
little east conference

Saturday, Jan. 20, 2007

PERSISTENCE CARRIES UMASS BOSTON MEN'S BASKETBALL

Beacons score period-ending points four times against Eastern Conn.

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The University of Massachusetts Boston men's basketball team scored the tying points to end regulation, as well as the first two overtime periods before 6-foot-8 inch sophomore post player Rodney Bennett (Mattapan, MA) beat the buzzer with a short bank shot ending the third OT to give the Beacons a 115-114 Little East Conference triple-overtime victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Bennett had sent the game into overtime when he dropped in an inbounds pass from junior guard Amigo Paniagua (Santiago, DR) with three second left that tied the score for the tenth time, 79-79. Junior guard A.J. Titus' (Roxbury, MA) drive in the paint with four seconds left in the first overtime tied the game again for UMass, 93-93 and forced a second five-minute OT session, where Paniagua nailed a three-point field goal with 17 seconds left to send the contest into a third OT period.

In the third overtime, Eastern junior post player **Kevin Zalucki's (Enfield, CT)** slam dunk tied the game for the 20th time, 113-113 with 53.7 seconds left, and junior forward **Ivan Pinder's (Baltimore, MD)** free throw – set up on a steal by senior guard **Mike Parker (Windsor)** gave Eastern a 114-113 lead with 7.8 seconds left. Bennett rebounded the miss of Pinder's second free throw, and after each team called a time out, UMass inbounded near half court with 4.0 seconds left. Senior forward Tony Barros (Dorchester, MA) passed in to freshman guard Aaron Jones (Boston), who fed Bennett in the paint for the winning bucket as the horn sounded.

Barros doubled his conference-leading scoring average with a game-high 43 points to lead five double-figure scorers. In 52 minutes, Barros hit half of his 26 field goals and was 8-for-16 from three-point range. He also had seven rebounds. Bennett was 8-for-12 from the floor en route to 17 points that complemented a game-high 13 rebounds. Six-foot junior post player Eli Manna (Boston) added 16 points for the Beacons, who avenged a 60-57 home loss to Eastern this past Dec. 2.

(more)

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Eastern guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford, CT)** fell three points shy of his career high, leading five double-digit scorers with 29 points. Ortiz, who became the first Eastern freshman to score as many as 30 points earlier this month, netted all but six of his points after halftime. Parker had 15 points, a career-high 14 assists and six rebounds for Eastern, with junior post player **Leon Martin (Woodbury, CT)** and senior guard **Matt Alton (Middlebury)** tossing in 18 each. For the second straight game, senior guard **Geoffrey Richardson (Hartford, CT)** came off the bench to supply three-point firepower. Richardson contributed three three-point field goals after the break, finishing with 13 points and five rebounds before fouling out with a minute into the second overtime. Martin was also whistled for his fifth personal 11 seconds into the final overtime as one of five players in the game to get the gate.

Barros scored 18 points in the first half and 20 in the second. Barros opened the final OT period with a three-pointer, with Paniagua adding one and Ortiz countering with two of his own in the first two minutes of the frame to keep the game tied.

Nursing an ankle injury sustained a week ago at Plymouth State, Zalucki came off the bench for his go-ahead break-away dunk shortly after replacing senior post player **Dan Trudeau (Rockville, CT)**, who was given his fifth foul with 2:40 left in the final OT.

Eastern visits Western Connecticut State University Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in a Little East Conference game.

little east conference

Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2007

WESTERN FENDS OFF EASTERN M-BASKETBALL FOR LEC WIN, 63-52
Colonials re-group after Warriors use 23-9 run to erase 13-point halftime deficit

DANBURY, Conn. – The Western Connecticut State University men's basketball team re-grouped over the final eight minutes to fend off Eastern Connecticut State University's second-half charge and post a 63-52 Little East Conference victory Tuesday night at the O'Neill Center.

Down by 13 points at halftime, Eastern (9-7, 4-4 little east) outscored Western (12-6, 6-2 little east) by a 23-9 count through the ten minutes of the second half to erect its only lead of the game, 46-45. Western missed its next shot, but freshman forward Stephen Faulkner scored on a putback to re-store a one-point lead for the Colonials, who held the Warriors to just one point over the next five minutes in pulling away for their seventh straight win over their in-state rivals.

By winning, Western kept pace in the conference, maintaining a share of second place with Rhode Island College, which downed UMass Dartmouth. Those two teams are a game back of Keene State, which overcame a 17-point deficit to trim Plymouth State. Eastern and UMass Dartmouth remain in a tie for fourth place.

Senior guard **Mike Parker (Windsor/Northwest Catholic HS)** engineered Eastern's return from a 13-point halftime deficit by scoring 14 of his career-high 26 points during that 23-9 scoring spree.

Parker scored seven straight points in that 23-9 stretch, swishing two jumpers, then completing a three-point play with a free throw to pull the Warriors to within three, 45-42, with 11 minutes left in the game.

Junior forward **Ivan Pinder (Baltimore, MD/Fitch HS)** then grabbed an offensive rebound and fed senior guard **Matt Albion (Middlebury/Holy Cross HS)** to make it a one-point game. A minute later, Parker found senior post player **Kevin Zalucki (Enfield/East Catholic HS)** alone underneath for his only hoop of the game that gave Eastern its only lead of the game, 46-45, with 8:15 left.

(more)

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Faulkner, Western's top bench player with 11 points and ten rebounds, answered with his offensive rebound and field goal 30 seconds later. After Parker was called for a charging violation, freshman guard Tyshawn Gillespie (15 points, 8 in the first five minutes of the game) and junior forward Jamie Procino (team-high 17 points, ten rebounds) converted drives to the hoop to give Western a five-point, 51-46 lead with five minutes left.

Parker, who outscored his teammates 17-12 in the second half, was 10-for-15 from the floor (3-for-5 from three-point range) in the game and had five rebounds and three assists. Albon (11 points) was Eastern's only other double-figure scorer. Albon also had four rebounds, with junior forward **Leon Martin (Woodbury/Nonnewaug HS)** and Pinder each grabbing five rebounds to help the Warriors to a near-stalemate on the boards with the taller Colonials.

For Eastern, it was the first game in ten days not decided on the final shot. The Warriors lost a one-point decision at Plymouth State Jan. 13 and a one-point triple overtime verdict Saturday to UMass Boston. Last Tuesday, Eastern stunned conference leader Keene State, 73-71, on Parker's buzzer-beater at Keene, NH.

Eastern looks to complete a regular-season conference sweep of the University of Southern Maine Saturday at 3 p.m. at Geissler Gymnasium.

little east conference

Saturday, Jan 27, 2007

PARKER PUSHES EASTERN M-BASKETBALL PAST USM, 73-72
Senior guard scores 16 points in second half in Little East Conference victory

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Senior guard **Mike Parker (Windsor, CT)** scored 16 of his team-high 23 points in the second half – including two free throws with four seconds left that proved to be the difference – as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team held off the University of Southern Maine, 73-72, in a Little East Conference game Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

With the win, Eastern (10-7, 5-4 little east) completes its fourth LEC regular-season sweep of Southern Maine (6-12, 2-7 little east) in the last seven years. The Warriors came away with a 74-70 win when the teams met Dec. 9 at Gorham, ME.

Parker, a first-year transfer from Sacred Heart, was 7-for-11 from the floor in the second half and both of his free throws in the half came with four seconds left and gave the Warriors a four-point 73-69 lead. Junior guard Josh Daniels (Everett, WA) of Southern Maine swished a three-pointer at the buzzer to account for the final one-point margin.

Parker opened the second half with a jump shot that gave the Warriors the lead for good. The lead crested at ten points before the Huskies battled back with a 10-2 run that pulled them to within a bucket, 69-67, with 48 seconds left. Parker made it a four-point margin when he canned a basket in the lane with 16 seconds left, and again gave the Warriors a four-point lead with his two free throws with four seconds left.

Southern Maine withstood a 17-point first-half effort from Eastern freshman guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford, CT)** to lead by a slim margin most of the first half and take a one-point 36-35 edge into the lockerroom.

Although the game featured the conference leader in field goals percentage (Eastern) and the LEC's lowest-ranked team (Southern Maine), both teams shot at least 50 per cent in each half. The Huskies, however, outscored Eastern by 13 from the stripe, sinking 22 of 27 while Eastern was just 9-for-13.

(more)

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Parker and Ortiz (21) combined for 43 points of Eastern's total, sinking 17 of 28 field goals and seven of nine free throws. The conference leader in assists, Parker hit his average with five, and freshman guard **Anthony Bagley (New Haven, CT)** contributed six helpers.

Daniels of Southern Maine led all players with 25 points, 18 coming in the second half when he was 5-for-6 from the floor and 7-for-8 from the stripe. Freshman guard John Sewall (Bath, ME) added 12 and freshman center Nick Gooding (Concord, CA) ten points and game-high nine rebounds.

In two wins over Southern Maine this year, Ortiz and Parker both averaged 21.0 points. Ortiz shot 59.3 per cent from the floor, including 50 per cent (8-for-16) from three-point range in those games.

Eastern hosts Green Mountain College Tuesday at 6 p.m.

little east conference

Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2007

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL ROUTS GREEN MOUNTAIN, 85-59

Warriors outscore Eagles by 14 to end second half en route to victory

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team outscored Green Mountain College by 14 over the final 7:30 of the first half on the way to an 85-59 non-conference victory Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

In the first meeting between the programs, Eastern (11-7) outscored Green Mountain (1-14) 22-8 over the final 7:30 of the first half to expand a five-point lead to 19, 39-20 at the break.

All 15 players in uniform saw action for Eastern, which improved to 7-3 at home this year.

Freshman guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford, CT/Northwest Catholic HS)** led four Eastern double-digit scorers with 13 points, first-year junior forward **Ivan Pinder (Baltimore, MD/Fitch (CT) HS)** adding career-highs in points (12) and rebounds (9), junior post player **Kevin Zalucki (Enfield/East Catholic HS)** 11 points and seven rebounds and senior guard **Mike Parker (Windsor/Northwest Catholic HS)** ten points and four assists. Freshman guard **Anthony Bagley (New Haven/Hamden Hall HS)** handed out five assists, giving him 11 in the last two games. Senior post player **Dan Trudeau (Rockville/Rockville)** grabbed a career-high 11 rebounds.

The Warriors out-rebounded the Eagles, 52-29.

Eastern returns to Little East Conference action Saturday at Rhode Island College at 3 p.m.

-30-

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little - Saturday, Feb. 3, 2007

RHODE ISLAND HAS TOO MUCH FOR EASTERN M-BASKETBALL
Anchormen move into first place in Little East Conference with 84-62 victory

PROVIDENCE, RI -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team shot less than 30 per cent in the first half as streaking Rhode Island College took over first place in the Little East Conference with an 84-62 victory Saturday afternoon at the Murray Center.

The Rhode Island (17-3, 8-2 little east) win, coupled with Keene State's 90-86 home loss to UMass Boston, gives the Anchormen sole possession of first place in the conference. Eastern (11-8, 5-5 little east) falls from a share of fourth place into fifth place, a game behind UMass Dartmouth. The Corsairs edged homestanding Plymouth State University, 71-69, Saturday.

Trailing by five, 17-12, Eastern was outscored 13-4 over the next four minutes as the Anchormen moved out to a 14-point, 30-16 lead with three minutes left in the first half. A 14-4 run early in the second half gave Rhode Island a 21-point, 49-28 lead four minutes into the frame.

A month ago, Eastern shot 58.3 per cent in the first half on the way to a 39-28 halftime lead over Rhode Island in a game eventually won by the Anchormen in overtime, 87-79. After struggling offensively in the first half of this game, Eastern rebounded to sink 60.0 per cent of its second-half shots, but Rhode Island's proficiency from three-point range (9-for-17) over the final 20 minutes helped them maintain a double-digit lead.

Averaging a conference-leading 9.4 three-point field goals per game, the Anchormen canned 15 of 29 to outscore the Warriors by 31 points (34-3) from three-point range. Eight different players collected at least one three-pointer, with 6-foot-9 inch senior center Anthony Pierlioni, 6-foot-5 inch senior forward Brian Stanko and 6-foot-1 inch sophomore guard Cameron Stewart each recording three three-pointers. Ranked first in the LEC in three-point percentage, Eastern missed nine of ten from behind the three-point mark.

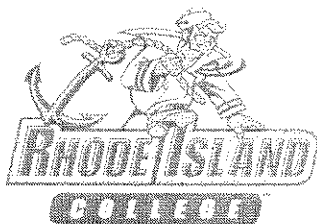
Eastern senior center **Kevin Zalucki (Enfield/East Catholic HS)** came off the bench to score 14 of his game-high 16 points in the second half. Junior forward **Leon Martin (Woodbury/Nonnewaug HS)** finished with 15 points and a game-high eight rebounds. Three Eastern starters combined to miss 20 of 26 field goals in the game. After scoring a career-high 32 points with eight three-pointers earlier this year against Rhode Island, freshman guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford/East Catholic HS)** was held to six points and no three-pointers in 16 minutes this time around.

Rhode Island, which has lost only to Keene State (twice) and No. 1 nationally-ranked Amherst College this year, has swept the regular-season series from Eastern the last three years.

Eastern hosts Keene State College Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

WEB SITE: <http://www.easternct.edu/sports/statistics>

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Rhode Island College

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 3, 2007

Rhode Island College Men's Basketball Score Report Providence, RI

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Final</u>
Eastern Connecticut (11-8, 5-5)	21	41	62
Rhode Island College (17-3, 8-2)	35	49	84

15 THREES PROPEL RIC PAST EASTERN CONNECTICUT

Anchormen Vault Into Top Spot of Little East Conference

Providence, RI—Eleven different players scored at least one point in Rhode Island College's, 84-62, win over Eastern Connecticut on Saturday afternoon. The Anchormen shot better than 50 percent from downtown and drained a season-high 15 three-pointers in the victory. RIC improves to 17-3 overall and 8-2 in the Little East. Coupled with Keene State's loss today against UMass Boston, the squad moves into sole possession of first place in the conference with four games remaining in the regular season.

Four Anchormen scored in double figures, led by sophomore forward Kaseem Johnson's (New Haven, CT) team-high 11 points and six rebounds. Senior guard Kinsey Durgin (Greenwood, ME), sophomore guard Tirrell Hill (Bronx, NY) and senior forward Brian Stanko (Swansea, MA) each had 10 points. Sophomore guard Cameron Stewart (Newport, RI) and senior center Anthony Pierlioni (Plainville, CT) chipped in with nine points apiece. Stanko, Stewart and Pierlioni each connected on three treys in the win. Hill logged a team-high six assists and Stewart collected a game-high four steals.

Rhode Island College took the lead, 15-13, for good on a Pierlioni three just 1:45 seconds into the game and cruised to the victory. Warrior freshman guard Edwin Ortiz (Hartford, CT), who lit RIC up for 32 points in a losing effort back on Jan. 6, was held to 3-for-10 shooting and six points. Senior guard Mike Parker (Windsor, CT), who was also averaging double figures, was held to 3-for-13 shooting and seven points.

Eastern Connecticut junior center Kevin Zalucki (Enfield, CT) led all scorers with 16 points, while classmate Leon Martin (Woodbury, CT) posted 15 points and eight rebounds.

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will play at Western

Connecticut on Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. Eastern Connecticut will host Keene State on Feb. 6.

-end-

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2007

KATHON LEADS BALANCED KEENE STATE PAST M-BASKETBALL, 79-71

In Little East Conference men's basketball, Owls even season series with Warriors

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. --Sophomore forward Tyler Kathon had 16 points and 14 rebounds to lead four double-figure scores as the Keene State College men's basketball team downed Eastern Connecticut State University, 79-71, in Little East Conference action Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

With its tenth road win in 12 outings, Keene State (18-4, 8-3 little east) evens the season series against Eastern (11-9, 5-6 little east) as it hands the Warriors their fourth conference loss in their last five conference games.

Despite the win, Keene remains in second place in the conference, one game behind leader Rhode Island College. Rhode Island downed homestanding Western Connecticut State University, 76-66, Tuesday night. Eastern remains in fifth place, but falls two games back of fourth-place UMass Dartmouth. The Corsairs (7-4) beat visiting UMass Boston, 89-81, Tuesday. The top four finishers in the regular-season standings host first-round LEC tournament games in two weeks.

Rated second in the conference in scoring, Kathon had managed only 11 points and five rebounds in the 73-71 loss to the Warriors three weeks ago at Spaulding Gym. In the second half this time, Kathon had ten points and seven rebounds. He was 4-for-6 from the stipe in the second half and teammate David Sontag was 7-for-8 as Keene sank 22 of 26 free throws after the break.

Leading by six at halftime, Keen extended the margin to 11 two minutes into the second half before the Warriors ran off seven straight points over the next three minutes-- five by senior guard **Matt Albon (Middlebury/Holy Cross HS)** -- to pull to within four, 41-37. With Keene still holding a four-point lead moments later, junior forward Nick Drouin dropped in a layup and junior guard Kevin Ritter completed a three-point play with a free throw to push the advantage to nine, 46-37.

Junior forward Travon Little added 12 points to a balanced Keene offense, with junior guard David Sontag adding 11 points and eight rebounds and junior guard Matt Hickey ten points.

Senior guard **Mike Parker (Windsor/Northwest Catholic HS)**, whose buzzer-beater gave Eastern its earlier win over Keene, led Eastern with 17 points and seven assists, junior forward **Ivan Pinder (Baltimore, MD/Fitch (CT) HS)** a career-high 14 points to go along with seven rebounds off the bench, and freshman guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford/East Catholic HS)** 11 points and a career-high seven rebounds.

Eastern hosts SUNY Purchase Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 8, 2007

PARKER'S TRIPLE-DOUBLE SPARKS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL
Senior guard has 13 points, rebounds and assists in 78-64 non-conference win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Senior guard **Mike Parker (Windsor/Northwest Catholic HS)** had 13 points, 13 rebounds and 13 assists to spark the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 78-64 non-conference win over SUNY Old Westbury Thursday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Parker, a first-year transfer from Sacred Heart University, contributed to more than half of the team's final point total with his point and assists total which he accumulated in 33 minutes. He tied his collegiate rebounding high – set at Sacred Heart – and finished one assist shy of his best assist total which he set Jan. 20 against UMass Boston. It was his first career triple-double and third double-double – first at Eastern. His previous rebounding high at Eastern had been seven.

Parker becomes only the second Eastern player in the last 25 years to record a triple-double -- first since Ed Silva (currently the head men's basketball coach at Elms College) had 28 points, ten rebounds and ten assists in 35 minutes of a 118-111 loss to Babson College at Geissler Gym on Jan. 25, 1996.

Five players finished in double figures for Eastern (12-9), which snapped a two-game losing streak and won for the sixth time in seven non-conference games at Geissler Gym. Junior forward **Leon Martin (Woodbury/Nonnewaug HS)** led all players with 18 points, first-year junior forward **Ivan Pinder (Baltimore, MD/Fitch, CT HS)** adding an ECSU-high 17 points off the bench. Pinder was 8-for-10 from the floor, Martin 8-for-12 and Parker 6-for-12 to help Eastern shoot 53.4 per cent from the floor.

Pinder hit all five of his field goals in the second half, finishing with 11 points in seven minutes, with freshman guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford/East Catholic HS)** scoring all ten of his points over the final 20 minutes and Parker chipping in eight points to go along with nine rebounds and eight assists in the second half.

Eastern broke a tie to score the final six points of the first half to take a 35-29 edge into the lockerroom – Pinder grabbing an offensive rebound and putting it back in to get things going and senior guard **Matt Albon (Middlebury/Holy Cross HS)** setting up two of the buckets with passes.

(more)

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Up by seven midway through the second half, the Warriros went on a 16-7 run over the decisive next six minutes to put the game away, 69-53. Ortiz began the surge with a three-point field goal and Pinder scored nine of his 11 second-half points in the stretch.

Five players grabbed at least four rebounds for Eastern, which outrebounded the Panthers by 18, doubling Old Westbury's offensive total. The Warriors allowed only five second-chance points while scoring 14 of their own. Parker (four) and Pinder (three) totaled one more offensive rebound than Old Westbury.

Senior center Dan Kane led Old Westbury (13-9) with 17 points. Sophomore forward Garthlette James had ten points but was limited to two shots and two points in the second half. The Panthers had lost only three of their last nine road games, none by as many as ten points.

Eastern returns to Little East Conference play Saturday at Massachusetts Dartmouth at 3 p.m.

little east conference

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2007

UMASS DARTMOUTH HOLDS OFF WARRIORS FOR 70-60 LEC WIN

Eastern falls to 5-7 in conference with two Little East regular-season games remaining

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. -- With their offense stymied for much of the second half, the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's men's basketball team came through down the stretch in their Little East Conference game against visiting Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday afternoon.

The Corsairs (13-10, 8-4 little east) outscored Eastern (12-10, 5-7 little east), 15-7 during the final 6:20 to post a 70-60 victory at the Tripp Athletic Center Saturday afternoon. Each team has two regular-season conference games remaining before first-round games open the conference tournament a week from Tuesday.

Freshman guard Jeff Macchi connected on a pair of lay-ups to allow the Corsairs to take a 59-53 lead with 4:17 remaining. Junior forward **Ivan Pinder's (Baltimore, MD/Fitch, CT HS)** lay-up cut the lead to four points, and freshman guard **Edwin Ortiz' (Hartford/East Catholic HS)** free throw made it 59-56. Junior guard A.J. Tavares responded by driving to the top of the three-point circle and firing home a trey to double UMass Dartmouth's advantage with 1:50 to play.

Senior guard **Mike Parker (Windsor/Northwest Catholic HS)**, coming off a triple-double Thursday against SUNY Old Westbury, hit a driving lay-up for the Warriors, but senior forward Stephane Abelard and freshman forward Matt Walker each made a pair of free throws, Macchi drove for another lay-up and senior forward Paul Pawlowski hit two free throws with two seconds remaining to account for the final score.

With the hosts threatening to all but settle the outcome in the first half, Eastern got a lift from freshman guard Jared Willis (New Britain/Northwest Catholic HS). With Eastern down by 11, 23-12, Willis came off the bench to score all of his career-high eight points in 11 first-half minutes. Behind Willis, Eastern tore off a 14-2 run that pushed it in front, 26-23. Leading by three with four minutes left in the first half, however, UMass scored seven straight points to restore a double-digit lead (39-29) with two minutes left in the first half. Four of the points came after the Corsairs were able to grab rebounds of their own missed shots.

Eastern's 9-2 run at the outset of the second half left UMass Dartmouth with a one-point lead, and the Warriors kept it close until the waning moments.

(more)

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Abelard led the Corsairs with 18 points, scoring 16 points in the first half. Tavares added 13, and Macchi contributed 10. Abelard was absent due to academic commitments when the Warriors defeated UMass 72-61 a month ago at Geissler Gymnasium.

Parker led all scorers with 20 points -- but also turned the ball over ten times -- and Ortiz had 10. Junior forward **Leon Martin (Woodbury/Nonnewaug HS)** had ten points and six rebounds, matching Martin in the latter category. Abelard paced UMass Dartmouth with 10 rebounds, but ECSU out rebounded the Corsairs, 34-28.

Eastern hosts Western Connecticut Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in a Little East Conference game, looking to avenge an earlier 11-point loss at Feldman Arena.

little east conference

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2006
2007

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL STARTS FAST, DOWNS WESTERN

Warriors open with 11-2 run, snaps seven-game losing streak at hands of Colonials, 79-63

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Junior forward **Leon Martin (Woodbury/Nonnewaug HS)** had 16 points in the first half and senior guard **Mike Parker (Windsor/Northwest Catholic HS)** 21 in the second to carry the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 79-63 Little East Conference victory over Western Connecticut State University Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

The win snaps a seven-game losing streak for Eastern (13-10, 6-7 little east) against Western (13-11, 7-6 little east). It is Eastern's largest margin of victory over the Colonials in conference play, dating back to 1993/94. Eastern's previous six wins over Western had come by a total of 18 points, none by more than four. Eastern also snapped a three-game conference losing streak. Western (13-11, 7-6 little east), which has lost three in a row, remains in fourth place in the conference, one game ahead for Eastern with one regular-season conference game remaining. The top four teams in the final standings host first-round conference games Tuesday.

After losing by 11 points at Western Jan. 23, Eastern got out quick this time, racing to an 11-2 lead less than five minutes into play. The first-half lead crested at 17, 30-13, midway through the frame, before the pulled to within seven, 42-35 at halftime. Leading by seven, 62-55, the Warriors went on an 11-3 run and moved out to a 15-point, 73-58 advantage with just under three minutes left.

Ranked third in the conference in field goal percentage, Martin canned 11 of 14 shots on the way to 23 points – one shy of his season and career-high. In the team's 42-point first half, Martin had 16 points on 8-for-11 field goal shooting. He also had three blocked shots and three steals and didn't turn the ball over in 38 minutes.

Limited to four points in the first half, Parker exploded in the second half for 21 points. Six of his points came on as many free throw attempts in a span of a minute that helped Eastern extend a five-point lead to ten, 65-55, with seven minutes left. Parker led all players in the game with 25 points. He was 8-for-14 from the floor and 8-for-10 from the stripe. In two games against Western, Parker has totaled 51 points on 18-for-29 shooting from the floor.

Freshman guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford/East Catholic HS)** added 15 points for the Warriors, 11 coming in the first half.

Freshman guard Tyshawn Gillespire (Hartford) led Western with 18 points, junior forward Jamie Procino (Yorktown Heights, NY) adding 12. Sophomore forward Marcus Mann (Windsor) came off the bench for ten points, eight in the first half. Procino had team highs of 17 points and ten rebounds in his team's win over Eastern in January.

Eastern hosts Mitchell College Thursday at 7:30 p.m. before closing out the regular season Saturday by hosting Plymouth State University in a Little East Conference game at 3 p.m.

-30-

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little east conference

Thursday, Feb. 15, 2007 *

SECOND HALF SPARKS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL PAST MITCHELL
Behind Martin, Warriors shoot just under 70 per cent in second half, 85-69

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Junior forward **Leon Martin (Woodbury/Nonnewaug HS)** connected on seven of nine field goals in the second half to spark the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to an 85-69 non-conference victory over Mitchell College Thursday evening at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern (14-10) has won three of its last four and improves to 10-4 at home. Mitchell (9-14) has lost four of its last six. The wins equal the most for Eastern in a season under fifth-year head coach **Bill Geitner**.

Eastern trailed by as many as nine points in the first half but cut the gap to two 38-36 at the break. With Eastern leading by three points six minutes into the second half, Martin and freshman guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford/East Catholic)** combined for the game's next 11 points to give the Warriors their largest lead to that point, 60-46, with 11 minutes left. The lead peaked at 24 points with two minutes left.

Coming off a season-high 58.2 per cent field goal mark Tuesday in a 79-63 win over visiting Western Connecticut State University, Eastern bettered that by sinking 60.7 per cent of their attempts against the Pequots. Behind Martin (7-for-9) in the second half, Eastern sank 68.8 per cent of their second-half tries (22-for-32) and turned the ball over only six times.

Ortiz led all players in the game with 24 points, with Martin finishing with 20 points -- 16 in the second half -- and 11 rebounds for his first double-double since Jan. 6. **Ivan Pinder (Baltimore, MD/Fitch HS)** came off the bench for 13 points and five rebounds in 16 minutes while freshman guard **Anthony Bagley (New Haven/Hamden Hall HS)** handed out a season/career-high eight assists. Senior guard **Geoffrey Richardson (Hartford/Northwest Catholic)** had 12 points and five assists and helped limit Mitchell's Eric Murray to four points in the second half on 2-for-9 shooting. The runaway team leader in three-pointers, Ortiz drained six of 11 to give him 65 on the season.

Murray led the Pequots with 16 points, Tony Smith adding 13 (6-for-9 from the floor) points and four assists and Kendall Lanham ten points. Mitchell held a lead over the final 11 minutes of the first half, shooting 50 per cent from the floor in the stanza, but managed a shooting percentage of only 36.7 per cent in the second half. The Pequots also missed half of their 14 free throws in the second half after sinking all six of their tries over the first 20 minutes.

Eastern closes out the regular season Saturday, hosting Plymouth State University at 3 p.m. in a Little East Conference game.

little east conference

Saturday, Feb. 17, 2007

EASTERN MEN CLOSE REGULAR SEASON WITH WIN OVER PLYMOUTH

Warriors snap 13-game losing streak at hands of Panthers but will open LEC's on road

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Senior guard **Mike Parker (Windsor/Northwest Catholic HS)** equalled his career scoring high with 26 points in the final regular-season game of his career to spark the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to an 87-80 Little East Conference win over Plymouth State University Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Despite the win, Eastern (15-10, 7-7 little east) will open conference tournament play on the road Tuesday at Massachusetts Dartmouth at 7 p.m.. The Warriors are seeded fifth, UMass Dartmouth fourth. The teams split their two regular-season games, the Corsairs downing Eastern most recently by a score of 70-60 a week ago at North Dartmouth, Mass. Seeded seventh in the tournament, Plymouth will visit No. 2 seed Keene State College Tuesday night in a first-round game.

Eastern had lost its 13th straight game against Plymouth, 52-51, on a buzzer-beater a month ago at Plymouth, NH. Before today, Eastern's last win against Plymouth had come at Geissler Gym by a score of 85-70 late in the 2001 season.

Plymouth has lost seven of nine heading into post-season play, two of the losses coming to Keene. The Owls downed the Panthers, 88-73, Tuesday at Keene, NH. Eastern heads into tournament play having won four of its final five regular-season games. The 15 wins are the most for Eastern under fifth-year head coach **Bill Geitner**.

Parker scored 20 of his game-high points in the second half, sinking six of nine field goals and eight of nine free throws. Junior forward **Leon Martin (Woodbury/Nonnewaug HS)** scored 11 of his 16 points after the break. He was 7-for-7 from the stripe over the final 20 minutes.

Eastern iced the win by sinking all eight of its free throws over the final 34.6 seconds.

Junior forward **Ivan Pinder (Baltimore, MD/Fitch, CT HS)** helped Eastern to a six-point halftime lead by scoring all ten of his points and grabbing all six of his rebounds in 13 first-half minutes off the bench.

(more)

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Plymouth was able to whittle a 17-point second-half deficit to single digits with five minutes remaining and got as close as four points three times over the final two minutes, thanks largely to a handful of long-range three-point field goals. Each time the Panthers got to within four, however, the Warriors responded. Parker's jumper with two minutes left kept Plymouth from getting any closer than four points; Zalucki hit a short jumper a minute later to again restore a six-point advantage, and Parker sank two free throws with 26.3 seconds left to make it 83-77. After Plymouth missed a three-pointer on its next trip, Martin swished a pair with 17.2 seconds left to finally seal the deal, 84-77.

Senior forward Devin Ruocco (Dover, NH) led Plymouth with 22 points, connecting on nine of ten free throws, while junior guard Phil Bourassa had 14 points. The Panthers hit 30 of 33 free throws in the game. Eastern 25 of 35.

little east conference

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2007

UMASS DARTMOUTH ENDS SEASON OF EASTERN M-BASKETBALL, 73-64
Abelard, Turturo can 9-of-11 three-pointers to eliminate Warriors in LEC first round

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. – The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth won the battle of the Little East Conference's top three-point field goal shooting teams Tuesday night at the Tripp Athletic Center as Eastern Connecticut State University was eliminated from the first round of the conference tournament for the seventh straight year, 73-64.

Fifth-seeded Eastern (15-11) concludes its winning season under fifth-year head coach **Bill Geitner** while fourth-seeded UMass Dartmouth (14-12) advances to the tournament semifinals Friday at 8 p.m. against top-seeded and host Rhode Island College (22-3). Second-seeded Keene State College (22-4) faces sixth-seeded and defending tournament champion Massachusetts Boston (10-16) Friday at 6 p.m. The final is scheduled for Saturday at a time not yet announced.

After defeating visiting Eastern ten days ago, UMass had lost its last two on the road by ten points each while Eastern had put together its longest winning streak (three games) since early January. Tuesday, the Corsairs outscored Eastern by 15 points from three-point range and capitalized on the Warriors' inconsistent free throw shooting (8-for-17) to advance against Rhode Island.

UMass has won ten conference tournament championships in the event's 20-year history, but only one has come in the last eight seasons. Since defeating the University of Southern Maine in 2000 to win its second conference tournament title, Eastern has been eliminating with a first-round loss each year. Against UMass in conference tournament play, Eastern falls to 2-6.

Limited to five points in the first half, UMass senior forward Stephane Abelard struck for 18 points and contributed seven rebounds in a second half in which the Corsairs sank 16 of 21 free throws and five of eight three-pointers. Ranked first in the conference in three-point percentage, Eastern was 5-for-10 from that range in the second half but just 1-for-6 over the first 20 minutes. UMass is rated second in the LEC in three-point percentage.

(more)

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Neither team led by more than five points until Abelard and freshman guard Tyler Turtoro fueled a run of 12 straight UMass points that turned a one-point Eastern advantage into an 11-point UMass lead, 52-41, with eight minutes left. Ranked only fifth in the conference in free throw percentage, UMass preserved a nine-point lead over the final two minutes by canning 13 of 14 free throws, the final four by Turtoro.

Abelard, who did not play in Eastern's 72-61 win over visiting UMass Jan. 9, led all players with 23 points, Turtoro adding 21. The two combined for 14-for-20 shooting from the floor, including 9-for-11 from three-point range.

Junior forward **Leon Martin (Woodbury/Nonnewaug HS)** and freshman guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford/East Catholic HS)** combined for 22 points (8-of-14 from the floor) in the second half for Eastern. Ranked third in the conference in field goal percentage, Martin shot at least 50 per cent from the floor over each of the final nine games. He connected on 64.4 per cent of his shots in that span and finished the year at .574.

Martin finished in double figures (18 points) for the sixth straight game, Ortiz adding 15 points and senior guard **Mike Parker (Windsor/Northwest Catholic HS)** 11 points, eight assists and six rebounds. First-year junior forward **Ivan Pinder (Baltimore, MD/Fitch, CT HS)** came off the bench to lead all players in the game with nine rebounds, Martin adding seven.



UMass

Dartmouth

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UMASS DARTMOUTH MEN ADVANCE PAST EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE, 73-64

NORTH DARTMOUTH, MA-On a night that they played an opponent from Connecticut, it was fitting that the only Connecticut resident on the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's men's basketball team would be one of their stars.

Freshman guard Tyler Turtoro (Shelton, CT/Shelton HS) and senior forward Stephane Abelard (Brockton, MA/Brockton HS/Massasoit CC) keyed a second-half rally as the Corsairs defeated Eastern Connecticut State, 73-64, in a first round Little East Conference playoff game at the Tripp Athletic Center Tuesday evening.

The Warriors controlled the tempo in the first half, holding UMass Dartmouth to 31 per cent from the field while building a 29-26 halftime advantage.

Abelard's lay-up with 17:33 to go gave UMD their first lead of the second half at 34-33. Leon Martin's three-pointer with 12:40 remaining gave ECSU a 41-40 advantage, but Turtoro replied in kind just over a minute later to give UMass Dartmouth the lead for good. Turtoro's trey ignited a 12-0 run that ended with the Corsairs in control, 52-41, with 7:48 remaining. Senior forward Paul Pawlowski (Taunton, MA/Taunton HS) contributed a jumper to the run, Abelard connected from three-point range, and freshman forward Matt Walker (Brockton, MA/Brockton HS) capped the streak with another three-pointer.

ECSU got a three-pointer from Edwin Ortiz and two free throws from Mike Parker to cut the lead to six points, 56-50, with 4:16 to play. But Pawlowski countered with a lay-up, and UMass Dartmouth made 13 free throws in the final 2:11 to preserve their lead.

"Tyler and Steph were huge for us," said UMass Dartmouth Head Coach Brian Baptiste. "Tyler has been shooting the ball well in practice all season, and he made some big shots for us tonight. Steph made his threes, and they had to come out and guard him, and he was able to drive to the basket, and when he does that, he is tough to stop."

The Corsairs controlled the tempo after the intermission. "I told (sophomore guard) Reece (Freeman, Cambridge, MA/Rindge & Latin HS) to catch the ball along the foul line and get the ball down the court. That, along with Paul getting back in the game, helped us get our offense going."

Abelard led all scorers with 23 points, and Turtoro added 21. Martin led the Warriors with 18 points, Edwin Ortiz had 15 and Mike Parker contributed 11. Abelard had nine rebounds as ECSU out rebounded the Corsairs, 38-35. UMass Dartmouth made 56.5 per cent of their shots from the field in the second half and was 16 for 21 from the free throw line, outscoring the Warriors, 47-35.

The Corsairs improved to 14-12 with the victory, while ECSU dropped to 15-11 with the defeat. UMass Dartmouth advanced to the semi-finals of the Little East Conference Tournament against host and top seed Rhode Island College at 8:00 Friday evening at the Murray Center. Eastern Connecticut was eliminated from the tournament with the defeat.

UMASSDARTMOUTH BASKETBALL