 3.4 seconds left caps Warriors' charge from 14 points down

KEENE, NH – Senior guard **Mike Parker** (Northwest Catholic HS/Windsor) connected on a short jump shot in the lane with 3.4 seconds left to complete an improbable comeback and carry the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a stunning 73-71 win over Little East Conference leader Keene State College Tuesday night at Spaulding Gym.

The loss is the first for Keene State (13-2, 5-1 Little East Conference) after five conference victories, first in seven home games and snaps an eight-game winning streak for Keene, ranked 24th nationally. The victory over the Owls at Spaulding Gym is Eastern's (9-5, 4-2 little east) first in seven years. The Warriors are now 3-1 in conference road games this season after winning only one of 12 games on their opponents' court in all games last year.

Keene scored the first three baskets of the second half and led by 14 before the Warriors re-gained the composure which had carried them to a ten-point lead in the first half. Down by 14, Eastern held Keene without a field goal for the next six minutes, outscoring the hosts 19-3 to turn a 49-35 deficit into a 54-52 lead with 12 minutes.

Trailing by three, Keene tied the game at 71 by driving the length of the floor and using 6-foot-4 inch junior forward Nick Drouin only three-pointer of the game -- a shot which bounded straight up off the iron, then fell through -- from the top of the key with 16.6 seconds left. The Warriors inbounded and got the ball into the hands of Parker, who penetrated the lane and swished a 12-footer with 3.4 ticks remaining. Keene's desperation 40-foot game-winning attempt bounced off the backboard as time expired.

Led by Parker, the inspired play of junior forward **Leon Martin** (Nonnewaug HS/Woodbury) and off-the-bench heroics of senior guard **Geoffrey Richardson** (Northwest Catholic HS/Hartford) and first-year junior forward **Ivan Pinder** (Fitch HS, CT/Baltimore, MD), Eastern battled back from the brink of extinction in the second half.

After the 19-3 run -- made possible by a swarming, opportunistic defense -- got them back in the game, the Warriors scored six straight points to take a 67-61 lead with just under five minutes left. The half-dozen points were courtesy of Martin, who connected on six of seven shots in the second half. Martin broke the 61-all tie by scoring in the paint. After the Eastern defense forced a shot-clock violation, Martin drained a short baseline jumper, and 90 seconds later dropped in a pair of free throws to provide Eastern with that six-point cushion.

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Backed by a large, vocal crowd, Keene sandwiched a three-pointer from sophomore forward Tyler Kathan and jumper from sophomore forward Nate Anderson around one free throw by Richardson to pull the home team to within one, 69-68, with 71 seconds left. Eastern missed a shot on its next possession and Keene rebounded with 35 seconds left, with the opportunity to hold for the game-winning shot. As Keene moved over half court, the Owls lost the handle on the ball, however, then collided trying to retrieve it. Richardson scooped up the ball and raced in unmolested for a dunk which gave the Warriors the 71-68 advantage with 25.3 seconds left.

Drouin tied the game for the last time with his three-pointer with 16.6 seconds left, before Parker's floater in the lane made a winner of Eastern against its conference rival.

Parker managed 13 points, seven assists and six rebounds despite playing the final 13 minutes of the game with four personal fouls. After being whistled for his fourth foul, Parker was lifted with the Warriors trailing by one point, He returned with the score tied four minutes later, and did not come off the floor over the final nine minutes.

Martin led all players in the game with 21 points, while Richardson and Pinder came off the bench to combine on 20 points on 8-of-11 shooting from the floor. Richardson scored all 11 of his points in the second half, drilling three field goals from long range before capping it with his late dunk. Playing a season-high 21 minutes, Pinder contributed a season-high nine points and also matched Richardson with four rebounds.

With Eastern down by seven points six minutes into the second half, Richardson and Pinder combined for nine points which shot the Warriors into a 54-52 lead. In between two long Richardson field goals – the second one a three-pointer -- Pinder converted an unmolested layup off a Parker pass, then banked in a reverse layup.

Freshman guard **Edwin Ortiz (East Catholic HS/Hartford)** scored all nine of his points in the first 6:30 of the game, helping Eastern to a ten-point lead midway through the half. Unflustered, Keene reeled off 20 of the final 23 points of the half to build an eight-point halftime lead which had the Warriors reeling heading into the lockerroom.

Despite playing without 6-foot-7 inch junior post player **Kevin Zalucki (East Catholic HS/Enfield)**, Eastern battled the taller Owls virtually even on the boards.

Drouin led Keene offensively (15) and on the boards (8), with Kathan adding 11 points and five rebounds and Anderson and junior guard David Sontag ten points each. Kathan, last week's conference Player-of-the-Week, was averaging 17.6 points and 9.2 rebounds entering play. Kathan's first hoop came with 6:37 left in the first half and his team down by nine and his only basket of the second half (a three-pointer) came with less than two minutes left and Eastern leading by five.

Junior guard Shiwon Davis, who played two seasons at Eastern before transferring to Keene this past fall, had four points – all on free throws – in 11 minutes off the bench. He was 0-for-2 from the floor and turned the ball over three times, but came up with two steals. He was matched up with Parker, a former starter at Division I Sacred Heart University, most of the evening.

Keene's only previous loss this year came in triple overtime five weeks ago at Tufts University, 118-109.

Eastern hosts Massachusetts Boston Saturday at 3 p.m. in a Little East Conference game.

MOLTA, Bob (Athletics)

From: Antonelli, Gregory [gantonelli@keene.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2007 9:33 PM
To: news@keenesentinel.com; kmurphy@keenesentinel.com; Ned Winner;
sports@theunionleader.com; sports@bostonherald.com; sports@ledger.com; sports@courant.com;
sports@norwichbulletin.com; sports@cmonitor.com; MOLTA, Bob (Athletics)
Subject: Game Story Men's Basketball

KEENE, N.H. 1/16/07 – Mike Parker's (Windsor, Conn.) jumper for the left side of the lane with 3.4 seconds to play lifted Eastern Conn. State University to a dramatic 73-71 upset win over Keene State College in a Little East Conference men's basketball game played at Spaulding Gym on Tuesday night.

The Owls (13-2, 5-1 LEC), ranked 24th in this weeks's D3Hoop poll and leading the LEC, saw its nine game winning streak come to and end. Eastern Conn. improves to 9-5 (4-2 LEC).

The Warriors held a 10 point lead (29-19) with 8:37 to play in the first half. The Owls hit the boards hard to get back into the game. Nick Drouin (Weare, N.H.) had three put back basket off Owl free throw misses. Tyler Kathan's (Ludlow, Vt.) fall away jumper tied the score (35-all) with 2:11 to go. KSC scored the final eight points of the half to take a 43-35 lead into the locker room.

The Warriors battled back in the second half. ECSU used a 16-2 run to go ahead 54-52 with 11:53 to play.

The game was decided in the final minutes of play. A pair of free throws by Leon Martin (Woodbury, Conn.) gave Eastern Conn. a six point lead (67-61) with 4:53 to play.

Nate Anderson (Westminster, Mass.) base line pop got the Owls to within one point with 1:04 to go. The Owls turned the ball over in their next possession and Geoffrey Richardson (Hartford, Conn.) dunked the ball after several KSC players went down to put the Warriors up 71-68 with 28 seconds to go.

Drouin three point attempt hit off the rim and bounced back into the basket to tie the game with 71-all with 18 seconds to go.

The Warriors' Parker hit a jumper from the left side with 3.4 seconds with the winning hoop.

Drouin finished with 15 points and eight rebounds, Kathan added 11 points, and Anderson and Dave Sontag (Mont Vernon, N.H.) had 10 points each to lead the Owls.

Martin, who hit nine of 13 from the floor, had a game high 21 points and Parker finished with 13 points to lead the Warriors.

Keene State hosts R.I. College in a battle of top LEC teams on Saturday (3 p.m.). Eastern Conn. returns home to face UMass-Boston at the same time.

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