
little east conference

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2006

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL STUNS TOP-RATED KEENE STATE, 83-74
Warriors snap nine-game losing streak at hands of Owls with Little East victory

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Junior forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** recorded his seventh double-double of the year with 19 points and 15 rebounds to spark the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to an 83-74 Little East Conference upset win over Keene State College Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

The win is the first in the conference for Eastern (5-9, 1-5 little east) and the loss is the first in the conference for Keene State (11-4, 5-1 little east), which had beaten the Warriors the last nine times the clubs had met. The Warriors also snapped a four-game overall losing streak with their first home victory since upsetting Trinity College, 66-64 Nov. 22.

Playing without two starting guards, Eastern controlled the tempo and the lead throughout, but needed four straight free throws from sophomore guard **Daniel DeJesus (HARTFORD)** over the final 16 seconds to hold off the Owls. Eastern led by 16, 43-27, at halftime and by 20, 57-37, eight minutes into the second half before Keene scrapped back to within five, 73-68, with 1:27 left. Junior guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** hit the first of a two-shot free throw to give Eastern a 77-70 lead with 29 seconds left. After he missed the second, junior post player **Dan Trudeau (ROCKVILLE)** grabbed the rebound and put it back in to push the lead to nine, 79-70.

Martin sank eight of 12 field goals en route to his game-high scoring total and also added three blocked shots and three assists. Albon had 13 points and seven rebounds. Sophomore guard **Kris Johnson (STURBRIDGE, MA)** scored all 11 of his points in the first half, hitting three three-pointers. In his second career start, first-year sophomore guard **Greg Lasota (NEWINGTON)** handed out a career-high ten assists. Lasota played the entire second half with four personal fouls before finally fouling out with 17.6 seconds left, at which time DeJesus came in to sink his four crucial free throws.

Sophomore guard David Sontag (Mont Vernon, NH) was the only Keene player in double figures, finishing with 15 points. Nine of his points came from the foul line. Keene, which leads the conference in scoring (90.4 ppg.) and three-pointers (10.2 per game), missed 20 of 24 three-pointers. Eastern, which shoots free throws at a 65.6 percentage this year, sank 21 of 29 from the stripe (72.4).

Eastern junior guard **Geoffrey Richardson (HARTFORD)** had seven points, five assists and three rebounds in 36 minutes but contributed primarily on defense, where he held Sontag in check throughout most of the game. Sontag is the conference's fifth-leading scorer (17.9 ppg.) and ranks 12th in field goal percentage, third in three-point percentage (47.4) and first in assists (4.9). Sontag had only six points at halftime and finished 2-for-8 from the floor, 2-for-5 from three-point range and handed out three assists.

Eastern visits SUNY Old Westbury Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

little east conference

Saturday, Jan. 14, 2006

FREE-THROWS CARRY PLYMOUTH TO WIN OVER EASTERN CONN.
In Little East men's basketball, Panthers prevail by a score of 81-72 in 2 ot

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Plymouth State University men's basketball team showed why it is the top free-throw shooting team in the Little East Conference, sinking all ten of its tries from the stripe in the second overtime to pull away from Eastern Connecticut State University, 81-72 in double overtime Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Plymouth (10-4, 3-2 little east) snapped a two-game losing streak with its 11th straight win over Eastern (4-9, 0-5 little east), which has lost its last four -- three straight in conference play.

Plymouth sophomore forward Tim Russell (Littleton, NH) forced overtime when he sank a jumper with two seconds left to tie the game at 57-all at the end of regulation and Eastern junior guard **Geoffrey Richardson's (HARTFORD)** two free throws with 50 seconds left in the first overtime forced a second five-minute session. After Eastern junior guard **Matt Albion (MIDDLEBURY)** tied the game for the tenth time with a jumper with 2:17 left in the second overtime, the Panthers scored five straight to put the game away. Senior forward Brandon Boggs's (Strafford, NH) fourth three-pointer of the game made it 73-70 and sophomore guard Phil Bourassa (Old Orchard Beach, ME) sank two free throws to make it 75-70. Bourassa, Russell and junior forward Mike Walcek (Dover, NH) each canned a pair of free throws the rest of the way.

Both teams scored 58 points from the floor, had 21 turnovers and were virtually even in rebounding, but Plymouth was 23-for-26 from the foul line while Eastern was 14-for-21. The Panthers entered the game e shooting a conference-leading .717 from the stripe.

(more)

The Warriors trailed by as many as 17 points in the first half but the cut gap to six by halftime on Richardson's three-point buzzer-beater. Eastern took its first lead of the game midway through the second half when sophomore reserve guard **Saliym Wilson (MANHATTAN, NY)** scored in the lane to make it 49-47. Eastern led by two points with 13 seconds left in regulation when Albon scored underneath on a tipped pass from Richardson, but Russell canned a jumper from the left perimeter with two seconds left to tie the game at 57-all. Richardson was fouled attempting to shoot from the right base line as time expired but the foul was ruled to have come after the expiration of play.

Senior center Kevin Boutilier (North Andover, MA) led Plymouth with a game-high 24 points, Walcek adding ten points and a game-high 12 rebounds. Boutilier was 8-for-10 from the foul line, Bourassa 8-for-8.

Richardson led Eastern with a career-high 20 points – one more than his previous best – and also had seven rebounds and six assists -- while sophomore center **Kevin Zalucki (ENFIELD)** had 15 points and eight rebounds and junior **forward Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** 11 points and eight rebounds.

Eastern hosts Keene State College Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. while Plymouth hosts the University of Southern Maine at 7:30 p.m. Both are conference games.

Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2006

TEN-POINT SPURT CARRIES UMD PAST EASTERN M-BASKETBALL, 78-65
Corsairs score ten straight in second half to hand Warriors fourth straight LEC loss

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. – Paul Pawlowski and Dan Holbrook combined to outscore Eastern Connecticut State University 10-0 early in the second half and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth men's basketball team went on to a 78-65 Little East Conference victory Tuesday night at the Francis Tripp Center.

The loss is the third straight for Eastern (4-8, 0-4 little east) and keeps the Warriors winless in conference play and winless on their opponent's home floor (0-5). UMass (8-5, 2-2 little east) has won four of its last five. The Warriors had beaten the Corsairs three of the last four times the teams had met in conference regular-season play.

After shooting 61.5 per cent and out-rebounding UMass 18-7 in taking a 39-36 halftime lead, Eastern missed 21 of 28 shots from the floor (25.0 per cent) over the final 20 minutes and was outrebounded by eight.

Junior guard **Geoffrey Richardson (HARTFORD)** nailed a three-pointer with 16 minutes left to tie the game at 45 before the Corsairs ran off ten in a row – the 6-foot-4 inch Pawlowski scoring the first five with a conventional three-point play and inside hoop and and the 6-foot-6 inch Holbrook following with a driving basket and three-point field goal to give the hosts a 55-45 lead with just over ten minutes left.

Eastern sophomore inside player **Kevin Zalucki (ENFIELD)** hit his first eight field goals and finished with a team-high 21 points while junior forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** posted his sixth double-double of the year (fourth in five games) with 13 points and a game-high 15 rebounds to go along with three blocked shots. Richardson added 12 points, seven rebounds and four steals and junior guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** 11 points. Zalucki, who was 7-for-7 from the floor in the first half, converted his first attempt in the second half and did not miss until four minutes were gone in the second half. He was 9-for-13 from the floor, Richardson, Martin and Albon all connecting on four of their nine field goals.

Pawlowski totaled a game-high 22 points. He was 6-for-9 from the floor and 9-for-10 from the stripe. Holbrook, ranked first in the conference in rebounding and second in field goal percentage, had 20 points and ten rebounds. He was 7-for-13 from the floor.

Eastern hosts Plymouth State College Saturday at 3 p.m. in conference play at Geissler Gym.

Saturday, Jan. 7, 2006

IN LEC, LATE RHODE ISLAND SURGE SINKS WARRIORS, 76-58
Down by two point with 4:27 left, they are outscored by margin of 18-2

PROVIDENCE, RI -- The Rhode Island College men's basketball team scored 18 of the game's final 20 points to pull away for a 76-58 Little East Conference win over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday afternoon at the Murray Center.

After sophomore guard **Kris Johnson's (STURBRIDGE, MA)** three-point field goal cut Rhode Island's lead to two points, 58-56 with 4:27 left, Eastern (4-7, 0-3 little east) missed five of its final six field goals and turned the ball over six times. Last year's conference regular-season champion, Rhode Island (7-4, 2-1 little east) got scoring from six different players in those final minutes, the Anchormen going 9-for-9 from the free throw line in that span.

The Warriors never led in the game but trailed by only two eight minutes into the game before going over six minutes with scoring from the floor. Rhode Island outscored Eastern 19-6 in that stretch to move out to a 15-point, 30-15 lead six minutes before the end of the first half. Leading by eight point three minutes into the second half, the Anchormen scored seven points in a row to go up by 15, 53-38 six minutes into the half.

Johnson, who entered the game with only nine career points and one rebound, led all players with 18 points in 18 minutes after coming off the bench and added six rebounds. Johnson dropped in six of the Warriors' season-high 11 three-pointers. Junior forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** recorded his fifth double-double of the season with ten points and a career-high 12 rebounds.

As a team, Rhode Island was 16-for-20 from the free throw line and forced the Warriors into a season-high 27 turnovers. RIC's starters outscored Eastern's first five, 60-33.

Senior guard Kevin Payette paced Rhode Island with 16 points, seven rebounds and six assists. He was 5-for-7 from the floor and 6-for-7 from the stripe. Junior guard Kinsey Durgin had a team-high 17 points.

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

Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2006

CNU WITHSTANDS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL UPSET BID
Warriors hold Captains 22 points below their scoring average in loss

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – The Christopher Newport University men’s basketball team scored the first eight points of the game but had to withstand a late bid by Eastern Connecticut State University to post a 62-57 win in the championship game of the Ninth Annual CNU Captains Shootout at the Freeman Center Wednesday night.

After allowing the first eight points of the game, Eastern (4-6) battled back and led 51-50 with just under five minutes left on a free throw by junior guard **Johnathon Simmons (MYSTIC)**. Eastern couldn’t connect on a field goal which would have pushed the lead to three moments later and Christopher Newport (8-3) went ahead for good, 54-51 on a fastbreak bucket and a tip-in with 2:44 left. The Warriors cut the gap to two points with a free throw and after Eastern missed a potential game-tying field goal with 1:35 left, CNU senior guard Jeremy Romeo canned a three-point field goal to put the game away, 57-52 with 70 seconds left.

The title is the seventh in nine years for Christopher Newport, which was held 22 points under its season scoring average.

Eastern shot only 31.0 per cent from the floor but canned 16 of 23 free throws (CNU was 12-for-24) and committed a season-low 13 turnovers. The Warriors the ball over only five times in the first half, when they erased a quick 8-0 deficit. Eastern held the hosts without a field goal (one point) over the final 3:39 of the first half to pull even, 28-28, at the break.

Sophomore center **Kevin Zalucki (ENFIELD)**, who had career-highs of 22 points and 11 rebounds in Tuesday’s 68-59 first-round win over Westfield State College, was limited to seven points in six rebounds against the Captains. Zalucki played only seven minutes of the first half after picking up his second personal foul seven minutes into the game. Simmons joined Zalucki on the all-tournament team from Eastern. Simmons had a team-high 14 points and added four assists against CNU after totaling 11 points, four rebounds and four assists against Westfield State. Simmons came off the bench in both tournament games.

Junior guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** had eight points, four rebounds and four assists in the title game while junior forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** led the Warriors with nine rebounds

Eastern returns to Little East Conference play Saturday when it visits Rhode Island College at 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2006

ZALUCKI POWERS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL PAST WESTFIELD
Warriors score 15 straight early in game in 68-59 CNU Captains Shootout

NEWPORT NEWS, VA – Six different players contributed to a run of 15 straight points in the second half and the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team went on to a 68-59 win over Westfield State College Tuesday night in the opening round of the Christopher Newport University Captains Shootout at the Freeman Center.

In snapping a three-game losing streak in its first game of the new year, Eastern (4-5) advances to the tournament final Wednesday at 6 p.m. against the winner of Tuesday's second first-round game between host Christopher Newport and the University of Maine-Presque Isle. Westfield (7-5) will play in the 4 p.m. consolation game.

Trailing by eight, 12-4 six minutes into play, Eastern tore off 15 straight points to move out to a seven-point, 19-12 lead with eight minutes left in the first half. Eastern scored the first four points of the second half to take its largest lead, 40-24. At that point, the Owls scored eight points in a row to cut the lead to four before the Warriors countered with an eight-point run of their own to push the lead back to 12, 58-46 with just over three minutes left.

Six-foot-seven inch sophomore post player **Kevin Zalucki (ENFIELD)** and 6-foot-4 inch forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** both finished with double-doubles in points and rebounds. Zalucki had career-highs of 22 points and 12 rebounds and Martin posted his fourth double-double of the season with 11 points and ten rebounds before leaving with a left leg injury with Eastern leading by 11 points, 57-46, with 5:26 left. Junior guard **Johnathon Simmons (MYSTIC)** added 11 points – sinking three three-pointers—and four assists. Zalucki had 14 points and eight rebounds in the second half.

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Martin had four points in the 15-0 run in the first half and Simmons added a three-pointer. Junior guard **Geoff Richardson's (HARTFORD)** steal and basket during that run gave Eastern the lead for good, 13-12, midway through the first half. Until Richardson sank two free throws with 40.1 seconds left, Zalucki was the only Eastern player to go to the stripe in the second half. He was 6-for-8 from the line in the half,

Sophomore guard **Kris Johnson (STURBRIDGE, MA)** – who had scored only three points this season – came off the bench in the first half to sink two three-pointers. The first gave Eastern an eight –point lead with 6:44 left and the second made it a 13-point advantage two minutes later.

Eastern Conn. 68, Westfield State College 59

WESTFIELD STATE (7-5): Gavin Illangakoon 1-6 2-2 4; James Ogbunzie 4-10 0-0 8; Tony Collier 1-11 4-4 6; Mike Jurkowski 1-4 2-2 4; Curtis Gadles 5-12 2-3 12; Steve Martins 0-1 0-0 0; Matt Lynch 1-2 2-2 4; Andy Deffer 3-8 0-1 7; Dave Jaehnig 2-5 0-4 4; Matt Badjo 4-5 2-5 10; TOTAL: 22-64 14-23 59.

EASTERN CONN. (4-5): Shiwon Davis 1-5 0-1 2; Matt Albon 3-7 0-0 6; Geoffrey Richardson 3-9 2-2 8; Leon Martin 5-10 1-2 11; Kevin Zalucki 8-13 6-8 22; Daniel DeJesus 0-0 0-0 0; Johnathon Simmons 3-8 2-2 11; Greg Lasota 0-2 0-0 0; Dan Trudeau 1-3 0-0 2; Kris Johnson 2-3 0-0 6; Saliym Wilson 0-0 0-0 0; TOTAL: 26-60 11-15 68.

Score at halftime: E, 36-24.

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Saturday, Dec. 10, 2005

BALANCE CARRIES USM M-BASKETBALL PAST EASTERN IN OT
Huskies survive four-point play to hand Warriors third straight loss, 68-66

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. –Junior guard Foster Oakley (Farmington, ME) opened overtime with a three-point field goal and the University of Southern Maine men's basketball team never relinquished the lead in a 68-66 Little East Conference overtime win over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Oakley, whose foul on Eastern's three-point field goal with 17 seconds left in regulation had helped Eastern (3-5, 0-2 little east) force overtime, drained his third three-point field goal of the game on Southern Maine's (4-3, 1-1 little east) first possession of overtime to put the Huskies into a lead they would not give up.

The win for Southern Maine at Geissler Gym is its first in seven years. The Huskies had dropped six straight games here after a 61-51 victory in 1998. Eastern has lost three straight and Southern Maine has won two in a row.

Southern Maine led by seven points with just over four minutes left and by four points, 57-53 after sophomore guard Walter Phillips (Portland, ME) sank the first of two free throws with 37 seconds left. Leading by that margin, Southern Maine gave the ball back to Eastern with 18 seconds left when it could not inbound the ball under its own basket. Eastern junior guard **Johnathan Simmons (MYSTIC)** was then fouled by Oakley while swishing a three-point field goal with 17 seconds left, and tied the game 57-57 by converting the free throw.

An inside bucket by senior forward Bill Hardwick (Boothbay, ME) off a pass from sophomore guard Andy Frost (Brewer, ME) with 23 seconds left in overtime opened up a five-point lead for Southern Maine, which survived three missed free throws thereafter to even its conference record.

Sophomore guard Josh Daniels (Everett, WA) led a balanced Southern Maine effort with 18 points and added eight rebounds while Phillips had 14 points and four rebounds and Hardwick 11 points, nine rebounds and four blocked shots. Frost added five points, six rebounds and five assists.

Simmons led all players with an ECSU-high 24 points, junior forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** adding ten points and ten rebounds for his third double-double of the year and sophomore center **Kevin Zalucki (ENFIELD)** contributed ten rebounds.

Eastern faces Westfield State College Jan. 3 in the opening round of the Christopher Newport University Captains Shootout at 6 p.m. Southern Maine visits the University of New England Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

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Saturday, Dec.3, 2005

BARROS SPARKS UMB PAST EASTERN M-BASKETBALL, 76-72
Beacons build 25-point lead in second half in Little East Conference opener

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Junior forward Tony Barros scored 18 points in the second half to help the University of Massachusetts Boston to a 76-72 men's basketball win over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday afternoon in the Little East Conference opener for both schools at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Trailing by five points, 31-26, Eastern (3-4) went ten minutes without a field goal – getting four points on free throws in that stretch – as UMass (4-2) surged to a 24 point, 54-30 lead with just over nine minutes left. The Beacons, who snapped a four-game losing streak at the hands of Eastern, scored 11 straight points to open that run, getting points from five different players in that run. The lead crested at 25 points, 57-32, with nine minutes left.

Sophomore guard Amigo Paniagua – the Beacons' leading scorer with an average just under 20 points, was limited to just four points before fouling out with his team leading by 12 with 5:21 left. However, Barros finished with a game-high 27 points – ten above his average. Barros converted half of his 14 field goal tries, was 3-for-4 from three-point range and was 10-of-17 from the foul line.

Barros led a balanced attack which featured five double-figure scorers. The Beacons committed only five turnovers in taking a five-point lead into the lockerroom. Eastern raced to a quick 7-1 lead after six minutes but UMass scored 16 of the next 19 points to move out to a seven-point, 17-10 lead midway through the half.

Eastern junior forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** led the Warriors with 12 first-half points (5-for-5 from the floor) and sophomore center **Kevin Zalucki (ENFIELD)** grabbed eight first-half rebounds. Martin was held to just two free throws in seven second-half minutes and Zalucki had just one rebound in 18 second-half minutes.

Junior guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** had season-highs of 23 points and nine rebounds to pace Eastern. Albon connected on eight of 12 field goals in the second half. Martin had 14 points and six rebounds, Zalucki nine points and nine rebounds and senior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)** ten points – all in the second half.

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

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Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2005

WESLEYAN PULLS AWAY FROM EASTERN M-BASKETBALL

Warriors manage just one field goal over ten minute stretch in 72-67 setback

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men’s basketball team was held to one field goal for ten minutes as Wesleyan University broke from a tie in the second half on the way to a 72-67 non-conference win Wednesday night at the Freeman Athletic Center.

After an inside bucket by senior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)** tied the game at 44 with 13:30 left, Eastern (3-3) managed only one field goal and five total points over the the next ten minutes as Wesleyan (3-3) pulled away to take a 14-point, 63-49 lead with just over three minutes left.

During that stretch, the Warriors went to the free throw line ten times, but missed seven.

Wesleyan scored the first five points of the second half to build a quick six-point lead in the opening minutes of the half before the Warriors answered with a 13-6 run to take its only lead of the second half, 42-41 with 14 minutes left. Stallings’ basket off an inbounds pass gave Eastern that one-point lead and his inside basket off a pass from junior guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** tied the game at 44 moments later before the Cardinals went on their 19-5 run.

Junior forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** led Eastern with 14 points and completed his third career double-double with ten rebounds. Senior guard **Geoffrey Richardson (HARTFORD)** added 12 points and a career-high nine rebounds. Stallings had ten points and nearly doubled his previous career high by pulling down a game-high 13 rebounds for his first double-double at Eastern. He also had four assists. Albon handed out a game-high five assists.

Averaging 12 points per game this year, junior guard Jimmy Shepherd of Wesleyan totaled a game-high 23 points. Shepherd scored 18 of his points in the second half, sinking five of six field goals and collecting four three-pointers over the final 20 minutes.

The win is the fifth straight and ninth in the last ten outings for Wesleyan over Eastern.

Eastern opens its Little East Conference season Saturday by hosting Massachusetts Boston at 3 p.m.

little east conference

Sunday, Nov.27,2005

STALLINGS FUELS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL COMEBACK

Senior guard equals career high with 26 points in 72-66 victory over W&L

ROCHESTER, NY – Senior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)** scored 15 of his career-tying 26 points in the final ten minutes to help the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team rally past Washington & Lee University, 72-66, Sunday afternoon in the consolation game of the University of Rochester Holiday Inn Tournament at the Louis Alexander Palestra.

Trailing by 13 points, 47-34, Eastern (3-2) went on a 24-6 run over a span of seven minutes to take a 58-53 lead with five minutes left. Junior guard **Geoffrey Richardson's (HARTFORD)** three-point field goal snapped a 53-all tie and gave the Warriors the lead for good with six minutes left. Junior center **Dan Trudeau (ROCKVILLE)** then knocked the ball free on W&L's next possession and sophomore guard **Dan DeJesus (HARTFORD)** layed in an open drive to the hoop to make it 58-53. Led by Stallings (6-for-6), the Warriors retained the lead by converting ten of 12 free throws in the final 3:33.

Stallings, who came off the bench in both tournament games, represented Eastern on the all-tournament team. Against the Generals, he tied his Eastern career high with his game-high total. He was 8-for-13 from the floor and 10-for-13 from the foul line (9-for-10 in the second half) and also contributed six rebounds, four assists and a steal.

Coming off Saturday's 79-54 first-round loss to No. 23 nationally-ranked Rochester, the Warriors shot 52.6 per cent from the floor in the first half against Washington and Lee (0-5), but led by only four, 29-25. Things unraveled quickly in the second half, the Generals opening with a 22-5 run that vaulted them into a 13-point, 47-32 lead with 12:24 left.

Following a timeout, a key sequence cut six quick points off the deficit and pulled the Warriors to within seven, 47-40, with 11 minutes left. Richardson, the team's top three-point threat, was inserted into the game at the timeout and immediately swished a three-pointer when the Warriors inbounded. The Generals then missed a one-and-one try on their end of the floor, and Richardson found Trudeau alone underneath for an easy hoop. Trudeau was fouled on the play and made the free throw to make it 47-40 with 10:47 left. The General opened the door again on their next possession by committing a foul and after a W&L timeout, Stallings canned both ends of a one-and-one, pulling the Warriors to within five, 47-42, with 10:28 left.

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Richardson and junior forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** joined Stallings in double figures with 13 and 11 points, respectively Richardson was 5-for-7 from the floor, including 3-for-4 from three-point range. Martin was 7-for-8 from the foul line and matched Stallings with six rebounds. Martin's final two free throws were awarded when he was fouled while rebounding an Eastern missed shot with 1:24 left. He sank them both to make it 67-64.

In the game, Eastern was 23-for-31 from the foul line, 16-for-21 in the second half.

Junior guard Chris Halkitis led the Generals with 16 points. Coming off an 0-for-8 shooting performance in a 30-point first-round loss to nationally-ranked John Carroll University Saturday night, Halkitis dropped in 13 points in the first half against Eastern but was limited to two shots and a single three-point field goal in the second half before fouling out with 3:33 left. Six-foot-7 inch sophomore forward Greg Biedemann followed Halkitis to the bench a minute later when he was whistled for his fifth foul while battling Martin for the rebound that resulted in the two free throws. Biedemann had 13 points and led all players with seven rebounds.

Sophomore point guard **Shiwon Davis (STRATFORD)** missed both games in the tournament after twisting his ankle in the opening minutes of Tuesday's win over Trinity College.

Rochester (4-1) won its tenth tournament title in the past 11 years by defeating No.16 nationally-ranked John Carroll University (3-1) in Sunday afternoon's championship game. John Carroll had whipped Washington & Lee, 86-56, in Saturday night's first round.

First Round: Rochester 79, Eastern 54

In the first meeting ever between the programs, nine Rochester players came off the bench to total 44 points as the Yellowjackets sent the Warriors into the consolation game.

Leading by five, 18-13, Rochester outscored Eastern 16-2 over a span of five minutes to take command with a 19-point, 34-15 lead with two minutes left in the first half. The Warriors trailed by 18, 37-19 at halftime and by 29, 54-25 seven minutes into the second half. Over the final 13 minutes, however, Eastern outscored the Yellowjackets by a margin of 29-25.

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Eastern's starting five outscored Rochester's five starters by two points but nine Yellowjacket players came off the bench to outscore Eastern by 27 points, 44-17. One of last year's NCAA Division III national finalists, Rochester featured five players standing at least 6-foot-6 inches tall and started a front court measuring 6-foot-5, 6-foot-6 and 6-foot-7. Rochester outrebounded Eastern, 39-25.

Sophomore forward **Eric Johnson (WATERBURY)** and junior guards **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** and **Johnathon Simmons (MYSTIC)** all had nine points for Eastern, with Johnson grabbing a team-high four rebounds and Richardson handing out a team-high four assists.

As a team, Eastern shot just 32.8 per cent from the floor and missed 11 of 29 free throws.

Junior guard Joe Canty and senior swingman Mike Goia each had ten points to lead Rochester, combining to connect on eight of nine field goals. Eastern was able contain six-foot-seven inch Jon Onyiriuka, holding him to six points and eight rebounds. However, Onyiriuka got off-the-bench rebounding help from 6-foot-6 inch sophomore Dan Milbrand (seven rebounds) and 6-foot-5 inch sophomore Will Thorne (5). With their inside firepower, the Yellowjackets outscored Eastern by 22 points (40-18) in the lane.

All 15 players in uniform saw action for Eastern, which visits Wesleyan University Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 26, 2005

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL CAN'T MATCH ROCHESTER

Last year's national finalist dumps Warriors in tourney opener, 79-54

ROCHESTER, NY – Nine University of Rochester players came off the bench to total 44 points as the No. 23 nationally-ranked Yellowjackets downed the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team, 79-54 Saturday night in the opening round of the UR Holiday Inn Tournament at the Louis Alexander Palestra.

Leading by five, 18-13, Rochester (3-1) outscored Eastern (2-2) 16-2 over a span of five minutes to take command with a 19-point, 34-15 lead with two minutes left in the first half. The Warriors trailed by 18, 37-19 at halftime and by 29, 54-25 seven minutes into the second half. Over the final 13 minutes, however, Eastern outscored the Yellowjackets by a margin of 29-25.

Eastern faces Washington & Lee University in Sunday's 1 p.m. consolation game while Rochester meets No. 16 nationally-ranked John Carroll University at 3 p.m. for the tournament championship. Rochester had a string of nine straight tournament titles snapped a year ago. John Carroll whipped W & L by 30 points, 86-56 in Saturday's first game.

Eastern's starting five outscored Rochester's five starters by two points but nine Yellowjacket players came off the bench to outscore Eastern by 27 points, 44-17. One of last year's NCAA Division III national finalists, Rochester featured five players standing at least 6-foot-6 inches tall and started a front court measuring 6-foot-5, 6-foot-6 and 6-foot-7. Rochester outrebounded Eastern, 39-25.

Sophomore forward **Eric Johnson (WATERBURY)** and junior guards **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** and **Johnathon Simmons (MYSTIC)** all had nine points for Eastern, with Johnson grabbing a team-high four rebounds and junior guard **Geoffrey Richardson (HARTFORD)** handing out a team-high four assists.

As a team, Eastern shot just 32.8 per cent from the floor and missed 11 of 29 free throws.

Junior guard Joe Canty and senior swingman Mike Goia each had ten points to lead Rochester, combining to connect on eight of nine field goals. Eastern was able contain six-foot-seven inch Jon Onyiriuka, holding him to six points and eight rebounds. However, Onyiriuka got off-the-bench rebounding help from 6-foot-6 inch sophomore Dan Milbrand (seven rebounds) and 6-foot-5 inch sophomore Will Thorne (5). With their inside firepower, the Yellowjackets outscored Eastern by 22 points (40-18) in the lane.

All 15 players in uniform saw action for Eastern. Sophomore point guard **Shiwon Davis (STRATFORD)** missed his second straight start, this time with a twisted ankle. He is not expected to play Sunday.

little east conference

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2005

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL RALLIES PAST TRINITY, 66-64

Michael Stallings scores game-winner with 1.7 seconds left to cap rally from 14 down

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Senior guard **Michael Stallings (WATERBURY)** came off the bench to score all five of his points over the final 62 seconds – the final two coming with 1.7 seconds left – to help lift the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 66-64 win over Trinity College Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler.

Eastern (2-1) trailed by as many as 14 points late in the first half and by eight with 5:32 left. With the game tied, 64-64, Eastern went the length of the court and Stallings sank a bucket from the left side of the key for what proved to be the winning points. Trinity (2-1) inbounded after two timeouts but the inbound pass to midcourt was grabbed by Eastern junior **Geoffrey Richardson (HARTFORD)** as time expired.

Trailing by eight, 58-50 with 5:32 left, Eastern outscored the Bantams 16-6 the rest of the way, getting points from six different players. Stallings scored the team's final five points, hitting a bucket to give Eastern a 63-62 lead with 62 seconds left and converting the second of a two-shot foul 32 seconds later to make it 64-62. Stallings' points on those two possessions were set up by defensive rebounds from 6-foot-7 inch sophomore center **Kevin Zalucki (ENFIELD)**.

After Stallings made it 64-62, the Bantams missed three tries at the hoop on their next possession, but freshman guard Paul Rowe was eventually fouled and swished a pair of free throws to tie the game at 64-all with 14 seconds left. After inbounding, the Warriors got the ball to Stallings, who drove the lane and canned a short jumper from the left side with 1.7 seconds left for the winning basket.

For Trinity, junior guard Patrick Martin and 6-foot-6 inch senior forward Tyler Rhoten fouled out 1:18 apart late in the game with their team holding three-point leads. Martin left with 3:19 remaining and Rhoten followed with 2:11 left. Rhoten, a pre-season Division III All-America and MVP of his team's tournament win last weekend at Lancaster, PA, was held without a field goal (one point) after scoring ten points in the first half and helping the Bantams to a 34-26 halftime edge.

(more)

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Junior guard Kino Clarke scored more than half of Trinity's points, finishing with a game-high 33 on 11-for-19 field goal shooting and 4-for-4 shooting from the stripe. He was 7-for-13 from three-point range. However, only Rhoten joined him in double figures.

For Eastern, junior guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** scored 12 of his team-high 18 points in the second half, helping the Warriors to a 56.0 field goal percentage over the final 20 minutes. Junior forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** added 14 points, sinking six of six free throws in the second half. Zalucki led all players with 11 rebounds, Albon grabbing seven, Martin six and first-year junior forward **Eric Johnson (WATERBURY)** five.

Starting point guard **Shiwon Davis (STRATFORD)** was limited to just four minutes. Davis, named to the Eastern Tip-Off Tournament All-Tournament team this past weekend, did not start the game due to back spasms. He started the second half, but left after only four minutes after twisting his left ankle.

The win is only the fifth in the 18-game series for Eastern, which lost 83-63 a year ago. The Warriors finished 8-16 last year, Trinity 19-7.

Eastern faces nationally-ranked University of Rochester Saturday at 8 p.m. in the opening round of the University of Rochester Holiday Inn Tournament.

little east conference

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2005

EASTERN SHUT DOWN BY BATES IN CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Bates' Stockwell earns MVP honors at Eastern tip-off basketball tourney

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Rob Stockwell (Temple, NH) scored a game-high 26 points to lead the Bates College men's basketball team to a 75-57 victory over host Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday afternoon in the championship game of the 25th Annual Eastern Tip-Off Basketball Tournament at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

A 21-time tournament finalist and seven-time champion, Eastern had a five-game tournament winning streak broken by Bates, which was making its first tournament appearance. The Warriors had won the two previous titles. It was Bates's first tournament appearance.

A 6-foot-5 inch post player, Stockwell had 38 points and 21 rebounds in two tournament wins, sinking 14 of 31 field goals and eight of 13 free throws in earning Most Outstanding Player honors. In Friday's 68-54 first-round win over William Paterson, Stockwell had 12 points and a game-high 16 rebounds. He was joined on the all-tournament team by two teammates: senior guard Sean Cahill (Worcester, MA) and sophomore guard Bryan Wholey (Marshfield, MA). In the tournament, Cahill had 24 points (9-for-16 FG), nine rebounds, nine assists and nine steals. Wholey had 23 points (10-for-22 FG) and four rebounds.

Leading by four points, 32-28 at halftime in the title game, Bates scored the first nine points of the second half to move out to a 13-point, 41-28 lead. Wholey and Cahill each scored in the run and Stockwell capped the streak by completing a three-point play with a free throw. Cahill sank a three-pointer to open the game and Bates jumped to a quick 9-2 lead and never trailed.

Sophomore guard **Shiwon Davis (STRATFORD)** and junior forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** represented Eastern on the all-tournament team, along with William Paterson junior forward Luis Martinez. The Most Outstanding Player of the 2004 tournament as a freshman, Davis had 27 points, eight assists, seven steals and six

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rebounds this year. He was 7-for-12 from the floor and 12-for-15 from the stripe. After scoring 20 points and grabbing 18 rebounds (one shy of the tournament game record) in Friday's 82-73 win over Mitchell College, Martin finished with 25 points and 28 rebounds in the tournament. He also blocked three shots. In Saturday's 76-58 win over Mitchell in the third-place game, Martinez matched Martin with a game-high 18 points and tied the nine-year-old tournament record with a game-high 36 points. He was 14-for-20 from the floor and 7-for-9 from the stripe.

Defensive efforts by both teams kept first-round leading scorers to single digits. Bates' Zak Ray (Bangor, ME), who tossed in a game-high 17 points in the first round, was limited to five points by Davis's defense. Martin was held to five points (2-for-11 FG) by Stockwell.

little east conference

Friday, Nov. 18, 2005

BATES, EASTERN ADVANCE IN EASTERN TIP-OFF OPENERS

Ray's and Wholey's offensive shooting too much for Pioneers defense

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Zak Ray (Bangor, ME) and teammate Bryan Wholey (Marshfield, MA) teamed up for 32 points in Bates College's 68-54 win over the Pioneers of William Paterson University Friday night during the first round of the 25th Annual Eastern Connecticut State University Tip-Off Tournament at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium on the ECSU campus.

Bates' win advances to Saturday's 3 p.m. championship game against host Eastern Connecticut, which downed Mitchell College, 82-73 in Friday's second semifinal. It will be the fourth straight trip to the final for Eastern, the two-time defending tournament champion. Bates is making its tournament debut. William Paterson will face Mitchell in Saturday's 1 p.m. third-place game.

Bates 68, William Paterson 54

Bates lead the entire game, scoring the first seven points and racing to a 14-4 lead in the opening minutes. Williams came within three during a comeback run late in the first half but was ultimately shut down by Ray's shooting dominance. Ray, a 5'11" junior guard, recorded 17 points and three steals and sophomore guard Wholey had 15 points.

Turnovers and fouls made an impact on the final score for both teams, with Williams recording 20 turnovers and the Bobcats 21, while a combined total of 26 points came from the free throw line, 13 for each team.

Junior forward Luis Martinez (Passaic, NJ) lead the Pioneers with 12 points, guards Joey Spiegel (Teaneck, NJ) and Kelvin DeLosAngeles (Perth Amboy, NJ) both had ten.

Eastern 82, Mitchell 73

Leon Martin (Woodbury, CT) had a career-high 18 rebounds and equalled his career high with 20 points in leading the Warriors to the win over the Pequots. Formerly a junior college, Mitchell is in its second year at the Division III level. It was the first meeting between the program.

Martin, a second-year forward, had 12 points and 11 rebounds in the second half when Eastern broke from a seven-point halftime lead to move out to a 15-point, 51-36 advantage six minutes into the half. The Pequots battled back to cut the lead to as few as six points, the latest at 75-69 with just under two minutes left. Eastern scored nine of its final 11 points from the foul line. On its two missed free throws in that span, Martin grabbed one and returned it for a bucket and Michael Stallings (Waterbury, CT) grabbed the other one. Shiwon Davis (Stratford, CT) was fouled after Stallings' offensive rebound with 48 seconds left and sank two free throws to make it 78-69.

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In the second half, Eastern sank 48.1 per cent of its field goals and canned 13 of 18 free throws.

Martin paced four double-digit scorers, with first-year junior guard **Johnathon Simmons (Mystic, CT)** adding 17 points and five assists in his Eastern debut. Stallings 14 points (8-for-10 from the stripe) and Davis ten points, five assists and four steals.

For Mitchell, **Jamal Foster (Newburgh, NY)** had 18 points and 14 rebounds, **David Andrade (Brockton, MA)** and **Jashone Cunningham (Middletown, CT)** 13 points and **Chris Brown (Monmouth Junction, NJ)** 12 points and nine rebounds. Cunningham, whose bucket had sliced the Eastern lead to six for the final time in the final minutes, fouled out with 31 seconds left. Eight of his points came on ten free throws.