

Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2005

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL DOWNS UMASS DARTMOUTH ON LATE BUCKET
Michael Stallings' pass finds Jeroy Smith underneath for winning points with 2.0 left

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Junior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)** found senior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** under the basket for the game-winning layup with 2.0 seconds left that lifted the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 68-67 Little East Conference victory over the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Tuesday evening at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

After UMass Dartmouth (6-6, 1-3 little east) had taken its first lead of the second half, Eastern (4-7, 1-3 little east) called time out with 11.1 seconds left, then drove the length of the court for the winning basket. Smith in-bounded the ball to Stallings, who dribbled it the length of the floor. As he slashed down the right side of the lane with time winding down, Stallings unleashed a pass which found Smith alone on the left side of the basket for the game-winning layup. After UMass took two timeouts and inbounded the ball at half court with 1.5 seconds left, sophomore Paul Pawloski's three-point attempt from the top of the key skimmed harmlessly off the left side of the rim as time expired.

For the third straight home game against the Corsairs, Eastern watched UMass erase a late double-digit lead. The Warriors, who snapped an overall six-game losing streak with its first conference win, led by 12 points, 64-52 with four minutes left and by nine, 66-57 with just over three minutes left. UMass scored ten straight points, surging to a 67-66 lead when junior guard Will Mahoney found Britto for a driving basket off a set play with 40 seconds left. Over the next 30 seconds, UMass missed two one-and-one free throw opportunities and Eastern failed on one to set the stage for Smith's winning hoop.

With UMass trailing and pressing in the final minutes, Britto and senior Josh Adamec had both forced Eastern turnovers to spark the late comeback, but UMass missed the front end of those one-and-one free throw opportunities four seconds apart that spoiled its chance to put the game away. UMass was whistled for a violation on the second one-and-one miss with 11.1 seconds left that provided Eastern with its final possession.

Led by Stallings, Eastern's bench outscored UMass Dartmouth's bench by ten points. Stallings, who leads the team in scoring this year despite having started only one game, came off the bench to score a game-high 19 points. Senior forward **Mike Bartunek (DURHAM)** added nine points off the bench. Smith had 17 points (7-for-9 from the floor) and eight rebounds. Making his second straight start, first-year sophomore forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** exceeded his previous six-game collegiate total of eight rebounds with a game-high 11 to go along with six points and two blocked shots.

UMass senior forward Chris Lapriore, a first-team all-conference pick last year, had 19 points (9-for-11 from the floor) and seven rebounds, Britto scoring 15 points and grabbing five rebounds and freshman guard Amilton Tavares adding ten points in nine minutes off the bench.

The Warriors outscored UMass by 12 points from three-point range. Stallings and Bartunek evenly split six of the team's seven three-pointers. Eastern hit half of its 14 attempts, UMass missing 13 of 16 tries from that range.

The last four meetings between these teams have been decided by a total of five points. Eastern downed the Corsairs by a total of three points in last year's two regular-season meetings but UMass bounced back to eliminate Eastern, 62-61 in the first round of last year's conference tournament at Geissler Gym. In each game last year, UMass erased double-digit Eastern leads, but the Warriors were able to emerge with wins twice.

Eastern hosts Endicott College Thursday at 6 p.m.

little east conference

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2004

UMASS DARTMOUTH RALLIES PAST EASTERN M-BASKETBALL IN LEC
Corsairs erase ten-point deficit in second half to eliminate third-seeded Warriors

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The No. 6-seeded University of Massachusetts Dartmouth men's basketball team outscored No. 3 Eastern Connecticut State University 18-6 over an eight-minute span late in the game to eliminate the Warriors from the first round of the 2004 Little East Conference Tournament with a 62-61 win Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

UMass (13-13), a ten-time conference tournament champion, will face No. 2 seed Plymouth State University (22-4) in the tournament semifinals Friday night at 6 p.m. at Keene, NH. Plymouth eliminated visiting No. 7 University of Southern Maine 75-70. Top-seeded Keene State (20-5) will host fourth-seeded and two-time defending tournament champion Western Connecticut State University (16-10) at 8 p.m. in the other semifinal-round game. Keene defeated No. 8 Massachusetts Boston 82-58 and Western edged No. 5 Rhode Island College 98-94 in other first-round games Tuesday.

UMass Dartmouth, which had lost twice in the regular season to Eastern (14-12) by a total of three points, turned the ball over with a 62-61 lead with 35.9 seconds left to give Eastern an opportunity to win the game. After calling a timeout with 8.9 seconds left, Eastern inbounded to senior guard **Gordon Shepard (WATERBURY)**. Shepard drove the lane in traffic but his shot was too hard and bounded off the back of the rim. UMass senior guard Manny Monteiro snatched the rebound and tossed it over half court as time expired.

In facing UMass at home for the first time in seven conference tournament games, Eastern maintained the upper hand virtually throughout. The Warriors scored the first seven points of the game and went on to build a ten-point 52-42 lead nine minutes into the second half before the Corsairs battled back behind an 18-6 run to take their first lead of the game, 60-58 on a jumper by Monteiro with three minutes left. Trailing by two, 62-61, Eastern squandered a chance to tie the game with two minutes left by missing the first of a two-shot foul.

Leading by that one-point margin, the Corsairs missed two three-point field goals and turned the ball over with 35.9 seconds left but Eastern could not capitalize.

Freshman guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)**, who finished with double-figure rebounds for the third time in the last five game, hit a jumper to give Eastern a ten-point, 52-42 lead nine minutes into the second half. On the verge of breaking the game open, Eastern then went six minutes without scoring from the floor -- managing just four points on free throws in that span -- as UMass pulled into a 56-all tie with 5:30 left.

(more)

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Monteiro, who scored all ten of his points in the second half, and sophomore guard Devon Maiorano, hit three-point field goals less than a minute apart to help UMass trim seven points off the ten-point deficit in just two minutes.

Senior guard **Christopher Morgan (NEW BRITAIN)** had 16 points and four assists to lead Eastern. Shepard and Albon had 11 points each and Albon a game-high ten rebounds. Senior forward **Michael Kipphut (MERIDEN)** -- the team's leading scorer -- finished the game with eight points, six shy of the 1,000th in his career.

Junior forward Joseph Britto came off the bench to lead UMass with 15 points and eight rebounds, with junior forward Chris Lapriore and Maiorano adding 12 points each and Monteiro ten.

Shepard had won two Little East Conference games 11 days apart last month on last-second drives to the basket, as Eastern had won five home games this year by a total of seven points. Ten days ago, UMass Dartmouth had erased a ten-point deficit in the final five minutes but Kipphut saved Eastern by scoring an inside bucket in the final seconds in a one-point win.

Since winning the 2000 conference championship, Eastern has lost first-round games each of the past four years by a total of seven points. The Warriors have lost by one point each of the past three years, losing by an identical 62-61 score at Keene State a year ago.

Under first-year head coach **Bill Geitner** last year, Eastern finished 7-19, 5-9 in the conference. Picked to finish sixth this year in the coaches' pre-season poll, Eastern shared third place in the final conference standings with an 8-6 record.

The Warriors await a possible bid to the ECAC New England Division III Tournament when invitations are extended Monday.

little east conference

Saturday, Feb. 21, 2004

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL EMERGES WITH 112-108 TRIPLE-OVERTIME WIN
Warriors force three OTs with tying points of session, finally win on Kipphut hoop

BOSTON, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team forced three overtime sessions before scoring three inside baskets and sinking three free throws in the third OT period to record a 112-108 Little East Conference win over the University of Massachusetts Boston Saturday in the regular-season finale for both teams at the Clark Athletic Center.

With the win -- its tenth in its last 15 games -- Eastern (14-11, 8-6 little east) is assured of hosting a first-round conference tournament home game for the first time in four years. The Warriors finish in a two-way tie for third place with Western Connecticut State University. A coin flip Sunday will determine the third and fourth tournament seeds. If it wins the toss, Eastern will be seeded third and will host No. 6 seed Massachusetts Dartmouth. If it loses the coin flip, it will host No. 5 seed Rhode Island College. Game time Tuesday is 7:30 p.m. The second-seeded Eastern women will host seventh-seeded Plymouth State University at 5:30 p.m. in a first-round game.

The men's tournament semifinals and final are scheduled next Friday and Saturday at the site of the highest remaining seed. Regular-season champion Keene State is the regular-season champion and No. 1 seed, Plymouth State the No. 2 seed.

Eastern, which tied for fifth place last year with a 5-9 conference record, equals its most regular-season conference wins in 18 years of play year after sweeping the regular-season series from UMass Boston (5-20, 1-13 little east).

Senior forward **Michael Kipphut's (MERIDEN)** three-point play -- a layup and free throw -- with 24 seconds left in regulation tied the game and UMass missed two tries in the closing seconds to force the first overtime. Freshman guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** saved the day at the end of the first overtime when he stole the ball to set the stage for senior guard **Christopher Morgan's (NEW BRITAIN)** game-tying free throw with one second left to force the second overtime; Kipphut forced the final overtime when he scored inside on a pass from Morgan with 46 seconds left in the second overtime; and the Warriors emerged with the win by outscoring the Beacons 9-5 over the final five-minutes OT session. Kipphut scored inside on another pass from Morgan to give Eastern the lead for good, 107-106 two minutes into the third session and Morgan converted three of four free throws in the final 18 seconds to ice the win.

Kipphut had 27 points -- equalling his highest scoring total since a season-opening 31 -- and added a career-high 15 rebounds in 49 minutes. Albon matched Kipphut with career-highs of 27 points and career-high 11 rebounds. Senior guard **Gordon Shepard (WATERBURY)** added 16 points in 51

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minutes, junior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** adding 15 points and a career-high nine assists in 50 minutes and Morgan ten points and five assists off the bench. Kipphut moved to within 14 points of becoming the 21st 1,000-point scorer in the program's 64-year history.

Junior guard Roger Perry led the Beacons with 24 points, ten rebounds and seven assists, junior forward Eddie Ramos adding 17 points and a team-high 13 rebounds.

The Warriors outrebounded the Beacons 58-46 and outscored them by 11 from the free throw line.

Under second-year head coach **Bill Geitner**, Eastern hosts its first first-round Little East tournament home game since 2000, when it eliminated Keene State 80-79 en route to the championship. Since then, the Warriors have lost three straight first-round games by a total of six points. Three of the team's last four first-round games have been decided by one point.

little east conference

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2004

QUICK SECOND-HALF START LIFTS KEENE OVER EASTERN

Owls score 13 of first 14 points in second half in LEC men's basketball victory

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Sophomore forward Sean Sullivan scored ¹⁵18 of his game-high 23 points in the second half as the Keene State College men's basketball team clinched its second Little East Conference regular-season championship in three years with a 76-65 victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday night at Geissler Gym.

Ranked fourth in the NCAA Northeast Region, Keene (19-5, 12-1 little east) clinched the regular-season title and the No. 1 seed in the upcoming conference tournament, which gets underway with quarterfinal-round games Tuesday. Eastern (13-11, 7-6 little east) had a six-game home winning streak snapped in falling to the Owls for the seventh straight time.

With one regular-season conference game remaining, Eastern shares fourth place with Rhode Island College. Western Connecticut State University broke a three-way tie for third place Tuesday night with a 72-69 win over Rhode Island. The top four seeds host the bottom four seeds in the opening round of the conference tournament, which gets underway Tuesday night.

Trailing by three, 33-30 at halftime, Keene held Eastern scoreless from the floor over the first five minutes of the second half, using a 13-1 run to build a nine-point, 43-34 lead.

Sullivan scored eight of his team's points in that run, three coming on a ^{four}three-point field goal and three more coming on a conventional three-point play. Eastern missed ~~three~~ ^{four}field goals and turned the ball over once on ~~five~~ ^{six}possessions over those first five minutes before senior guard **Christopher Morgan (NEW BRITAIN)** broke through for a three-point field goal. The three-pointer cut the deficit to six and senior guard **Gordon Shepard (WATERBURY)** followed a Keene turnover with a bucket to slice the gap to four, but the Warriors would get no closer.

Keene shot 57.1 per cent from the floor in the second half -- pushing the lead to as many as 19 points with four minutes left -- and maintained their lead by sinking 18 of 23 free throws over the final 20 minutes.

Sullivan led three double-figure scorers for Keene, with senior guard Alphonse Michalski adding 17 points and six rebounds, senior forward Chris Timson 15 points and a game-high nine rebounds.

In the final regular-season home games of their careers, Shepard had 21 points, post player **Michael Kipphut (MERIDEN)** 16 points and a team-high seven rebounds and Morgan 11 points. Junior forward **Mike Bartunek (DURHAM)** added 12 points (four three-pointers) and freshman guard **Matt Albion (MIDDLEBURY)** six rebounds.

Eastern closes out the regular season Saturday with a Little East Conference game sat Massachusetts Boston at 4 p.m.

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little east conference

Saturday, Feb. 14, 2004

KIPPHUT LIFTS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL PAST UMD 65-63
Senior forward scores game-winning hoop with 3.8 secnds left in LEC win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth men's basketball team erased a ten-point lead in the final five minutes but Eastern Connecticut State University senior forward **Michael Kipphut (MERIDEN)** spoiled the comeback by scoring the game-winning basket with 3.8 seconds left in a 65-63 Little East Conference victory Saturday at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Entering the game tied for fourth place in the conference, Eastern (13-10, 7-5 little east) moves into a three-way tie for third place with Western Connecticut State University and Rhode Island College. Western dropped into a tie following a 96-76 loss to conference leader Keene State College Saturday and Rhode Island kept pace with a 77-61 win over Southern Maine Saturday. UMass Dartmouth (11-12, 4-8 little east), a 12-time regular-season conference champion, remains in sixth place in the eight-team conference.

Each team has two regular-season games remaining before the first round of the playoffs Feb. 24, which has the top four seeds hosting the bottom four seeds.

In sweeping the season series from UMass for the second time in three years, Eastern watched a ten-point lead evaporate in the final minutes when freshman forward Paul Pawlowski dropped in a baseline drive to pull the Corsirs even, 63-63 with 13 seconds left. Following a timeout, the Warriors inbounded from next to their own bench with 10.5 seconds left and got the ball on the block to Kipphut, who pump-faked twice and had his layup roll in with 3.8 seconds remaining.

In mid-January, Eastern had won 82-81 over UMass when senior forward **Mike Bartunek (DURHAM)** stole and inbound pass and scored in the final seconds.

Following Kipphut's go-ahead basket, UMass drove the length of the floor with time winding down but Eastern senior guard **Christopher Morgan (NEW BRITAIN)** stuffed sophomore guard Devon Maiorano's lunging three-point from the top of the key at the horn.

Kipphut led all players with 18 points and also added a team-high ten rebounds. Senior guard **Gordon Shepard (WATERBURY)** had 12 points with just two turnovers in 34 mnutes, Morgan 11 points (three three-pointers) and seven rebounds and junior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** ten points and seven rebounds.

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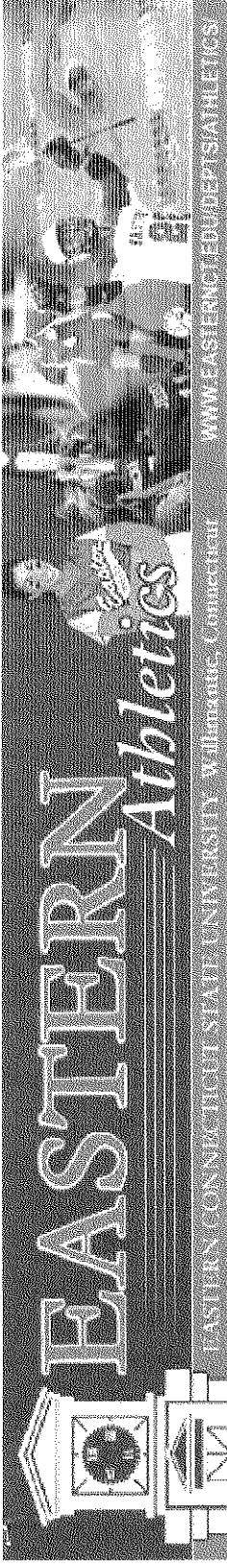
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Trailing by ten, 58-48 with just under five minutes left, the Corsairs held Eastern scoreless from the floor, outscoring the hosts 11-1 to pull even 59-all with 1:24 left. Morgan drilled a long three-pointer to give Eastern a three-points 62-59 lead seconds later and the Warriors maintained the lead until Pawlowski's game-tying bucket with 13 seconds left.

In holding UMass nearly 17 points under its scoring average, Eastern improved its home record to 10-3 with its sixth straight win at Geissler Gym. Six of the team's home wins have come by a combined total of 13 points.

Junior forward Chris Lapriore led UMass with 17 points and all players with 11 rebounds. Lapriore had just six points and four rebounds in the first half but sparked the Corsairs after the break with 11 points and seven rebounds. Pawlowski added 12 points and eight rebounds for UMass, which has lost three straight.

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



Men's Basketball News

Warriors Have Their Way in 78-52 Win over Albertus Magnus College

February 12, 2004 11:19 PM

NEW HAVEN, Conn. -- All 11 players in uniform contributed at least one point and one rebound as the Warriors led from start to finish in a 78-52 non-conference win over Albertus Magnus College Thursday at the Cosgrove Center.

The win in the final non-conference regular-season game snaps a three-game road losing streak for Eastern (12-10), which also avenged a two-point loss to Albertus (3-19) a year ago at Geissler Gymnasium. Eastern leads the all-time series 13-2.

Leading by 13, 38-25 at halftime, the Warriors scored seven of the first nine points of the second half to move out to an 18-point, 45-27 lead and were never threatened thereafter. Eastern shot 48.4 per cent (15-for-31) in each half, canned nine of 17 three-point field goals in the game and out-rebounded the Falcons 44-24. Albertus, an ECAC tournament qualifier a year ago, missed 17 of 19 three-pointers in the game.

Six players finished with between eight and ten points for Eastern. Freshman guards **Tyrone Murphy (NEW LONDON)** and **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** and junior post player **Tim Kinel (EAST HARTFORD)** each had ten points and combined to go 13-for-19 from the floor. It was a career-high-for-Kinel and was just one below Murphy's career-high, achieved in his collegiate debut Nov. 21. Albon left the game with 9:40 left after an elbow split his lip. Albon led the way with a career-high ten rebounds -- giving him his first collegiate double-double -- Kinel adding a season-high seven. Junior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** had six assists and five rebounds.

Four players contributed two three-point field goals each for Eastern, which fell just one three-pointer shy of this year's game-high.

Junior forward Tim Russell led Albertus with 21 points but two other starters were held scoreless from the



Matt Albon... 10 pts., 10 rebs.

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Intramurals

floor and combined for just one point. In addition, Eastern's bench held a 44-8 scoring advantage over Albertus' reserves.

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

Eastern Conn. 78, Albertus Magnus 52

EASTERN CONN. (12-10): Gordon Shepard 3-11 0-0 8; Mike Williams 1-2 1-2 3; Tyrone Murphy 4-6 0-0 10; Antwaine Key 1-4 2-2 4; Mike Bartunek 2-3 0-0 6; Matt Albon 4-7 1-1 10; Tom Wzrosek 2-6 2-2 6; Christopher Morgan 3-7 1-3 9; Tim Kinel 5-6 0-1 10; Michael Kippbut 3-5 2-3 8; Jeroy Smith 2-5 0-0 4;
TOTAL: 30-62 9-14 78.

ALBERTUS (3-19): Justin Williams 0-4 0-0 0; Casey Grant 1-3 0-0 3; Curtis Miller 5-20 2-3 12; Tim Russell 7-18 6-8 21; Chris Keslow 5-9 0-0 10; Vaughn Butler 1-2 3-4 5; Matt French 0-3 0-0 0; Bill Rose 0-4 1-2 1;
TOTAL: 19-55 12-17 52.

Score at halftime: E, 38-25.

Three-point goals: E 9-17 (Shepard 2-6, Murphy 2-3, Bartunek 2-3, Morgan 2-3, Albon 1-2), A 2-19 (Russell 1-8, Grant 1-2, Miller 0-7, Williams 0-1, French 0-1); Rebounds: E 44 (Albon 10, Kinel 7, Smith 5), A 24 (Keslow 12); Assists: E 17 (Smith 6), A 2.

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little east conference

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2004

BEHIND EVANS, WESTERN M-BASKETBALL HOLDS OFF EASTERN
In 74-69 win, Colonials use 17-2 run in first half to gain split of regular-season series

DANBURY, Conn. -- Sparked by its only three three-point field goals of the game, the Western Connecticut State University men's basketball team outscored Eastern Connecticut State University 17-2 late in the first half on the way to a 74-69 Little East Conference victory Tuesday night at the O'Neil Center.

The win is the fourth straight for Western (13-8, 7-4 little east), which takes over sole possession of second place in the conference, one game ahead of Eastern (11-10, 6-5 little east). The Warriors have lost their last three conference road decisions.

Eastern, which had beaten Western by a point in the final seconds the last two times the teams had met, never led again after the Colonials ran off a 17-2 spurt to turn an eight-point deficit into a seven-point, 38-31 lead with a minute left in the first half. All three of Western's three-point field goals (in 21 attempts) came during its three-minute run. Junior guard Jay Reginatto, limited to three points in nine minutes in his team's earlier loss to Eastern had two of the three three-pointers. Western was 7-for-11 from the floor in the stretch while Eastern scored on only one of seven possessions.

Senior forward Marvin Evans dominated offensively and on the boards for Western, finishing with game-high totals of 27 points and 18 rebounds. The 2003 conference playoff MVP was 10-for-17 from the floor and 7-for-9 from the free throw line.

While Eastern never again led after Western's late first-half spurt, the Warriors scored six straight points in the second half to tie the game 61-all with five minutes left. However, Evans answered immediately by scoring six of eight straight Western points to put his team in control, 69-61 with just over two minutes left. Evans started the run by completing a three-point play with a free throw after grabbing an offensive rebound and, moments later, dunked an offensive rebound.

Senior guard **Gordon Shepard (WATERBURY)** led Eastern with 15 points, junior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** and freshman guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** adding 14 and senior forward Michael Kipphut 11. Smith led Eastern with eight rebounds, Albon pulling down six. Albon had two steals and an assist when Eastern reeled off six straight points to tie the game in the second half.

Behind Evans, Western outrebounded Eastern 48-36 and shot 57.4 per cent from inside three-point range. Reginatto followed Evans with 14 points and four assists, with junior Brice Assie finishing with ten points, seven rebounds and two blocked shots in 22 minutes.

Eastern visits Albertus Magnus College Thursday at 7 p.m. in a non-conference game.

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little east conference

Saturday, February 7, 2004

POPE POWERS PLYMOUTH PAST EASTERN M-BASKETBALL 74-65
Freshman scores 23 points off bench to lift Panthers in Little East play

PLYMOUTH, NH -- Freshman Andreas Pope came off the bench to score a career and game-high 23 points in 22 minutes and lift the Plymouth State University men's basketball team to a key 74-65 Little East Conference win over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday afternoon at Foley Gymnasium.

With the win, No. 8 regionally-ranked Plymouth State (17-4, 7-3 little east) takes over sole possession of second place in the conference, dropping Eastern (11-9, 6-4 little east) into a two-way tie for third place with Western Connecticut State University. The Colonials edged host Massachusetts Dartmouth 91-90 Saturday.

Plymouth scored ten straight points to turn a two-point deficit into an eight-point, 54-46 lead with ten minutes left in the game. Five of the points in the stretch came from the free throw line, with Pope capping the run by converting a three-point play with a free throw. In going scoreless over that four-minute span, Eastern missed two field goals and turned the ball over three times.

In contrast to Plymouth's 68-52 win at Eastern Jan. 10 -- when the teams combined to shoot only 20 free throws -- this game featured 67 free throw attempts. The hosts outscored Eastern by 22 from the stripe, hitting 35 of 48 as compared to 13 of 19 for the visitors. For Eastern, senior guard **Gordon Shepard (WATERBURY)**, senior forward **Mike Bartunek (DURHAM)** and junior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** all fouled out in the final two minutes.

Plymouth final 15 points of the game came from the foul line on 24 attempts. Leading by eight, the Panthers missed seven of their final 13 free throws over the final 74 seconds, but twice managed to maintain control with offensive rebounds after the second miss and Eastern was never able to cut into the lead.

The 6-foot-1 inch Pope, who did not play in the first meeting between the teams, was 7-for-11 from the floor and 9-for-11 from the foul line while junior Anthony Oglesbury had 19 points (9-for-10 from the line) and a team-high 12 rebounds. Conference scoring leader Nick Pelotte, a junior guard, missed ten of 12 field goals and finished with 12 points. Nine of his points came on 12 free throw tries.

The loss was only the second in the last nine games for Eastern, which trailed by as many as eight points in the first half before scoring eight straight to take a four-point, 35-31 lead with two minutes left in the first half. Shepard and Bartunek sandwiched three-point field goals around a Plymouth missed three-pointer and freshman guard **Tom Wrzosek (HAMDEN)** hit two free throws in that 8-0 run.

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Senior guard **Christopher Morgan (NEW BRITAIN)** came off the bench to play 33 minutes and score a team-high 15 points, hitting three of the team's season-tying ten three-pointers. Senior forward **Michael Kipphut (MERIDEN)** added 13 points and Shepard ten. Smith led all players with a season-high 13 rebounds, one shy of his career high.

Eastern played its second straight game without starting sophomore guard **Martin Kokoszka (MERIDEN)**, who is out indefinitely with a concussion.

Plymouth has won the last eight meetings between the teams, sweeping the regular-season series the last three years and also winning two conference playoff games.

Eastern visits Western Connecticut State University Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

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Plymouth State UNIVERSITY

For Immediate Release
 February 7, 2004
 Contact: Kent Cherrington, SID

Free throws help PSU Men's Hoop down Eastern Conn.

Oglesby and Pope lead Panthers past Warriors

PLYMOUTH, N.H. – Freshman **Andreas Pope** (Brooklyn, N.Y.) and junior **Anthony Oglesby** (Brooklyn, N.Y.) combined for 42 points and 21 rebounds Saturday afternoon, leading Plymouth State University to a 74-65 Little East Conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University at Foley Gymnasium.

The Panthers also scored 35 of their 74 points from the free throw line, helping them take over sole possession of second place in the LEC at 7-3 in league play, 17-4 overall. ECSU, which had won seven of its last eight, dropped out of a tie for second place in the conference, falling to 6-3 in the LEC and 11-9 overall.

Pope came off the Panther bench to score a career-high 23 points and grab nine rebounds, making 7-of-11 from the field and 9-of-11 from the line. Oglesby added 19 points and 12 rebounds, his seventh double-double of the year, connecting on 5-of-10 from the floor and 9-of-10 from the charity stripe. PSU also got 14 points from junior **Nick Pelotte** (Bingham, Maine).

Eastern Conn. was led by senior **Christopher Morgan** (New Britain, Conn.), who provided 15 points and eight boards off the Warriors bench. Senior **Michael Kipphut** (Meriden, Conn.) added 13 points and classmate **Gordon Shepard** (Waterbury, Conn.) contributed 10, while junior **Jeroy Smith** (New Haven, Conn.) finished with seven points and a game-high 13 rebounds.

It was anyone's game in the first half, with PSU taking an eight-point lead (15-7) but Eastern coming back to enjoy a 35-33 advantage at the break. The Panthers maintained a single-digit lead most of the second half, pulling ahead for their biggest lead of the game (66-54) with 2:45 remaining.

The visitors were forced to foul, committing 34 fouls in the contest and sending the Panthers to the line for 48 free throws. PSU didn't make a field goal in the last seven minutes of the game, but scored its last 15 points from the line by making 15 of 24 down the stretch.

Strong defense kept both team's shooting percentage below 40 percent, and the hosts had a 44-35 rebounding advantage. ECSU was 10-of-21 from three-point range, while PSU made just 1-of-10 from beyond the arc.

Both teams return to action against instate rivals on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. PSU travels to Keene State and Eastern visits Western Connecticut.

little east conference
Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2004

ECSU M-BASKETBALL POSTS SEVENTH WIN IN LAST EIGHT
Run of 13 straight points late in first half the difference in win over Curry

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Freshman guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** fueled a run of 13 straight Eastern Connecticut State University points late in the first half as the Warriors posted a 78-68 win over Curry College Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler.

The win is the seventh in the last eight games and ninth in 12 home games for Eastern (11-8), which snapped Curry's (8-9) six-game winning streak.

Leading by seven points, 25-18 with five minutes left in the first half, Eastern ran off 13 straight points on the way to a 19-2 run to push the lead to 24, 44-20 at the half. The Warriors opened the lead to 28 points four minutes into the second half. The final ten-point margin was the closest the Colonels would come thereafter.

Albon scored five points in the 13-0 run and senior forward **Michael Kipphut (MERIDEN)** contributed eight points in the overall 19-2 burst. Kipphut, senior guard **Gordon Shepard (WATERBURY)** and senior forward had three-point field goals in the run.

With his first shot of the game -- a three-pointer on an assist from Albon three minutes into action -- **Shepard became the 20th 1,000-point scorer in the program's 64-year history.** Shepard entered the game with 999 points and finished with 14, giving him 1,013 in his 94-game career.

Kipphut had a team-high 18 points, his eighth straight double-digit game and 17th in 19 outings this season. Ranked 17th nationally in field goal percentage, Kipphut sank eight of 12 field goals to improve to 61.5 per cent.

Albon added 11 points (5-for-10 from the floor) and freshman guard **Tom Wrzosek (HAMDEN)** a collegiate-high ten (5-for-9 FG). Bartunek shared game-high rebounding honors with Kipphut, pulling down a career-high eight in 16 minutes.

The Warriors were outshot 21-10 from the foul line but converted 50.8 per cent of their field goals while the Colonels finished at 42.6.

Six-foot-six inch junior Keenan Small of Curry exceeded his team-high season scoring average of 16.7 with a game-high 19 points but missed ten of 15 field goals. Nine of his points came on 11 free throws. Small managed only three first-half points as the Colonels fell back by 24 by the half. Senior forward Nick Reiph added 15 points (5-for-7 FG, 5-for-6 FT) for Curry.

Eastern played without starting sophomore guard **Martin Kokoszka (MERIDEN)**, who missed his first game after suffering a concussion in practice Monday.

Eastern returns to Little East Conference play Saturday at Plymouth State College at 3 p.m.

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little east conference

Saturday, Jan. 31, 2004

ECSU M=BASKETBALL HOLDS OFF RIC ON SHEPARD'S BUCKET
Leading by 10 with three minutes left, Warriors need late hoop and RIC miss

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Eastern Connecticut State University senior guard **Gordon Shepard (WATERBURY)** scored on a drive to the basket with 4.5 seconds left and the Warriors watched a Rhode Island College drive in the lane fall off the rim as time expired in a 77-76 Little East Conference victory Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern (10-8, 6-3 little east) won by a point for the fourth time in the last seven games, with Shepard winning the game with a driving layup inside the final five seconds for the second time in that stretch. His basket with 4.7 seconds left had given Eastern a 72-71 conference win over Western Connecticut State University Jan. 20.

Trailing by one point against Rhode Island (7-12, 4-5 little east), Eastern inbounded with 28 seconds left and held for the final shot. Shepard received the in-bounds pass and held the ball until heading for the basket as time was winding down, his drive dropping in with 4.5 seconds left. After two timeouts, Rhode Island went the length of the floor, but freshman guard Kamari Williams' shot in the lane fell off the rim as the final horn sounded.

A 94-69 loser to Rhode Island in the first meeting of the year Dec. 13, Eastern led by ten with three minutes left but the Anchormen answered with a 13-2 run that vaulted the visitors into a 76-75 lead with 28 seconds left. The go-ahead bucket came when senior guard Kamran Alemdar took an in-bound pass and swished a three-pointer from in front of his own bench

Shepard scored his game-winning basket after missing ten of 14 shots to that point. The points also gave him 999 in his 93-game career and leaves him one shy of becoming the 20th 1,000-point scorer in the program's 64-year history.

With five regular-season conference games remaining, Eastern has exceeded its conference win total of a year ago.

Rhode Island canned 12 of 27 three-pointers and 16 of 21 free throws in the game while Eastern missed 18 of 27 three-pointers. Eastern led by as many as nine points in the first half before the visitors scored eight straight to cut the deficit to one, 23-22. In the second half, Rhode Island scored 15 straight points to turn a ten-point, 55-45 deficit into a five-point, 60-55 lead with nine minutes left. The Warriors again surged into a nine-point lead late in the game before RIC went on its 13-2 run for a 76-75 lead.

(more)

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Sophomore guard **Martin Kokoszka (MERIDEN)** led five Eastern double-digit scorers with 16 points to go along with a season-high seven rebounds. . Senior forward **Michael Kipphut (MERIDEN)** added 15 points on 7-for-9 shooting and six rebounds, Shepard and senior guard **Christopher Morgan (NEW BRITAIN)** adding 11 points each and senior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** ten points, six steals and five assists and four rebounds. Kipphut and Smith, Eastern's two post players, combined to total nine of the team's 14 assists, mostly setting up each other down low.

Alemdar led all players with 21 points, sophomore forward Brian Stanko adding 14 points, Williams 13 and junior forward Jason Harris ten points and ten rebounds.

Eastern hosts Curry College Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Keene State College

Sports

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KEENE STATE COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL GAME REPORT TIMSON'S BUZZER-BEATER LIFTS OWLS OVER EASTERN CONN. 59-57

KEENE, N.H. 1/27/04 - Chris Timson (Beverly, Mass.) hit a buzzer-beater follow-up lay-up to lift the Keene State College men's basketball team to an amazing come-from-behind 59-57 victory over Eastern Connecticut State University in a Little East Conference game played Tuesday night at Spaulding Gym.

The Owls outscored the Warriors 10-0 over the final 1:23 of the game to pull off the improbable victory. Trailing by eight points (57-49) following a basket by Michael Kipphut (Meriden, Conn.), KSC refused to give up. A pair of baskets and a free throw by Sean Sullivan (Athol, Mass.), and a three-pointer by Timson tied the game at 57-all with 32 seconds remaining.

The Warriors had a chance to take the lead, but Matt Wheeler (Shrub Oak, N.Y) blocked a shot by Kipphut and managed to grab the rebound. With eight seconds remaining, KSC raced back down the court with Alphonse Michalski (Northampton, Mass.) feeding Brian Sheppard (East Bridgewater, Mass.) for a lay-up opportunity. Sheppard missed, but Timson grabbed the rebound and put the ball in off the glass just before time expired.

"None of us gave up," said Timson after the game. "I went up and got the ball and shot, but I thought time expired. I was relieved to find out it didn't.

The coaches always say crash the boards, and that's what I did. "

With the victory, Keene State (15-2, 8-0 LEC) extends its winning streak to nine games and remains undefeated in the Little East Conference. Eastern Conn. (9-8, 5-3) saw its five game winning streak come to an end.

Sullivan had a game-high 21 points to lead the Owls. Timson finished with 16 points and a game-high nine rebounds.

Three Warriors scored in double figures — Martin Kokoszka (Meriden, Conn.) had 16 points, Kipphut added 13 points, and Jeroy Smith (New Haven, Conn.) finished with 10 points and seven rebounds.

Keene State has won the last six meetings between the two teams.

KSC hosts Lasell College on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Eastern Conn. The Warriors return home on Saturday to face R.I. College (3 p.m.).

little east conference

Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2004

SHEPARD'S BUCKET LIFTS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL 72-71
Warriors score game-winner with 4.7 seconds left in LEC win over Western Conn.

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Senior guard **Gordon Shepard (WATERBURY)** scored on a drive to the basket with 4.7 seconds left as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team won its fourth straight game, a 72-71 Little East Conference decision over Western Connecticut State University Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern's (8-7, 4-2 little east) Shepard, who had missed six of seven attempts from the floor until that point, took a sideline in-bound pass from senior **Christopher Morgan (NEW BRITAIN)** and had his shot in the lane roll in to wipe out a one-point deficit and give Eastern its second one-point win over Western (7-7, 3-3) in the last two games at Geissler Gym.

The Colonials, who have lost their last three games by a total of ten points, inbounded from mid-court with 3.4 seconds but senior Marvin Evans' turnaround three-pointer from the top of the key bounded off the rim and was hauled down by Eastern senior **Michael Kipphut (MERIDEN)** as time expired. The one-point win was the third during the current four-game winning streak for Eastern, which has scored on its final possession to win each of those games.

Eastern led by as many as 12 points in the first half but the Colonials used a 13-4 run over the final four minutes of the first half to pull even at the break, 33-33.

Evans, named MVP when Western won its second straight conference tournament title last year, gave the Colonials the lead in the final minute when he scored twice -- sandwiched around his own defensive rebound -- to put Western up by one, 71-70 with 65 seconds left. Leading by that one-point margin, Western missed a three-point try with 15 seconds left. The ball was rebounded by Morgan, who later inbounded to Shepard at mid-court for the game-winning bucket.

Kipphut recorded his fifth double-double of the year with a game-high 24 points and game-high ten rebounds. He was 10-for-13 from the floor to raise his season's percentage to 61.2. Junior **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)**, whose overtime layup at the buzzer gave Eastern last year's one-point win over Western, had 13 points, eight rebounds and three assists and freshman **Matt Albion (MIDDLEBURY)** 11 points.

Sophomore Greg Cole led Western with 18 points, Evans adding 17 points and a team-high nine rebounds and junior Brice Assie 15 points and eight rebounds. Cole scored all of his points on six three-point field goals.

Western, which was outscored 20-6 from the foul line, played the second half without third-leading scorer Jay Reginatto. Reginatto had three points, leaving the game midway through the first half.

Eastern visits the University of Southern Maine Saturday at 1 p.m. in a Little East Conference game.

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little east conference

Saturday, January 24, 2004

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL WINS FIFTH STRAIGHT, 68-42
Southern Maine's point total lowest by either team in this 42-game series

GORHAM, Maine -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team held the Little East Conference scoring leader scoreless from the floor in posting its fifth straight victory, 68-42 over the University of Southern Maine Saturday at the Hill Gymnasium on the USM campus.

Eastern (9-7, 5-2 little east) has won five straight -- equalling its longest winning streak since late in the 1999/2000 season -- while Southern Maine (6-11, 1-6 little east) has dropped its last three after winning four of its previous five. The Warriors had lost, 106-74 when the teams had last met at Gorham.

Southern Maine's point total is the lowest by either team in this 42-game series, eclipsing Eastern's 44 points in the second game played between the teams in 1987.

Southern Maine junior guard Jason Levecque, who shared last year's conference Player-of-the-Year Award, was held scoreless from the floor on five attempts. Levecque, who managed two free throws, entered the game with a conference-leading scoring average of 18.4. Three Southern Maine starters combined for only ten points.

The Warriors, who have won nine of their last ten against Southern Maine, shot 50.0 per cent from the floor to build a ten-point, 34-24 halftime lead. Ranked third in the conference in scoring defense, Eastern held the Huskies to 32.7 per cent shooting from the floor. Led by sophomore guard **Martin Kokoszka (MERIDEN)**, Eastern connected on eight of its 21 three-point field goals in the game, Southern Maine missing nine of 12. Kokoszka was 3-for-5 from three-point range.

Kokoszka led Eastern with 13 points, senior forward **Michael Kipphut (MERIDEN)** adding 12 and senior guard **Gordon Shepard (WATERBURY)** ten. Shepard moved to within 17 points of becoming the 20th 1,000-point scorer in program history.

Prior to this year, Eastern capped its most recent five-game winning streak by defeating Southern Maine 73-66 to win the 2000 conference tournament championship.

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

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Saturday, Jan. 17, 2004

KIPPHUT POWERS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL PAST UM BOSTON

Senior forward has 23 points and ten rebounds as Warriors use late run to post win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Senior forward **Michael Kipphut** (MERIDEN) had game-highs of 23 points and ten rebounds to power the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 76-62 Little East Conference victory over the University of Massachusetts Boston Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern (7-7, 3-2 little east) has won a season-high three straight games and snapped a three-game losing streak at the hands of the Beacons (3-11, 0-5).

The Warriors used a run of 11 straight points with five minutes left as a five-point, 62-57 lead ballooned to 16, 73-57 with 36 seconds left. Senior **Christopher Morgan** (NEW BRITAIN) and junior **Jeroy Smith** (NEW HAVEN) had field goals in the run and sophomore **Martin Kokoszka** (MERIDEN) and senior **Gordon Shepard** (WATERBURY) combined to sink six straight free throws to cap the scoring run. On eight possessions during Eastern's scoring burst, UMass missed six shots and turned the ball over *once. twice.*

Eastern converted 21 of 26 free throws in the game. Kokoszka (7-for-7), Shepard (6-for-7) and Kipphut (5-for-6) combined to connect on 18 of 20 from the stripe.

In addition to scoring 17 points in the second half on 7-for-10 shooting from the floor, Kipphut had nine rebounds over the final 20 minutes. Kipphut was 9-for-16 from the floor in the game and is shooting 60.3 per cent from the floor in his last seven games. He is shooting a team-leading 60.0 from the floor on the season.

Kokoszka had 15 points and Shepard contributed 13 to move to within 34 points of 1,000 in his career. Shepard has totalled double figures in his last four games and is shooting 55.3 per cent from the floor in that stretch. With seven assists, Smith broke his career high in that department for the second straight game. Many of his passes found Kipphut alone under the basket.

UMass, which had four players play more than 30 minutes, finished with four double-digit scorers. Juniors Roger Perry and Eddie Ramos each finished with 13 points and combined for 13 rebounds.

The Warriors committed only 11 turnovers and have totalled only 21 in their last two games.

Eastern hosts Western Connecticut State University in Little East Conference action Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

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little east conference

Thursday, Jan. 15, 2004

KOKOSZKA'S BUZZER-BEATER LIFTS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL *Warriors erase five-point deficit in final minute in 85-84 victory*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Sophomore guard **Martin Kokoszka (MERIDEN)** swished a three-point field goal from in front of the Eastern Connecticut State University bench at the buzzer to lift the Warriors to an 85-84 victory over Springfield College Thursday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Springfield (4-9), a loser of five straight, missed three of four free throws in the final 50 seconds and the Warriors (6-7) sank two three-point field goals in the final 36 seconds to defeat the Pride for the first time in the series after five losses. It was the second time in three days that Eastern won a game by a point by scoring in the final seconds. On Tuesday, senior forward **Mike Bartunek (DURHAM)** stole an in-bound pass and scored with 7.1 seconds left in an 82-81 Little East Conference win at Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Against Springfield, junior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** found Kokoszka alone in the corner with a pass after being bottled up on the baseline and Kokoszka drilled a game-winning three-pointer as time expired. The three-pointer was the second in as many tries in the game for Kokoszka, whose first three-pointer came with 7:32 left in the first half.

Leading by five, 83-78 with 1:51 left, Springfield scored only one point the rest of the way, missing three of four free throws. Springfield brought a team 72.0 free throw shooting mark into the game and was 10-for-11 in the first half before missing five of nine over the final 20 minutes.

With Eastern trailing by that five-point margin, Kokoszka hit one free throw after stealing the ball with 51.3 seconds left and senior guard **Christopher Morgan (NEW BRITAIN)** drilled a three-point field goal after Springfield missed the front end of a one-and-one free throw try to pull Eastern to within one, 83-82 with 36 seconds left. . Morgan, who grabbed the rebound of the missed one-and-one, then pulled down another rebound when junior guard Glenn Pope missed the second of a one-and-one try with 34.7 second left. The Warriors turned the ball over on their next possession but the Pride missed the front end of another one-and-one with 13 seconds left.

Morgan inbounded to Smith from the sideline with 5.5 seconds left and Smith collected his career-high sixth assist when he found Kokoszka in the corner with an off-balance pass from under the basket.

Sophomore guard Derek Yvon of Springfield led all scorers with 30 points, 21 coming in the first half.

Senior guard **Gordon Shepard (WATERBURY)** led Eastern with a season-high 22 points on 8-for-13 shooting (4-for-7 from three-point range) and. Senior forward **Michael Kipphut (MERIDEN)** added 21 points on 9-for-21 shooting from the floor. He also had five rebounds.

The teams combined to shoot 59.3 per cent from the floor in the first half, the Pride hitting at a 63.0 clip to take an eight-point, 53-45 lead into the lockerroom. The Warriors outscored Springfield 24-11 over the five nine minutes of the second half to move out to a five-point, 69-64 lead. Kipphut scored the team's first seven points of the half and 13 in the half.

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

Tuesday January 13, 2004

BARTUNEK'S STEAL AND LAY-UP IN FINAL SECONDS PROVIDES WIN
Warriors erase ten-point deficit to stun UMass Dartmouth 82-81 in Little East

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. -- Senior **Mike Bartunek (DURHAM)** stole an inbound pass under his own basket with 7.1 seconds left and layed it in to propel the Warriors to a stunning 82-81 Little East Conference victory over the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Tuesday night at the Tripp Athletic Center.

Bartunek's steal and basket on the inbounds pass gave te Warriors an 81-80 lead. Sophomore **Martin Kokoszka (MERIDEN)** then gave Eastern (5-7, 2-2 little east) a two-point, 82-81 lead when he sank one of two free technical fou free throws after UMass (6-6, 0-3) called a timeout without one remaining.

The Corsairs missed a potential game-tying free throw with 2.4 seconds and senior **Christopher Morgan (NEW BRITAIN)** grabbed the rebound to secure Eastern's fourth win over UMass in the last five outinigs.

Eastern snaps a five-game losing streak with the win and hands the Corsairs their third straight setback. As a team, the Warriors committed only six second-half turnovers and shot 60.7 per cent from the floor over the final 20 minutes. They were 9-for-15 from three-point range in the game, offsetting 7-for-17 shooting from the foul line.

Eastern had trailed by ten, 54-44 four minutes into the second half but scored ten straight to tie the game 54-54 with 12:35 left., with Kokoszka hitting a driving layup on an assist from senior **Gordon Shepard (WATERBURY)** with 12:35 left to tie the game.

The Warriors trailed by as many as five points later in the half but three-point field goals by Morgan and Bartunek shot the Warriors into the lead in the final minutes. Bartunek's three-pointer off an assist from Morgan with 61 seconds left gave the Warriors a two-point, 79-77 lead before Manny Monteiros of UMass answered with a long three-point field goal with 40 seconds left that gave the lead back to the hosts. . On Eastern's next possession after a timeout, Morgan's hurried three-point field goal with the shot clock winding down missed the hoop. The Corsairs were awarded possession on the violation and called timeout with 11 seconds lefft. Bartunek nearly stole the first in-bound attempt but the ball went off an Eastern defender and UMass maintained possession. However, he stole the next in-bound pass in the paint and laid it in for the go-ahead point with 7.1 seconds left.

Morgan led five double-digit scorers with 17 points and also had six rebounds and six assists. He tied his career-high with five three-point field goals (on eight attempts)

Senior **Michael Kipphut (MERIDEN)** had 13 points and seven rebounds, senior Shepard 12 points, four assists and three steals, senior **Tyrell Jarrett (BLOOMFIELD)** ten points and junior **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** ten points, seven rebounds and three assists.

Junior forward Chris Lapriore paced four double-figure scorers for UMass with 19 points, getting seven of his points from the foul line.

little east conference

Saturday, January 10, 2004

SEVENTEEN-POINT RUN LIFTS PLYMOUTH PAST EASTERN
Panthers shoot 62.1 per cent in second half in Little East men's basketball win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Plymouth State University men's basketball team shot 62.1 per cent from the floor in the second half -- scoring 17 straight points in a four-minute span -- in defeating Eastern Connecticut State University for the seventh straight time, 68-52 Saturday afternoon in a Little East Conference game at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Plymouth (10-1/2-0), which placed second in last year's conference playoffs, doubled its first-half scoring output in shaking free from a three-point, 22-19 halftime lead to down the Warriors for seventh straight time. Eastern (4-7/1-2) has lost its last five.

Trailing by two, 31-29 three minutes into the second half, Plymouth scored 17 in a row to move out to a 15-point, 46-31 lead with 13 minutes left. The Warriors never got closer than 13 the rest of the way.

In that 17-0, Plymouth sank seven of eight field goals -- 3-for-3 from three-point range -- while the Warriors missed five shots and turned the ball over once on six possessions. Sophomore center Kevin Boutilier had four points and four rebounds in the run, senior guard Mike Loughlin hitting two three-pointers.

After missing seven of eight three-point field goals in the first half, Plymouth converted six of 11 in the second half -- shooting 62.1 per cent from the floor in all -- to outscore Eastern 46-33 over the final 20 minutes. The Warriors committed a season-high 23 turnovers.

Boutilier came off the bench to play 25 minutes and score a game-high 14 points and grab a game-high eight rebounds. Boutilier was 7-for-9 from the floor. Junior guard Nick Pelotte of Plymouth was held eight points below his conference-leading scoring average. He added 12 points to the balanced Plymouth attack. Senior forward J.J. Truman and junior forward Anthony Oglesby each had 11 points and combined for nine rebounds.

Senior guard **Gordon Shepard (WATERBURY)** and sophomore guard **Martin Kokoszka (MERIDEN)** led Eastern with 14 points each and combined to connect on 13 of 23 field goals.

Each team was held 20 points below its respective scoring averages.

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

little east conference

Thursday, Jan. 8, 2004

CURRIER LIFTS ENDICOTT PAST EASTERN M-BASKETBALL 63-55
Gulls score eight of ten final points to hand Warriors fourth straight setback

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Senior guard Jeremy Currier hit a key three-point field goal to spark an 8-2 run by Endicott College over the final 1:30 as the Gulls defeated the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team 63-55 Thursday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Currier followed up last year's 23-point effort against Eastern with 18 points -- 15 in the second half -- to carry Endicott (6-2) to its second win over Eastern (4-6) in as many years. The Gulls, an ECAC tournament semifinalist last year, have won four straight this year and handed Eastern its fourth straight loss.

The Warriors scored six straight points late in the game to cut an eight-point deficit to two with two minutes left before the Gulls scored eight of the game's final ten points. Currier, last year's national leader in three-point field goal percentage, hit his third three-pointer of the game with 1:30 left to give Endicott a five-point, 58-53 lead. After Eastern senior forward **Michael Kipphut (MERIDEN)** got two points back, the Gulls hit five of their final six free throws to maintain their edge.

Endicott, which shoots 76.5 per cent from the foul line this year, canned 15 of 21 attempts, including 12 of 15 in the second half. Following a sluggish first half, Endicott shot 62.5 per cent from the floor over the final 20 minutes, Eastern 57.9.

First-year Eastern senior forward **Tyrell Jarrett (BLOOMFIELD)** scored the final six points of the first half to snap a tie and give the Warriors a six-point halftime lead but the Gulls outscored the Warriors 15-4 to move out to a five-point, 42-37 lead midway through the second half. Currier hit a three-pointer and driving layup sandwiched around a free throw by freshman forward Nemanja Marinkovic to open that 15-4 run.

Marinkovic followed Currier with 16 points and shared team-high rebounding honors with seven, helping the Gulls to a 36-28 advantage on the boards.

Kipphut had 18 points -- 12 in the second half -- and six rebounds, sophomore guard **Martin Kokoszka (MERIDEN)** adding 17 points (4-for-5 from three-point range). Junior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** equalled his season-high with eight rebounds.

Eastern returns to Little East Conference action Saturday, hosting Plymouth State University at 3 p.m.

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little east conference

Sunday, Jan. 4, 2004

ECSU M-BASKETBALL RALLY FALLS SHORT IN 62-58 SETBACK
Warriors come back from ten points down in Hamilton Invite consolation loss

CLINTON, NY -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team rallied from ten points back to take a second-half lead before dropping a 62-58 decision to Worcester State College Sunday afternoon in the consolation game of the Hamilton College Invitational at the Scott Field House.

In losing two tournament games by a total of six points, Eastern (4-5) has lost three straight overall and has dropped its last nine straight games away from home. Eastern had beaten Worcester State (4-6) 69-63 Nov. 30 at Geissler Gymnasium.

The Lancers shot 52.4 per cent from the floor in the first half and led by ten, 27-17 with three minutes left. The Warriors managed to cut the deficit to six by halftime and used an 11-2 run over a span of 3:30 to take a three-point, 36-33 lead in the opening minutes of the second half when first-year senior forward **Mike Bartunek (DURHAM)** sank a free throw to complete a three-point play. Sophomore guard **Martin Kokoszka's (MERIDEN)** only three-point field goal of the game gave the Warriors their final lead, 58-57 with two minutes left but the Lancers scored the final five points on sophomore guard Ryan Hopkins' three-point field goal with 1:17 left and a dunk as time expired. Kokoszka's three-pointer were the only points over the final four minutes for Eastern, which missed two three-pointers and turned the ball over once on its final three possessions.

Freshman guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)**, rebounding from a two-point effort in his second career start Saturday, led the Warriors with 15 points and contributed five rebounds while junior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** added 12 points -- six coming in the team's 11-2 second-half run -- and a team-high seven rebounds. The pair combined to go 10-for-11 from the free throw line.

Eastern also got nine points, five rebounds and three assists from sophomore guard Kokoszka and a career-high eight points in nine minutes from Bartunek.

Hopkins, playing in only his second game for Worcester State (4-6) after joining the team in time for yesterday's 88-58 loss to host Hamilton College, led the Lancers with 15 points, junior forward Tom Sullivan adding 12 points and a game-high eight rebounds.

The Warriors turned the ball over only ten times -- their second-lowest total of the season -- but shot just 34.5 per cent from the floor. After going 9-for-15 from three-point range Saturday, Eastern missed 13 of 16 against the Lancers.

Senior forward **Michael Kipphut (MERIDEN)**, who had game-highs of 27 points and 11 rebounds Saturday, took only seven shots and finished with a season-low seven points. He also had five rebounds.

Eastern hosts Endicott College Thursday at 7 p.m.

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For Immediate Release: January 4, 2004

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MEN'S BASKETBALL CAPTURES HAMILTON INVITATIONAL

CLINTON, N.Y. – **Joe Smith '04 (Sherrill, NY/Vernon-Verona-Sherrill)** scored a game-high 25 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and blocked four shots to lead Hamilton College to a 93-69 win against Washington & Jefferson College in the championship game of the Hamilton Invitational men's basketball tournament at Scott Field House on Jan. 4.

The Continentals improved to 7-1 overall with their fourth straight win. Washington & Jefferson dropped to 4-5. Worcester State College (4-6) defeated Eastern Connecticut State University (4-5) 62-58 in the consolation game earlier in the afternoon.

Greg Leone '04 (Syracuse, NY/Christian Brothers Academy) added 19 points for Hamilton, which shot a blistering 71 percent (20-for-28) from the field in the first half. Despite the hot shooting, the Continentals led just 48-45 at halftime. Hamilton still held a slim 66-62 lead with 9 minutes, 31 seconds remaining when it scored the game's next 19 points to enjoy a commanding 85-62 cushion with 4:07 left. Tournament most valuable player **C.J. Cantil '04 (Whitesboro, NY/Notre Dame)** chipped in 13 points, eight rebounds and six assists. **Tsakane Ngobeni '07 (Soweto, South Africa/St. Anne's-Belfield)** recorded a double-double with 12 points and 11 boards.

Steve Button '05 (Linesville, PA/Linesville) led the Presidents with 18 points and six rebounds. **Brandon Studer '07 (Johnstown, PA/Conemaugh Valley)** had a fine all-around game with 13 points, four assists and five steals. **Jon Koch '07 (New Kensington, PA/Plum)** also scored 13.

Worcester State led 29-23 at the half, fell behind and trailed for most of the second half, but regained the lead when it counted in the consolation game. **Ryan Hopkins** nailed a three-point basket with 1:17 left to give the Lancers the lead for good at 60-58. A dunk by **Mark Retallic '06 (North Oxford, MA)** in the closing seconds provided Worcester State with its final four-point cushion. Hopkins scored a team-high 15 points and **Tom Sullivan '05 (Auburn, MA)** added 12 and eight rebounds.

Matt Albon '07 (Middlebury, CT/Holy Cross) scored a team-high 15 points for Eastern Connecticut. **Jeroy Smith '05 (New Haven, CT/Hyde Leadership)** contributed 12 points and a team-high seven rebounds.

Button, Koch, Ngobeni, Retallic and Smith made the all-tournament team. Hamilton will travel to Oneonta, N.Y., to play Hartwick College on Jan. 13 at 7 p.m.

- CONTINENTALS -

little east conference

Saturday, Jan. 3, 2004

ECSU M-BASKETBALL DROPS 77-75 DECISION IN HAMILTON INVITE
Eighteen point first-half lead evaporates as Warriors waste Kipphut's 27-point effort

CLINTON, NY -- The Washington & Jefferson men's basketball team overcame an 18-point deficit in the final 22 minutes to stun Eastern Connecticut State University 77-75 Saturday night in the opening round of the Hamilton College Invitational.

Eastern (4-4), which has lost eight straight road games dating back to last season, play in Sunday's consolation game at 1 p.m. against the loser of Saturday's late first-round game between host Hamilton College and Worcester State College.

Senior forward **Michael Kipphut (MERIDEN)** scored 15 of his game-high 27 points in the first half to spark the Warriors to a 12-point, 42-30 halftime lead. Eastern led by 18 points, 40-22 with just over two minutes left in the first half.

The Presidents (5-5) trailed until tying the game with 2:22 left, then took their first lead, 73-71 on a pair of free throws by junior forward Steve Button (team-high 25 points/8-for-10 from the floor, 9-for-10 from the free throw line) with 1:45 left. Junior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** tied the game 73-all for Eastern with 65 seconds left before Button gave the Presidents the lead for good with a bucket with 49 seconds left. The Warriors missed three of their final four shots.

Washington & Jefferson shot 60.7 per cent from the floor in the second half and used a run of ten straight points -- four by Button and four by freshman guard Anthony Hairston -- to wipe out an eight point deficit and take its first lead, 73-71.

Led by senior guard **Christopher Morgan (NEW BRITAIN)**, Eastern canned nine of 15 three-point field goals, including 5-for-7 in the first half. Morgan, coming off the bench after 34 straight starts, scored a season-high 17 points. He hit all six of his field goals, tying his career-high with five three-pointers. Sophomore guard **Martin Kokoszka (MERIDEN)** added 11 points.

Kipphut, who sank 12 of his 19 field goals, also led both teams with 11 rebounds and added a career-high seven steals. Smith equalled his season high with eight rebounds to help Eastern to a slim 32-28 rebounding edge.

The Warriors were coming off a three-week break while the Presidents had finished third at the Randolph-Macon Invitational earlier this week.

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little east conference

Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003

HOT-SHOOTING RIC SINKS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL 94-69
Anchormen convert 54.2 per cent of their field goals in routing Warriors

PROVIDENCE, RI -- Rhode Island College senior guard Kamran Alemdar sank six of seven three-point field goals in pacing four double-digit scorers with 23 points as the Anchormen routed Eastern Connecticut State University 94-69 Saturday in Little East Conference action at the Murray Center.

In its first home game of the season, Rhode Island (3-5, 1-0) snapped a four-game losing streak at the hands of Eastern (4-3, 1-1), which dropped its second road decision in as many games this year. The 25-point loss was the worst for Eastern in this series since a 99-71 setback Feb. 4, 1989 -- a span of 32 games.

Alemdar, the team leader with 22 three-pointers, was 8-for-13 from the floor en route to his game-high scoring total. Three Rhode Island starters combined to convert 17 of 27 field goals and spark the Anchormen to a shooting percentage of 54.2. The Anchormen had shot 43.2 per cent from the floor in their first seven games.

Sophomore forward Brian Stanko had 17 points, freshman guard Kamari Williams 16 points (9-for-11 from the three throw line) and seven assists and freshman center Kevin Zalucki added nine points and a game-high 14 rebounds for Rhode Island, which outrebounded Eastern 43-27.

Sophomore guard **Martin Kokoszka (MERIDEN)**, coming off last Saturday's career-high 22-point effort, led Eastern with 13 points in 21 minutes, senior forward **Michael Kipphut (MERIDEN)** adding 12 points and a team-high seven rebounds and freshman guard **Matt Albion (MIDDLEBURY)** contributing ten points.

The game marked the Eastern debut of senior forward **Tyrell Jarrett (BLOOMFIELD)** and the return to the lineup of senior guard **Gordon Shepard (WATERBURY)**. A first-year transfer, Jarrett scored 859 points in three years at Newbury College but had undergone knee surgery three weeks ago. Shepard had missed his second start in three years last Saturday with a concussion. Jarrett played three scoreless minutes, Shepard hitting a three-pointer in 15 minutes.

Eastern competes at the Hamilton College Tournament Jan. 3-4, facing Washington & Jefferson College Jan. 3 at 6 p.m. in the opening round.

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Saturday, Dec. 6, 2003

BALANCE LEADS ECSU M-BASKETBALL PAST USM 80-78

Kokoszka scores career-high 22 points in Little East Conference opener

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Sophomore guard **Martin Kokoszka (MERIDEN)** came off the bench to score a career-high 22 points to spark the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 80-78 victory the University of Southern Maine Saturday in the Little East Conference opener for both schools at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Kokoszka was 7-of-11 from the floor to lead the Warriors to a game field goal percentage of 52.7 and their fourth win this year (4-1 at home) in six outings. Southern Maine (2-5) has lost three of its last four and dips to 0-3 in games played on its opponents' home court.

Trailing by seven, 54-46, Eastern outscored the Huskies 13-4 over a four-minutes span to surge into a 59-58 lead with 11 minutes left, and an overall 21-6 run pushed the lead to seven, 67-60 with with seven minutes left. Kokoszka had nine of his points in the 13-4 run, with his three-point field goal giving Eastern the lead for good, 59-58.

With Eastern leading by three, 68-65, Kokoszka missed a three-point field goal but first-year senior forward **Mike Bartunek (DURHAM)** grabbed the offensive rebound. Kokoszka then found senior guard **Christopher Morgan (NEW BRITAIN)** open for a bucket to make it 70-65. After a Southern Maine turnover, Bartunek then converted a three-point field goal on a pass from Morgan to push the lead to eight, 73-65 with 2:30 left.

With Southern Maine trailing 80-72, junior forward Ryan Garland canned consecutive three-point field goals around an Eastern turnover but the Warriors inbounded an ran out the clock to end the game.

Senior forward **Michael Kipphut (MERIDEN)** had 15 points and a game-high seven rebounds for Eastern, with first-year guard **Antwoin Key (BOSTON, MA)** and Morgan adding ten each.

Junior guard Jason Levecque, who shared conference MVP honors last year, matched Kokoszka with 22 points (8-for-16 from the floor), with Garland adding 19 points and six rebounds. First-year sophomore center Jesse McKinnell had eight points and a game-high nine rebounds.

Eastern visits Rhode Island College in a conference game at 3 p.m.

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little east conference

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2003

FREE THROWS DECISIVE IN ECSU M-BASKETBALL LOSS

Warriors miss 13 of 22 from the stripe, Wesleyan cans 26 of 32 in victory

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team rallied from an early nine-point deficit but missed 13 of 22 free throws in falling 80-67 to Wesleyan University Wednesday night.

In its first road game of the season, Eastern (3-2) rallied from an early 9-0 deficit to tie the game midway through the first half but couldn't match Wesleyan (3-3) from the free-throw line. The Warriors managed to sink only nine of 22 tries from the line while the Cardinals hit 26 of 32 attempts. Eastern, which entered play with a 68.7 free throw percentage, missed 12 of 18 free throws in the second half.

Senior forward Kanem Johnson (25) and senior guard Keala Mills (22) combined for 47 of Wesleyan's point total. Mills was 11 of 12 from the line and Johnson converted nine of 15 field goals.

Eastern forwards **Michael Kipphut (MERIDEN)** and **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** led Eastern with 20 and 19 points. Smith was 7-for-8 from the floor with seven rebounds and Kipphut led both teams with ten rebounds. In addition to their free throw woes, the Warriors missed 17 of 21 three-point field goals.

After spotting Wesleyan the first nine points of the game, Eastern never led, but rallied to tie the game 14-14. Leading 28-22, Wesleyan scored seven straight points late in the first half -- four by Mills -- to surge to a 13-point, 35-22 advantage. The lead never dipped below double digits the rest of the way.

Senior guard Gordon Shepard (WATERBURY) added ten points for Eastern, which committed a season-low nine turnovers and outrebounded the taller Cardinals 38-34.

Eastern opens Little East Conference play Saturday when it hosts the University of Southern Maine at 3 p.m.

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Wesleyan U. 80, Eastern Conn. 67

EASTERN CONN. (3-2): Antwoine Key 2-6 0-2 4; Gordon Shepard 4-14 0-0 10; Christopher Morgan 1-3 0-0 2; Michael Kipphut 9-13 1-6 20; Jeroy Smith 7-8 5-7 19; Kwasi Gyamfi 0-0 0-0 0; Tyrone Murphy 0-0 0-0 0; Mike Bartunek 0-2 0-0 0; Matt Albon 0-6 1-3 1; Martin Kokoszka 3-6 1-4 8; Tom Wrzosek 1-5 1-1 3; Tim Kinel 0-1 0-0 0; **TOTAL: 27-64 9-22 67.**

WESLEYAN U. (3-3): Tim Holland 3-5 0-1 7; Ryan Ewers 0-3 0-0 0; Kanem Johnson 9-15 7-8 25; Keala Mills 5-14 11-12 22; Robert Kelly 5-8 1-2 11; Jared Ashe 1-2 3-4 5; Moritz Kraus 0-0 0-0 0; Jimmy Shepherd 0-0 1-2 1; Blake Curry 3-8 3-3 9; **TOTAL: 26-55 26-32 80.**

Three-point goals: E 4-21 (Shepard 2-9, Kokoszka 1-2, Kipphut 1-1, Key 0-2, Morgan 0-2, Albon 0-3, Wrzosek 0-2); W 2-7 (Holland 1-1, Mills 1-3, Curry 0-3); Rebounds: E 38 (Kipphut 10, Smith 7), W 34 (Johnson 9, Kelly 7, Curry 7); Assists E 10 (Key 3), W 6 (Mills 3).

little east conference

Sunday, November 30, 2003

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL HOLDS OFF WORCESTER 69-63 *Kipphut records double-double, Albon scores collegiate-high 19 points*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Senior forward **Michael Kipphut** (MERIDEN) had 18 points and a career-tying 14 rebounds and freshman guard **Matt Albon** (MIDDLEBURY) added a collegiate-high 19 points to lift the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 69-63 win over Worcester State College Sunday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern (3-1) led by as many as 15 points in the first half and by ten with 8:30 left in the game before the Lancers (2-2) rallied back. Two free throws by junior forward Tom Sullivan cut the Eastern lead to three, 66-63 with a minute left. Worcester had a chance to tie the game when Eastern turned the ball over with 30 seconds left but Worcester missed a three-point field goal with 16.4 seconds left and Eastern junior forward **Jeroy Smith** (NEW HAVEN) grabbed the rebound and called time out before falling out of bounds. After a Worcester timeout, Albon sank two free throws to make it 68-63 and the Lancers turned the ball over on the ensuing in-bounds play.

Albon's collegiate-high point total led all players. He was 8-for-8 from the line, all coming in the second half. Kipphut tied his career-high with his game-high rebounding total. Senior guard **Christopher Morgan** (NEW BRITAIN) added 12 points for Eastern, which survived 31.0 per cent field goal shooting when it was outscored 36-31 in the second half.

Sophomore guard Matt Savage was 7-for-16 from the floor and led Worcester with 17 points, Sullivan adding 16 points and sophomore guard Jason Garrett 14 points and four assists.

Worcester hit all four of its free-throw attempts in the final 3:30 but missed ten of 23 in the game.

Eastern has beaten Worcester ten of the last 12 times the teams have met at Geissler Gym.

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

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little east conference

Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2003

TRINITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TOO MUCH FOR EASTERN

Inside players Coupe and Rhoten record double-doubles to power Bantams 78-68

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Junior guard John Halas had 18 points and 6-foot-8 inch junior center Craig Coupe 14 points and 17 rebounds as the Trinity College men's basketball team defeated Eastern Connecticut State University 78-68 Tuesday night at Geissler Gymnasium.

Senior forward **Michael Kipphut (MERIDEN)** had a game-high 24 points and a team-high six rebounds for the Warriors (2-1). Kipphut, who had 41 points in the Sulinski tournament over the weekend, leads ECSU with 21.7 points per game. ECSU junior guard **Antwoine Key (BOSTON, MA)** totaled 11 points and senior guard **Christopher E. Morgan (NEW BRITAIN)** 10.

The Bantams (3-0), who led by as many as 19 points twice in the second half, had their lead cut to six (66-60) with 2:40 left on a Key three-pointer. Kipphut had nine of his 20 second-half during the 17-6 Eastern run. Key totaled five points and Morgan three during the spurt as well. The Trinity lead fluctuated between six and 10 points for the remainder of the game as the Bantams went 8-for-11 from the free-throw line and had a field goal.

The Warriors trailed the entire game but went on a 15-7 run to cut a 13-point deficit to five (24-19) with 7:51 left in the first half. Freshman guard **Matt Albion (MIDDLEBURY)** made two three-pointers during the spurt.

Six-foot-six-inch Trinity sophomore forward **Tyler Rhoten (RIDGEWOOD, NJ)** had a double-double with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

The Bantams outrebounded the Warriors, 38-24, including 16-11 on the offensive glass. Trinity shot 53.4 percent from the floor, including 60 percent in the first half, as opposed to Eastern's 45.5 percent.

ECSU beat Trinity 72-68 in Hartford last Nov. 26.

Eastern host Worcester State College at 7 p.m. Sunday.

Saturday, November 22, 2003

EASTERN BEATS WESTERN NE FOR SULINSKI TITLE

Kipphut and Smith share tournament Most Outstanding Player award

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Senior guard **Gordon Shepard (WATERBURY)** had a game-high 16 points and junior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** 13 as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team defeated Western New England College 69-59 Saturday in the championship game of the Nancy K. Sulinski '76 Memorial Basketball Tournament at Geissler Gymnasium.

Smith and senior forward **Michael Kipphut (MERIDEN)** shared the Sulinski Most Outstanding Player Award for the tournament. Kipphut, who made 13 consecutive field goals and had a career-high 31 points against Massachusetts College on Saturday, scored 10 in the final (4-for-6 from the floor) before fouling out with 2:39 left and Eastern leading by 12. Smith, who had a career-high 28 points (12-for-15 from the floor) against Massachusetts College, sank four of seven field goals and contributed eight rebounds against the Golden Bears (1-1).

The Warriors (2-0) won their season-opening tournament for the sixth time, second time in four years and first under second-year head coach **Bill Geitner**. In two tournament games, Eastern shot 59.5 per cent from the floor, including 68.1 per cent from two-point range. It also canned 66.0 per cent (31-for-47) of its free throws. In the tournament, Kipphut had 41 points and ten bounds and shot 82.6 per cent (19-for-23) from the floor. Smith also had 41 points and a team-high 16 rebounds and added six assists. He was 16-for-22 from the floor (72.7 per cent). The two combined to convert 35 of 45 tries from the floor (77.8 per cent) and grab 26 rebounds.

Eastern, which led the entire game, had a game-opening 13-2 run. Senior guard **Christopher Morgan (NEW BRITAIN)**, an all-tournament selection, had five of his eight first-half points during the spurt. He finished with 12 and held Western New England's Anthony Charbatji to two points on 1-for-6 shooting from the field and two rebounds. Charbatji had helped the Golden Bears defeat Colby College 84-76 in Friday's first round by scoring 18 points and grabbing seven rebounds.

Eastern held the Golden Bears to 36.4 percent from the field, including 25.8 percent in the first half (8-31). The Warriors shot 53.5 percent overall, including 60 percent

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in the second half (12-20) when they were able to maintain their 14-point halftime lead.

The Warriors combined sharp shooting and strong defense to set an early tone, racing to an early 11-point, 17-6 lead. The team canned its first four field goals and seven of its first eight while the Golden Bears missed their first six shots from the floor and eight of their first nine. The lead swelled to as many as 17 points twice in the half, the latest at 31-14 when Shepard swished the first of two free throw attempts with 2:30 left to make it 31-14.

The Warriors, 7-19 a year ago, shot just under 50 per cent in the first half while Western New England, a 16-game winner last year, missed 23 of 31 attempts (25.8 per cent) over the first 20 minutes. Eastern took control in the first half from the foul line. Led by Smith (4-for-4) and Shepard (3-for-4), Eastern was 9-for-11.

Freshman guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** matched Smith and Western New England senior center Dyshawn Thames with eight rebounds. Albon had four points and five rebounds in seven minutes in the first half and did not turn the ball over in 14 minutes in the game.

Sophomore guard Jon Godbout, an all-tournament selection, and senior guard Gerry Toney led Western New England with 10 points each. Thames managed just eight points on 4-for-12 shooting after scoring 18 points in 19 minutes on 7-for-15 field goal shooting in the team's opening win over Colby. In the tournament, Godbout had 24 points on 9-for-15 shooting from the floor, seven rebounds, four assists and three steals and only four turnovers in 51 minutes.

In two tournament games, Eastern shot 59.5 per cent from the floor, opening the season by hitting 76.5 per cent of its first-half field goals in a 114-92 win over Massachusetts College Friday. The point total was two shy of the tournament record. Eastern's opponents managed only eight steals against the Warriors in two games. The Warriors also outrebounded their opponents by 26, finishing with a 43-21 advantage over Mass College.

Eastern was making its 19th appearance in the tournament championship game. Recently, the team had lost in the title game five straight times before upsetting Widener University in 2000. The Warriors failed to reach the 2001 championship game and was coming off a second-place finish to Salem State College last year. Prior to 2000, Eastern had won titles in 1981 (the second year of the tournament), 1987, 1988 and 1992. It marked the first time in the tournament's 23-year history that players shared the Most Outstanding Player award.

The Warriors host Trinity College at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

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Jenkins has double-double in Colby College win

Sophomore forward **Andrew Jenkins (GORHAM, ME)** had game-highs of 25 points and 11 rebounds as the Colby College men's basketball team led the entire game, defeating Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts 77-65 Saturday in the third-place game of the Sulinski tournament.

Junior guard **Pat McGowan (NORTH ATTLEBORO, MA)** had 17 points and sophomore forward **Nate Dick (NORTH ATTLEBORO, MA)** 14 points and nine rebounds for the Mules (1-1).

Senior guard **Glenn Mills (SPRINGFIELD, MA)** led Mass. College (0-2) with 18 points in 40 minutes. Junior guard **Robert Mitchell (BROOKLYN, NY)** had a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Colby College, who led by as many as eight points five times in the first half, had its lead cut to one (26-25) on a Mills' field goal at 4:16. The Mules closed out the half on a 13-8 run to lead 39-33.

The Trailblazers (0-2) closed to within three (39-36) on a three-pointer by junior guard **Donal Cogdell (Alamogordo, NM)** to open the second half. Colby College gradually extended its lead to double digits for most of the final 10 minutes.

Dick and Mitchell were also named to the all-tournament team.

Friday, November 21, 2003

WNEC BEATS COLBY COLLEGE IN SEASON OPENER

Thames scores 18 second-half points as Golden Bears rally

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. - Senior center **Dyshawn Thames (MANCHESTER)** and junior forward **Anthony Charbatji (ATTLEBORO, MA)** each had 18 points as Western New England College men's basketball team defeated Colby College 84-76 Friday night in the first round of the Nancy K. Sulinski '76 Memorial Basketball Tournament at Geissler Gymnasium.

The Golden Bears (1-0) advance to the championship game and will face the winner of the Eastern Connecticut State University-Massachusetts College at 3 p.m. Saturday. The Mules (0-1) will play the ECSU-Mass. College loser at 1 p.m. in the third-place game.

Western New England, who trailed by nine points three times in the second half, went on a 8-1 spurt with 7:09 left in the game to take the lead for good, 69-67. Thames, who scored all 18 of his points in the second half, started and closed the run with field goals.

The Golden Bears' **Jon Godbout (BRISTOL)** had 14 points, including a three-pointer with a minute left and a layup as time expired.

Colby College sophomore forward **Nate Dick (NORTH ATTLEBORO, MA)** led all scorers with 21 points followed by senior guard **Nick Loukes (GLENBURN, ME)** with 19.

ECSU BEATS MASS COLLEGE IN SEASON OPENER

Kipphut has 31 points as Warriors advance to Sulinski finals

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. - Senior forward **Michael Kipphut (MERIDEN)** had a career-high 31 points and junior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** a career-high 28 as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team defeated Massachusetts College 114-92 Friday night in the first round of the Nancy K. Sulinski '76 Memorial Basketball Tournament at Geissler Gymnasium.

The Warriors (1-0) advance to the championship game at 3 p.m. Saturday and will face Western New England College (1-0), a 84-76 winner over Colby College, in the other first-round game. The Trailblazers (0-1) will meet Colby in the third-place game at 1 p.m.

ECSU came within two points of tying the program record for points (116) set in 1991.

Kipphut went 15-for-17 from the floor, including 9-for-9 in the first half with 19 points. He eclipsed his previous career-high 28 points set against Western Connecticut on Feb. 18, 2003. Kipphut scored in double digits for the 29th time in his career.

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Smith, who went 7-for-8 from the field with 16 points in the first half, finished 12-for-15. He broke his career high of 19 points set against UMass-Boston on Feb. 8, 2003.

Trailing 22-15 with 11:17 left in the first half, the Warriors went on a 21-3 run over the next five minutes to build an 11-point lead, 36-25. Kipphut had eight points and freshman guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** five of his seven points during the run.

Mass College cut the lead to 40-36 with an 11-4 run over the next three minutes. Junior guard **Chet Columbus (SYRACUSE, NY)** hit had three of his five first-half, three-pointers during the spurt. Columbus had a game-high 32 points, including 22 in the first half.

Eastern gradually built its lead to back to 11 at the half, 59-48, as Smith and senior point guard **Gordon Shepard (WATERBURY)** had four points each during the run.

The Trailblazers' **Thad Broughton (PEABODY, MA)** had 24 points and **Robert Mitchell (BROOKLYN, NY)** 20.

ECSU, 27-18 in the tournament since its inception 23 years ago, makes its second straight championship appearance and 19th overall.