
little east conference

Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2005

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL ELIMINATED IN LEC TOURNAMENT
Top-seeded Western Connecticut downs Warriors for third time this year, 84-69

DANBURY, Conn. – The top-seeded Western Connecticut State University men's basketball team scored the final five points of the first half and opened the second half with an 18-7 burst in eliminating eighth-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University from the 2005 Little East Conference tournament with an 84-69 win Tuesday night at Feldman Arena.

Ranked third in the Northeast, Western (21-4) will host the tournament semifinals and final Friday and Saturday, with the winner gaining an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III tournament.

Western scored the final five points of the first half to move out to a seven-point, 38-31 halftime lead, the scored 18 of the first 25 points of the second half to push the advantage to 18, 56-38 midway through the half.

In ending Eastern's (8-16) season and defeating the Warriors for the third time this year, Western shot 66.7 per cent in the second half that prevented Eastern from cutting into the lead over the final ten minutes.

Junior guard Greg Cole led four Western double-figure scores with 19 points (8-for-13 from the floor), with senior forward Brice Assie hitting all eight of his field goals to finish with 16 points. Senior forward Kimani Crawford and senior guard Jay Reginatto added 15 each. Assie, ranked fifth nationally in field-goal percentage (66.0), shot 78.7 per cent from the floor and 71.4 per cent from the line in three games against Eastern this year. He averaged 20.7 points and 9.0 rebounds in those game.

In their final career games, senior guard **Mike Bartunek (DURHAM)** led Eastern with 16 points and senior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** added 13 points and six rebounds. Bartunek ended his career by canning at least one three-pointer in his last ten games and 16 of his last 17. He was 4-for-9 from behind the arc in this game. Junior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)** equaled his career-high with seven rebounds while sophomore forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** had ten points. He was 4-for-5 from the floor and 2-for-2 from the line.

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WestConn Men's Basketball Finals Little East Conference Tournament

At Western Connecticut State University

For immediate use: February 22, 2005 – faxed – 9:15 p.m. Contact: Scott Ames – Sports Information Director – 203-837-9014

WESTCONN MEN MOVE ON TO LITTLE EAST SEMIFINALS WITH 84-69 WIN OVER EASTERN CONNECTICUT *Will host LEC Championships on Friday and Saturday*

DANBURY, CT – For the second game in a row the Western Connecticut men's basketball team shot a blistering 67% in the second half, this time, to pull away from Eastern Connecticut State University, 84-69 in the quarterfinals of the Little East Conference Tournament at the Feldman Arena on Tuesday night.

The Colonials advanced to and will host the tournament's semifinals on Friday, February 25. Although the opponent was not determined at the time of this release, WestConn knows it will play the 8 p.m. game. It will play either Keene State or UMass Dartmouth which tipped off late on Tuesday night. The winner of the Plymouth State versus UMass Boston game will face the winner of the Rhode Island College versus Southern Maine game at 6 p.m. The LEC Championship game is slated for 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 26 at Western Connecticut.

Tuesday night's game at the O'Neill Center was a tale of two halves for the home team as Western shot just 42 percent (16 of 38) from the floor in the first half then came out and buried 20 of 30 attempts (71%) from the field over the final 20 minutes.

Greg Cole (Terrytown, NY) was held to six points in the first stanza then caught fire and finished with a game-high 19 points for the 21-4 Colonials.

Four players from WestConn finished in double figures with **Brice Assie (Bridgeport, CT)** contributing 16 points and six rebounds. Leg cramps hampered the 6-6 center in the second half. In fact, following a dunk by Assie with 7:29 remaining, he left the game for good after being helped off the court.

The Colonials led 75-51 following Assie's last basket, but his departure allowed the Warriors to stage one last comeback bid.

Eastern Connecticut, 8-16, seized the opportunity of Assie's absence and went on a 12-5 run over the next four minutes to cut its deficit to 17 points. The Warriors got within 13 points with 36 seconds remaining on a three pointer by **Mike Bartunek (Durham, CT)**. He finished with a team-high 16 points.

Jeroy Smlth (New Haven, CT) added 13 points and **Leon Martin (Woodbury, CT)** chipped in 10 points for Eastern.

Jay Reginatto (Torrington, CT) and **Kimani Crawford (West Hartford, CT)** each had 15 points for the Colonials. Reginatto missed eight of 14 shots from the field for WestConn.

little east conference
Saturday, Feb. 19, 2005

BARTUNEK SHOOTS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL PAST UMASS BOSTON

In final regular-season home game, senior ignites 15-3 run with three three-pointers

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – In the final regular-season home game of his career, Eastern Connecticut State University senior forward **Mike Bartunek (DURHAM)** ignited a 15-3 scoring run with three three-pointers as the Warriors closed out the regular season with a 79-71 Little East Conference victory over the University of Massachusetts Boston Saturday afternoon at Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern (8-15, 4-10 little east) finishes in a tie for seventh place in the final conference standings with the University of Southern Maine but will be seeded eighth in the conference tournament based on tie-breakers and will visit top seed Western Connecticut State University (10-4, 20-4 little east) in a first-round game Tuesday. Western and Rhode Island College (17-7, 10-4 little east) share the conference regular-season title.

UMass, which was swept by Eastern in the regular-season home-and-home series, finishes in sixth place. The Beacons will visit No. 3 seed Plymouth State (17-8, 9-5 little east) University Tuesday in a first-round game.

Leading by two points, 45-43 three minutes into the second half, Eastern outscored UMass (8-17, 5-9 little east) 15-3 over the next four minutes to take command, 60-46. The Warriors led by 11 points with three minutes left before the Beacons pulled to within six in the closing seconds.

Bartunek, who has at least one three-pointer in nine straight games (averaging over three made per game in that stretch) and in 15 of his last 16, connected on three of his game total of four during the 15-3 run. Bartunek sandwiched consecutive three-pointers around a UMass Boston miss to close out the scoring burst.

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Bartunek scored 11 of his 14 points on 4-for-8 shooting in the second half, helping the Warriors shoot 61.5 per cent in pulling away over the final 20 minutes. Senior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)**, also playing the final regular-season home game of his career, hit all three of his second-half shots and pulled down seven rebounds while freshman guard **Shiwon Davis (STRATFORD)** and sophomore guard **Tyrone Murphy (NEW LONDON)** were both 3-for-4 in the second half.

Smith finished with a team-high 17 points (6-for-7 from the floor) and equaled his season-high rebound total with a game-high 12. Davis was 7-for-11 from the floor and finished with 15 points – his third-highest total of the year. He also recorded his second-highest rebounding mark of the year by grabbing seven.

Sophomore guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** contributed 12 points, five rebounds and three assists for the Warriors.

UMass freshman forward Alberto Paniagua (Dorchester, MA) tossed in 16 of his game-high 24 points over the final 20 minutes, scoring nearly half of his team's second-half total. He was 7-for-9 from the floor in the second half. Senior guards Roger Perry (Roxbury, MA) and Eric Summerville (Little Rock, AR) each added ten points for the Beacons. Perry was 4-for-4 from the floor and finished with five assists and three rebounds.

Western swept the regular-season series this year for the first time in four years, winning 84-70 at Danbury and 80-76 at Geissler Gym. The teams have split two first-round conference tournament games, both at Danbury. Western won 93-71 in 1995 and Eastern 85-81 in 1997.

little east conference, 2005

KEENE STATE HOLDS OFF EASTERN M-BASKETBALL, 78-73

Defending Little East champions sweep season series by total of seven points

KEENE, NH – The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team cut a 12-point second-half deficit to one before dropping a 78-73 Little East Conference decision to defending conference champion Keene State College Tuesday night at Spaulding Gymnasium.

Eastern's (7-15, 3-10 little east) loss, coupled with the University of Southern Maine's 88-87 home upset win of conference co-leader Plymouth State University, drops the Warriors into last place in the conference with one regular-season game remaining. Keene (15-8, 8-5 little east) won for the eighth time in its last nine games and holds onto sole possession of fourth place in the eight-team conference.

The top four teams in the final regular-season standings host the bottom four seeds in conference playoff first-round games Tuesday.

Senior guard **Mike Bartunek's (DURHAM)** three-point field goal had pulled Eastern to within two points, 75-73, but the Warriors couldn't capitalize on three scoring chances in the final minute of play. The Owls were able to record their ninth straight win over Eastern by sinking three free throws in the final seconds.

Eastern junior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)** scored 10 of his 11 points in the game on four successive shots midway through the second half that helped cut a 12-point gap to one, 63-62 with eight minutes left. Eastern outscored the Owls 15-4 in that four-minute stretch, with Stallings bookending a pair of two-point field goals around two three-pointers. Keene was able to push the lead back to seven points, but Eastern rallied again behind a free throw from Stallings, a three-pointer from sophomore guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** and Bartunek's three-pointer that made it 75-73.

Behind junior forward Ben Maynard, Keene shot 56.3 per cent from the floor in the first half to assume a ten-point, 48-38 lead at halftime. Maynard was 5-for-6 from the floor in the first half on the way to a 7-for-9 shooting night and 17 points. Junior forward Sean Sullivan also had 17 points and freshman guard David Sontag added 14 points and a game-high seven rebounds. Senior guard Harley Davis had 14 points (5-for-8 from the floor), six rebounds and six assists.

Albon shared game-high scoring honors with 17 points. He converted a career-high five three-pointers in as many attempts to give him 14 three-pointers in 21 attempts over the last five games. Bartunek added three three-point field goals to give him at least one in his last eight games and in 14 of his last 15 and finished with 11 points. Freshman guard **Shiwon Davis (STRATFORD)** chipped in 11 points and a career-high seven assists.

As a team, Eastern connected on a season-tying 13 three-pointers in 24 attempts for a season-high percentage of 54.2 and is now 29-for-59 (49.2 per cent) from three-point range over its last three games.

Eastern closes out the regular season by hosting Massachusetts Boston Saturday at 3 p.m. in a conference game.

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.easternct.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

little east conference

Sunday, Feb. 13, 2005

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL SNAPS SIX-GAME LEC LOSING STREAK

Warriors use 12-2 run to break from tie in final minutes in win over Southern Maine

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team broke from a tie with six minutes left by scoring 12 of the next 14 points in posting an 80-73 Little East Conference victory over the University of Southern Maine Sunday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

The win is the first for Eastern (7-14, 3-9 little east) after six straight conference losses and pulls the Warriors into a tie with Southern Maine (8-15, 3-9 little east) for seventh place in the conference standings. Both teams will finish in the lower half of the final conference regular-season standings and will play a tournament-opening road game a week from Tuesday, Feb. 22. Southern Maine is 0-10 this year on its opponent's floor and has dropped its last six conference games.

Junior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)** sparked the 12-2 burst late in the game. He began the run by grabbing a rebound and later scoring underneath on a pass from senior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** and capped the spurt by sinking a three-point field goal to give Eastern its largest lead, 71-61 with just under two minutes left. After the Huskies lopped six points off the deficit over the next minute, Stallings swished three free throws in a span of 14 seconds to ice the win.

Eastern shot 52.0 per cent from the floor in the second half and was successful on 13 of 18 free throws.

Stallings, the Maine Basketball Coaches and Writers' Association Rookie-of-the-Year last winter while playing at Saint Joseph's College, finished with a season-high 26 points. Twelve of his points came on 15 free throw attempts.

Senior guard **Mike Bartunek (DURHAM)** came off the bench to score a career-high 18 points. Bartunek (6-for-8 from the floor) tied his career-high with five three-point field goals (in seven attempts), which is just one shy of the program record. He has at least one three-pointer in 13 of his last 14 games.

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Willimantic, CT 06226

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First-year sophomore forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)**, the team leader with a 66.7 per cent shooting mark, had his fifth straight double-figure game with 12 points. He was 4-for-8 from the floor and 4-for-4 from the line. He also shared game-high rebounding honors with ten, giving him his first career double-double. Smith added 11 points, four rebounds and three assists.

Junior forward Bill Hardwick (Boothbay, ME) came off the bench to pace three Southern Maine double-figure scorers with a career-high 24 points to go along with eight rebounds. He was 10-for-16 from the floor. Junior forward Jesse McKinnell (Manomet, MA) had nine points and ten rebounds and senior guard Jason Levecque (WESTBROOK, ME) reached his team-leading average with 17 points. Senior guard Mike Francoeur (Somerset, NH), the team's second-leading scorer with a 12.0 average, picked up his third foul midway through the first half and was limited to two points in the game in 25 minutes.

The win is the 17th in the last 21 games for Eastern against Southern Maine, which had come away with a 70-68 victory December 4. Stallings did not play in that game.

Eastern visits Keene State College Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. before closing out the regular season Saturday at home against Massachusetts Boston at 3 p.m. Both are conference games.

little east conference

Saturday, Feb. 12, 2005

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL DROPS 83-74 VERDICT TO UMASS DARTMOUTH
Warriors overcome first-half deficit before Corsairs pull away in second half for LEC win

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. -- Junior center Charlie Large came off the bench to score all six of his points in a critical one-minute span that helped the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth men's basketball team hand Eastern Connecticut State University its sixth straight Little East Conference loss,, 83-74 Saturday afternoon at the Tripp Athletic Center.

Eastern (6j-14, 2-9 little east) wiped out an eight-point first-half deficit and led by a point five minutes into the second half before UMass (10-13, 4-8 little east) outscored the Warriors 9-2 over a two-minute stretch to take the lead for good, 51-45. Large scored all six of his points on inside baskets in a one-minute span during that 9-2 run to help his team break a five-game losing streak.

The Corsairs shot 56.3 per cent in the second half – the majority of their field goals coming in the paint – and kept the upper hand by sinking 14 of 17 free throws.

The Warriors trailed by as many as eight points in the first half but countered with a run of eight straight points to turn a five-point deficit into a three-point, 32-29 lead two minutes before the end of the half. On its final eight possessions of the first half, UMass missed five field goals and three free throws, getting its only two points of the final four minutes on free throws with 33 seconds left in the first half.

Senior forward Chris Lapriore and senior guard Matt McAuliffe combined for half of UMass' points, hitting 17 of 27 field goals and seven of ten free throws. . Lapriore had game-highs of 26 points and 13 rebounds. McAuliffe had 18 points, connecting on three of his team's five three-pointers. UMass senior guard Josh Adamec handed out seven assists.

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Willimantic, CT 06226

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Eastern got a total of three points from two starters in losing for the sixth time in the last seven games and for the sixth straight time in conference play. Sophomore guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** led four Eastern double-figure scorers with a season-high 22 points. He was 9-for-16 from the floor with four three-pointers in six tries. Junior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)** had 13 points (j6-for-6 from the stripe) and sophomore forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** and senior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** each had 12 points and nine rebounds.

The nine-point verdict follows a stretch of four straight games between the two teams which had been decided by a total of five points. In a 68-67 win over UMass a month ago at Geissler Gym, Eastern survived a late Corsair comeback when Smith scored the game-winning field goal from under the basket with two seconds left. It was Eastern's third win in four games against UMass.

With the loss, Eastern is assured of one of the bottom four seeds and a first-round road game in the conference tournament, which gets underway Tuesday, Feb. 22 with first-round games.

Eastern hosts the University of Southern Maine Sunday at 3 p.m. in a Little East Conference makeup game.

UMass Dartmouth 83, Eastern Conn. 74

EASTERN CONN. (6-14, 2-9): Shiwon Davis 0-1 0-0 0; Matt Albon 9-16 0-2 22; Geoffrey Richardson 1-11 1-2 3; Leon Martin 5-8 2-2 12; Jeroy Smith 3-7 6-8 12; Tyrone Murphy 0-1 0-0 0; Mike Bartunek 3-7 0-0 9; Michael Stallings 3-7 6-6 13; Saliym Wilson 0-3 3-4 3. **TOTAL: 24-61 18-24 74.**

UMASS DARTMOUTH (10-13, 4-8): Josh Adamec 1-3 1-2 3; Matt McAuliffe 6-10 3-4 18; Paul Pawlowski 0-4 4-4 4; Chris Lapriore 11-17 4-6 26. Tishon Crawley 4-7 0-0 9; Mike LePage 1-3 0-0 2; Joe Britto 0-6 4-4 4; William Cardoza 2-2 0-0 5; Ryan Goyette 3-4 0-4 6; Charlie Large 3-9 0-0 6; Liam Mullen 0-1 0-0 1. **TOTAL: 31-66 16-24 83.**

Score at halftime: E, 34-31.

Three-point goals: E 8-19 (Albon 4-6; Bartunek 3-6, Stallings 1-2, Richardson 0-5), MD 5-15 (McAuliffe 3-6, Crawley 1-2, Cardoza 1-1, Adamec 0-1, LePage 0-1, Britto 0-2, Pawlowski 0-2); **Rebounds:** E 43 (Martin 9, Smith 9, Bartunek 4), MD 38 (Lapriore 13, Britto 7); **Assists:** E 14 (Davis 3, Stallings 3, Richardson 3), MD 18 (Adamec 7).

little east conference

Thursday, February 10, 2005

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL SNAPS LOSING STREAK

Five double-digit scorers pace Warriors over Albertus Magnus, 96-79

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team used a 12-4 run to wipe out an early ten-point deficit and post a 96-79 non-conference victory over Albertus Magnus College Thursday evening at the Cosgrove Center.

The win is the 14th in 16 meetings all-time for Eastern (6-13) over Albertus (3-17) and snaps a five-game losing streak this year. It was the Warriors' second victory on their opponents' home court in eight tries this year.

Junior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)** hit two three-point field goals to spark the 12-4 run after the Falcons had raced to a ten-point, 18-8 lead seven minutes into the game.

Stallings' third three-point field goal of the first half later shot Eastern into its first tie, 32-32, and ignited a run of 17 straight points that built a 14-point lead, 46-32 in the final seconds of the first half. Eastern held Albertus scoreless from the field over the final seven minutes of the first half to gain the momentum.

Albertus 6-foot-1 inch senior guard Tim Russell, the current NCAA all-division scoring leader with a 30.4 scoring average, amassed a game-high 38 points on 12-for-25 shooting from the floor and 12-for-14 marksmanship from the free-throw line. Russell reached the career 2,000-point plateau with his first field goal of the game, a fadeaway jumper in the lane two minutes and 36 seconds into the game.

Guarded closely by 6-foot-2 inch sophomore guard **Geoffrey Richardson (HARTFORD)**, Russell missed eight of 12 attempts from the floor and finished the first half with only ten points as Eastern took a 13-point, 46-33 advantage into the lockerroom. Twenty-two of Russell's points came after his team had fallen behind by 15 points seven minutes into the second half and were only enough to pull his team to within as close as 13 points. He had 28 of his team's 46 points in the second half.

First-year sophomore forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** and senior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** combined to sink 13 of 17 attempts from the floor for Eastern. Smith led five double-figure scorers with 17 points (6-for-9 from the floor), nine rebounds and five assists; Martin had 16 points, eight rebounds and three blocked shots. Martin was 7-for-8 from the floor against the Falcons to improve his season shooting average to 67.2 per cent.

(more)

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Willimantic, CT 06226

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Eastern sophomore guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** had a season-high 15 points, matching Stallings with three three-point field goals. Stallings finished with 15 points, 13 coming in the first half.

Freshman guard **Shiwon Davis (STRATFORD)** had 14 points, a career-high eight rebounds and four assists and turned the ball over only once in 29 minutes.

The teams combined to sink 18 three-point field goals, eight of them (four for each team) coming in a span of less than four minutes in the second half. Russell had both of his in that stretch while senior forward **Mike Bartunek (DURHAM)** and Albon each had two for Eastern.

Albertus featured only six players in uniform and played the final 5:21 without a substitute after freshman forward Bryan Durr picked up his fifth personal foul. Two players finished with four personal fouls for the Falcons.

Eastern returns to Little East Conference action Saturday at Massachusetts Dartmouth at 1 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 96, Albertus Magnus College 79

EASTERN CONN (6-13): Matt Albon 5-10 2-2 15; Geoffrey Richardson 3-10 2-2 8; Shiwon Davis 5-8 4-7 14; Leon Martin 7-8 1-2 16; Jeroy Smith 6-9 5-8 17; Daniel DeJesus 1-2 0-0 3; Tyrone Murphy 0-1 0-1 0; Mike Bartunek 3-7 0-0 8; Michael Stallings 5-11 2-3 15; Kris Johnson 0-1 0-0 0; Saliym Wilson 0-2 0-0 0; Dan Trudeau 0-0 0-0 0. **TOTAL: 35-69 16-25 96.**

ALBERTUS MAGNUS (3-17): Tim Russell 12-25 12-14 38; Vaughn Butler 3-7 1-1 7; Tom Eckert 5-13 2-2 16; Nick Wajanawoski 3-4 2-2 10; Bill Rose 1-6 0-0 2; Bryan Durr 2-2 2-4 6. **TOTAL: 26-57 19-23 79.**

Score at halftime: E, 46-33.

Three-point goals: E 10-27 (Albon 3-5, Stallings 3-7, Bartunek 2-4, Martin 1-1, DeJesus 1-2, Richardson 0-6, Davis 0-1, Johnson 0-1; A 8-17 (Eckert 4-9, Wajanawoski 2-2, Russell 2-6); **Rebounds:** E 40 (Smith 9, Davis 8, Martin 8, A 32 (Butler 7); **Assists:** E 16 (Smith 5, Davis 4, Richardson 4); A 17 (Russell 6, Eckert 5).

little east conference

Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2005

WESTERN RE-GROUPS TO HOLD OFF EASTERN M-BASKETBALL 80-76
Conference-leading Colonials survive poor free-throw shooting to win 11th in row

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Senior forward Kimani Crawford (West Hartford, CT) sank two free throws with five seconds left to propel the Western Connecticut State University men's basketball team to an 80-76 victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

With its 11th straight win, Western (19-2, 9-2 little east) keeps pace atop the conference standings with co-leader Plymouth State, which edged visiting Keene State College 91-86 tonight at Plymouth, NH. Eastern (5-13, 2-8 little east) lost for the fifth straight time and was swept in the season series with Western for the first time in four years.

Ranked third in New England, Western survived a miserable effort from the free-throw line which helped the Warriors scratch back from a ten-point deficit over the final seven minutes of the game. The Colonials regrouped after missing 13 of their first 21 free throws of the second half to sink five of their last six over the final 32 seconds.

Eastern had pulled to as close as two points, 73-71 with 63 seconds left before Western caught fire at the line to hold off the Warriors. Sophomore guard **Geoffrey Richardson's (HARTFORD)** three-point field goal pulled Eastern to within two, 78-76 with seven seconds left, but Crawford swished two free throws seconds later to ice the win.

Senior post player Brice Assie (Bridgeport, CT), the conference's third-leading scorer and top field goal shooter (68.0 per cent), had a game-high 23 points on 10-for-12 shooting from the floor. He also had eight rebounds and five assists. Freshman guard Kyle Norfleet (Waterbury, CT) came off the bench to score 13 points – hitting three three-point field goals – with Crawford finishing with 12 points.

In their 84-70 win over Eastern three weeks ago in Danbury, the Colonials were 20-for-25 from the line.

In his third start of the year, Richardson paced four Eastern double-figure scorers with 17 points. Senior post player **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** had 15 points (9-for-10 from the stripe) and six rebounds, first-year sophomore forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** 13 points and a game-high nine rebounds and freshman guard **Shiwon Davis (STRATFORD)** ten points.

Eastern visits Albertus Magnus College Thursday at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 5, 2005

PLYMOUTH'S 1-2 PUNCH KNOCKS OUT EASTERN M-BASKETBALL 96-86
Pelotte, Pope combine for 58 points and 64.3 per cent field goal shooting in LEC win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Little East Conference scoring leaders Nick Pelotte (Bingham, ME) and Andreas Pope (Brooklyn, NY) combined to score 58 points and shoot 64.3 per cent from the floor and lift the Plymouth State College men's basketball team to a 96-86 Little East Conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Pelotte scored nine points over his conference-leading average for the conference-leading Panthers (16-5, 8-2 little east), finishing with a game-high 34 points to go along with six assists; Pope, tied for second in the conference in scoring (18.4) and second in field goal percentage (62.1) and first in rebounding (9.7), had 24 points on 10-for-15 field goal shooting, a game-high 13 rebounds, eight assists, three steals and two blocked shot.

Eastern (5-12, 2-7 little east), which has lost ten straight to Plymouth, engineered an amazing reversal by outscoring Plymouth 26-2 over seven minutes to turn an early 15-point deficit into a nine-point, 34-25 lead with just under seven minutes left in the first half.

Plymouth rebounded, however, running off ten straight points of its own to regain a one-point, 35-34 lead with 4:30 left in the first half. The Panthers used another scoring burst – outscoring the Warriors 10-1 to build a 14-point, 64-50 lead seven minutes into the second half. Eastern got as close as five thereafter, at which time Pelotte nailed one of his five three-point field goals. Pope then grabbed a rebound of an Eastern miss and fed Pelotte to make it 79-69 with just over six minutes left.

First-year sophomore forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** scored a career-high 20 points – eight more than his previous best – to lead a balanced Eastern attack. First-year sophomore guard **Geoffrey Richardson (HARTFORD)** added 18 points – one shy of his career-high – while senior guard **Mike Bartunek (DURHAM)** had a career-high 15 points off the bench and career-high five three-point field goals. Senior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** had his fourth double-double of the season with ten points and ten rebounds. Sophomore guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** added ten points. Martin followed Smith with eight rebounds but the Warriors were out-rebounded by 12. Bartunek has made 20 three-pointers in the last seven games.

The conference leader in scoring (88.0 ppg.) and field goal percentage (50.3), Plymouth shot 56.6 per cent from the floor, 60.0 per cent in the second half and outscored Eastern by 14 from the free-throw line.

Ranked eighth in the conference in scoring, Eastern amassed 16 points more than its season's average.

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

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MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantīc, CT 06226

little east conference

Thursday, Feb. 3, 2005

BASKET WITH TWO SECONDS LEFT LIFTS KEENE, 56-54
Harley Davis sinks reverse layup to give Owls win over Eastern men's basketball

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Senior guard Harley Davis (Newburyport, MA) dropped in a reverse layup with two seconds left to snap a tie and give the Keene State College men's basketball team a 56-54 Little East Conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Thursday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern (5-11, 2-6 little east) had tied the game 54-all with 33 seconds left on a three-pointer from deep in the corner by sophomore guard **Geoffrey Richardson (HARTFORD)**. After a timeout, Davis inbounded to freshman guard David Sontag (Mont Vernon, NH) at midcourt with 27.3 seconds left. Sontag ran into traffic as he drove into the lane with time winding down but his jump-pass found Davis all alone. The bucket was only the second of the game for Davis, averaging nine points per game.

Eastern senior guard **Mike Bartunek (DURHAM)** had set up Richardson's game-tying three-pointer. Keene (12-7, 5-4 little east) had possession of the ball and a three-point lead but Bartunek knocked the ball off of Sontag in the corner to give Eastern possession. Moments later, junior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)** drove the lane and fanned the ball out to a wide-open Richardson, who tied the game at 54 with 33 seconds left.

The conference leader in free-throw percentage, Keene shot over 80 per cent from the stripe for the fourth straight game. The Owls were 15-for-18, Eastern just 12-for-24.

Junior forward Ben Maynard (Nobleboro, ME) helped Keene to a plus-nine rebounding margin by grabbing a game-high 15 to go along with 14 points. Sontag led all playes with 15 points. Eastern senior **forward Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** led Eastern with 11 points.

The win is the eighth straight over Eastern for Keene, last year's conference regular-season and playoff champion and an NCAA Elite Eight qualifier.

Eastern was playing its first home game in three weeks and first home game since the Jan. 20 death of senior guard Antwoine Key.

Eastern hosts conference leader Plymouth State Saturday at 3 p.m.

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.easternct.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimāntic, CT 06226

Saturday, Jan. 29, 2005

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL COMES UP SHY AGAINST RIC
In first game back, Warriors battle before dropping Little East game 87-77

PROVIDENCE, RI – The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team cut a 13-point second-half deficit to four in the final minutes before dropping an 87-77 Little East Conference decision to Rhode Island College Saturday afternoon at the Murray Center.

Eastern (5-10, 2-5 little east) was playing its first game since senior Antwoine Key collapsed in the opening minutes of a non-conference game at Worcester State College nine days ago and later died. Rhode Island (12-6, 6-3 little east) has won nine of its last 12 and completes the regular-season sweep of Eastern. The Anchormen won, 83-78 Dec. 11 at Geissler Gymnasium.

Trailing throughout, Eastern chipped away in the second half. The Warriors used a 19-10 run to whittle a 13-point, 69-56 deficit to four, 79-75 when sophomore guard **Tyrone Murphy (NEW LONDON)** swished a three-pointer with 3:11 left. With a chance to cut deeper into the lead, Eastern was called for an offensive foul with 1:25 left and the hosts scored the final six points on four free throws and a dunk.

Rhode Island outscored Eastern by 11 points from the free throw line. Whistled for only two fouls in the second half, Rhode Island was 24-for-32 from the stripe in the game, Eastern 13-for-16.

Senior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** of Eastern led all players with 20 points – just two shy of his season high – while first-year sophomore forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** and first-year sophomore guard **Geoff Richardson (HARTFORD)** had 12 each. Sophomore guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** helped Eastern match Rhode Island on the boards with a season-high ten rebounds. Smith was 7-for-12 from the floor and also contributed seven rebounds but was held scoreless after his layup pulled Eastern to within eight, 64-56 midway through the second half. Murphy came off the bench to hit two three-point field goals in the latter part of the game. After his second three-pointer cut the gap to four with 3:11 left, Eastern was outscored 8-2 the rest of the way. Murphy matched his season total with eight points.

Led by sophomore guard Kinsey Durgin (19 points), four Rhode Island players combined for 63 of their team's points.

Eastern hosts defending regular-season and conference playoff champion Keene State College Thursday at 7 p.m. in a makeup game originally scheduled for this past Tuesday.

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.easternct.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

little east conference

Saturday, Jan. 15, 2005

BALANCE LEADS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL TO OT VICTORY

Led by Key, Eastern edges UMass Boston to win for first time on opponent's court

BOSTON, MA – Senior guard **Antwoine Key (BOSTON)** finished with a career high in points for the second straight game and senior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** forced overtime with two late game-tying baskets that helped lift the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to an 80-77 Little East Conference overtime victory over the University of Massachusetts Boston Saturday afternoon at the Clark Athletic Center.

The win is the first for Eastern (5-8, 2-3 little east) in five games on its opponent's home floor this year and sends UMass (5-9, 2-3 little east) to its fourth straight loss.

UMass scored nine straight points late in the game to surge to a one-point 63-62 lead with 3:25 left but Smith scored the team's final five points – grabbing an offensive rebound and putting it back with just under a minute left to tie the game for the 12th time and force overtime.

Smith made it seven straight Eastern points by sinking two free throws to open the overtime session and the Warriors never trailed thereafter. The teams combined to miss 13 of 18 field goals in overtime but the Warriors maintained controlled by making seven of eight free throws. First-year junior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)** helped Eastern hold off the Beacons late in overtime with four free throws in 12 seconds.

(more)

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WEB SITE: <http://www.easternct.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

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For the second straight game, Key enjoyed a strong first half and finished with a game-high point total. He led both teams with 19 points – 15 in the first half – and added six assists, six rebounds and six steals. Smith had 15 points and eight rebounds, senior forward **Mike Bartunek (DURHAM)** 14 points and six rebounds, Stallings 11 points and freshman guard **Shiwon Davis (STRATFORD)** ten points and five rebounds. Sophomore guard **Matt Alban (MIDDLEBURY)** handed out a career-high seven assists.

Eastern took a season-high 38 three-pointers, canning a season-high 13 to total 39 points from that range. Bartunek and Key each made four. Bartunek has at least one three-pointer in the last six games, giving him 14 in that stretch.

Eric Summerville led the Beacons with 17 points, Alberto Paniagua scoring 11 points and grabbing a game-high 12 rebounds.

The overtime game is the second straight for Eastern and third this year. Seven of the team's last eight games have been decided by a five points or less, with the last three being decided by a total of six points.

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

little east conference

Thursday, Jan. 13, 2005

OXTON FUELS RALLY AS ENDICOTT CATCHES EASTERN IN OT, 65-64

Senior guard scores 11 points in his team's 13-0 run in men's basketball win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Senior guard Josh Oxton (Center Harbor, NH) scored 19 of his game-high 26 points after halftime to carry the Endicott College men's basketball team back from an early 16-point deficit for a 65-64 overtime win over Eastern Connecticut State University Thursday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Endicott (5-4), coming off last year's school-record 23-win season, trailed by 16 points eighth minutes into the game and by 13, 39-26 at halftime before rallying to score 13 straight points and defeat Eastern (4-8) for the third straight season.

Oxton's two free throws had given Endicott a four-point lead late in regulation but the Warriors forced overtime when senior forward **Mike Bartunek (DURHAM)** later swished his third three-point field goal of the game with 15.7 seconds to tie the game, 58-58.

An inside bucket by senior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** and two free throws by junior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)** staked Eastern to an early four-point lead in overtime but Oxton countered by scoring a basket while being fouled and hitting the free throw to pull Endicott to within one. Junior guard Zach Ellis (Westford, MA) then gave Endicott the lead for good, 65-64 by scoring a basket with 29 seconds left. With Eastern trailing by one with 1.8 seconds left, first-year sophomore **guard Geoffrey Richardson (HARTFORD)** stole Endicott's long in-bound pass but couldn't convert a long three-point attempt as the final horn sounded.

Senior guard **Antwoine Key (BOSTON)** scored Eastern's first six points and 11 of his career-high 13 points in the first half as the Warriors used 57.1 per cent shooting to race to a 16-point, 26-10 lead eight minutes into the game.

The Warriors led by 13, 39-26 and by 11, 53-42 with less than nine minutes left in the game before the Gulls scored 13 straight points to surge to a 55-53 lead with three minutes left. On eight possessions in that span, Eastern turned the ball over four times and missed three field goals and one free throw. Oxton scored ten of his team's 13 points in the run, with Ellis canning his only three-pointer of the game on seven tries to account for the other three points. The Warriors missed six of 11 free throws in the second half.

Oxton, who was 8-for-11 from the floor and 9-for-12 from the floor, was followed in double figures by Ellis (14), sophomore forward Nemanja Marinkovic (Belgrade, Serbia) (11) and junior forward Matt George (Dover, NH) (10). Marinkovic used perfect shooting (4-for-4 FG, 2-for-2 FT) to score 11 of his team's 26 first-half points.

Stallings (14), Key (13) and Barunek (11) led the Warriors, with Bartunek recording his first career double-double with a game-high ten rebounds. Smith had eight points, eight rebounds and four assists.

Eastern returns to Little East Conference play Saturday at the University of Massachusetts Boston at 3 p.m.

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

Saturday, Jan. 8, 2005

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL DROPS SIXTH STRAIGHT, 80-70

Plymouth uses late first-half, early second-half runs run to wipe out ten-point deficit

PLYMOUTH, NH – Plymouth State University senior guard Nick Pelotte keyed late first-half and early second-half runs as the Panthers erased a ten-point first-half deficit in recording an 80-70 Little East Conference men's basketball win over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday afternoon at Foley Gymnasium.

Plymouth (8-3, 3-0 little east), a conference playoff finalist last year, remains unbeaten in the conference with its sixth straight win overall. The Warriors (3-7, 0-3 little east) remain winless in the conference with their sixth straight loss overall.

Plymouth closed the first half with a 17-4 run and opened the second half with a 13-2 burst to turn a nine-point deficit with five minutes left in the first half into a 15-point lead with 16 minutes remaining in the game.

With first-year junior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)** scoring eight points (two three-pointers) to key a balanced early attack, the Warriors raced to a ten-point, 25-15 lead with eight minutes left in the first half. Leading by nine, 31-22 with just over five minutes left in the first half, the Warriors were outscored 12-2, going scoreless from the floor over a four-minute stretch as Plymouth surged to a four-point halftime lead. Pelotte, who scored the first five points of that 12-2 Plymouth run, opened the second half by canning four free throws and went on to score nine points in his team's early 13-2 run that gave the Panthers a 15-point, 52-37 lead three minutes into the second half.

Pelotte reached his team-leading scoring average with a game-high 28 points, ten of the points coming on 12 free throws. Sophomore forward Andreas Pope had 19 points and a game-high ten rebounds.

With a team-high 18 points, Stallings recorded double figures in scoring for the seventh time in nine games this year. Senior forward **Mike Bartunek (DURHAM)** came off the bench to score a career-high 14 points and grab six rebounds. Freshman guard **Shiwon Davis (STRATFORD)** had 11 points and five assists and first-year sophomore guard **Geoffrey Richardson (HARTFORD)** had a career-high eight rebounds off the bench. In his first career start, first-year sophomore forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** had four points and five rebounds in 18 minutes. He scored his points in the opening minutes to help Eastern rush to a 10-3 lead four minutes into play.

Eastern outscored Plymouth by six points from three-point range but needed 14 more attempts from that distance to do so.

Eastern hosts Massachusetts Dartmouth Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

E-MAIL: timora@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.easternct.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

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Monday, Jan. 3, 2005

GORDON M-BASKETBALL OPENS AND CLOSSES QUICKLY IN WIN

Fighting Scots use late nine-point run to down Eastern Connecticut 68-63

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Gordon College men's basketball team scored nine straight points over a three minute span late in the game to erase a three-point deficit on the way to a 68-63 victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Monday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Both teams were playing for the first time in three weeks and were looking to snap four-game losing streaks. It was the first meeting between the programs.

With Gordon (5-4) trailing 59-56 with 3:24 left, sophomore forward Mike Herr sandwiched two-point and three-point field goals around a bucket and free throw from Justin Kaufman to spark the 9-0 run which gave the Fighting Scots a six-point, 65-59 lead with 42 seconds left. On four critical possessions in that span, Eastern (3-6) turned the ball over twice and missed two three-point field goals.

Gordon limited Eastern to one field goal through the first 11 minutes of play and led by as many as ten points late in the first half. The Warriors eventually got untracked, ending the first half on a 10-2 run which gave them a two-point, 27-25 halftime lead. Eastern then scored the first five points of the second half and led by as many as eight in the early moments of the second half. The Warriors never trailed in the second half until Kaufman stole the ball and converted a conventional three-point play to give Gordon a one point, 60-59 lead with two minutes left.

Herr, who averages a team-leading 18 points per game, scored 14 of his team-high 16 points in the second half. After being held to two points on 1-for-7 shooting in the first half, Herr canned five of seven shots in the second half and also finished the night with a team-high eight rebounds. Freshman forward Jon Marstaller added 15 points and five rebounds for the Fighting Scots and junior guard Aaron Vogelzang 14 points. Both Vogelzang and Kaufman were 4-for-5 from the free-throw line, helping Gordon to outscore the Warriors by 13 points from the stripe. The Scots converted 18 of 23 free throws in the second half while Eastern was 4-for-6.

Eastern senior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** recorded his third double-double of the season, leading both teams in scoring and rebounding. He had a season-high 22 points (8-for-12 from the floor, 6-for-8 from the stripe) and ten rebounds. First-year junior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)** finished in double figures for the sixth time in his last seven games. In 37 minutes off the bench, he totaled 17 points, a season-high seven rebounds and four assists.

In the team's 10-2 burst over the final two minutes of the first half, Stallings sank a three-pointer and converted a conventional three-point play while Smith swished two free throws and senior guard **Antwoine Key (BOSTON, MA)** had a steal and bucket and set up Stallings with a pass on his three-point field goal.

Eastern visits Worcester State College Thursday at 7 p.m.

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WEB SITE: <http://www.easternct.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

Saturday, Dec. 11, 2004

RHODE ISLAND RALLIES PAST EASTERN M-BASKETBALL, 83-78

Anchormen erase 11-point, second-half deficit to gain LEC victory

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Rhode Island College men's basketball team got points from four different players during a run of nine straight points that carried the Anchormen to an 83-78 Little East Conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Trailing by three, 71-68 with six minutes left, Rhode Island (6-3, 1-1) scored nine straight points to assume a six-point, 77-71 advantage with three minutes left. A run of five straight points helped Eastern (3-5, 0-2) cut the gap to one twice thereafter, but the Warriors missed two tries at the basket on one trip down the floor, and senior guard Andre Daley sank two free throws to give Rhode Island a three-point lead, 81-78, with 24.8 seconds left after Eastern had pulled to within one for the second time.

Eastern has lost four straight, the last three by a combined total of ten points. Rhode Island has won three straight.

After leading by five, 42-37 at halftime, Eastern opened up an 11-point, 55-44 lead in the first five minutes of the second half. With the Anchormen trailing by nine with ten minutes left, sophomore forward John Weir sparked a run of eight straight Rhode Island points by hitting two baskets and two free throws. Freshman guard Davon Yarbrough's three-pointer tied the game at 71-71 and Weir gave his team its first second-half lead, 73-71 with five minutes left.

Rhode Island converted 12 of 13 free throws in the second half.

Sophomore guard Kamara Williams, last year's conference Rookie-of-the-Year, led all players with 19 points, 13 coming in the second half. Weir had 14 points and ten rebounds and Yarbrough 14 points.

First-year junior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)** led five Eastern double-figure scorers with 18 points (one shy of his season high). Freshman guard **Shiwon Davis (STRATFORD)** added 12 points, senior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** 13 points and nine rebounds, first-year junior forward **Tim Callahan (CLINTON)** ten points, eight rebounds, three assists and three blocks and sophomore guard **Matt Albion (MIDDLEBURY)** ten points and a season-high nine rebounds.

Eastern hosts Gordon College January 3 at 7 p.m.

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Saturday, Dec. 4, 2004

EASTERN MEN'S BASKETBALL RALLIES BEFORE LOSING LEC DECISION

Warriors wipe out 14-point deficit before dropping Little East opener to USM, 70-68

GORHAM, Maine -- Senior guard Jason Levecque snapped a tie by sinking two free throws with 59 seconds left as the University of Southern Maine withstood an Eastern Connecticut State University rally to post a 70-68 win in the Little East Conference opener for both teams Saturday afternoon at the Warren Hill Gymnasium.

The loss is the third straight for Eastern (3-4) and its third without a win this year on its opponent's home court. The last two losses have come by a total of five points for Eastern, which had beaten the Huskies in nine of the previous ten meetings between the teams.

Southern Maine (3-3) shot 52 per cent in the first half in surging to an eight-point, 35-27 lead. The hosts seemed to have the game in hand when they moved out to a 14-point, 59-45 lead with just over nine minutes remaining -- before the Warriors battled back to tie the game in the final minutes.

Junior forward **Tim Callahan's (CLINTON)** driving lay-up with 2:21 remaining tied the game at 67, but a turnover off of a steal and a foul prompted Levecque's tie-breaking free throws with 59 seconds left. Eastern had a chance to tie the game with 34 seconds remaining but could convert only one of two free throws that cut the gap to one, 69-68. Freshman guard Josh Daniels sank a free throw for Southern Maine that finished out the scoring.

Inside the final nine minutes, the Warriors connected on four of their season-tying nine three-pointers, outscoring the Huskies 22-8 over seven minutes to knot the game up at 67. First-year sophomore guard **Geoffrey Richardson (HARTFORD)** and Callahan sparked the surge by connecting on two three-pointers apiece.

Richardson led Eastern with 15 points, while Callahan had 14 points (5-for-7 from the floor), five rebounds and three assists. Senior guard **Antwoine Key (BOSTON, MA)** added 11 points, four rebounds and three assists. Five of his points came on eight free throw tries.

Sophomore guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** returned to the starting lineup after missing all of the last game and the second half of the prior game due to a twisted ankle. Albon played 31 minutes, scoring eight points and grabbing six rebounds.

Levecque, the fourth-leading scorer in the conference and a second-team all-conference pick a year ago, led all scorers with a game-high 20 points and four steals. Senior guard Mike Francoeur added 17 points and Daniels 12.

Behind Richardson and Callahan, Eastern's bench outscored the Southern Maine bench by 21 points (34-13), but only Key among Eastern starters was able to score in double figures. Southern Maine starters Levecque, Francoeur and Daniels combined for 49 points.

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

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.easternct.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Williamāñīc, CT 06226

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Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2004

RUBENSTEIN'S THREE-POINTER LIFTS WESLEYAN PAST EASTERN, 63-60
Sophomore guard snaps tie with 15.6 seconds left in non-conference men's basketball

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Sophomore guard Doug Rubenstein (South Orange, NJ) swished a three-point from the left of the circle with 15.7 seconds left to give the Wesleyan University men's basketball team a 63-60 non-conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Wednesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Trailing by four, Eastern (3-3) tied the game at 60 on baskets by junior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)** with two minutes left and by senior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** with 1:30 remaining. After Wesleyan (2-3) missed two shots and Eastern turned the ball over with 45.7 seconds left, the Cardinals went the length of the floor and off a set play, Rubenstein took a pass from sophomore guard Jared Ashe (Stamford, CT) and swished a 20-footer for the winning bucket.

Junior center Robert Kelly (Springfield, MA), whose inside bucket had given Wesleyan a four-point lead, 60-56 with three minutes left, converted ten of 12 shots from the floor and led all players with 21 points and ten rebounds. Senior guard Tim Holland (East Williston, NY), added 15 points for Wesleyan, which has beaten Eastern the last four times the teams have met.

Smith led Eastern with 17 points and nine rebounds, Stallings adding 16 points and four assists. The Warriors played without starting guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)**, who missed his first start with a twisted ankle.

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

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.easternct.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

Saturday, Nov. 27, 2004

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL DROPS CNU CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Host Captains take lead for good four minutes into game in 91-60 verdict

NEWPORT NEWS, VA (Saturday, Nov. 27, 2004) -- The Christopher Newport University men's basketball team took the lead for good four minutes into action and went on to a 91-60 win over Eastern Connecticut State University in the championship game of the 19th Annual CNU Invitational Saturday night at the Freeman Center.

A basket and free throw by senior guard Antwoine Key (BOSTON, MA) gave Eastern (3-2) its last lead of the game, 8-7, four minutes into play. The Captains (3-0) then went on a 21-7 run – scoring on a variety of short jumpers off the fast break, free throws and three-pointers – to move out to a 13-point, 28-15 lead with four minutes left in the first half. The Captains' second-half lead crested at 32, 86-54 with 2:30 left in the game.

Although it had only 15 turnovers, Eastern shot just 29.4 per cent from the floor in the game, missing 15 of 18 three-point field goals and 12 of 29 free throws.

Junior forward Roderic Carey had 16 points and 18 rebounds for the hosts while senior guard Blake Brookman had nine points and seven assists and turned the ball over only one time in 30 minutes. Brookman, who had 15 points and nine assists in his team's 90-57 first-round win over Maine-Presque Isle, was named tournament MVP. He was joined on the all-tournament team by Carey and junior guard Jeremy Romeo of CNU. Eastern senior forward Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN) represented Eastern on the all-tournament team while senior forward Fabian Lenox was named from Maine-PI and sophomore forward Bailey Beckstead from Southern Virginia University.

Trailing by 11, 38-27 at halftime, Eastern played the second half without sophomore guard Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY), the team's second-leading scorer, Albon, who had five points, six rebounds and six assists in Friday's 75-65 first-round win over Southern Virginia, twisted his left in Saturday morning's workout. He had two points in nine minutes in the first half against CNU.

Christopher Newport put the game away with a 15-6 run over six minutes in the second half, pushing a 12-point, 56-44 lead to 21, 71-50 with 6:39 left. Six different players contributed to the scoring for CNU in that run.

Smith had a double-double against CNU, leading the Warriors with 14 points and 11 rebounds. He finished the tournament with 22 points and 22 rebounds.

Key, whose defense held the dangerous Romeo scoreless over the first 17 minutes of the game, finished with 12 points. Eight of his points came in the first half.

Eastern hosts Wesleyan University Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 26, 2004

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL ADVANCES TO CNU INVITE FINALS
Warriors score final 19 points from foul line in 75-65 win over So. Virginia

NEWPORT NEWS, VA (Friday, Nov. 26, 2004) – The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team scored its final 19 points from the free-throw line over the final five minutes to down Southern Virginia University 75-65 Friday night in the opening round of the 19th Annual Christopher Newport University Invitational at the Freeman Center on the CNU campus.

With the win over the Knights (3-5), Eastern (3-1) moves the tournament championship game Saturday night at 8 p.m. against the winner of Friday's second first-round game between the host Captains and the University of Maine at Presque Island.

The Warriors never trailed after scoring the first ten points of the game but were never able to completely shake free from the Knights, who have lost four straight.

Eastern led by nine at halftime, 34-25 -- behind nine points from first-year sophomore guard **Geoffrey Richardson (HARTFORD)** -- but was never able to turn the game into a rout. The Knights used an 11-5 run to pull to as close as five points, 43-38 midway through the second half. At that point, Richardson nailed consecutive three-point field goals -- the first coming on an inbounds pass and the second from the corner -- to push the lead back to 11, 49-38 with 9:43 left.

Leading by ten, 56-46, the Warriors scored their final 19 points from the foul line on 22 attempts over the final 4:46. Freshman point guard **Shiwon Davis (STRATFORD)** was 12-for-12 in that stretch from the stripe. He hit 14 of 16 in the game from the foul line to finish with a team-high 18 points. Off the bench, Richardson added 15 points -- canning five of eight three-pointers to account for all of his points. First-year junior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)** added ten points off the bench. Senior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** pulled down a game-high 11 rebounds. Sophomore guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** handed out a career-high six assists.

A total of 48 fouls were called in the game, 31 against Southern Virginia. Eastern capitalized by sinking 26 of 37 tries in the game while the Knights missed eight of their 17 free throw attempts.

Southern Virginia freshman center Cory Evans came off the bench to scored 18 points and grab eight rebounds; sophomore forward Bailey Beckstead finished with 14 points before fouling out with 63 seconds left. Averaging 12.6 points this year, Beckstead was held to three points in the first half.

Box score:

<http://www.cnu.edu/athletics/Sports/Misc/inv1126.htm>

little east conference

Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2004

NO. 6 TRINITY SHOOTS 54.0 PER CENT IN WIN OVER EASTERN

Bantams gain revenge for only home loss to Eastern with 83-63 win

HARTFORD, Conn. – Six-foot-six inch All-America junior forward Tyler Rhoten scored a game-high 20 points and the Trinity College men's basketball team shot 54.0 per cent from the floor in an 83-63 win over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday evening at Ray Oosting Gymnasium.

A qualifier for the NCAA tournament in two of the last three years, No. 6 nationally-ranked Trinity gained revenge for its only home loss to the Warriors (2-1), 72-68 two seasons ago. The Bantams returned three starters from that game, Eastern none.

Tuesday, Trinity shot 51.4 percent from the field in the first half to take a 43-30 lead into intermission, and scored the first 13 points of the second half to go up by 26. Senior guard John Halas followed Rhoten with 17 points and sophomore guard Patrick Hasiuk came off the bench to hand out seven of his team's 26 assists.

Trinity used a decisive height advantage to shoot well over 50 per cent from the floor and block seven shots, but managed to outrebound the Warriors by only five (34-29). Sophomore forward Robert Taylor of Trinity, last year's New England Small College Athletic Conference Rookie-of-the-Year, was held to six points in 21 minutes.

With four of Eastern's five starters managing only a combined total of 11 points, Eastern got double-digit scoring off the bench from junior forward **Tim Callaghan (CLINTON)** and first-year junior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)**. Callahan had 13 points, Stallings ten and each canned five of seven shots from the floor. Sophomore guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** led Eastern with 11 points and senior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** totaled team-highs of seven rebounds and five assists. Freshman guard **Shiwon Davis (STRATFORD)**, the MVP of this past weekend's season-opening tip-off tournament, had only two points in 17 minutes.

After outscoring Trinity 25-2 from the foul line in the 2002 win here, Eastern was just 10-for-14 from the stripe this time around. Trinity was 9-for-10.

Eastern opens play in the Christopher Newport University Invitational Friday at 6 p.m. against Southern Virginia University.

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.easternct.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

Little East Conference

Saturday, November 20, 2004

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL CAPTURES SULINSKI TITLE

Warriors survive triple-overtime thriller over Westfield State, 116-114

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – First-year junior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)** scored on an off-balance bank shot at the horn ending a third and final overtime session to give the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team a 116-114 victory over Westfield State College Saturday afternoon in the championship game of the Nancy K. Sulinski '76 Memorial Basketball Tournament at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

The game was the longest and involved the most points in the 25-year history of Eastern's annual men's and women's basketball tournament and the win gives Eastern (2-0) its seventh title, second in a row. Eastern had last won consecutive championships in 1987 and 1988.

Westfield had forced the first overtime on a bucket by sophomore guard Ricky Ogboin (Boston, MA) with 1.4 second left in regulation which tied the game 80-80, then forced a second overtime when sophomore forward Dan Holbrook (Lexington, MA) grabbed an offensive rebound and scored with 12 seconds left to tie the game 90-all. Stallings tied the game 101-101 at the end of the second overtime when he scored on a driving layup with three second left. A basket by Eastern freshman forward **Saliym Wilson (MANHATTAN, NY)** with 20 seconds left had given Eastern a 114-111 lead in the third overtime. The Owls (1-1) pulled to within 114-112 on a free throw by junior guard Bayete Gordon (Holyoke, MA) with 18 seconds left, and after Eastern turned the ball over with 15.5 seconds remaining, Westfield tied the game on a basket by senior forward Vaso Jaukovic (Montenegro, MA) with 13 seconds left. On their final possession, the Warriors went the length of the floor and Stallings dropped in a twisting bank shot from the left of the key as time expired for the winning points.

Five Eastern players (four starters) and two Westfield players fouled out in a game which featured 66 fouls and 86 free throw attempts.

The Owls, making their first appearance in the finals in their fifth time in the tournament, scored 41 points from the free throw line, hitting 73.2 per cent of their 56 attempts. Gordon was 10-for-11 and freshman guard Tony Collier (Colchester, VT) 11-for-14. Eastern senior forward **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** was 7-for-9 from the stripe and sophomore guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** 5-for-6.

(more)

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.easternct.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

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Eastern guard **Shiwon Davis (STRATFORD)** became only the second freshman (first since Eastern's Gary Wooten in 1981) to gain tournament Most Outstanding Player honors. Despite fouling out seconds into the first overtime, Davis finished with a team-high 21 points (8-for-11 from the floor), scoring all but six of his points after halftime. He was joined on the all-tournament team by teammates Stallings and Smith, Gordon and Jaukovic of Westfield and senior forward Steve Monteiro (Ipswich, MA) of Saint Joseph's College (ME).

Stallings and Smith were among six Eastern players to reach double figures against Westfield. Stallings came off the bench to score 19 points (9-for-17 from the floor). Smith, who shared last year's Most Outstanding Player Award, had 15 points and a game-high 12 rebounds in the final before leaving with his fifth personal foul with 23.6 seconds left in the second overtime.

Eastern's final point total was its highest since defeating Westfield State 116-89 Jan. 12, 1972 on its previous home court – Windham high School.

In Friday's come-from-behind 64-59 win over Saint Joseph's, Davis had seven points and four assists – scoring five of his points to give Eastern the lead for good late in the game. Smith had 12 points and nine rebounds in the first-round win and Stallings seven points.

In Westfield's 93-80 first-round win over Newbury College, Gordon had a team-high 22 points (8-for-12 from the floor) and five assists. Jaukovich had only two points in that win.

Saint Joseph's (1-1) won the consolation game over Newbury College (0-2), 65-44. Monteiro led all players with 20 points (9-for-12 from the floor), freshman forward Walky Maglorie (Waltham, MA) leading Newbury with 19 points (6-for-9 from the floor). As they did against Eastern, the Monks built an early lead against the Nighthawks. Behind Monteiro's 14 first-half points, Saint Joseph's moved out to a ten-point, 21-11 advantage before Newbury battled back to within four points on several occasions. Saint Joseph's regained the momentum with a seven-point run – sophomore forward Pat Mileski (Cape Elizabeth, ME) scoring five points and grabbing two rebounds in that stretch in the opening minutes of the second half.

In the opening loss to Eastern, Monteiro also led both teams in scoring with a game-high 14 points. In the tournament, he converted 15 of 22 chances from the floor.

Friday, Nov. 19, 2004

EASTERN MEN'S BASKETBALL ADVANCES TO TOURNEY FINAL
Warriors erase early 14-point deficit to catch Saint Joseph's College 64-59

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Freshman guard **Shiwon Davis's (STRATFORD)** first collegiate three-point field goal late in the game gave the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team its first lead and the Warriors went on to defeat Saint Joseph's College (ME) 64-59 Friday night in the opening round of the 24th Annual Nancy K. Sulinski '76 Memorial Basketball Tournament at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

With the season-opening win, Eastern moves into the tourney finals Saturday at 3 p.m. against Westfield State College, which eased to a 93-80 win over Newbury College in Friday's opening game. The appearance in the final will be the ninth in ten years for Eastern, which won its sixth title last year with a 69-59 win over Western New England College.

The Warriors committed nine turnovers and scored just seven points in the first ten minutes of Friday's opener, giving up the first nine points of the game and trailing by as many as 14 points, 21-7.

A run of seven straight points late in the game – three coming on sophomore **Matt Albon's (MIDDLEBURY)** field goal, two on free throws by junior **Tim Callahan (CLINTON)** and two on senior **Mike Bartunek's (DURHAM)** basket -- pulled Eastern to within one, 54-53 with 5:14 left. Minutes later, Davis scored all five of his second-half points and handed out an assist to vault Eastern into a five-point, 62-57 lead with one minute left. Davis, the only freshman in Eastern's starting lineup, gave Eastern its first lead of the game, 58-57. After the Monks missed their next shot, Davis hit another bucket to make it 60-57. Saint Joseph's missed three-pointer was then rebounded by Bartunek and Davis found senior **Jeroy Smith (NEW HAVEN)** underneath for an easy layup to make it 62-57.

The Monks, making their first tournament appearance, missed six of their last seven shots from the floor and one of two free throws. After committing ten turnovers and shooting just 25.0 per cent from the floor in the first half, Eastern turned the ball over only five times in the second half and shot 48 per cent in the second half. The Warriors outscored Saint Joseph's by ten from the free throw line in the game, sinking 15 of 19 tries. Junior **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)**, the leading scorer at Saint Joseph's last year, was 5-for-5 from the stripe.

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Smith, who shared last year's tournament MVP honors, led Eastern with 12 points and a game-high nine rebounds, Callahan adding ten points and seven rebounds. Senior Steve Monteiro led Saint Joseph's with 14 points while sophomore Marcus Alexander and senior Jon Pratt each grabbed six rebounds. Junior Noah LaRoche scored eight of his ten points in the second half for the Monks before fouling out with 18.1 seconds left.

Eastern and Westfield State last met in the tournament in the third-place game in 2001. The Warriors won, 78-55.

Westfield State 93, Newbury College 80

Junior transfer Bayete Gordon scored 22 points and added five assists and three steals to propel Westfield State College into its first tournament championship game with a 93-80 win over Newbury College.

Gordon, who played previously at Pam Beach Community College, scored 13 of his team-high points in the first half as the Owls raced to a 53-30 halftime lead and qualified for the tourney finals for the first time in their fifth tournament appearance. The final 14-point margin was as close as Newbury would come. Westfield led by 28 points (47-19) in the first half and by as many as 35 twice in the second half.

Sophomore Ricky Ogboin, who led Westfield in scoring as a freshman, finished with 17 points. Sophomore Dan Holbrook had 13 points and a game-high seven rebounds.. Each sank six of eight tries from the floor.

Freshman Arch Mitchell of Newbury, a Boston Globe All-Scholastic choice a year ago, led all players with 23 points. He was 9-for-15 from the floor and 4-for-4 from the stripe, helping his team can 23 of 28 free throws.

Westfield shot 65.7 per cent from the floor in the first half. The Nighthawks shot 52.0 per cent but committed 16 turnovers.