

Friday, Nov. 19, 2010

EASTERN, PURCHASE ADVANCE IN TIP-OFF BASKETBALL

Host Warriors down Berkeley (NY), 71-60; Purchase dumps Emerson, 64-49

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Junior **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** had his tenth career double-double as one of four double-digit scorers as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team advanced to the championship game of the 2010 Eastern Tip-Off Tournament with a 71-60 victory over Berkeley College (NY) Friday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium

Defending champion Eastern (1-0) meets Purchase College (2-0) in Saturday's title game at 3 p.m. Purchase (2-0) downed Emerson College (1-1), 64-49 in Friday's first semifinal. Emerson faces Berkeley in the third-place game Saturday at 1 p.m. Eastern defeated Purchase, 68-60, in last year's first round.

Eastern led by as many as 18 late in the first half Friday and by 14 with eight minutes left in the game before the Knights closed the gap to five with just over a minute left. At that points before juniors **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** and Kohn and senior **Bill Roveto (South Windsor)** all sank free throws. Eastern missed ten of 29 free throws in the game but were 9-for-10 from the stripe inside the final minute.

Nedwick led Eastern with 17 points, Kohn adding 14 points and a team-high 11 rebounds, senior **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** ten points and eight rebounds and sophomore **Joe Ives (Avon)** ten points and five rebounds. Sophomore **Chris Robitaille (Canton)** came off the bench to grab seven rebounds in ten minutes.

Berkeley, competing in its third tournament already this year, got a game-high 18 points from freshman Jose Stable (Brooklyn, NY) and game-high 14 rebounds from sophomore Damir Redzepagic (Bronx, NY).

The Warriors turned the ball over only 12 times (six times in each half). They shot only 40 percent in the first half but built a double-digit lead with eight minutes left in the stanza and scored six points in a row to push the advantage to 18 in the final minute. Ives, making his second career start, capped the run with a conventional three-point play that made it 37-19.

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Purchase won its second straight Eastern Tip-Off Tournament game after defeating Fitchburg State University, 75-65, in last year's third-place game. Featuring a significant size advantage over Emerson, Purchase shot 54.3 percent from the floor and outscored the Lions by 24 points in the paint. Relying upon a perimeter game, Emerson missed 23 of 31 three-point field goals and turned the ball over 27 times.

Senior Marvin Billups (Chester, NY) led a balanced Purchase team with 13 points (6-for-12 from the floor), five rebounds, five assists and three steals. Charles Thompson (Upper Marlboro, MD) added ten points and seven rebounds and junior Elliot Watson (Peekskill, NY) ten points (5-for-6 from the floor) and six rebounds.

Senior Tom Messinger (Florence, MA) dominated play for Emerson, scoring 18 of his team's 49 points, but turned the ball over seven times.

The championship game features teams which won 20 games last year. The Warriors were the No. 1 seed in the ECAC tournament and Purchase won the Skyline Conference and gained the automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

Saturday, Nov. 20, 2010

BILLUPS LEADS PURCHASE TO TIP-OFF TOURNAMENT TITLE

The tourney MVP scores his team's final five points in 80-79 win over host Eastern

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Marvin Billups (Chester, NY) scored his team's last five points to boost the Purchase College men's basketball team to an 80-79 victory over Eastern Connecticut State University in the championship game of the 2010 Eastern Tip-Off Tournament Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Billups, named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player hit a basket in the lane and sank three free throws over the final 14.8 seconds to lift Purchase (3-0) to the tournament title in its second (straight) tournament appearance and dethrone 2009 titlist Eastern (1-1).

Billups, a 6-foot-3 inch senior forward, tied the game for the 11th and final time with two free throws with 14.8 seconds left. Eastern's (1-1) **Joe Ives (Avon)** hit the back end of a two-shot foul after being fouled a second later as Eastern re-gained a 78-77 lead before Billups sank a shot in the lane and converted the free throw after being fouled to give the Panthers the lead for good with 5.8 seconds left, 80-78.

The Warriors had an opportunity to force overtime but missed the second of two free throws after being fouled in the paint as the buzzer sounded.

Bidding for its ninth tip-off title, Eastern erased a 36-29 halftime deficit behind 14 points from all-tournament pick **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)**, nine from all-tournament selection **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** and eight points and eight rebounds from **Chris Robitaille (Canton)**.

The score was tied ten times and changed hands eight times before Billups gave the Panthers the lead for good with 5.8 seconds left.

Charles Thompson (Upper Marlboro, MD) had ten points and Purchase committed only five turnovers in building its seven-point halftime lead, Thompson and John Simmons (Bronx, NY) scored inside baskets at the outset of the second half as Purchase moved out to its largest lead of the game, 40-29, before the Warriors ran off ten points in a row behind four points from Kohn and Nedwick.

Joining Billups on the all-tournament team from Purchase was Elliot Watson (Peekskill, NY) and Michael McNair (Valley Cottage, NY). Billups had 16 points in the final, 29 in the tournament and was 11-for-19 from the floor and 6-for-9 from the foul line in two games; Watson had a team-high 17 in the title game and 27 in the tourney and was 11-for-14 from the floor on the weekend; McNair scored 16 points in the final and 22 in the tournament and was 7-for-14 from the floor in two games. **(more)**

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Nedwick led Eastern in the final with 18 points. He had 35 points in the tournament, 11 rebounds, ten assists and four steals; Kohn had 15 points and eight rebounds against Purchase and totaled 29 points and 19 rebounds in the tournament. Robitaille came off the bench in the final for his first career double-double with 14 points and ten rebounds in 23 minutes. Robitaille hit all six of his field goals and both of his free throws. Both Nedwick and Kohn repeated as all-tournament selections, Nedwick last year and Kohn as a freshman.

Nathan Firm (Wadesboro, NC) of Emerson rounded out the all-tournament team. Firm had 26 points and five rebounds in the tournament. In Emerson's (2-1) 68-63 victory over Berkeley College, NY (3-2) in the third-place game Saturday, Firm led four Emerson double-digit scorers with 17 points. He was 6-for-10 from the floor and 5-for-6 from the stripe. Firm scored six of his team's final nine points in that game. With the Lions holding a four-point lead in the final seconds, Firm sank two free throws after grabbing the rebound of a missed free throw by teammate Alex Dempsey (Anchorage, AK).

In that consolation-game win, Emerson emerged with the win despite being outrebounded, 45-17. The Lions forced 28 turnovers, however and connected on 54.2 percent of their second-half shots. In the tournament, Emerson's Tom Messinger (Florence, MA) totalled 32 points, sinking ten three-point field goals.

Jose Stable (Brooklyn, NY) dominated play in the tournament for Berkeley. He had 18 points and eight rebounds in a 71-60 first-round loss to Eastern and 17 points and 13 rebounds against Emerson Saturday. Elijah Craig (Brooklyn, NY) had a game-high 20 points and 11 rebounds against Emerson, sinking nine of 11 field goals.

**EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
2010 BASKETBALL TIP-OFF TOURNAMENT**

MEN'S TOURNAMENT

Friday, November 19

Eastern Conn. 71, Berkeley College 60
Purchase College 64, Emerson College 49

Saturday, November 20

Third-place game

Emerson College 68, Berkeley College 63

Championship game

. Purchase College 80, Eastern Conn. 79

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

MARVIN BILLUPS*	Sr.	Purchase	Chester, NY
Elliot Watson	Jr.	Purchase	Peekskill, NY
Michael McNair	Sr.	Purchase	Valley Cottage, NY
Nick Nedwick	Jr.	Eastern Conn.	Irvington, NY
Jamie Kohn	Jr.	Eastern Conn.	Columbia, CT
Nathan Firn	Jr.	Emerson	Wadesboro, NC

**-Most Outstanding Player*

Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010

EASTERN COMEBACK NETS 58-53 VICTORY OVER TRINITY COLLEGE
They score final ten points in m-basketball; head coach Bill Geitner wins 100th game

HARTFORD, Conn. - Sophomores **Chris Robitaille (Canton)** and **Mike Garrow (Terryville)** combined for 25 points off the bench and Eastern Connecticut State University scored the final ten points of the game in a come-from-behind, 58-53 non-conference men's basketball victory over Trinity College Tuesday night at Ray Oosting Gymnasium.

Eastern (2-1) trailed by ten points seven minutes into the second half and by nine with 11 minutes left before rallying to give ninth-year head coach **Bill Geitner** his 100th career coaching victory at Eastern. The win was the Warriors' third in as many years over Trinity (2-1).

When Eastern scored the final ten points over the final three minutes, the 6-foot-5 inch Robitaille scored four points, had a key steal with one minute left that preserved a one-point, 54-53 lead, then grabbed the rebound of a missed shot in the lane with ten seconds left that kept Eastern in front, 55-53. Garrow, junior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)**, and sophomore point guard **Joe Ives (Avon)** combined to can four of six free throws in the final 33 seconds.

In the second half, Eastern shot 52.0 percent from the floor and committed only two turnovers, seven in the game.

Trinity was averaging 78 points on 51 shooting from the floor in its first two wins but was held to just 39.7 shooting from the floor by an aggressive half-court defense that forced the Bantms to unload numerous hurried shot with time winding down on the shot clock.

Trinity was awarded only four free throws in the game. Its only second-half free throw completed a three-play by Jared Pimm that boasted the hosts into a five-point, 53-48 lead with 3:06 left. Eastern would not allow another point the rest of the way, however. Junior guard **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** got Eastern's three-minute drill going with a perimeter jumper, and Robitaille followed with a jump-hook with two minutes left that pulled Eastern to within one, 53-52. After an Eastern timeout, Ives stole the ball and Kohn found Robitaille alone underneath for an uncontested basket that pushed the Warriors into their first lead since midway through the first half, 54-53. Robitaille then came up with his steal on Trinity's next possession, and with 32.7 seconds left, Garrow hit one of two free throws after being followed underneath on a pass from Kohn to make it 55-53.

Nedwick and Garrow led Eastern with 13 points each, with Robitaille adding 12. Junior center **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** had a team-high six rebounds and four (first-rhalf) blocked shots. Ives added five rebounds and five assists and converted four of five free throws

Eastern hosts the College of New Jersey Sunday at 1 p.m..

From: Kingsley, David A [David.Kingsley@trincoll.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2010 8:26 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients
Subject: Trinity College sports update, men's basketball v. Eastern Connecticut, 11/23/2010

News from Trinity Sports

NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Report

For Immediate Release: November 23, 2010

Contact: David Kingsley (860) 297-2137

EASTERN CONNECTICUT MEN'S HOOPS STEALS WIN AT TRINITY IN FINAL FOUR MINUTES

Hartford, Conn. – Junior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, N.Y.)** totaled 13 points and four assists to lead the visiting Eastern Connecticut State University Warriors to a 58-53 win over the Trinity College Bantams in men's basketball action this evening at Oosting Gymnasium. Trinity drops to 2-1 with the loss in its home opener for first-year Head Coach James Cosgrove, while the Warriors improve to 2-1 with their third straight victory against the Bantams.

Trinity took its largest lead for either team at 46-37 on a fast break lay-up by senior guard **Brian Ford (Bronx, N.Y.)** midway through the first half midway through the second half, but saw the Warriors outscore them 21-7 the rest of the way. Eastern Connecticut rattled off nine straight points following Ford's bucket to tie the game at 46-46 on a drive by sophomore **Mike Garrow (Terryville, Conn.)**, but Trinity built its lead back up to 53-48 with under four minutes left on an old-fashioned three-point play by senior co-captain guard **Jared Pimm (Chelmsford, Mass.)**. The Warriors took scored the game's final 10 points, including the go-ahead shot by junior center **Chris Robitaille (Canton, Conn.)** with just over two minutes remaining. Trinity trailed by two points, 55-53, with possession of the ball but Bantam senior co-captain **Luke MacDougall (Baldwinsville, N.Y.)** missed a difficult shot inside with eight seconds on the clock.

Trinity sophomore guard **Cameron Sutton (Queens, N.Y.)** led all scorers with 15 points and added four assists, while Ford finished with 13 points, and MacDougall grabbed a game-high eight rebounds. Trinity outshot Eastern Connecticut, 39-24, but the Warriors shot 52 percent from the field in the second half. Trinity made just three attempts from long range in 15 attempts. Garrow tied Nedwick for the Eastern Connecticut scoring lead with 13 points, while Robitaille added 12 points off the bench, and senior co-captain center **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk, Conn.)** notched six rebounds and blocked four shots.

Box Score

Sunday, Nov. 28, 2010

EASTERN HAS ENOUGH TO HOLD OFF NEW JERSEY, 71-68

Warriors score final five points from free-throw line in non-conference win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The College of New Jersey missed a potential game-tying free throw with 4.9 seconds left and junior guard **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** sank both ends of a two-shot foul with 1.6 seconds later to lift the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 71-68 non-conference victory Sunday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern (3-1) never trailed after the opening minutes and took a 12-point lead into the final ten minutes before New Jersey's (0-4) Albert Matlock sparked a 12-3 run over the next three minutes with two three-point field goals that pulled the Lions to within three 57-54, with seven minutes left.

In the final five seconds, however, TCNJ missed a potential go-ahead three-point field goal and couldn't convert a subsequent free throw with 4.9 seconds left that would have tied the game.

Eastern's final five points came from the free throw line over the final 1:19. Sophomore guard **Mike Garrow (Terryville)** swished two free throws with 1:19 left after junior forward Dan Bucher was called for a block on Garrow's drive to the bucket. The free throws made it 68-65.

After Bucher answered with two free throws with 32.6 seconds left to cut the gap to one point again, Eastern sophomore point guard **Joe Ives (Avon)** hit the front end of a two-shot foul with 27.3 seconds left to make it 69-67.

New Jersey sophomore guard Donovan Smalls grabbed the rebound of the second miss for New Jersey, which then called consecutive timeouts. The Lions then missed the potential go-ahead three-point from the corner, but Smalls grabbed the rebound with 4.9 seconds left and sank the first of a one-and-one. Kohn then pulled down the rebound of the second one and iced the win with his only two free throw attempts of the game.

New Jersey senior scoring and rebounding leader Steve Siracusa was held far below his averages of 15.3 points and 14.3 rebounds, but Smalls countered with a game-high 27 points, Matlock (4-for-6 from three-point range) adding 12.

In addition to playing tight defense on the 6-foot-3 inch Siracusa, Eastern 6-foot-5 inch senior center **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** led a balanced Eastern attack with 12 points and added six rebounds without a turnover in 20 minutes. Ives and 6-foot-5 inch sophomore center **Chris Robitaille (Canton)** added 11 each and Kohn ten. Off the bench, Robitaille led all players with eight rebounds, helping the Warriors to a +10 advantage in that department. Kohn had six rebounds and four blocked shots without a turnover in 27 minutes.

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Junior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** was stopped seven points shy of his team-leading scoring average for Eastern, but chipped in nine points, four rebounds, four steals and four assists with only two turnovers in 30 minutes of work.

Robitaille connected on four of six shots from the floor and is now 17-for-20 (.850 percent) on the season, with a team-leading 7.3 rebounding average.

In its fifth game in the first 11 days of the season, Eastern hosts Connecticut College Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Monday, November 29, 2010

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL BLOWS LEAD, RE-GROUPS IN OT
After 16-point lead dissolves, Warriors score first ten points of overtime in 71-61 victory

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Junior guard **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** scored a season-high 17 points and grabbed career-high 18 rebounds and hit consecutive three-point field goals in the final three minutes of regulation to carry the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 71-61 non-conference overtime win over Connecticut College Monday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Playing its fourth straight game decided by five points or less or in overtime, Eastern (4-1) led by 16 points with 12 minutes left but needed Kohn's back-to-back three-pointers from the top of the circle to help the Warriors erase a four-point deficit in the final minutes of regulation.

In overtime, however, Eastern scored the first ten points, with 11 of their 15 ot points coming on 15 free throw attempts. Sophomore guard **Joe Ives (Avon)** was 7-for-8 from the stripe in the five-minute extra session, taking all of his free throws in the game in the final 82 seconds of overtime.

Junior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** led Eastern in scoring for the fourth time this year, totaling a game-high 24 points, and joined Kohn as the only two Eastern players in double figures. The duo amassed 41 of the team's point total.

Nedwick had 13 first-half points to vault Eastern into a nine-point, 33-24 lead at the break, then scored the team's first seven points and nine of its first 11 points in the second half to push the Warriors to their 16-point, 44-28 lead with 12 minutes left.

Freshman Matt Vadas came off the bench to lead Conn with 20 points, Taylor Hanson adding 14 and Rob Harrigan ten. Vadas led the second-half charge for Conn by scoring 14 of his team's 32 points in the second half. Vadas sparked a 24-4 Conn run (11 straight points) over nine minutes by scoring 12 points, five coming from the foul line His jumper tied the game at 48-all with just over five minutes left and Harrigan and Pete Banos followed with buckets in the paint to give the Camels a 52-48 lead with 3:19 left.

Six-foot-five inch center **Chris Robitaille (Canton)** of Eastern left the game with 1:28 left in the first half and did not return after an elbow in the cheek drew blood and was expected to require as many as six stitches. Robitaille was shooting .850 from the floor this year and averaging 9.8 points and a team-leading 7.3 rebounds through the team's first four games.

With Robitaille scoring only two points in five minutes off the bench, the Camels' bench players outscored Eastern's reserves by 18 points (24-6). Vadas scored 20 of those points, but no other sub on either team had more than two.

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Averaging 25 turnovers a game, Conn turned the ball over only 15 times (four in the second half), but missed 15 of 19 three-point field goals. Shooting over 80 percent this year from the foul line, Conn sank 75 percent of their tries but were awarded only half as many as Eastern. The Warriors were 16-of-24 from the stripe, Conn 9-of-12.

The game was Eastern's fifth in the first 11 days of the regular season while Conn was playing its first game in six days.

Eastern opens Little East Conference play Saturday at Rhode Island College at 3 p.m

Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010

HALF-COURT SHOT, EASTERN FALL IN M-BASKETBALL *In LEC opener, Warriors cough up late lead and lose at buzzer to defending champs*

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men’s basketball team could not manage a seven-point lead with six minutes left, and Rhode Island College junior forward Mason Choice sank a game-winning half-court shot that snapped a tie and gave the Anchormen a 52-49 victory in the Little East Conference opener for both teams Saturday afternoon at the Murray Center.

Last year’s LEC tournament champion and this year’s pre-season favorite to repeat, Rhode Island (5-1, 1-0 little east) battled back from that seven-point to set up Choice's heroics.

Eastern (4-2, 0-1 little east) led by six with three minutes left before the hosts scored six consecutive points on a jumper and four free throws. With the game tied at 49, Eastern junior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** missed a highly-contested layup attempt with 2.1 seconds left. RIC sophomore guard Tahrike Carter grabbed the rebound and the Anchormen called a time out.

Choice took the inbound pass near mid court, took several dribbles and launched a line drive shot as he crossed over half court that swished as the horn sounded.

With the score tied at 49, a fine RIC defensive effort foiled an Eastern scoring opportunity with 58 second left. The Warriors could not get an open look and junior guard **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** was forced to drive to the basket. Lee blocked his layup attempt with one tick left on the shot clock. Nedwick was fouled on the ensuing inbounds pass, but missed the front end of a one-and-one free throw. RIC sophomore center Steven Roberts grabbed the rebound and RIC looked for the go-ahead bucket. Choice's jumper with 36 seconds left was off the mark and Roberts missed the follow-up chance prior to last second fireworks.

In a game dominated by defense, Nedwick led Eastern with 11 points but missed 12 of 16 shots from the floor. Senior forward **Bill Roveto (South Windsor)** chipped in with nine points and shared team-high rebounding honors with sophomore center **Chris Robitaille (Canton)** with seven boards.

Eastern sank seven of 16 three-point field goals but missed seven of nine free throws. The Warriors were 1-for-6 from the stripe in the second half.

Choice led all scorers with 15 points to go along with five rebounds and four steals. Senior forward Carl Lee added 12 points and four steals and senior guard Nick Manson 12 points. Junior center Mike Akinrola led RIC with seven rebounds.

The Warriors are 2-13 against RIC in the last 15 meetings, having dropped the last five. The team’s last three losses in the series have come by a total of six points.

Eastern hosts Suffolk University Monday at 7 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 6, 2010

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL PULLS AWAY FROM SUFFOLK, 90-55

Warriors take control late in first half, outscore Rams by 20 in first seven minutes of second

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Junior **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** and freshman **Justin Nunez (Hartford)** swished three-point field goals two minutes apart late in the first half to spark a late first-half run and send the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 90-55 non-conference victory over Suffolk University Monday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

In the midst of a stretch of six games in the final 14 days of the first semester, Eastern (5-2) scored nine of the final 11 points of the first half to break from the final tie of the game, and maintained the momentum to pull away over the first seven minutes of the second half.

In the game, the Warriors scored 31 points off 26 Suffolk University turnovers and capitalized on 20 offensive rebounds to score 23 second-chance points and hand Suffolk (3-6) its fifth straight loss.

Two days after shooting a combined 4-for-24 from the floor, Nedwick and backcourt classmate **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** teamed for 15-of-25 field goal shooting as all 13 players in uniform saw action in the first meeting between the programs in 15 years. In the game, Nedwick was 10-for-15 from the floor with three three-pointers, Kohn 5-for-10 from the floor.

After ending the first half with a 9-2 scoring run, Eastern outscored the Rams 26-6 over the first seven minutes of the second half to build a 27-point, 64-37 lead. In that decisive burst over the final three minutes of the first half, Eastern limited Suffolk to just four possessions by grabbing four offensive rebounds. Sophomore guard **Mike Garrow (Terryville)** got it going by hitting an inside bucket for his only shot and points of the half. A Suffolk turnover then set up Nedwick's three-pointer which followed an offensive rebound by junior forward **Hamilton Levy (Woodbury)**, and Nunez buried a corner three-pointer on his only shot of the game to cap the run with 34 seconds left and make it 38-31.

Eastern scored 52 second-half points to double Suffolk's second-half total, shooting 50 percent from the floor and 10-of-12 from the foul line. Behind Nedwick, five different players each buried one three-pointer to provided the Warriors with a team-high eight buckets from behind the arc. Two days after missing seven of nine free throws in a three-point loss, Eastern nailed 16 of 20 from the stripe for a season-best percentage of 80.0.

In the second half, Nedwick scored 13 points (5-of-6 FG) on the way to his season-high total of 25 points. Sophomore center **Chris Robitaille (Canton)** had eight points (3-of-3 FG), five rebounds and two steals in the second half. In his first career start, he tied his career high with 14 points and also grabbed six rebounds and had four steals.

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Hamilton Levy had 13 points and a career-high nine rebounds in 23 minutes off the bench and Kohn added 13 points and five rebounds in 14 minutes in a starting role.

Suffolk sophomore forward Colin Halpin was held to eight points – 11 shy of his team-leading average . Team rebounding leader Matt Pepdjonovic had 11 points and a team-high eight rebounds, but was held five rebounds below his average. Senior center Mickey McEntee came off the bench of a team-high 16 points, but 12 of them came over the final nine minutes with the Rams trailing by 30.

Eastern hosts Endicott College Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2010

LEVY PROVIDES HELPING HAND IN EASTERN M-BASKETBALL'S WIN
He totals four of his five assists in final six minutes to help Warriors down Endicott 85-75

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Endicott College men's basketball team shot 59 percent from the floor in the second half but couldn't wipe out a 14-point halftime deficit as Eastern Connecticut State University led from start to finish in an 85-75 non-conference victory Wednesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

The teams played virtually on even terms after Eastern (6-2) scored the first nine points of the game and never trailed thereafter. Endicott (3-4) has lost four straight. The win was the second in as many year for the Warriors over the Gulls after having lost three in a row in this series.

Both teams had five players in double figures but Eastern's bench outcored the Endicott bench 32-19. Senior center **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** and junior forward **Hamilton Levy (Woodbury)** both had ten points and three rebounds off the bench for the Warriors, who also got a game-high 20 points from junior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** and 16 points and 13 rebounds (his third double-double this year) from junior guard **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)**. Levy had five second-half assists, finding Kohn cutting to the basket three times for key baskets as the Gulls were pushing to make it a two-possession game on several occasions.

Now 5-1 at home, Eastern missed 14 of 17 three-point field goal attempts but posted season-highs with 26 free throws and 38 attempts. The Warriors also had less than ten turnovers for the second straight game, totaling nine for the second straight time.

Shooting 59.1 percent from the floor and making 17 of 24 free throws in the second half, the Gulls quickly cut Eastern's 14-point halftime lead to single digits, getting as close as five points with nine minutes left on a pair of Jordan Lewis free throws. Kohn scored off his own offensive rebound with seven minutes left after Endicott had pulled to within seven, and Levy answered with an offensive rebound and bucket with four minutes left after the Gulls had again cut the Eastern lead to six with four minutes left.

Four of Levy's career-high five assists came in the final six minutes when he found Kohn three times and Sawyer. In one stretch, Levy contributed to five straight baskets by scoring one himself (on the offensive rebound) and assisting on the other four. Levy also came up with a game-high four steals.

A key stretch in the game when team scoring leader Nedwick went to the bench with his fourth personal foul and Eastern leading by seven. With Nedwick out of action, sophomore center **Chris Robitaille (Canton)** scored five points, Kohn four and Levy two to help the Warriors maintain add a point to their lead by the time Nedwick returned with four minutes left.

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While Endicott featured 11 freshmen, the Gulls also had six players standing 6-foot-6 or taller.

Aaron Karkow led Endicott with 17 points on 7-for-9 shooting from the floor. Hayden Palozej, who had scored only seven points this season, added 14 points off the bench (5-for-6 from the floor, 4-for-6 from the line) in 15 minutes. He also had five rebounds and two assists. Six-foot-eight inch Eric Callo added 13 points and five rebounds in 26 minutes and team scoring leader Lachlan Magee had 12 points and five rebounds. Magee, Karkow and Callo combined to sink 17 of 23 field goals.

Eastern hosts Plymouth State University in a Little East Conference game Saturday at 3 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010

NEDWICK SPARKS EASTERN MEN'S BASKETBALL IN LITTLE EAST

Junior guard scores 13 consecutive team points to vault Warriors past Plymouth State, 82-65

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Junior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** scored the final three points of the first half with a three-pointer and the team's first ten of the second half in sparking the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to an 82-65 Little East Conference victory over Plymouth State University Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Last year's Little East Conference Defensive Player-of-the-Year, Nedwick led Eastern (7-2, 1-1 little east) in scoring for the eighth time in nine games with a season-high 29 on 11-of-14 shooting from the floor (5-of-6 from three-point range) as one of the team's five double-figure scorers.

After losing 12 straight games against Plymouth (5-4, 0-2 little east), the Warriors have now won six of the last eight and avenged an overtime loss to the Panthers the last time the clubs met in Willimantic. Plymouth was held ten points under its season scoring average, the Panthers having totaled at least 80 points four times this season.

Now averaging 24.7 points in the team's recent three-game (home) winning streak, Nedwick provided the Warriors with a seven-point halftime cushion with a three-pointer at the buzzer, then single-handedly outscore Plymouth 10-5 in the opening minutes of the second half as the Warriors moved out to a 12-point, 47-35 advantage. The lead never fell under ten points after sophomore center **Chris Robitaille (Canton)** swished two free throws with 12 minutes left in the game and the lead crested at 20 in the final minutes.

Nedwick, who shot .643 from the floor and .786 (11-of-14) from the foul line with nine three-pointers and nine rebounds in this week's three wins, tossed in 19 of the team's 45 points in the second half. He was 7-of-9 from the field (3-of-4 from three-point range) without a turnover after the break.

Senior center **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** followed Nedwick with 14 points, and sophomore guard **Joe Ives (Avon)** tied his season high with 11 points to go along with five assists. Sophomore guard **Mike Garrow (Terryville)** and Robitaille both came off the bench for 11 and ten points, respectively, and combined for nine rebounds. Garrow scored nine of his points from the stripe, hitting all eight of his attempts in the second half. Senior forward **Bill Roveto (South Windsor)** led all Eastern players with eight rebounds.

The Warriors outscored Plymouth by ten points off turnovers and committed less than ten (8) for the third straight game and fourth time this year. After getting outrebounded by nine in the first half, Eastern outrebounded the visitors by six over the final 20 minutes behind Robitaille and Garrow and junior forward **Hamilton Levy (Woodbury)**, who had all four of his boards after the break.

(more)

Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010

NEDWICK SPARKS EASTERN MEN'S BASKETBALL IN LITTLE EAST
Junior guard scores 13 consecutive team points to vault Warriors past Plymouth State, 82-65

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Junior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** scored the final three points of the first half with a three-pointer and the team's first ten of the second half in sparking the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to an 82-65 Little East Conference victory over Plymouth State University Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Last year's Little East Conference Defensive Player-of-the-Year, Nedwick led Eastern (7-2, 1-1 little east) in scoring for the eighth time in nine games with a season-high 29 on 11-of-14 shooting from the floor (5-of-6 from three-point range) as one of the team's five double-figure scorers.

After losing 12 straight games against Plymouth (5-4, 0-2 little east), the Warriors have now won six of the last eight and avenged an overtime loss to the Panthers the last time the clubs met in Willimantic. Plymouth was held ten points under its season scoring average, the Panthers having totaled at least 80 points four times this season.

Now averaging 24.7 points in the team's recent three-game (home) winning streak, Nedwick provided the Warriors with a seven-point halftime cushion with a three-pointer at the buzzer, then single-handedly outscore Plymouth 10-5 in the opening minutes of the second half as the Warriors moved out to a 12-point, 47-35 advantage. The lead never fell under ten points after sophomore center **Chris Robitaille (Canton)** swished two free throws with 12 minutes left in the game and the lead crested at 20 in the final minutes.

Nedwick, who shot .643 from the floor and .786 (11-of-14) from the foul line with nine three-pointers and nine rebounds in this week's three wins, tossed in 19 of the team's 45 points in the second half. He was 7-of-9 from the field (3-of-4 from three-point range) without a turnover after the break.

Senior center **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** followed Nedwick with 14 points, and sophomore guard **Joe Ives (Avon)** tied his season high with 11 points to go along with five assists. Sophomore guard **Mike Garrow (Terryville)** and Robitaille both came off the bench for 11 and ten points, respectively, and combined for nine rebounds. Garrow scored nine of his points from the stripe, hitting all eight of his attempts in the second half. Senior forward **Bill Roveto (South Windsor)** led all Eastern players with eight rebounds.

The Warriors outscored Plymouth by ten points off turnovers and committed less than ten (8) for the third straight game and fourth time this year. After getting outrebounded by nine in the first half, Eastern outrebounded the visitors by six over the final 20 minutes behind Robitaille and Garrow and junior forward **Hamilton Levy (Woodbury)**, who had all four of his boards after the break.

(more)

Plymouth senior guard Ryan Lambert (Derry, NH) more than doubled his season scoring average by netting a game-high 34. Lambert, who had 22 of his team's 35 after the break, hit half of his 20 field goals and 11 of 13 free throws to go along with five rebounds and three steals. He was the only Panther in double figures. Senior forward Tom Dowd (Portsmouth, NH) had nine points and nine rebounds and senior center Bill Stowell (Stratham, NH) seven points and eight rebounds for the visitors, who missed 11 of 14 three-pointers.

Eastern plays Cal Tech Jan. 2 in Pasadena and Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges Jan. 3 in Claremont.

Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011

EASTERN MEN'S BASKETBALL PULLS AWAY FROM CALTECH
Kohn and Nedwick combine for 34 points in 72-49 victory over Beavers at Holiday Classic

PASADENA – Five Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball players each contributed a basket in a ten-point run late in the first half as the Warriors emerged from a three-week layoff to post a 72-49 victory over the California Institute of Technology Sunday afternoon in the Holiday Classic at the Braun Athletic Center.

In its first game since December 11, Eastern (8-2) shook free of a lethargic start to score ten consecutive points in a four-minute span and move out to a 12-point, 25-13 lead with 3:32 left in the first half. The Warriors led by 13, 31-18 at the half and staved off a mini Caltech (3-7) run by scoring eight in a row after the Beavers pulled to within in seven 43-36 to open up a 15-point, 51-36 advantage with nine minutes left.

Allowing 63 points per game through the first nine games of the year, Eastern held the hosts 14 points under that average by forcing 19 – equaling its second-highest total of the year – on 12 steals. Only three Caltech players – the team's three season double-figure scorers -- managed to score from the floor against the Warriors, who kept 6-foot-7 inch sophomore Mike Edwards without a point and to only two rebounds in the first half.

Edwards, the team's second-leading scorer (13.8 ppg.) scored all 11 of his points in the second half. After his steal and lay-in cut the Eastern lead to seven six minutes into the second half, Edwards scored only once more from the floor the rest of the way.

In a game where all 13 healthy players garnered minutes, junior guards **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** and **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** combined for nearly half of the team's points. Kohn notched his fourth double-double of the season with team-highs of 18 points and 13 rebounds, sinking eight of 11 field goals. Nedwick followed with 16 points, five assists and three steals. Nedwick broke out of a season-long funk at the foul line by capitalizing on eight of 11 attempts from the stripe in moving to within a point of the 800th of his three-year career.

There were four ties in the first 11 minutes before the Warriors took charge. Leading 15-13, Eastern got scoring from five different players in a 10-0 run that produced a 12-point, 25-13 lead with 3:32 left in the first half.

(more)

Ninth-year head coach **Bill Geitner** praised Kohn's effort on both ends of the floor en route to his season-high point total. Kohn kept the Warriors afloat in the first half, tossing in a dozen points (6-of-8 from the floor) and grabbing eight rebounds (four offensive).

His status for the game questionable due to injury, sophomore guard **Mike Garrow (Terryville)** came off the bench for nine points and six rebounds, seven of the points coming in the second half. Senior center **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** set the tone in the second half by outscoring the Beavers 6-0 early in the frame with three inside hoops that pushed the Warriors' lead to 16, 41-25, midway through the stanza.

Caltech senior scoring leader Ryan Elmquist led all players in the game with 24 points, 15 coming in the second half. Elmquist kept his team in the game early in the second half by scoring nine points in the first five minutes.

Eastern visits Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Monday at 7 p.m. EST before returning to Little East Conference play Saturday at Massachusetts Boston at 3 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 3, 2010

CLAREMONT NEVER TRAILS IN DOWNING EASTERN M-BASKETBALL
At Holiday Classic, Stags use 15-2 scoring run to stop Warriors' four-game streak, 73-57

CLAREMONT, Calif – Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges began a 15-2 run late in the first half to break from a tie and went on to post a 73-57 men's basketball victory over Eastern Connecticut State University at the Holiday Classic Monday afternoon at Ducey Gymnasium.

Claremont's (4-6) victory halts Eastern's (8-3) four-game winning streak that had begun nearly a month ago and give the Warriors a split of two games at the Holiday Classic, co-hosted by Claremont-Mudd and Caltech.

The Stags never trailed after scoring the first eight points of the game but needed a 15-2 run to subdue Eastern, which scrapped back from a 12-point deficit midway through the first half and tied the game at 30-all on a three-point field goal by junior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)**.

Claremont matched its game-opening run by ending the first half with eight straight points after Nedwick's game-tying bucket, then scored seven of the first nine points of the second half to move out to a 13-point, 45-32 lead three minutes into the second half.

The Warriors got as close as seven points twice thereafter on a jumper by junior forward **Hamilton Levy (Woodbury)** and two free throws by junior **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** but the Stags responded each time. The Claremont lead never dipped below double figures after Tyler Gaffaney and Kevin Sullivan responded to Kohn's free throws with consecutive three-point field goals – their only ones of the game – as the Stags moved out to a 13-point, 57-44 lead with nine minutes left in the game.

Eastern tossed in five of its eight three-point field goals in the first half – three accounting for nine straight Eastern points – to dig out of the early eight-point hole. Nedwick and Kohn combined for 18 of Eastern's 30 first-half points. Nedwick finished with ten first-half points but did not score in the second half.

Eastern turned the ball over only eight times but shot just 32.2 percent from the floor in the game.

Kohn posted his fifth double-double (second in as many days), totaling 14 points and 11 rebounds to register 32 points and 24 rebounds in two tournament games.

Claremont inside players Joseph Anderson and Patrick Lacey combined for 31 points, sinking 12 of 19 field goals.

Eastern returns to Little East Conference action Saturday at Massachusetts Boston at 3 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL HAS ENOUGH TO HOLD OFF UMASS BOSTON
Warriors shut out from floor over final ten minutes in 59-56 Little East Conference win

BOSTON -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team got its final nine points of the game from the free throw line over the final ten minutes and held off the University of Massachusetts Boston, 59-56, in a Little East Conference game Saturday afternoon at the Clark Athletic Center.

The win is the fourth in as many years for Eastern (9-3, 2-1 little east) over UMass (6-6, 0-3 little east) on the Beacons' home court and is the Warriors' sixth in the last seven meetings over UMB. Eastern was picked to finish third in the LEC pre-season coaches' poll, UMass seventh.

Eastern moved out to its biggest lead of the game, 50-38, with 9:47 left, but went the rest of the game without a field goal as the hosts made it a one possession game three times over the final four minutes. Michael Mitchell's three-point field goal -- UMass' only basket behind the arc in the second half -- pulled the hosts to within three points for the final time with 0.7 seconds left. Following a UMass timeout, Eastern ran out the clock in the backcourt.

After senior guard **Nick Nedwick's (Irvington, NY)** bucket in the paint pushed Eastern into its 12-point lead with just under ten minutes left, the Warriors missed five shots and gave the ball away seven times (including four straight possessions after Nedwick's basket) on their final 20 possessions. Eastern matched its season free throw percentage over the final six minutes, however, to remain in front. The Warriors sank nine of 14 free throws over the final six minutes, with junior guard **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** and sophomore guard **Joe Ives (Avon)** both sinking two in a span of 30 seconds. Kohn's pair made it an eight-point game with 53 seconds left and Ives swished one and rolled one in around an Eastern timeout with 24.1 seconds left that expanded a three-point lead to five, 58-53.

While Eastern struggled over the final ten minutes, UMass hit high gear by nailing eight of 12 field goals to outscore the Warriors by nine over the second half of the second half. The Beacons committed five turnovers on those final 17 possessions, but Eastern managed to capitalize on those miscues with only three free throws. After Eastern failed to turn any of the first three UMB turnovers into points, senior center **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** dropped in one of two free throws following the fourth turnover to make it 53-48 with 90 seconds left, and Kohn nailed his pair with 53 seconds left as a result of UMass' fifth turnover to make it 56-48.

With the Warriors leading by eight, 50-42, with 7:13 left, senior forward **Bill Roveto (South Windsor)** -- the team's top defensive inside player -- left the game with an ankle injury and did not return. The hosts proceeded to score on six of their final eight shots from the floor.

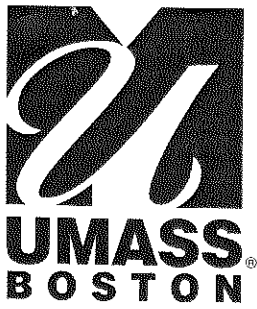
(more)

Ranked third in the LEC in field goal percentage defense, Eastern watched UMass shoot .511 from the floor, but was still able to keep the Beacons 14 points below their season scoring average. The Warriors matched UMB by shooting .500 from the floor – equaling their best marksmanship this year.

Nedwick shared game-high scoring honors with 18 points (7-of-12 FG), with Sawyer equaling his season-high of 14 points (5-of-6 FG) and adding six rebounds and Ives adding ten points. Kohn had nine points, seven rebounds and five assists. First-year junior guard **Chae Phillips (West Haven)** and junior forward **Hamilton Levy (Woodbury)** combined to convert all three of their field goal tries and add eight points and five rebounds, providing the Warriors with their only points off the bench.

Mitchell scored 14 of his team-high 18 points in the second half and came up with six steals for UMass, with Isaac Jenkins scoring 16 points and freshman Donreal Thomas 12. UMass's four substitutes were able to contribute just two points in 51 minutes.

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



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EASTERN CT STATE TOPS UMASS BOSTON MEN'S BASKETBALL OVER COLBY, 59-56

BOSTON, MA – Junior guard Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY) netted 18 points on 7-for-12 shooting to lead the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team past the University of Massachusetts Boston, 59-56, this afternoon at the Clark Athletic Center on the campus of UMass Boston. With the win, the Warriors improve to 9-3 on the year and 2-1 in Little East Conference play while the loss drops the Beacons to 6-6 overall and 0-3 in the LEC.

Nedwick's three-point field goal with 12:46 remaining the first half snapped a 10-10 tie to put the Warriors on top, 13-10, a lead which the visitors would not relinquish for the remainder of the contest. A layup by senior center Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk, CT) with 5:20 to play in the half gave Eastern its largest lead of the frame at 29-23 before the Beacons would close out the half on a 6-4 spurt, capped by a jumper by freshman forward **Dontreal Thomas (White Castle, LA)**, to give Eastern Connecticut the 33-29 halftime lead.

The Warriors would take their largest lead of the afternoon on a Nedwick layup that gave the visitors a 50-38 cushion with 9:47 remaining in the second half before the Beacons answered to get back into the contest. Junior guard **Isaac Jenkins (Pordenone, Italy)** connected on a reverse layup with 8:49 to play to jumpstart a 10-1 UMass Boston run, capped by a layup by junior point guard **Michael Mitchell Jr. (Boston, MA)** at the 3:51 mark to cut the Warrior lead to 51-48, and force the visitors to take a timeout. Coming out of the timeout, UMass Boston played 33 seconds of intense defense that left the Warriors with a desperation inbound play underneath their own basket. Sawyer was able to get off a jumper that found the iron, allowing junior forward Hamilton Levy (Woodbury, CT) to track down the offensive rebound and reset the shot clock for the visitors. Eastern would capitalize on the new possession and go on a 5-0 run to take a comfortable 56-48 lead with 53 seconds remaining but the Beacons continued to battle to make it a one possession game. Mitchell Jr. converted an old fashion three-point play to make it 56-51, ECSU, with 46 ticks left and then on the next Warrior possession, Mitchell Jr. came away with a steal and fast break layup to pull the Beacons to within three points at 56-53 with 30 seconds left on the clock. Following a UMass Boston foul, sophomore guard Joe Ives (Avon, CT) converted a pair of free throws to bump the Eastern lead back up to five at 58-53. UMass Boston could not convert on the offensive end and was forced to foul Ives, who connected on one of two attempts from the charity stripe to give the Warriors a comfortable 59-53 lead with eight second to play. Mitchell Jr. made it a three point contest, connecting on a shot from way behind the arc with 0.7 seconds to play but it was too little too late for UMass Boston as Eastern Connecticut, following a UMB timeout, was able to inbound the ball untouched and hold on for the 59-56 road win.

Mitchell Jr. finished the game with 18 points, tying Nedwick for the game-high, to go along with a game-high six steals. Jenkins ended the contest with 16 points while Thomas chipped in with 12 points on 6-of-8 shooting.

For Eastern, Sawyer played well down low, scoring 14 points to go along with six rebounds while Ives finished the contested in double-figures with 10 points. Junior guard Jamie Kohn also played well for the visitors, netting nine points while grabbing a game-high seven rebounds.

The Beacons are back in action Tuesday, January 11 when they travel to Plymouth, NH for another LEC contest against Plymouth State while the Warriors host UMass Dartmouth the same night. Both games are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. tips.

-beaconsathletics.com-

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL PUTS CLAMPS ON UMD, 70-52
Warriors hold Corsairs to 15 first-half points and 29.0 percent shooting in game

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. –Eastern Connecticut State University’s pressure defense limited Massachusetts Dartmouth to 15 first-half points and a season-low point total as the Warriors equaled their longest winning streak against the Corsairs in 25 seasons of Little East Conference men’s basketball play, 70-52, Tuesday evening at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Now 7-1 at home, Eastern (10-3, 3-1 little east) used a 12-2 run early in the game to establish an 11-point, 18-7 lead and held UMass (5-8, 2-2 little east) to 15.2 percent shooting from the floor in building a 17-point, 32-15 halftime lead. UMass’ final point total was its lowest against Eastern ever in LEC regular-season or LEC tournament competition.

The victory – coupled with losses by previously-unbeaten Western Connecticut and Rhode Island College – lifts the Warriors into a four-way tie for first place. Western lost at home to Keene State, 81-76, and Rhode Island dropped a 95-88 decision at previously-winless University of Southern Maine. Keene also shares first place with a 3-1 record.

The win is the third in a row for the Warriors dating back to last year’s two regular-season games over the Corsairs -- the winningest team in conference history with 13 regular-season titles and 11 tournament championships. Eastern’s only other three-game win streak over UMass came in the 2001-02 and 2002-03 seasons.

Ranked first in the LEC by averaging 9.2 three-point field goals per game and third in three-point field goal percentage (.373), UMass missed 24 of 29 three-point tries (.172 percent) against Eastern’s tight man-to-man defense. Until Tuesday, UMass’s lowest scoring game had been 62 points in a 24-point loss to the nation’s No. 5-ranked team (Middlebury College).

Senior center **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** posted the first double-double of his 91-game career with 13 points (5-of-10 from the floor) and a career-high ten rebounds and blocked two shots. Sophomore center **Chris Robitaille (Canton)** had 11 points and six rebounds off the bench and LEC rebounding leader **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)**, a junior guard, contributed 15 points (7-of-10 FG), six rebounds and two blocked shots.

Ranked third in the conference in rebounding margin (+5.1), the Warriors enjoyed a 50-34 advantage on the boards, with the Corsairs’ 12 offensive rebounds resulting in only six points.

Eastern visits Wentworth Institute of Technology Thursday at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011

PRODUCTIVE SECOND HALF LIFTS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL, 86-76
Warriors rely on 15-2 run to score 49 points after break in Little East win over Southern Maine

GORHAM, Maine – Junior guard **Jamie Kohn's (Columbia)** team-leading seventh double-double of the season sparked the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to its third straight win as the Warriors maintained a share of the Little East Conference lead with an 86-76 victory over the University of Southern Maine Saturday afternoon at the Warren Hill Gymnasium on the USM campus.

Kohn scored ten points in Eastern's (11-3, 4-1 little east) 15-2 run over 5:30 midway through the second half as the Warriors expanded a two-point edge to 15, 75-60 with 3:39 left on the way to its fifth straight victory over Southern Maine (9-6, 1-4 little east).

Ranked third in the LEC in scoring, Eastern junior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** equaled his season high with 29 points, with Kohn scoring a career-high 23 (9-of-16) and grabbing 14 rebounds to improve his conference-leading rebounding average to 9.1. Kohn has compiled seven of Eastern's nine double-doubles this season, with three coming in the last five games.

Trailing by five at halftime, the Warriors scored nine of the first 12 points of the second half – seven straight coming from Nedwick – to take a one-point lead two minutes into the half. The Warriors later broke from the 12th tie of the game by scoring seven straight points and 15 of 17, with a pair of free throws by senior forward **Bill Roveto (South Windsor)** giving the visitors their largest lead, 75-60 with 3:39 left. The lead never fell into single digits the rest of the way.

Kohn had 16 points and Nedwick 12 in Eastern's 49-point second half, with sophomore center **Chris Robitaille (Canton)** and Kohn combining for 18 rebounds to give Eastern a +14 rebounding edge over the final 20 minutes.

Robitaille came off the bench to tie his career high with ten rebounds and also contributed eight points in 14 minutes. Senior center **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** grabbed seven rebounds in 23 minutes.

Southern Maine senior guard Corteze Isaac poured in an LEC-record 25 first-half points, finally settling for a season-high 36 on 13-of-29 shooting. Isaac, who took nearly half of his team's shots, has totaled at least 30 points in three of the team's last seven games. Isaac averaged 25.9 points in 15 games last year for the 2-23 Huskies, including a 41-point performance.

Eastern visits Keene State College Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. The Owls dropped out of a four-way tie for first place Saturday with a 106-100 home loss to Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Molta, Bob (Athletics)

From: Christina Cracolici [ccracolici@usm.maine.edu]
Sent: Saturday, January 15, 2011 6:58 PM
To: Lewiston Sun Journal Sports; rlenzi@pressherald.com; wwalsh@pressherald.com; BAube@pressherald.com; Norm Karkos; College Fanz Sports; desk@ncaasports.com; radiojimward@yahoo.com; lakes@pressherald.com; Joe Grant; gtimes@maine.rr.com; ssherlock@sunjournal.com; Al Pike; Bangor Daily News; deid@wgme.sbgnet.com; Associated Press; nqkarkos@yahoo.com; Carl Pepin; phsports@pressherald.com; sports@globe.com; Bruce.Glasier@wvsh6.com; kthomas@pressherald.com; Robert Caswell; Evans Boston; SportsDesk@maine.rr.com; jmenendez@pressherald.com; Adam Levin; Foster's Daily Democrat; GAlmasi@timesrecord.com; pbetit@pressherald.com; jbaltes@pressherald.com; JWBailey@Hearst.com; ssolloway@pressherald.com; Pete Warner; sports@bostonherald.com; David W Guthro; Travis Lee; Local Media; intown@somtel.com; sports@sunjournal.com; cmnsport@centralmaine.com; bose@ap.org; sports@wvsh6.com; wmtw@wmtw.com; deid@wgme.com; sports@wlbz2.com; wabi@wabi.tv; sports@wagmtv.com; sports@wvii.com; wktj@wktj.com; shoe@thebigjab.com; chris@thebigjab.com; maty@cmsbmedia.com; ron@mainesportsreport.com
Cc: B.L. Elfring; Jack Holleran; Molta, Bob (Athletics)
Subject: USM Men's Basketball: Eastern Connecticut 86, Southern Maine 76
Attachments: 1.15.11 MBB ECONN.doc; ATT1542348.htm

For more information contact Christina Cracolici

Assistant Director for Athletic Media Relations

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

For Immediate Release

Men's College Basketball

Eastern Connecticut Stops Southern Maine 86-76

GORHAM, Maine – Junior guards Nick Nedwick (Irvington, N.Y.) and Jamie Kohn (Columbia, Conn./Coventry) combined to score 52 points to lead the Eastern Connecticut State University Warriors to an 86-76 win over the University of Southern Maine Huskies in a Little East Conference men's basketball game Saturday afternoon at Hill Gymnasium in Gorham.

With their third straight victory the Warriors improve to 11-3 overall and 4-1 in the Little East. Southern Maine falls to 9-6 with the loss and 1-4 in the conference.

Nedwick was 9-for-19 from the field for a team-high 29 points, while Kohn snagged a double-double with 23 points and 14 rebounds on an outstanding 9-for-16 effort from the field. Sophomore center Chris Robitaille (Canton, Conn.) added eight points and 10 rebounds off of the bench.

Southern Maine senior guard **Corteze Isaac** (Germantown, Md./Northwest) led all scorers with 36 points. Isaac was 13-for-29 from the field with five three-pointers and had five rebounds and four blocked shots. Junior guard **Mike Poulin** (Readfield, Maine/Maranacook) added 16 points, while senior forward **Otis Smith** (Altamonte Springs, Fla./Ocoee) had 10 points and a team-high seven rebounds.

With the score knotted up at 56 points each with 9:27 to play, the Warriors outscored the Huskies 19-4 over the next six minutes to take control of the game 75-60 with 3:36 on the clock. Kohn was instrumental in the decisive run, scoring 10 of his 23 points. During that stretch, the Huskies were a combined 2-for-10 from the field with three turnovers.

Southern Maine responded with a 7-2 run to trim its deficit to 77-67 with 1:34 to play spurred by four points from Poulin, but the Warriors stood firm making 7-for-8 from the line down the stretch.

Eastern Connecticut finished the game shooting 46.7 percent (28-for-60) from the field and 70.3 percent (26-for-37) from the free throw line. After shooting 47.1 percent (16-for-34) in the first half, the Huskies' shooting cooled in the second making just nine field goals (9-for-28) for a 32.1 percent mark.

Southern Maine travels to Plymouth State on Tuesday (7:30 p.m.). Eastern Connecticut travels to Keene State on Tuesday (7:30 p.m.).

- cac -

Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL GOES OVERTIME TO EDGE KEENE

Warriors get balanced contributions as they re-gain share of first place in LEC, 82-77

KEENE, N.H. -- Junior forward **Hamilton Levy (Woodbury)** came off the bench to connect on two go-ahead three-point field goals late in the game and junior guard **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** put the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball ahead for good with an inside basket with 42 seconds left in overtime to give the Warriors an 82-77 Little East Conference victory over Keene State College Wednesday night at Spaulding Gymnasium.

With its fourth straight win this year and fourth straight in two years over Keene State (10-5, 3-3 little east), Eastern (12-3, 5-1 little east) keeps pace atop the conference with Western Connecticut, which had knocked defending champion Rhode Island College out of a share of first place Tuesday with an 82-77 road win.

Eastern trailed only three times in the game – each time by two points. After 6-foot-11 inch Division I sophomore transfer Rashad Wright had given Keene its first lead, 65-63, with 64 seconds left in regulation, Levy sank a go-ahead three-pointer with 32 seconds left. Levy vaulted the Warriors into the lead again with 2:33 left in overtime with another three-point that made it 73-72. Trailing 75-73, the Warriors tied the game on an inside basket by senior center **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)**, and after a Keene turnover, Kohn gave Eastern the lead for good, 77-75, with 42 seconds left. Moments later, conference rebounding leader Kohn grabbed the rebound of a missed Keene three-pointer, and sophomore guard **Joe Ives (Avon)**, senior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** and sophomore center **Chris Robitaille (Canton)** combined for the team's final five points over the final 21 seconds of overtime.

Five Eastern players finished in double figures. Nedwick, who averaged 21.3 points in three Eastern wins over Keene State last year (including a career-high 36 in a home win), led all players with 26 points in 43 minutes, with Levy netting a season-high 15, Sawyer equaling his season-high of 14, Robitaille 13 (one shy of his career-high) off the bench and Kohn 11 points and a game-high 14 rebounds – his conference-leading eighth double-double (fourth in six games) this year. Nedwick has now scored at least ten points in the team's last 11 straight games and has found double figures in all but one game this year (scoring nine points in the fourth game of the year).

Keene, which had six players taller than Eastern's tallest, grabbed 17 offensive rebounds but was outscored by ten points (22-12) on second-chance opportunities.

Levy (6-of-9 from the floor/3-of-3 from "three") and Robitaille (5-of-8) combined for 28 of the team's 30 bench points. Nedwick sank ten of 15 field goals and also handed out six assists.

Keene, playing without second-leading scorer Derek D'Amours – an all-conference forward – had four players in double figures. Wright led the Owls with 14 points and eight rebounds. Fellow Division I sophomore transfer guard Ryan Martin added ten points and four assists but failed on 11 of 14 field goal tries.

Since losing five of six to Keene, Eastern has captured the last four – two in convincing fashion and two games decided by five points each.

Eastern hosts Rhode Island College Saturday at 3 p.m. in a Little East Conference game.

Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011

RIC SNAPS EASTEN M-BASKETBALL'S FOUR-GAME STREAK, 60-51
Warriors miss 20 of their first 21 shots against defending Little East Conference champions

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team missed 20 of its first 21 shots, falling behind by 19 points with five minutes left in the first half in a 60-51 Little East Conference setback to Rhode Island College Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

The conference leader in field goal percentage defense, defending LEC champion Rhode Island (11-6, 5-2 little east) limited Eastern (12-4, 5-2 little east) to 12 percent shooting in the field half and 26.9 percent in the game in defeating Eastern for the sixth straight time.

Rhode Island, which has held Eastern to its two lowest-scoring games of the season, moves into a two-way tie for second place in the conference with Eastern, which had a four-game winning streak ended. The Warriors had entered play sharing first place with Western Connecticut, which moved a game up in the standings with a 111-78 victory at the University of Southern Maine.

Trailing by 14 at halftime, 28-14, Eastern scored 15 points in the first eight minutes of the second half and soon-after, cut the gap to 11, 42-31, with 11 minutes left in the game. The Warriors got as close as the final nine-point margin once earlier in the game, with 44 seconds left.

Senior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** led the Warriors in scoring for the 12th time, equaling his team-high season average with a game-high 19 points to go along with four steals and four assists. Senior center while **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** scored 13 of his season-high 15 points in the second half. Junior guard **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)**, the LEC rebounding leader, reached his rebounding average with a game-high nine, but was not able to score from the field until less than four minutes remained in the game.

Led by senior forward **Carl Lee (Warwick, RI)**, the Anchormen used a deep bench to outscore the Warriors by 16. Lee was 6-of-6 from the foul line and contributed a team-high 12 points off the bench for Rhode Island, which offset 34.7 percent shooting from the floor to sink 19 of 24 free throws.

Eastern hosts Western Connecticut Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011

EASTERN MEN'S BASKETBALL FALLS TWO GAMES BACK IN LEC

No. 15-ranked conference leader Western Connecticut posts 86-78 victory over Warriors

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Senior guard David Addy scored 18 points on 9-of-10 field goal shooting for Western Connecticut State University, which opened up a two-game lead in the Little East Conference with an 86-78 victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday night in front of 1,000 fans at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

The 6-foot-1 inch Addy also grabbed seven rebounds, handed out five assists and did not commit a turnover in 33 minutes for Western (16-2, 7-1 little east), a winner of 13 of its last 14 games. The Colonials move two games ahead of Eastern (12-5, 5-3 little east) and defending champion Rhode Island College. The Anchormen dropped a 75-70 road decision to Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Western trailed only once in the game and used an 18-4 run late in the first half to turn a two-point deficit into a 12-point, 35-23 lead two minutes before the break. Addy scored eight inside points in that decisive stretch.

Junior guard DaQuan Brooks, last year's LEC Player-of-the-Year and currently the second-leading scorer in the LEC, scored 13 of his game-high 23 points in the second half. Brooks nailed three of his four three-point field goals in the second half and scored seven of his game total on as many free throw tries. Addy finished with 18 points, senior forward Wilburt Jarrett adding 11 points and a game-high 13 rebounds.

Eastern senior center **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** shared game-high scoring honors with Brooks with a season-high 23 points and added a team-high seven rebounds and four assists. Junior guard **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** added 16 points and eight rebounds and Eastern scoring leader **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** – the third-leading scorer in the LEC – contributed 13 points, four assists and three steals. Sophomore center **Chris Robitaille (Canton)** came off the bench to grab seven rebounds in ten first-half minutes and finished with eight rebounds and six points in 13 minutes.

The loss is the fourth straight against Western for Eastern, which was eliminated in the semifinals of the LEC tournament by the Colonials a year ago.

The Warriors look for the regular-season series sweep of Plymouth State University when the clubs meet Saturday at 3 p.m. at Plymouth, NH in a Little East Conference game.

Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011

NEDWICK IGNITES EASTERN M-BASKETBALL IN LEC VICTORY
Warriors end brief two-game conference losing skid with 63-56 win over Plymouth State

PLYMOUTH, N.H. – Senior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** scored at least 25 points for the third time in the last five games to ignite Eastern Connecticut State University's 63-56 Little East Conference men's basketball victory over Plymouth State University Saturday afternoon at Foley Gymnasium.

Playing all 40 minutes, Nedwick converted 10 of 17 field goals and led all players with 25 points – his fifth game of 25 points this season. Conference rebounding leader **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** reached his season average with nine and was Eastern's (13-5, 6-3 little east) only other player in double figures, with 13.

Rated second in the LEC in scoring defense, Eastern held Plymouth to 33.3 percent shooting in the first half in rolling up a ten-point lead and 17 points under its season scoring average. It marked the ninth time in 18 games this year that the Warriors have allowed 60 or less points.

The top four teams in the LEC standings all won their games Saturday, leaving the Warriors in a three-way tie for second place with Rhode Island College and Keene State. All three teams are two games behind leader Western Connecticut, which prevailed, 89-86, Saturday against visiting UMass Dartmouth.

Nedwick scored 17 of his points in the second half to help the Warriors protect their ten-point halftime lead. The Panthers scored seven straight points to take their only lead of the second half, 43-41, but the Warriors countered with a run of 12 straight points. Nedwick started the run by completing a conventional three-point play and totaled half of the points in that spurt, with junior forward **Hamilton Levy (Woodbury)** and sophomore center **Chris Robitaille (Canton)** adding inside hoops and Kohn capping the run with two free throws with 4:37 left.

The teams played a tight game most of the first half. It was tied 12-12 at the midway point after Plymouth senior Jesse Sabolis drained a three-pointer, but Eastern rattled off 11 unanswered points late in the half to take a 10-point advantage. Robitaille had six points of his game total of eight in the spurt. Plymouth chipped away at the deficit early in the second half, and actually came back to take that two-point, 43-41 lead on a Ryan Lambert three-pointer with 10:27 to play. Plymouth never got closer than six points following the 12-2 Eastern burst that opened up a ten-point lead.

Sophomore point guard **Joe Ives (Avon)** helped the Warriors to a +5 edge on the boards by pulling down a career-high seven, with Robitaille grabbing six. Kohn and Nedwick combined to take and make all but one of the team's free throws, sinking ten of 13 from the stripe. For the third straight game, Eastern committed less turnovers than its opponent.

Although they are ranked second in the LEC in three-point field goal percentage defense, the Warriors were outscored by 23 points from three-point range. Matt Feehan, Lambert and Ian Dempsey combined for seven of the Plymouth's eight three-pointers, the Panthers shooting 38.1 percent from behind the arc. The eight three-pointers were the second-most allowed by Eastern this season – the most since the second game of the season.

Eastern hosts Wesleyan University Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 3, 2010

WESLEYAN'S BUZZER-BEATER SINKS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL
Nedwick's late heroics overshadowed by Brown's game-winner in Cardinals' 66-65 victory

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Sophomore guard Shasha Brown capped a 22-point second half by canning a jumper at the buzzer to lift Wesleyan University to a 66-65 non-conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Thursday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern junior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** blocked a shot by Brown from the right side of the basket with three seconds left and Eastern (13-6) leading 65-64. On Wesleyan's (10-11) ensuing inbound under its offensive basket, junior forward Jason Mendell passed to Brown, who caught the ball with his back to the basket in front of the Wesleyan bench. Covered tightly, Brown dribbled twice and swished a 15-footer as the horn sounded.

The second half was a showcase between the six-foot Brown and 6-foot-1 inch Nedwick. Brown was 9-of-12 from the floor over the final 20 minutes, scoring more than half of his team's points, and finishing with a game-high 30 points. Nedwick scored Eastern's last 11 points -- most of them on drives to the basket off feeds from his teammates. Held scoreless from the floor and to just one point in the first half, Eastern's leading scorer erupted for 15 of Eastern's 33 second-half points. He was 7-of-11 from the floor over the final 20 minutes.

Wesleyan had an opportunity to go up by three points but missed missed two free throws with 19 seconds left. Senior forward **Bill Roveto (South Windsor)** rebounded the second miss and later found Nedwick alone under the basket for a layup to put the Warriors up, 65-64 with eight seconds left. Looking for the winning points, the Cardinals drove the length of the floor, but Nedwick swatted Brown's shot behind the backboard with three seconds left. Wesleyan called a timeout to set up what proved to be the game-winning basket by Brown.

Brown's jumper with 4:39 left lifted the visitors into Wesleyan's largest lead, 58-54, but Nedwick took control for the Warriors the rest of the way. He nailed his only three-point basket following offensive rebounds by junior guard **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** and senior center **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** to cut the Wesleyan lead to one, 58-57, with just under four minutes left. After the Cards missed a jumper and a free throw, Kohn came up with a steal and fed Nedwick to push the hosts into a one-point, 59-58 lead with 2:48 left. Wesleyan re-gained the lead on sophomore forward Mike Callaghan's inside bucket on its next trip down the floor and maintained the upper hand until Nedwick's go-ahead basket with eight seconds left.

Wesleyan, which has beaten the Warriors the last two times the clubs have met, shot 61.3 percent from the floor in a 43-point second half that helped the visitors back from a nine-point halftime deficit.

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Behind 11 points and five rebounds from Sawyer, the Warriors built a 16-point lead with three minutes left in the first half. Wesleyan got back into the game by scoring the final seven points of the first half to cut the gap to single digits by the break. Over those final three minutes, the Warriors turned the ball over three times and missed three shots on six possessions. Brown and Mendell combined for all seven of their teams points in that stretch, the final three coming on free throws.

Mendell finished with 11 points in the game, all but two coming in the first half. Sawyer followed Nedwick with 13 points and seven rebounds. Kohn added seven rebounds. Roveto had five points, three rebounds and two assists without a turnover in 15 second-half minutes.

The teams combined to turn the ball over only 16 times in a game which featured ten lead changes and three ties. The Warriors held a +9 advantage on the boards, outscoring the Cards by 12 on second-chance opportunities.

Eastern returns to Little East Conference action Saturday, hosting Massachusetts Boston at 3 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011

SECOND HALF LIFTS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL OVER UMB
Warriors shoot 57 percent in second half, keep pace in Little East with 75-63 victory

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Junior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** scored 14 of his game-high 22 points in the second half and sophomore center **Chris Robitaille (Canton)** came off the bench to equal his career high of ten rebounds as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team kept pace in the Little East Conference with a 75-63 victory over the University of Massachusetts Boston Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Leading by only two at halftime, Eastern (14-6, 7-3 little east) outscored UMass (8-13, 2-8 little east) by ten in the second half, shooting 56.7 percent over the final 20 minutes from the floor and holding UMass to 33.3 percent shooting.

By sweeping UMass in the regular-season series, Eastern maintains a share of second place in the conference, two games behind leader Western Connecticut. The Warriors share second place with defending conference champion Rhode Island College, while Keene State fell into fourth place following a 78-69 home loss to RIC. The top two teams in the final standings earn a first-round tournament bye, with the third and fourth -place finishers hosting a first-round game.

A winner of seven of its last eight against UMass, Eastern never trailed in the second half, finally breaking free from a tight game with a burst of nine straight points in a span of less than three minutes to pull away to an 11-point, 52-41 advantage seven minutes into the second half. Nedwick began the run with a three-point field goal and Robitaille, senior forward **Bill Roveto (South Windsor)** and junior guard **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** combined for the other six points. Roveto also contributed a steal and an offensive rebound which set up a pair of his own free throws. The Beacons turned the ball over three times in that critical stretch and each cost the visitors points.

The Warriors played catch-up throughout the first half, trailing by nine eight minutes into the game on a three-pointer by junior guard Isaac Jenkins (Pordenone, Italy). Down by six with just under four minutes to go in the first half, the Warriors re-gained the momentum by scoring eight points in a row to move out to their first lead, 31-29, with 1:20 left in the first half. Senior center **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** scored four of his eight first-half points on consecutive trips down the floor to tie the game, and sophomore point guard **Joe Ives (Avon)** converted his only basket of the half off a steal by freshman guard **Brian Salzillo (North Haven)** and pass from Sawyer.

In addition to Robitaille's ten rebounds (and two blocks), the Warriors got valuable off-the-bench support from sophomore guard **Mike Garrow (Terryville)**, junior forward **Hamilton Levy (Woodbury)** and freshman point guard **Justin Nunez (Hartford)**. Garrow had eight points and three rebounds in 13 minutes and Levy four points and four rebounds in 12 minutes. In a career-high 23 minutes in relief of Ives, Nunez played tight defense, grabbed three rebounds and turned the ball over only once. **(more)**

Sawyer was 8-of-12 from the floor for Eastern in the game and had 16 points and Nedwick, who also handed out five assists, moved to within 12 points of 1,000 in his three-year career. He entered the game ranked third in the LEC with an 18.4 scoring average.

A loser of three straight, UMass was led by Jenkins' 13 points, with freshman guard Paul Anderson (Cambridge, MA) adding 12 points, freshman center Mbara Cisse (Miami, FL) 11, and sophomore guard Michael Mitchell (Boston) ten points and six assists. Ranked second in the LEC in rebounding to Kohn, senior forward Pat Joseph (Queens, NY) matched Robitaille with ten rebounds.

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

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL GAINS KEY LITTLE EAST VICTORY

Nick Nedwick scores 1,000th career point en route to game-high 28 points in 76-66 win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Junior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** scored 12 first-half points to reach 1,000 in his career and finished with a game-high 28 points to power the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 76-66 Little East Conference victory over Keene state College Tuesday evening at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium and a sweep of the regular-season series.

A 6-foot-1 inch guard, Nedwick scored his 1,000th point with a jumper from the left side with 2:26 left in the first half that gave Eastern (15-6, 8-3 little east) a 25-22 lead. The Warriors led by 20 on two free throws by senior center **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** with 8:45 left in the game and withstood a Keene State (14-8, 6-5 little east) rush the rest of the way that cut the gap to five, 68-63, with 1:29 left.

After Keene junior forward Derek D'Amours (Feeding Hills, MA) missed the third of three free throws that would have cut another point off the Eastern lead, the Warriors answered with eight straight points -- four on free throws by sophomore point guard **Joe Ives (Avon)**, a steal and layup by Nedwick and inside bucket from senior forward **Bill Roveto (South Windsor)** off a feed from Nedwick that made it 76-63 with 49 seconds left.

Eastern's win, coupled with Rhode Island College's 86-75 win at conference-leader Western Connecticut, keeps the Warriors sharing second place with Rhode Island and both clubs move to within a game of Western. Eastern opened up a two-game lead over Keene State and UMass Dartmouth, which share fourth place.

The top two teams in the final conference standings gain first-round byes in the tournament, which gets underway two weeks from today. The No. 3 and No. 4 seeds host the No. 6 and No. 5 seed, respectively, in first-round games.

Nedwick and Sawyer combined for 30 of Eastern's 49 points in the second half, canning 11 of 19 shots from the floor. In the game, Nedwick was 10-of-16 from the floor (4-of-5 from three-point range) and Sawyer 8-of-12. Sawyer followed Nedwick with 20 points, the pair combining for 63 percent of the team's total.

Keene, ranked second in the conference by averaging 86.2 points per game, was limited to only 40 points through the first 32 minutes and trailed by 20, 60-40, with just under eight minutes left. However, the Owls chopped six quick points off the Eastern lead in 90 seconds and later used a

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13-3 run to make it a five-point game, 68-65, with 90 seconds left. Beginning with Sawyer's two free throws with nine minutes left, the Warriors were 12-of-12 from the stripe the rest of the way. Sawyer and Ives were both 4-of-4, and junior forward **Hamilton Levy (Woodbury)** and freshman point guard **Justin Nunez (Hartford)** both converted two.

In 16 minutes, Levy came off the bench to hand out five assists and grab four rebounds. Conference rebounding leader **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** led the Warriors with seven rebounds, Sawyer grabbing six, and Nedwick and sophomore guard Mike Garrow (Terryville) each bringing down five.

Despite facing a team with six players standing at least 6-feet-6 inches tall, Eastern equaled the Owls on the boards with 39 each.

D'Amours was Keene's only player in double figures, coming off the bench for 19 points in 20 minutes, Ranked third in the LEC in free-throw percentage, Keene missed nine of 22 tries, connecting on only 11 of 18 over the final 18 minutes.

Ranked second in the conference with an 18.6 scoring average, Nedwick now has 1,016 points in 77 career games for a 13.2 average. Nedwick, whose career high of 36 points came as a sophomore in a win against Keene, scored 54 points on 64.5 shooting from the floor (7-of-11 from three-point range) with seven assists, six rebounds and five steals in two wins over Keene this year.

Eastern has beaten Keene the last five times the teams have met, sweeping the seasons series each of the last two year and eliminating the Owls in the first round of last year's conference tournament.

Eastern visits Wentworth Institute of Technology Thursday at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 10, 2011

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL CAN'T RECOVER FROM SLOW START

Wentworth scores first nine points on way to 69-55 non-conference victory over Warriors

BOSTON, Mass. – A month ago, a snowstorm postponed the men's basketball game between Eastern Connecticut State University and Wentworth Institute of Technology. As it turned out, a complete cancellation of the contest would have served the Warriors better.

With Thursday's makeup date wedged in the middle of a final stretch of five straight Little East Conference games, Eastern trailed from start to finish, dropping an uninspired 69-55 non-conference decision at Tansey Gymnasium.

Wentworth (13-9) converted seven of its first eight shots from the floor, scored the first nine points of the game and forced 13 turnovers and led by double digits nearly the entire way in downing Eastern (15-7) for the first time in this four-game series. A stellar 6-2 on the road entering the game, Eastern is now 3-4 in its last seven overall, while the hosts have won five of their last six.

For the Leopards, junior guard Adam Dombrowski went 9-for-15 from the floor, en route to a game-high 20 points, while senior forward Sam Herrick chipped in with 18 points on 9-for-14. Trailing by 11 at the break, Eastern was unable to make a serious run in the second half, thanks largely to a shooting percentage under 40 percent.

The Warriors never got closer than nine in the second half. After Eastern got that close for the second time, Wentworth answered with a decisive 8-2 run – capped by a Dombrowski trifecta – that pushed the Leopards' lead to 15, 45-30, seven minutes into the half. Wentworth expanded the lead to as many as 19 twice later in the half.

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Poor free throw shooting accounted in some measure to Eastern's 11-point first-half deficit, and continued lack of success at the stripe in the second half prevented the Warriors from clipping substantial points off the Wentworth lead. Eight times after the break, the Warriors went to the line with an opportunity to take two shots. They failed to connect on two free threes every time.

While Eastern shot 50 percent in the first half, its 13 turnovers translated into 13 more Wentworth shots. The Leopards turned those miscues into 19 points, a +12 scoring advantage off turnovers. Eastern's final point total was its lowest this season in any game with the exception of its two losses to Rhode Island College.

Junior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** led the Warriors with 13 points, but four additional starters accounted for a total of only 18.

Eastern visits Massachusetts Dartmouth Saturday at 3 p.m. in a Little East Conference game. A win gives the Warriors no worse than a first-round conference tournament home game a week from Tuesday.

Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011

WITH WIN, EASTERN M-BASKETBALL GAINS SHARE OF LITTLE EAST LEAD
Warriors complete regular-season sweep of UMD, force three-way tie for first place in LEC

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men’s basketball team completed a regular-season Little East Conference sweep of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, moving into share of first place with a 79-76 victory Saturday afternoon at the Tripp Athletic Center.

Eastern’s (16-7, 9-3 little east) win, coupled with conference leader Western Connecticut’s 82-78 loss to host Keene State College, forges a three-way tie for first place between the Warriors, Western and Rhode Island College, and just as importantly, guarantees Eastern a first-round LEC tournament bye or at worst, a first-round tournament home game. With two regular-season games remaining, Eastern visits Western Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Eastern had four players in double figures in the game. Junior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** netted a team-high 20 points with six rebounds and six assists. Senior center **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** scored 18 points on 8-of-11 shooting, with five rebounds. Junior guard **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** added 16 points while sophomore center **Chris Robitaille (Canton)** registered 13 points and five rebounds off the bench. Eastern shot 52.5 percent (31-of-59) from the floor, including 44.4 percent (4-of-9) from behind the three-point arc and 56.5 percent (13-of-23) from the free throw stripe.

UMass Dartmouth (10-13, 6-6 little east) was led offensively by senior forward Brandon Stephens with a game-high 21 points, shooting 7-of-15 from the floor and 3-of-5 from three-point range. Junior guards Paul Rose and Alex Klepadlo chipped in 13 points and Rose also had a game-high eight assists. Junior center Justin Pulver scored ten points with four rebounds in the loss. UMD shot 51.7 percent (30-of-58) from the field, including 35 percent (7-of-20) from three-point range and 69.2 percent (9-of-13) from the free-throw line.

With 15:51 to play in the first half, Eastern jumped out to a 12-2 lead behind three-pointers by Nedwick and sophomore guard **Joe Ives (Avon)**. The Corsairs executed a 19-10 run over the next eight minutes and a layup by freshman center Kadeem Wint gave UMD its first lead, 23-22, with 7:22 remaining in the half. The Warriors jumped back ahead with an 8-0 run, fueled by five points from Nedwick. The Corsairs outscored the Warriors 12-5 to close out the second half, making the score 36-35 ECSU at the break.

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The Corsairs opened the second half on a 9-3 run, to regain a 44-39 lead with 17:15 to play. A layup by Sawyer put the Warriors back up, 45-44, but Stephens answered with a three-pointer on the subsequent Corsair possession, taking back a 47-45 advantage. The teams played back-and-forth action over the next eight minutes and another three-pointer by Stephens tied the game at 61-61 with 7:09 on the clock. The final eight minutes featured five ties and the highest lead was only five points.. The teams jockeyed for the lead on the free throw line, with the lead changing hands five times in a two-minute span. With 1:07 on the clock, Sawyer converted a layup, putting Eastern Connecticut up 75-74. Two free throws pushed the Warrior lead to 77-74. On their final possession, the Corsairs tried to get an open three-point look but the Warriors prevented that, forcing the Corsairs to settle for a layup by Paul Rose. On the ensuing inbound pass, Nedwick caught a long pass in Corsair territory and streaked for an uncontested layup, securing the victory.

Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2011

Men's Basketball

Western Conn. 75, Eastern Conn. 71

DANBURY, Conn. – Quiet in the first half, Little East Conference scoring leader DaQuan Brooks made lots of noise in the second, scoring 11 of his team's final 12 points to carry Western Connecticut State University to a come-from-behind 75-71 victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday night at Feldman Arena.

By losing, Eastern (16-8, 9-4 little east) falls from a share of first place into third place in the conference with one game remaining and will unofficially be seeded third and host a first-round conference tournament game Tuesday at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

While the Warriors can no longer entertain hopes of the tournament's No. 1 seed or an outright regular-season title, they can still finish with a share of first place for the first time in 25 seasons of LEC competition. To do this, Eastern must defeat visiting University of Southern Maine Saturday and hope that both Western loses at UMass Boston and Rhode Island College is beaten at Plymouth State. Rhode Island retained a share of the top spot in the conference Tuesday by routing visiting UMass Dartmouth, 75-54.

Against Western (20-4, 10-3 little east), Eastern led by 14 points 12 minutes into the game, by five at the break and by eight with seven minutes left. The Colonials surged into their first lead since the opening minutes of the game, 66-64, on Brooks' three-point field goal with 2:15 left. The three-pointer ignited Brooks, who scored 11 straight Western points from that point on until teammate Wilburt Jarrett sealed the verdict by sinking the back end of a two-shot foul with 10.1 seconds left.

Brooks scored those 11 points on consecutive three-pointers, a drive from the left side of the basket, and three free throws. With Eastern leading by one, Brooks put his team up for good with 1:29 left, 69-67, with a three-pointer that resulted after the Colonials maintained possession with two consecutive offensive rebounds.

The conference scoring leader with a 20-point average, Brooks was not a factor in the first half, thanks largely to the defense of Eastern junior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)**, who also doubles as the LEC's second-leading scorer. Last year's LEC Defensive Playrr-of-the-Year, Nedwick didn't allow Brooks to score in the first half. Brooks missed all six of his field goals and needed two free throws to avoid being completely shut out over the first 20 minutes.

The 5-foot-9 inch Brooks made his presence felt immediately in the second half, however, scoring the first points of the half following an Eastern turnover on the way to 25 second-half points. He was 7-for-14 from the floor and 8-of-10 from the stripe over the final 20 minutes.

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Eastern's pressure defense limited Western to just 12 points in the first 12 minutes of the game as the Warriors surged to a 14-point, 26-12 lead. Getting eight points from senior forward **Bill Roveto (South Windsor)**, the Warriors nailed ten of their first 19 shots and amassed that 14-point lead on a drive from the left side by sophomore guard **Mike Garrow (Terryville)** off a rebound by junior guard **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** and pass from freshman guard **Justin Nunez (Hartford)**.

The remainder of the half belonged to the hosts, however, who were able to chop eight points off that lead by the break by scoring seven of the final nine points.

In the second half, Western turned the ball over only three times, outscoring Eastern by six off turnovers and by eight on second-chance opportunities. In the final four minutes, Western scored seven points as a result of offensive rebounds.

Nedwick led Eastern with 15 points and Roveto grabbed a season-high ten rebounds to go along with eight points. Senior center **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** added 12 points and six rebounds. Garrow converted nine of ten free throws and finished with ten points, and seven rebounds and Kohn contributed nine points and eight rebounds.

Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL POSTS RECORD-SETTING LEC WIN

In regular-season finale, Warriors win ten conference games for first time, 73-69

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team concluded its winningest Little East Conference regular-season ever with its sixth straight win over the University of Southern Maine, a 73-69 decision Saturday afternoon in the regular-season finale for both teams at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern (17-8, 10-4 little east) never trailed after the first three minutes but needed a seven-point run to break from a 57-57 tie with seven minutes left. Junior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** – the conference's second-leading scorer -- gave the Warriors the lead for good, 60-57 when he converted an conventional three-point play, junior guard **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** followed with two free throws after senior center **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** rebounded a missed USM shot, and sophomore guard **Joe Ives (Avon)** connected on a jumper to make it 64-57 with just over four minutes left.

Seeded No. 3 in the six-team LEC tournament, Eastern hosts sixth-seeded Plymouth State University Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. The Panthers dropped a 97-67 decision to visiting Rhode Island College Saturday/Southern Maine (10-15, 2-12 little east) shares seventh place in the final standings with Massachusetts Boston and fails to qualify for the LEC tournament.

The ten conference regular-season win+s are the most ever for the Warriors, breaking the nine they totaled a year ago. The Warriors conclude the regular season in sole possession of third place, one game behind regular-season co-champions Rhode Island College and Western Connecticut State University. All four of the Warriors LEC losses this year came against the co-champions.

Making his first career start on Seniors' Day, senior forward **Jordan Levy (Woodbury)** had a career-high eight points – six coming in the paint in the first five minutes -- and added five rebounds and three steals in 13 total minutes. Senior forward **Bill Roveto (South Windsor)** chipped in a season-high 11 points in the final regular-season home game of his career. The senior trio of Roveto, Levy and Sawyer sank 16 of their 23 field goal tries.

Sawyer was 7-for-11 from the floor on the way to a team-high 16 points and LEC rebounding leader Kohn led all players in the game with 11 rebounds. Nedwick had 15 points, six rebounds and five assists and combined with Kohn to convert 11 of 12 free throws.

Six Eastern players grabbed at least five rebounds to power the Warriors to a +20 advantage on the boards which produced a +12 scoring advantage on second-chance points.

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Junior forward Otis Smith -- Southern Maine's season scoring leader -- scored 16 points but fouled out just seven minutes into the second half and his team trailing by five, 46-41. Junior guard Chris Pagentine of USM led all players in the game with 17 points and junior forward Jeremy Jackson added 14 points.

The Warriors were 17-of-22 from the foul line in the game, posting their second-best percentage (77.3) this season. Eastern shot 59.3 percent in the second half from the floor, but was nearly matched by Southern Maine (52.9).

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL WITHSTANDS REGIS COLLEGE BID
Top-seeded Warriors outscored No. 8 Pride 12-2 over final five minutes to advance in ECAC

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Sophomore **Chris Robitaille (Canton)** sank two free throws with five minutes left to spark a game-ending 12-2 run that lifted the top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 66-58 victory over No. 8 Regis College in the opening round of the 2011 ECAC New England Division III Tournament at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Robitaille's first free throw created the 11th tie of the game and his second created the 18th and final lead change as Eastern (20-9) moved into the tournament semifinals against fourth-seeded Albertus Magnus College (18-10) Saturday at 5 p.m. at Geissler Gym. In Saturday's second semifinal at Geissler Gym, sixth-seeded Brandeis University (17-9) faces seventh-seeded Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts at 7 p.m.

Eastern will host the Sunday championship game at 1 p.m. regardless of the outcome of Saturday's semifinals.

After going 17 years between 20-win seasons, Wednesday's victory gives the Warriors their second consecutive 20-win season under head coach **Bill Geitner** – one shy of the program season record set in 1969/70. The Warriors carried 20 wins into last year's ECAC title game, where they were beaten by Elms College, and finished 20-10.

Albertus Magnus went two overtimes to deny fifth-seeded Wentworth Institute of Technology, 96-95. Brandeis and MCLA upset higher seeds on the road, the Judges upending third-seeded Keene State College 84-77, and MCLA edging No. 2 Anna Maria College, 80-76.

In similar fashion to last year's ECAC tournament opening win over Wentworth, Eastern was challenged by the tournament's lowest seed. Eastern never trailed by more than two points but Regis (15-12) erased a nine-point deficit eight minutes into the game.

After missing six of their first 14 free throws in the game, the Warriors sank several clutch ones down the stretch. Robitaille made it 56-55 with a pair with five minutes left after being fouled rebounding a missed three-pointer, and sophomore guard Joe Ives (Avon) virtually put the game away with two more that made it 65-58 with 14 seconds left. In between, junior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** hit a jumper, and after missing a free throw that would have made it a three-point play, he canned his third three-pointer of the night that pushed the lead to six, 61-56, with three minutes left.

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Nedwick, ranked 16th all-time with 1,113 career points, scored 13 of his game-high 21 points in the second half to help extend Eastern's season at least one more game. Nedwick came up with one of the biggest defensive plays of the game when he stole the ball near the baseline and rushed the length of the floor for a layup (he was fouled on the play but missed the free throw) to give Eastern a three-point, 58-55 lead with 35.6 seconds left. He then tossed in his three-point after junior guard **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** rebounded a Regis miss to make it a six-point Eastern lead with three minutes left.

Kohn (amassed his third double-double in the last four games and 11th this season with 18 points and a game-high 12 rebounds. Kohn had 13 points and seven rebounds in the first half. He scored six points and senior forward **Bill Roveto (South Windsor)** grabbed all four of his rebounds in the first seven minutes to spark the Warriors to an early nine-point lead.

Regis scored the final five points of the first half, making it a two-point margin at halftime when freshman guard Ryan Chambers connected on a three-point field goal as time expired. Chambers shot his team into its first lead since the opening minutes of the game, 32-31, in the opening minutes of the second half with another three-pointer.

Each team turned the ball over only eight times but missed a total of 12 of 32 free throws. After clicking on four of nine three-pointers in the first half, Regis missed nine of 11 in the second half in its bid to advance in the tournament.

Freshman center Robert Edwards scored a team-high 20 points on 10-of-13 shooting from the floor. Senior guard Darrin Kelly added 12 points (5-of-10 from the floor) and a team-high eight rebounds, and Chambers netted ten points, all nine of his points from the floor coming on three-pointers.

#18-10/11

Monday, Feb. 28, 2011

EASTERN MEN'S BASKETBALL REPEATS AS TOP ECAC SEED

Warriors host first-time opponent Regis in first round game Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team has been selected as the top seed in the 2011 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) New England Division III Tournament for the second straight year and will host a first-round game Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern (19-9) meets eighth-seeded Regis College (15-11) for the first time ever in one of four tournament first-round games scheduled for Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Eastern will remain at home as long as it is alive in the tournament and with a first-round win would host the tournament semifinals and the final Sunday at 1 p.m. Eastern would play the first of two semifinal-round games Saturday at 5 p.m.

The ECAC bid is the sixth for the Warriors since 1981. Eastern is 3-5 in five previous ECAC appearances, 3-2 at Geissler Gym. As last year's No. 1 seed in its first post-season appearance since 2000, the Warriors defeated Wentworth Institute of Technology and Becker College before losing a 94-71 decision to No. 2 seed Elms College in the championship game. Eastern was the home team throughout last year's tournament.

Under ninth-year head coach **Bill Geitner**, the Warriors reached the championship game of the Little East Conference tournament Saturday for the first time since winning the 2000 crown. After routing nationally-ranked and NCAA qualifier Western Connecticut State University, 94-70, in Friday's semifinals, the third-seeded Warriors lost by a 62-49 score to top-seeded Rhode Island College.

If it wins its first ECAC championship this year, Eastern would establish the most wins in a season in the program's 69-year history.

Eastern's starting lineup is comprised of senior post players **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** and **Bill Roveto (South Windsor)**, junior wings **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** and **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** and sophomore point guard **Joe Ives (Avon)**. Nedwick averages a team-leading 17.8 points and also 3.0 rebounds, 3.2 assists and 1.7 steals and has totaled a team-high 46 three-pointfield goals. The conference's leading rebounder for the second straight year, Kohn averages 10.9 points and 8.9 rebounds, Sawyer 10.6 points and 4.6 rebounds with a 53.8 shooting percentage, Ives 6.0 points and 2.1 assists and Roveto 3.7 points, 3.6 rebounds and an 83.8 free throw percentage. Junior forward **Hamilton Levy (Woodbury)** and sophomore guard **Mike Garrow (Terryville)** are two of the first players off the bench.

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As only a fourth-year program (the school went co-ed in 2007), Regis is competing in its first post-season tournament after qualifying for its first Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC) tournament last week. The Pride lost in the opening round of the tournament to eventual champion and NCAA qualifier Salve Regina University, 62-58, last Tuesday.

Nine players on the 11-player Regis squad are either seniors or freshmen. Senior guard Derrick Neal averages a team-best 13.5 points per game, with senior forward Phil Alibrandi averaging 10.5 points and a team-leading 5.8 rebounds. Freshman center Robert Edwards averages 8.3 points and 4.8 rebounds and is shooting just under 50 percent from the floor. Freshman guard Ryan Chambers averages 8.6 points and is shooting 88 percent from the foul line.

Against three common opponents, Eastern was 2-3 and Regis 0-3. The Warriors defeated Trinity College, won one of three against Western Connecticut and lost to Wentworth.

Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011

IVES HELPS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL COMPLETE COMEBACK
In first round of Little East tournament, Warriors overcome 13-point deficit, 59-58

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Sophomore guard **Joe Ives (Avon)** scored a career-high 17 points -- sinking four of the team's season-tying eight three-point field goals -- as the third-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team erased a 13-point second-half deficit for a 59-58 first-round Little East Conference victory over sixth-seeded Plymouth State University Tuesday evening at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

With its 11th home win in 15 games, Eastern (18-8) advances to the tournament semifinals Friday at 8 p.m. For the second straight year, Eastern will face Western Connecticut State University in the tournament semifinals at Rhode Island College. Second-seeded Western and top-seeded and defending champion Rhode Island College drew first-round byes.

Owning two regular-season victories over Plymouth (11-14) this year, Eastern had to erase a 13-point deficit early in the second half to post a first-round tournament home game win for the second straight season.

Neither team scored in the game again after junior forward **Hamilton Levy (Woodbury)** swished the second of a two-shot foul (his only point of the game) to give Eastern a 59-58 lead with 2:03 left. The Warriors came up with two key defensive plays in the final 73 seconds to defeat Plymouth in the LEC tournament after losing the last three post-season meetings with the Panthers.

After his free throw, Levy then drew a charging foul on Plymouth senior guard Ryan Lambert with 1:13 left, and junior guard **Jamie Kohn (Columbia)** later preserved the victory when he stepped in front of a Plymouth player and stole a pass near the baseline as time expired.

Leading by a point with possession of the ball in the final 30 seconds, Eastern missed a jump shot that was rebounded by Plymouth senior center Bill Stowell with 12 seconds left. Plymouth pushed the ball over half court before calling time out with 2.7 seconds left. The Panthers inbounded the ball at midcourt, but Kohn picked off a pass in front of the Plymouth bench as time ran out.

Plymouth capitalized on a number of easy baskets to build a seven-point, 32-25 lead at halftime, and Stowell capped a 10-4 run in the opening minutes of the second half that sent the Panthers to a 13-point 42-29 lead.

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Ives and junior guard **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** then teamed for three consecutive three-point field goals that quickly put the Warriors back in contention. Ives nailed the first two off passes from Nedwick (completing a four-point play on the second one when he was fouled), and Nedwick made it a three-point game (42-39) five minutes into the half on a pass from Ives.

Eastern trailed by five with just under five minutes left, but Nedwick banged a long three-pointer from the left side on a pass from Levy, and Kohn later sank two free throws and a jumper to give Eastern a one-point, 58-57 lead with 2:36 left.

After hitting 54 percent of its shots in the first half, Plymouth managed only 36 percent in the second half.

Ives had five rebounds and three assists and just one turnover in 36 minutes to go along with his game and career-high 17 points. Kohn recorded his ninth double-double of the season with 11 points and a game-high 12 rebounds. The Warriors got strong play off the bench from sophomore guard **Mike Garrow (Terryville)** and sophomore center **Chris Robitaille (Canton)**. Garrow had six points and six rebounds in 17 minutes and Robitaille five points and five rebounds in 15 minutes.

Lambert and senior guard Matt Feehan each had 15 points for Plymouth, and senior forward Tom Dowd had eight points and eight rebounds.

Sunday, March 6, 2011

EASTERN DROPS 65-50 DECISION IN ECAC M-BASKETBALL TITLE GAME
Top-seeded Warriors can't recover after falling behind in opening minutes to Brandeis

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The sixth-seeded Brandeis University men's basketball team set the tempo early by scoring ten of the game's first 12 points and went on to a 65-50 victory over top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University in the championship game of the 2011 ECAC New England Tournament Sunday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

After losing three starters from a team which advanced to the Sweet 16 of last year's NCAA tournament, Brandeis (19-9) completed a three-game road sweep in the eight-team ECAC tournament to claim its third ECAC title in five tournament appearances since 1974. Eastern (21-10) lost in the ECAC final for the second straight season as the top seed.

A winner of its previous six straight home game, Eastern was held to 38.1 percent shooting from the floor in the first half and missed six of 11 free throws, and trailed by ten, 32-22, at the break. Eastern was never able to cut the deficit to single figures after a three-pointer by sophomore guard Anthony Trapasso extended the Brandeis lead to 11 early in the second half.

Eastern was unable to capitalize when 6-foot-7 freshman center Youri Dascy got into early foul trouble which limited him to just nine minutes. Dascy was his team's leading scorer and rebounder in the Judges' first two tournament victories (44 points and 16 rebounds), but was saddled with his second personal foul with nine minutes left in the first half. Dascy went to the bench after being whistled with his third foul four minutes into the second half and his team leading by 11. Brandeis was able to add three points to its lead during Dascy's six-minute exile, however. Dascy lasted just five seconds after returning to the floor with 9:50 left before returning to the bench after being slapped with his fourth foul.

Eastern made several modest runs in the second half, but each time, a three-pointer by Trapasso curtailed the Warriors' moment. Trapasso's first came early in the second half that restored Brandeis' 11-point lead, and the second followed a skip pass that made it 54-41 with seven minutes left. Trapasso sank three of four three-pointers and freshman guard Derek Retos came off the bench to convert two of three. The Judges were 7-of-15 from beyond the arc in the game, and also cashed in 18 of 24 free throws.

Eastern sophomore guard **Mike Garrow (Terryville)** provided the Warriors with a spark when he contributed nine of his team-high 11 points and four of his five rebounds in the second half. Garrow's two free throws helped Eastern cut four points off the Brandeis lead and make it a ten-point game before Trapasso's three-pointer with seven minutes left restored the lead to 13 points.

Brandeis freshman guard Ben Bartoldus was selected as the tournament's Most Outstanding Player. In a championship game dominated by defense, Bartoldus had eight points and four rebounds in 29 minutes and was mainly responsible for limiting Eastern junior guard and leading scorer **Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY)** to just nine points. The team's leading scorer with an 18 point average, Nedwick was 3-of-9 from the floor with four assists and three steals. He was held under ten points for only the third time this year (he scored nine points in each of those three games).

In his team's three tournament wins, Bartoldus had 34 points, nine rebounds and five assists. He was 13-of-19 from the floor and 5-of-8 from three-point range.

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Trapasso led Brandeis with 12 points and Retos added ten. Fifteen of their points came on five three-point field goals. Point guard Tyrone Hughes had eight points and four assists for the Judges.

The Warriors shot just 39.1 percent from the floor in the game and were outrebounded by six.

Playing in the final games of their careers, Eastern senior co-captains **Broderick Sawyer (Norwalk)** and **Bill Roveto (South Windsor)** were removed from the contest with 40 seconds left. Sawyer was limited to 14 minutes after picking up his third personal foul three minutes into the second half. He had four points and three rebounds. Roveto played all but the final 40 seconds, totaling six points and three rebounds and drawing a charge. Nedwick completed the season with a team-leading 555 points -- -- third most in a season in the last 38 years -- needing 422 points to become the program's all-time leading scorer.

Despite a roster of 13 freshmen and sophomores, Brandeis began the season with 11 straight wins but had lost six of its last nine prior to the ECAC tournament.

Eastern tied the program record with 21 victories this year and have compiled a record of 41-20 over the last two seasons.