
little east conference

Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2008

USM's CATERINA TOO MUCH FOR EASTERN M-BASKETBALL
Senior has 33 points and 14 rebounds as Warriors are eliminated in LEC first round

GORHAM, Maine – Senior forward Jamaal Caerina notched his tenth double-double of the season by scoring a career-best 33 points and grabbing 14 rebounds to lead fourth-seeded University of Southern Maine to a 79-69 win over fifth-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University in a first-round game of the 2008 Little East Conference men's basketball tournament Tuesday night at the Warren Hill Gymnasium.

In the first conference tournament meeting between the teams since 2000, Southern Maine (14-12) never trailed, and converted enough free throws (11-of-16) over the final four minutes to send Eastern (13-13) to its third loss in as many outings this year against Southern Maine.

The Warriors beat Southern Maine in the 2000 conference championship game. Since then, they have been knocked out of the tournament in the first round every year. This win was the Huskies' first LEC tournament victory since a semifinal round tournament win in 2000 that vaulted them into the finals.

Caterina, averaging 17.6 points and 9.4 rebounds since joining the team in the second semester, connected on nine of 15 field goals and 13 of 15 free throws. After Eastern junior Larry Kelley's (New Haven) three-point field goal pulled the Warriors to within five, 74-69, with a minute left, Caterina sandwiched four free throws around a missed three-pointer by Kelley to boast the hosts into a nine-point, 78-69 lead with 40 seconds left. Caterina shoots .826 per cent from the stripe on a team-leading 109 attempts.

Caterina had double-doubles in each of Southern Maine's three wins this year over Eastern, totaling 59 points and 35 rebounds and sinking 24 of 26 free throws. Senior forward Drew Coppenrath added 15 points on a 7-for-12 effort from the field to finish as the only other USM player in double figures.

(more)

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Caterina scored 19 of his points and grabbed seven of his rebounds in the first half as the Huskies shot 61.5 percent from the field to race to a commanding 15-point, 41-26 lead at the break.

The Huskies led by double figures for most of the second half before Eastern made a late run. Trailing by 15 points with 3:42 remaining, Eastern outscored Southern Maine 14-4 over the next three minutes to pull within five with 53 seconds to play. Kelley and Zalucki combined to score 12 of the Warriors 14 points in the run. Kelley notched seven points on a pair of long distance three-pointers and a free throw and Zalucki scored twice on offensive rebounds and the put-backs.

Forced to foul, Eastern Connecticut applied full court pressure sending the Huskies to the free throw line over the final 44 seconds of the contest. The Huskies were able to hold the Warriors off by making 5-of-6 free throws down the stretch, including the four straight from Caterina.

Kelley led three Warriors in double figures with 20 points, while senior center **Kevin Zalucki (Enfield)** recorded a double-double with 12 points and a career-high 15 rebounds in the final game of his four-year collegiate career. Forward **Leon Martin (Woodbury)**, Eastern's only other senior added 11 points, five rebounds and four steals in his final collegiate game.

Eastern turned the ball over only nine times in the game – the fourth time in the final eight games that it committed less than ten – but shot just .359 from the floor, including 5-of-24 from three-point range.

Southern Maine will face top-seeded and nationally-ranked UMass Dartmouth Friday at 8 p.m. in the second of two semifinal games at the Tripp Center. Second-seeded and defending tournament champion Rhode Island College faces third-seeded Keene State College on Friday at 6.

little east conference

Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL COMEBACK SHOCKS RIC, 79-77
All of Warriors' points come from starters as Warriors erase late 11-point deficit

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team shot 68 per cent from the floor in the second half and erased an 11-point deficit over the final six minutes to knock off Little East Conference co-leader Rhode Island College, 79-77, Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

The win snaps a four-game (conference) losing streak for Eastern (13-12, 6-8 little east), which had lost to Rhode Island College (19-6, 11-3 little east), 87-54, a month ago at Providence -- its seventh straight loss to RIC. Eastern's last four wins over RIC have come by a total of 11 points.

The Warriors open the first round of the conference playoffs Tuesday at the University of Southern Maine at 7:30 p.m., while Rhode Island hosts Plymouth State University in a first-round game Tuesday at the Murray Center. The Anchormen were the defending regular-season conference and playoff champions. With the loss, RIC is denied a piece of its second straight regular-season title. UMass Dartmouth won its first LEC regular-season championship since 2001 by downing visiting Plymouth State University, 80-67, Saturday. Rhode Island, which had won its last six conference games, finishes in second place while Eastern shares fifth place with Western Connecticut.

During the regular season, Southern Maine swept the Warriors this season for the first time in 13 years. The teams have not met in the LEC playoffs since Eastern won the 2000 LEC title with a 73-66 victory over the Huskies in a game played at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

After surging to an 11-point, 74-63 lead with just over six minutes left, the Anchormen scored on only one of their final nine possessions – a three-point basket by all-conference junior guard Bobby Bailey which tied the game at 77 with 1:35 left. With less than 30 seconds left, Eastern missed a three-point field goal, but senior forward **Leon Martin (Woodbury)** was fouled while grabbing the rebound. Martin hit both free throws to give Eastern its first lead since the opening five minutes of the second half. With time winding down, a Rhode Island pass from the left of the key found an open target on the right side of the basket, but the game-tying attempt with two seconds left drew only glass and Eastern senior center **Kevin Zalucki (Enfield)**, who played his freshman season at RIC, grabbed the rebound as time expired.

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It marked the third time in a month that Eastern has rebounded from a decisive loss to win its next conference game. Four days ago, a second-half outburst carried host Keene State College to a 105-72 victory over the Warriors at Spaulding Gymnasium. A month ago, the Warriors responded to the 33-point loss at Rhode Island to knock off Western Connecticut, 70-63, three days later in Danbury. After absorbing a 97-71 home loss to Keene a week ago, the Warriors re-grouped four days later to post a 91-80 win at UMass Boston.

In the decisive 14-point run which reversed an 11-point deficit and created a three-point lead with two minutes left, sophomore guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford)** and freshman guard **Courtney Simmons (Middletown)** combined for all of the Warriors' points. Ortiz sank two three-pointers in that run, while Simmons penetrated for three layups, and also scored twice from the free throw line.

The conference leader in both three-point field goal percentage (.397) and three-pointers per game (8.54), Eastern sank ten of 18 from behind the arc. While Rhode Island used a balanced attack, Eastern got all of its points and all but one of its rebounds from its starters. Ortiz and first-year junior guard **Larry Kelly (New Haven)** shared game-high honors with 20 points each, Simmons adding 18, Zalucki 11 and Martin ten. Kelley, who led Eastern with 13 first-half points, was 4-for-6 from three-point range in the game, Ortiz 6-for-10, including 4-for-5 in the second half.

The team's only two seniors, Martin and Zalucki were honored on Seniors' Day during a pre-game ceremony. In 38 minutes, Martin was 4-for-6 from the floor, grabbed six rebounds, dished out four assists, and had four steals and two blocked shots with just two turnovers in 38 minutes. In 34 minutes, Zaluck was 5-for-7 from the floor and handed out four assists and pulled down three rebounds.

Five RIC players had between ten and 12 points. Junior forward Kaseem Johnson led his team with 12 points and both teams with eight rebounds.

little east conference

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2008

SECOND-HALF EXPLOSION LIFTS KEENE PAST EASTERN M-BASKETBALL
*Owls outscore Warriors 60-28 after break in
posting Little East Conference win*

KEENE, NH – Travon Little scored 16 second-half points – including the 1,000th of his career – to power the Keene State College men's basketball team to a second-half scoring explosion that carried the Owls to a 105-72 Little East Conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday night at Spaulding Gym.

The loss is the fourth straight – all in conference play – for Eastern (12-12, 5-8 little east conference), as Keene State (14-10, 7-6 little east) completes a regular-season sweep of the Warriors. The Owls won, 97-71, Jan. 29 at Geissler Gymnasium. With the loss, the Warriors are guaranteed of playing on the road in the first round of the LEC tournament a week from tonight.



Freshman guard Courtney Simmons (11) defends KSC's Shiwon Davis.

Eastern trailed by only one at halftime and the score was tied six minutes into the second half before the Owls went on a 25-5 run over seven minutes in the second half to build a 21-point, 78-57 lead with nine minutes left.

Little led five double-figure Keene scorers with 21 points (8-for-13 from the floor), totalling 16 of the Owls' 60 second-half points. Eastern junior guard **Larry Kelley (New Haven)** led Eastern with 19 points and senior post player **Kevin Zalucki (Enfield)** led all players with 12 rebounds.

Eastern hosts Rhode Island College Saturday at 3 p.m. in its final regular-season conference game.

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little east conference

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008

NO. 5 UMASS DARTMOUTH HOLDS OFF EASTERN FOR 80-76 VICTORY
Warriors cut deeply into 20-point deficit but free throws lift Corsair to LEC win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Given 31 second-half free throw attempts, the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth converted enough of them to hold off Eastern Connecticut State University, 80-76, Saturday in a Little East Conference men's basketball game at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Coming off its first two losses of the year, No. 5 nationally-ranked UMass (21-2, 10-2) scored its final ten points of the game from the foul line – converting ten of 16 opportunity – to complete its first regular-season sweep of Eastern (12-11, 5-7 little east) in seven years.

UMass maintains a share of the conference lead with the win, while Eastern drops from a tie for fifth into sixth place with its third straight conference loss. With two regular-season conference games remaining, the top four finishers in the standings will host LEC tournament first-round games Feb. 26.

Ranked eighth in the eight-team conference in free throw percentage (.661), UMass was 17-for-31 from the stripe in the second half, 18-of-35 (.514 per cent) for the game. The Warriors hit 15 of 20 from the foul line over the final 20 minutes and shot .586 per cent from the floor in the second half in cutting a 20-point deficit five minutes into the second half to three with 20 seconds left. Sophomore guard **Jeff Macchi's (Franklin, MA)** free throws with nine seconds left gave UMass a six-point lead before the Warriors canned a final shot at the buzzer to make the final margin four points.

Macchi was 10-of-16 from the stripe for UMass – all attempts in the second half. Senior center **Dan Holbrook (Lexington, MA)** and senior guard **A.J. Tavares (New Bedford, MA)** each had 16 points for UMass, with Holbrook grabbing a team-high 12 rebounds and committing only one turnover in 34 minutes. Macchi finished with 12 points and five assists.

None of UMass Dartmouth's 13 offensive rebounds was bigger than the one that sophomore forward **Matt Walker (Brockton, MA)** hauled in in the final seconds. With

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11 seconds left and UMass clinging to its four-point lead, Holbrook missed two free throws, but Walker sliced between two Eastern players to grab the second miss. While still airborne, he sent a quick pass to Macchi, who was immediately fouled and sank the two clinching free throws with nine seconds left.

Trailing by 13 points at halftime and by 20 five minutes into the second half, the Warriors used a familiar weapon – the three-point field goal – to slice the UMass lead to single digits with eight minutes left. Trailing by 17, Eastern used a 10-1 run to get the lead under double figures, 59-51. First-year junior guard **Larry Kelley (New Haven)** and senior guard **Kris Johnson (Sturbridge, MA)** sandwiched three-pointers around a UMass miss to cap the run and bring the Warriors back into contention.

Eastern senior forward **Leon Martin (Woodbury)** tied his season and career high with 29 points and added 12 rebounds for his 13th double-double (25th of his career) of the season. He was 10-of-12 from the floor and 9-of-11 from the foul line. Senior forward **Kevin Zalucki (Enfield)** had 13 points and 13 rebounds for Eastern, sinking five of six field goals. Kelley had 17 points in his second career start for Eastern.

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

little east conference

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2008

PROCINO LEADS WESTERN PAST EASTERN M-BASKETBALL, 82-65
Colonials never trail after opening two minutes in posting Little East victory

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Senior forward Jaime Procino had 13 points and a game-high 17 rebounds and sophomore forward Wilburt Jarrett contributed a game-high 19 points off the bench to vault Western Connecticut State University past Eastern Connecticut State University, 82-65, Tuesday night in a Little East Conference men's basketball game at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

With its fourth straight win, Western (13-8, 5-6 little east) avoids a season sweep at the hands of Eastern (12-10, 5-6 little east) for the first time in 15 seasons of conference play. Eastern had snapped a string of six straight losses to Western at Feldman Arena three weeks ago with a 70-63 victory.

Ranked in the conference's top five in rebounding and field goal percentage, Procino led the Colonials to a +10 margin in rebounding with his game-high total. He was 6-for-9 from the floor as Western converted 60.0 per cent (24-of-40) of its two-point field goals to overcome 4-for-19 shooting from three-point range.

Despite averaging less than eight points and five rebounds this year, the 6-foot-5 inch Jarrett led all players in the game with 19 points in 30 minutes off the bench. Like Procino, he was 6-for-9 from the floor and also sank 7-of-10 from the free throw line to spark the visitors to 22-of-29 marksmanship from the stripe. Jarrett also added nine rebounds and turned the ball over only once in 30 minutes. Sophomore guard Tyshawn Gillespie followed Jarrett with 17 points and led all players with five assists and committed only one turnover in 34 minutes.

Senior forward **Leon Martin (Woodbury)** and freshman guard **Courtney Simmons (Middletown)** led Eastern with 14 points each, sophomore guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford)** adding 13 points and senior forward **Kevin Zalucki (Enfield)** 12 points and a team-high nine rebounds. Eastern senior guard **Kris Johnson (Sturbridge, MA)**, the conference leader in three-point field goals, was held scoreless in the game, missing five three-point attempts. Martin and Zalucki, who had combined for 34 points and 26 rebounds in the win over Western earlier, both fouled out of the game inside the final five minutes.

Eastern matched its third-lower turnover total of the season with eight, but hindered its efforts with 7-for-16 shooting from the foul line.

Eastern hosts Massachusetts Dartmouth Saturday at 3 p.m.

little east conference

Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL FALLS IN LITTLE EAST, 80-62
USM completes season sweep of Warriors, who drop into fifth place

GORHAM, Maine -- University of Southern Maine senior guard Foster Oakley scored five of his game total of seven points to spark a run of 11 straight points early in the second half that carried the Huskies past Eastern Connecticut State University, 80-62, Saturday afternoon in a Little East Conference men's basketball game at the Warren Hill Gymnasium.

By winning for the eighth time in its last ten games, Southern Maine (11-10, 6-4 little east) completes a regular-season conference sweep of Eastern (12-9, 5-5 little east) for the first time since the 1994/95 season -- a span of 13 seasons. The Huskies had pinned a 76-72 loss on the Warriors in the first meeting of the year just under a month ago at Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern, Southern Maine and Keene State had entered play sharing third place in the conference. Keene also won Saturday, handing previously-unbeaten and No. 2 nationally-ranked UMass Dartmouth its first loss this season, 92-85 in overtime, at Keene, NH. With four regular-season conference games remaining, Eastern drops to fifth place. The top four seeds in the final conference standings host first-round LEC tournament games.

Eastern never led after the opening minute of play. With the score tied four minutes into the second half, Southern Maine scored 11 points in a row in a span of just less than three minutes to move out to a 55-44 lead. Oakley scored an inside basket, and later a three-pointer, to spark the decisive USM scoring surge. Oakley did not score in the first half and chipped in all seven of his points in a span of four minutes in the second half.

The Warriors were never able to cut more than a basket off that 11-point deficit as USM pulled away to even its home record at 4-4. Eastern had won three of its previous four heading into the game and saw a modest two-game conference road winning streak halted.

Senior forward **Leon Martin (Woodbury)** and sophomore guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford)** combined to score more than half of Eastern's points, but USM's bench outscored Eastern's reserves 31-10.

(more)

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With a mark of 20-3 in the long jump, Dinas reached 20 feet for the first time.

Senior **Mykal Kuslis (Watertown)** competed in four events for the Warriors, placing fourth at 200 meters, seventh at 55 and 500 meters, and 13th in the long jump.

Of nine individuals who garnered double digits in points at last year's Little East Conference Championships, three return in the form of Dinas, Gemske, and Joseph. Dinas amassed a team-high 24 points by winning the 55 meter hurdles, placing second in the high jump and third in the triple jump; Gemske totalled 12 points with third-place finishes at 200 and 400 meters, and Joseph added a dozen points by capturing second in the 200 and fourth in the 400.

For more information contact Christina Cracolici
Assistant Sports Information Director
Saturday, February 9, 2008

For Immediate Release

Men's College Basketball

Southern Maine Rolls Over Eastern Connecticut 80-62

GORHAM, Maine – Senior forward **Drew Coppentrath** (Barnet, Vt./St. Johnsbury Academy) scored a team-high 17 points and senior forward **Jamaal Caterina** (Portland, Maine/Deering) added a double-double with 11 points and 11 rebounds to lead the University of Southern Maine Huskies to an 80-62 win over the Eastern Connecticut State University Warriors Saturday afternoon at Warren Hill Gymnasium in Gorham, Maine

With the win Southern Maine improves to 11-10 overall and 6-4 in the Little East, while Eastern Connecticut dips to 12-9 overall and 5-5 in the conference. Southern Maine's 11 wins is its highest mark since the 1999-2000 season when the Huskies finished 13-13 overall. The Huskies' six conference wins is their most since the 1999-2000 season when USM recorded an 8-6 record against conference opponents.

Coppentrath led a balanced scoring attack connecting on 6-of-10 from the field and 2-for-2 from three point range as Southern Maine shot an outstanding 52.6 percent (30-for-57) for the game. Caterina was 4-for-9 from the floor and passed off a team-high four assists. Senior guard **Josh Daniels** (Everett, Wash./Maine Central Institute) added 15 points, while senior forwards **Ian Hebert** (New Gloucester, Maine/Gray-New Gloucester) and **Nick Gooding** (Concord, Calif./Mount Diablo) each chipped in with nine points.

Senior forward **Leon Martin** (Woodbury, Conn./Nonnewaug) led all scorers with 20 points to pace the Warriors. Martin was an outstanding 8-for-14 from the field and grabbed a team-high nine rebounds. Sophomore guard **Edwin Ortiz** (Hartford, Conn./East Catholic) added 16 points on a 7-for-12 effort from the field.

The Huskies trailed just once in the contest falling behind early, 3-2, on a three-pointer from Eastern Connecticut junior guard **Kris Johnson** (Sturbridge, Mass./Tantasqua Regional) with 19:37 showing on the clock. Despite tying the score three times in the first half and once in the second Eastern Connecticut was unable to move ahead of Southern Maine which was able to shake off the Warriors in the second half.

With the score tied (44-44) with 16:27 remaining in the game following a pair of free throws from Eastern Connecticut's Martin, the Huskies outscored the Warriors 11-0 over the next two minutes and 37 seconds to open up an 55-44 lead with 13:50 to play. The Huskies received scoring contributions from four different players in the run, including five points from senior guard **Foster Oakley** (Farmington, Maine/Mt. Blue). Oakley who connected on a jumper and three-pointer in the run, finished the game with seven points.

Eastern Connecticut pulled to within eight (62-54) of the Huskies on a three-pointer from sophomore guard **Jared Willis** (New Britain, Conn./Northwest Catholic) with 7:52 to play, but USM responded with a 7-0 run to build up a 15-point advantage (69-54) with 6:15 remaining. Daniels, Coppentrath and Caterina each scored in the run. From there, Eastern Connecticut never got any closer than 13 points the rest of the way as the Huskies rolled to an 80-62 win.

Southern Maine returns to action at home on Tuesday (February 12) when it hosts UMass Boston at 7:30 p.m. Eastern Connecticut hosts Western Connecticut on the same date and time in a LEC match up.

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little east conference

Saturday, Feb. 2, 2008

JOHNSON'S THREE-POINTERS LIFT EASTERN M-BASKETBALL, 91-80
Junior guard ties his program record with nine three-pointers against UMB

BOSTON, Mass. – Junior guard **Kris Johnson (Sturbridge, MA)** tied his program record with nine three-point field goals to pace the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 91-80 Little East Conference victory over the University of Massachusetts Boston Saturday afternoon at the Clark Athletic Center.

Johnson was 3-for-4 from three-point range in the first half, and 6-for-9 from behind the arc in the second half as Eastern (12-8, 5-4 little east) completed its third regular-season sweep of UMass Boston (2-18, 1-8 little east) in the last five years. As a team, the Warriors were 14-for-27 from three-point range in improving their conference-leading three-point field goal total to 181 and three-point percentage to .415. The three-point total ~~gives them 181 this season and~~ breaks the program season record of 173, set in 2001/02 and equalled in 2004/05.

With five regular-season conference games remaining (three at home), Eastern stands in a tie for third place in the conference with Keene State and the University of Southern Maine (the top four teams in the final standings host first-round tournament games). The Warriors entered play Saturday in fifth place, but their lot improved when Southern Maine and Keene lost road games to I.E.C. leaders UMass Dartmouth and Rhode Island College, respectively.

Johnson canned five of his first six three-point attempts in the second half, and after missing two in a row, capped the team's decisive run of nine straight points with his record-tying ninth that lifted the Warriors into a 12-point, 83-71 lead with 2:36 left. During the Eastern scoring run, UMass missed seven straight shots, four in the paint.

Eastern scored 11 straight points after the Beacons scored the first basket of the game for their only lead of the game, but the hosts stormed back to tie the game midway through the first half. Consecutive three-pointers by Johnson gave Eastern a ten-point lead before the Beacons got a pair of three-point field goals from Anthony Matlock and Aaron Jones to cut the Eastern lead to two by halftime.

Senior forward **Leon Martin (Woodbury)**, ranked 15th all-time at Eastern in career points (1,099), totaled his 24th career double-double (12th this year) with 20 points and 12 rebounds. Martin was 8-for-12 from the floor and 4-for-4 from the foul line. Senior forward **Kevin Zalucki (Enfield)** and sophomore guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford)** each added 13 points, and freshman guard **Courtney Simmons (Middletown)** handed out seven assists.

Amigo Paniagua led three UMass double-figure scorers with 18 points. Ranked last in the conference in three-point percentage (.312) and three-point field goals (4.84 per game), the

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Beacons nailed 12 of 23 three-pointers (.522 per cent) despite sustaining their 11th home loss in 13 outings.

Eastern, now 7-4 away from home this year, shot .574 per cent from the floor in the game to improve its field goal marksmanship over the last four games to .550. The win is the second straight for Eastern on the road after coming off a blowout loss. On Jan. 22, the Warriors downed Western Connecticut, 70-63, after losing at Rhode Island College by 33 three days earlier. This past Tuesday, Eastern was routed by Keene State by 26 points at Geissler Gym.

Johnson had established the program record of nine three-point field goals when he was 9-for-16 from beyond the arc Feb. 9, 2006 against visiting Albertus Magnus College in his first career start. He scored a career-high 31 points in that game. This year, he has already cashed in a personal season-high of 61 three-pointers to give him 117 in his career. He appeared in only eight games last year due to a broken hand.

Eastern visits the University of Southern Maine Saturday at 3 p.m.

little east conference

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

KEENE M-BASKETBALL RACES PAST EASTERN CONN., 97-71

In Little East, Owls shoot 57 per cent in first half in snapping Warriors' streak

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Keene State College men's basketball team shot 57.1 per cent in the first half -- sinking eight of 15 three-point field goals in the process -- and went on to a 97-71 Little East Conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

The win is the fifth in the last six games for Keene State (12-7, 5-3 little east), which was coming off a three-point loss at the University of Southern Maine Saturday. Eastern (11-8, 4-4 little east) had a three-game winning streak snapped in falling to 2-12 against the Owls in the last 14 meetings.

By winning, Keene breaks a three-way tie for third place in the conference with Eastern and Southern Maine. Keene and Southern Maine keep pace with LEC leaders UMass Dartmouth and Rhode Island College, while Eastern drops into fifth place, two games ahead of Western Connecticut.

Ranked second in the conference in field goal percentage defense (.465), Eastern could not contain the LEC's top-ranked offense (84.3 ppg.). Keene's lead reached double figures seven minutes into action, and peaked at 18 nine minutes before halftime.

Although the game featured the conference's top-rated three-point shooting team in Eastern (.411) against the second worst-ranked club in Keene State (.344), the visitors connected on 56.5 per cent from behind the arc (13-for-23) while Eastern missed 14 of 22 (36.4). Despite ranking sixth among eight LEC teams in free throw percentage (.710), Keene cashed in on 18 of 21 free throws (85.7).

Senior guards Anthony Licitra (12 points) and Shiwon Davis (10) came off the bench for 22 first-half points, and starting junior forward Tyler Kathan contributed ten to power the Owls to a 50-point first half. In the game, Keene's six bench players amassed 64 points, while Eastern's reserves were limited to 16.

Licitra led five double-digit scorers with 17 points, Kathan adding 14, Davis and Travon Little 12 each and Nick Drouin 11. Led by Little's game-high ten rebounds, Keene doubled up the Warriors on the boards (44-22), with 19 offensive rebounds netting them 22 second-chance points.

Eastern sophomore guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford)** paced Eastern with 17 points, senior forward **Kevin Zalucki (Enfield)** scoring 13 points and grabbing a team-high seven rebounds.

Eastern visits Massachusetts Boston Saturday at 3 p.m.

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little east conference

Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008

SIX DOUBLE-FIGURE SCORERS LIFT EASTERN M-BASKETBALL

Against Lyndon, Warriors turn 15 turnovers into 29 points in 90-76 win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Sophomore guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford)** scored 21 points and set up 21 more with a career-high nine assists and the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team turned 15 Lyndon State College turnovers into 29 points in a 90-76 non-conference victory Sunday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

The win is the third straight and fourth in the last five outings for Eastern (11-7), which won games on consecutive days for the first time since winning its own tip-off tournament to open the 2004/05 season. The meeting was the first between the programs.

Six players – including all five starters – had at least ten points for Eastern.

Lyndon State (6-13) led only once in the game – on the opening basket of the game. The Warriors led by as many as 22 in the first half and by as many as 23 three minutes into the second half. The Warriors put the game away with a 29-9 scoring run over ten minutes in the first half. Eastern scored 21 points off ten Lyndon turnovers over the first 20 minutes. During the decisive 29-9 run, Eastern capitalized on six Lyndon turnovers to score 14 points, with first-year junior **Larry Kelley (New Haven)** and Ortiz sinking three-pointers after Lyndon turnovers to cap the scoring streak and make it 39-17 with five minutes left in the first half.

For the second game in as many days, Eastern totalled double-figures in three-point field goals. With ten three-pointers, the Warriors outscored Lyndon 30-9 from three-point range. On the weekend they were 22-for-42 from behind the arc (.524 per cent).

With 21 points (8-for-12 from the floor), Ortiz equalled his second-highest point total of the year. He also set up 21 additional points with a career-high nine assists. Junior guard **Kris Johnson (Sturbridge, MA)** added 16 points – 11 coming in the first half when he nailed three three-point field goals. Senior forwards **Leon Martin (Woodbury)** and **Kevin Zalucki (Enfield)** and freshmen **Courtney Simmons (Middletown)** and **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** all had ten points, Sawyer coming off the bench to hit five

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of eight shots from the floor in 18 minutes. Martin led Eastern with nine rebounds, four coming offensively.

After shooting a season-high .673 per cent from the floor in Saturday's 98-67 Little East Conference win over Plymouth State, the Warriors connected on 53.6 per cent of their field goals against the Hornets.

Lyndon, which was outscored 23-9 off the bench, featured four double-figure scorers, three of whom played at least 30 minutes. Junior center Kali Stoddard-Imari (Lyndon Center, VT) shared game-high scoring honors with Ortiz with 21 points (9-for-13 from the floor) and led all players in the game with 11 rebounds. He did not turn the ball over in 32 minutes. Junior guard Cesar Martinez (East Harlem, NY) had 18 points, sophomore forward Joe Visker (Essex Junction, VT) adding 14 points and senior forward Michael Paul (New Haven, VT) chipping in ten points (5-for-7 from the floor).

Eastern hosts Keene State College Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in a Little East Conference game.

little east conference

Saturday, January 26, 2008

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL LEADS FROM WIRE-TO-WIRE IN 98-67 WIN

Warriors complete first regular-season sweep of Plymouth since 1993/94 season

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team got three-point field goals from six different players and led wire-to-wire on the strength of a season-high field goal shooting in a 98-67 Little East Conference victory over Plymouth State University Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

The top team in the conference in three-point field goal percentage, Eastern (10-7, 4-3 little east) nailed 12 of 18 from long-distance en route to its third win in the last four games. The three-point percentage of .667 and overall field goal percentage of .673 was the best of the season for the Warriors, who equaled their season-high total for three-point field goals.

Eastern sank eight of 11 three-pointers in building a 15-point, 42-27 halftime lead, the and the second-half bulge never dipped below 13. An 18-4 run fueled by two three-pointers from junior guard **Kris Johnson (Sturbridge, MA)** and one from sophomore guard **Edwin Ortiz (Hartford)** produced a 27-point advantage, 62-35, six minutes into the second half.

Johnson and Ortiz each had three three-pointers and first-year junior **Larry Kelley (New Haven)** and freshman **Courtney Simmons (Middletown)** added two each. Ortiz, Simmons and Kelley combined for 7-for-7 shooting from behind the arc. Freshman forward **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** came off the bench to connect on all five of his field goals. With ten points, he joined senior forward **Kevin Zalucki (Enfield)**, Johnson, Ortiz and Simmons with double figures in a balanced lineup. Zalucki had 12 points, Johnson and Ortiz 11 and Simmons ten.

The loss was the 12th in the last 13 games for Plymouth (4-13, 1-6 little east), which got a game-high 12 points and six rebounds from junior guard Ben Huntington (Hampstead, NH), who turned the ball over only once in 33 minutes.

Eastern hosts Lyndon State College Sunday at 2 p.m.

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WestConn Men's Basketball Final

For immediate use: January 22, 2008

Contact: Scott Russell – Assistant to the SID – 203-727-4601

Eastern Connecticut Holds Off WestConn to Post 70-63 Victory

DANBURY, CT (Jan 22) – Junior **Dashon Jennings (Bridgeport, CT)** led three Colonials in double figures with 15 points, but Eastern Connecticut State University hit key three-point baskets down the stretch to post a 70-63 victory over Western Connecticut State University in a matchup of Little East Conference rivals Tuesday night at Feldman Arena.

Also scoring in double figures for WestConn were senior **Jamie Procino (Yorktown Heights, NY)** who scored 13 points and grabbed seven rebounds, and sophomore **Wilburt Jarrett (Hartford, CT)** who scored 11 points and led the Colonials with 10 rebounds in a losing effort.

Leon Martin (Woodbury, CT) led all scorers with 22 points and added 13 rebounds for the Warriors. Also scoring in double figures for Eastern Connecticut were **Larry Kelley (New Haven, CT)** who had 13 points, **Kevin Zalucki (Enfield, CT)** who had 12 points and 13 rebounds, and **Courtney Simmons (Middletown, CT)** who added 12 points.

Eastern Connecticut pulled out to an early 21-9 lead with 10 minutes remaining in the first half and went to the locker room leading 34-26 at intermission. Twice the Colonials battled back to trail by only two points, but back-to-back three-pointers from Larry Kelley and Courtney Simmons with just over two minutes remaining in the game lifted the Warriors to a 70-63 victory.

With tonight's victory, Eastern Connecticut State University raises its record to 9-7 on the season (3-3 in the Little East Conference) while WestConn falls to 8-6 (2-4 LEC).

The Colonials host Southern Vermont in a non-conference matchup Thursday, January 24th. Game time is slated for 7:00pm.

EASTERN CONNECTICUT 70, WESTERN CONNECTICUT 63

EASTERN CONNECTICUT (9-7, 3-3 LEC)

Leon Martin 8-12 6-8 22; Larry Kelley 4-9 3-4 13; Courtney Simmons 4-9 2-2 12; Kevin Zalucki 5-13 2-4 12; Jared Willis 2-6 0-1 4; Edwin Ortiz 1-4 2-4 4; Kris Johnson 1-3 0-0 3; Broderick Sawyer 0-1 0-0 0; Bill Roveto 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-57 15-23 70.

WESTERN CONNECTICUT (8-6, 2-4 LEC)

Dashon Jennings 5-14 2-2 15; Jaime Procino 6-12 1-2 13; Wilburt Jarrett 5-9 1-4 11; Dewayne Dickens 2-8 3-4 7; Michael Jensen 2-6 0-0 5; Tyshawn Gillespie 1-12 2-2 4; Jamaal Robinson 0-1 3-4 3; David Addy 1-2 0-0 2; Kyle Norfleet 0-2 2-2 2; Warren Toles 0-1 1-2 1; Donnell Martin 0-0 0-0 0; Marcus Mann 0-4 0-0 0; Eugene Robinson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 22-71 15-22 63.

Eastern Connecticut	34	36	- 70
Western Connecticut	26	37	- 63

3-point goals--Eastern Connecticut 5-12 (Courtney Simmons 2-3; Larry Kelley 2-4; Kris Johnson 1-3; Edwin Ortiz 0-2), Western Connecticut 4-19 (Dashon Jennings 3-9; Michael Jensen 1-3; Dewayne Dickens 0-1; Tyshawn Gillespie 0-5; Kyle Norfleet 0-1). Fouled out--Eastern Connecticut-None, Western Connecticut-None. Rebounds--Eastern Connecticut 44 (Kevin Zalucki 13; Leon Martin 13), Western Connecticut 46 (Wilburt Jarrett 10). Assists--Eastern Connecticut 13 (Jared Willis 4), Western Connecticut 16 (Tyshawn Gillespie 6). Total fouls--Eastern Connecticut 14, Western Connecticut 16. Technical fouls--Eastern Connecticut-None, Western Connecticut-None. A-400

little east conference

Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008

LEC LEADER RHODE ISLAND ROUTS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL
Warriors' 87-54 loss to defending champions is their third straight in conference play

PROVIDENCE, R.I. -- Defending regular-season and playoff champion Rhode Island College (13-2, 5-0 little east conference) defeated Eastern Connecticut State University (8-7, 2-3 little east conference) for the seventh straight time, 87-54, Saturday in a Little East Conference men's basketball game at the Murray Center.

For Eastern, the loss equalled the worst one of the season, which had come by an indential score at Connecticut College Nov. 25 in a non-conference game.

A winner of five straight and ten of 11, Rhode Island remained perfect in the conference and maintained a share of first place with UMass Dartmouth, which won at Plymouth State, 84-80, Saturday. Eastern dropped its third straight conference decision after winning its first two.

The conference leader in three-point field goal percentage (.411), Eastern missed 11 of 13 from three-point range in the first half and committed ten turnovers in the first half on the way to a season-low 19 first-half points and a 28-point (47-19) deficit. The Warriors shot .333 per cent from the floor in the game their worst percentage since the third game of the season -- and 20.8 per cent from three-point range. Rhode Island leads the LEC in field goal percentage defense (.405).

Junior guard **Larry Kelley (New Haven)**, who came off the bench for a career-high 25 points Thursday at Green Mountain College, led the Warriors in scoring for the second straight game, finishing with 16 points in 23 minutes off the bench. Junior **Leon Martin (Woodbury)** had 11 points and eight rebounds as the team's only other double-figure scorer for Eastern, which got only 12 total points from its other four starters. With the exception of Kelley, Eastern's top three-point shooters missed all 13 of their tries from behind the arc.

Junior guard Bobby Bailey of Rhode Island, a second-team all-conference performer last year, finished ten points above his current scoring average with a game-high 18 points. Bailey sank seven of 11 field goals in pacing four RIC double-digit scorers.

Eastern visits Western Connecticut State University in a Little East Conference game Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. The teams are locked in a three-way tie for fourth place in the eight-team conference.

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little east conference

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL PUTS IT ALL TOGETHER IN 87-80 WIN
Leon Martin attains 1,000-point milestone in victory over Green Mountain

POULTNEY, Vt. -- Senior forward **Leon Martin (Woodbury)** became the 21st player to score 1,000 career points in an Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball uniform and the Warriors matched their season-high in three-point field goals and their season low in turnovers in an 87-80 non-conference victory over Green Mountain College Thursday night at Waldron Gym on the GMC campus.

Needing two points to become the first 1,000-point scorer under sixth-year head coach **Bill Geitner**, the 6-foot-5 inch Martin grabbed an offensive rebound and put it back in on his fourth shot of the game to reach the milestone with 8:10 gone in the game, giving the Warriors a 17-10 lead. Martin finished with 17 points and a team-high ten rebounds, which made for his tenth double-double in 14 games this year and 22nd in 86 career games.

Coming off a five-point Little East Conference loss at Massachusetts Dartmouth two nights earlier, Eastern (8-6) re-grouped to win their fifth game in eight contests away from Geissler Gym and hand Green Mountain (12-3) its first home loss after five victories. Playing as an independent, the Eagles are in their third year on the Division III level after moving down from Division II.

Behind first-year junior guard **Larry Kelley's (New Haven)** season-high 25 points, the Warriors equalled their season-high of 12 three-point field goals. Kelley came off the bench to connect on five of eight tries from three-point range en route to his team-high point total. The top three-point team in the conference, Eastern also got 4-for-9 three-point shooting from junior guard **Kris Johnson (Sturbridge, MA)**. As a team, Eastern improved upon its impressive season three-point percentage of .405 by canning .480 per cent of its tries (12-for-25).

The team's entire game total of only five turnovers -- no player had more than one -- equalled its best effort in protecting the ball this season. It was the third time in six games that the Warriors have given the ball away less than ten times.

(more)

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