
little east conference

Tuesday, Feb.21,2006

UMASS BOSTON SURVIVES SCARE BY EASTERN M-BASKETBALL, 60-56
Seventh-seeded Warriors foiled by second-seeded Beacons in Little East tourney opener

BOSTON, Mass. – Junior swingman Tony Barros poured in 30 points as the No. 2-seeded University of Massachusetts Boston men's basketball team hung on to defeat visiting No. 6 seed Eastern Connecticut State University, 60-56, in the first round of the Little East Conference Tournament at the Clark Athletic Center Tuesday night.

The conference tournament win is the first for UMass Boston (16-10) since downing Eastern (9-17) in the 1997 tournament semifinals and vaults the Beacons into Friday's semifinals against No. 3 seeded Rhode Island College at Keene, NH. The Warriors concluded their season with a 1-11 record in games played on their opponent's home court, with five of those losses coming by seven points or less. The Warriors, who played their season without a senior, lost three times to UMass this year by a combined total of 15 points, twice losing by four points.

Eastern trailed by only two points and had possession of the ball following a UMass turnovers in the final seconds but its attempt at a tying basket on a two-on-one opportunity was blocked and UMass hit two insurance free throws with eight seconds left.

UMass Boston owned a 47-39 lead with 7:12 to play in the game, but the Warriors went on a 13-5 run -- capped by junior forward **Leon Martin's (WOODBURY)** first three-pointer of the year -- to pull even at 52-52 with 3:59 showing in the contest. Martin had seven of his team-high 17 points in the run.

The score was tied at 54-54 with 3:10 remaining before senior forward Charles Yuan knocked down a pair of free throws and sophomore guard Amigo Paniagua converted a lay-up to give the Beacons a 58-54 lead with 1:10 left in the game. Junior guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** sank a jumper for Eastern with 53 seconds left to make it 58-56 and then called a timeout. UMass Boston worked the clock down on the following possession and turned the ball over as the Warriors came down the court with a two-on-one, but Yuan stepped up with his only block of the game on an inside attempt by Eastern junior **Dan Trudeau (ROCKVILLE)** to get the ball back for the Beacons with 13 seconds left. Barros later made a lay-up with eight ticks left in the game to seal the win.

(more)

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Eastern scored eight straight points early in the game – holding UMass without a basket and just one point for nine minutes – to take a 19-10 lead with just over six minutes left in the half. UMass Boston came back, though, closing out the half with a 14-5 run to tie the contest at the intermission at 24-24, with Barros leading the way with three three-pointers during the stretch.

The Warriors built a 35-28 lead in the first 4:29 of the second stanza, before the Beacons reeled off seven straight points to knot the game at 35-35 with 11:46 to go in the half. UMass Boston kept the burst going, scoring 10 of the game's next 12 points to take a 45-37 lead with 9:27 remaining in the contest, fueled by eight points from Barros.

Eastern forced the conference's top field-goal shooting team into a game mark of 38.6. The conference's second-worst team in that department, Eastern converted 51.1 per cent of its field goals – its best marksmanship in a conference game this year and its second-best in any game. The conference's second-best defense (Eastern) held the conference's second-best offense 24 points under its season's scoring average.

Martin was 7-for11 from the field and added six rebounds, four blocks and three assists. It was his third-highest point total this year – highest in 12 games. Junior guard **Geoffrey Richardson (HARTFORD)** contributed 11 points and four assists, Albon chipping in ten points. First-year sophomore guard **Greg Lasota (NEWINGTON)** handed out eight assists – two shy of his season-high.

The conference's second-leading scorer with a 20.5 average, Barros was 10-20 from the floor, including 6-9 from three-point range en route to his game-high total. He added six rebounds and four steals. In his team's 76-72 win over Eastern Dec. 3 at Willimantic, Barros had 27 points (7-for-14 FG, 10-for-17 FT) and eight rebounds. He was 3-for-4 from three-point range in that game. Paniagua finished just short of a double-double with 10 points and nine boards in addition to six assists and three steals, while sophomore point guard A.J. Titus dished for a game-high nine assists.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 21, 2006

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BARROS LEADS UMASS BOSTON MEN'S BASKETBALL OVER EASTERN CONNECTICUT, 60-56

Beacons Advance to Semi-Finals of Little East Conference Tournament

BOSTON, MA – Junior swingman **Tony Barros** (Dorchester, MA) poured in 30 points as the number two seeded University of Massachusetts Boston men's basketball team hung on to defeat visiting number six seed Eastern Connecticut State University, 60-56, in the first round of the Little East Conference Tournament tonight at the Clark Athletic Center on the UMass Boston campus. The Beacons improve to 16-10 on the season and win their first LEC playoff game since February 28, 1997 when they defeated Eastern Connecticut State in the tournament semi-finals, 76-67. The Warriors fall to 9-17 overall.

UMass Boston owned a 47-39 lead with 7:12 to play in the game, but Eastern Connecticut went on a 13-5 run, capped by a three-pointer from Leon Martin, who scored seven points during the run, to pull the Warriors even at 52-52 with 3:59 showing in the contest. The score would be tied at 54-54 with 3:10 remaining, before senior forward **Charles Yuan** (Lynn, MA) knocked down a pair of free throws and sophomore guard **Amigo Paniagua** (Santiago, DR) converted a lay-up to give the Beacons a 58-54 lead with 1:10 left in the game. Matt Albon sunk a jumper for Eastern Connecticut with 53 seconds left to make it 58-56 and then called a timeout. UMass Boston worked the clock down on the following possession and turned the ball over as the Warriors came down the court with a two-on-one, but Yuan stepped up with a huge block to get the ball back for the Beacons with 13 seconds left. Barros later made a lay-up with eight ticks left in the game to seal the 60-56 win for UMass Boston.

The teams were tied at 9-9 with 15:07 showing in the second half, but Eastern Connecticut held the Beacons to just one point over the next 8:29, while scoring 10 points to take a 19-10 lead with 7:04 to go in the opening half. UMass Boston came back, though, closing out the half with a 14-5 run to tie the contest at the intermission at 24-24, with Barros leading the way with three treys during the stretch.

The Warriors, who shot 51.1% (23-45) for the game, built a 35-28 lead in the first 4:29 of the second stanza, before the Beacons reeled off seven straight points to knot the game at 35-35 with 11:46 to go in the half. UMass Boston kept the burst going, scoring 10 of the game's next 12 points to take a 45-37 lead with 9:27 remaining in the contest, fueled by eight points from Barros.

Barros was 10-20 from the floor, including 6-9 from three-point range and added six rebounds, four steals, an assist and a block to his night for the Beacons. Paniagua finished just short of a double-double with 10 points and nine boards in addition to six assists and three steals, while sophomore point guard **A.J. Titus** (Roxbury, MA) dished for a game-high nine assists to go with three points, two rebounds and a pair of steals.

Martin led the Warriors with 17 points on 7-11 from the field and added six rebounds, four blocks, three assists and a steal. Geoffrey Richardson contributed with 11 points and added two rebounds, four assists and a steal, while Albon chipped in with 10 points two rebounds, a steal and an assist.

UMass Boston will be in action again on Friday, February 24 when it takes on the tournament's number three seed Rhode Island College at tournament host Keene State College in Keene, NH with the time to be announced.

little east conference

Saturday, Feb. 18, 2006

PLYMOUTH BOUNCES EASTERN M-BASKETBALL, 82-65
As No. 7 seed, Warriors visit UMass Boston in Little East first round Tuesday

PLYMOUTH, NH – The Plymouth State University men's basketball team shot 61.5 per cent and forced 11 Eastern Connecticut State University turnovers in the first half on the way to an 82-65 Little East Conference victory in the regular-season finale for both teams Saturday afternoon at Foley Gymnasium.

With its tenth loss in 11 games on its opponents' home court this year, Eastern (9-16, 3-11) finishes in a tie for seventh place in the final regular-season conference standings and will visit the University of Massachusetts Boston Tuesday night in a first-round conference tournament game. The Warriors are the No. 7 seed, UMass the No. 2 seed. UMass was denied a share of its first conference regular-season title when it dropped a 79-72 decision at Rhode Island College Saturday. Fourth-seeded Plymouth State (16-9, 8-6) hosts No. 5 seed UMass Dartmouth in Tuesday's first-round game.

Saturday, Plymouth canned 16 of 26 shots in the first half while Eastern was shooting 38.5 per cent and turning the ball over 11 times as the Panthers surged to a 14-point, 41-27 halftime lead. The Warriors would not get closer than that 14-point margin in the second half.

Sophomore guard **Kris Johnson (STURBRIDGE, MA)** led Eastern with 12 points, junior guard **Geoffrey Richardson (HARTFORD)** and sophomore guard **Saliym Wilson (MANHATTAN, NY)** adding ten each. The points were a career-high for Wilson, who was 6-for-8 from the free-throw line.

Plymouth, which has won 12 straight against Eastern, got 16 points from junior guard Brandon Boggs and 14 from junior center Kevin Boutilier.

Eastern and UMass Boston have not met in conference tournament play since the Beacons won, 76-67, in the 1997 semifinals at UMass Dartmouth. Eastern has won two of three against UMass Boston in conference tournament play, both wins coming at Geissler Gym. UMass swept this year's regular-season series, winning 76-72 Dec. 3 at Geissler Gym in the conference opener for both teams, and 84-77 Jan. 21 at Boston.

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MOLTA, Bob (Athletics)

From: Kent Cherrington [kcherrin@plymouth.edu]
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To: MOLTA, Bob (Athletics)
Subject: Men's game story

For Immediate Release
 February 18, 2006
 Contact: Kent Cherrington, SID

PSU Men's Hoop dumps Eastern Conn. in regular season finale**Boggs leads Panthers past Warriors; PSU to host play-off game Tuesday**

PLYMOUTH, N.H. – Senior **Brandon Boggs** (Strafford, N.H.) scored a game-high 16 points Saturday afternoon, leading the Plymouth State University men's basketball team to an 82-65 victory over Eastern Connecticut State University in the Little East Conference regular season finale for both schools at Foley Gymnasium.

Boggs connected on 6-of-11 shots from the floor to lead the Panthers, who shot 53 percent for the game. Senior **Kevin Boutillier** (North Andover, Mass.) added 14 points to the Panther cause, and junior **Mike Walcek** (Dover, N.H.) chipped in with 11 points and a team-high six rebounds, helping the home team to a 38-27 margin on the boards.

Sophomore Kris Johnson (Sturbridge, Mass.) led the visitors with 12 points, while junior Geoffrey Richardson (Hartford, Conn.) and sophomore Saliym Wilson (Manhattan, N.Y.) finished with 10 points apiece.

Plymouth State jumped out to a double-digit lead (16-4) in the first seven minutes of the game. PSU maintained the comfortable margin throughout the first half, and led by 14 at the break (41-27).

The Panthers pushed their lead up to 24 points (55-31) early in the second half, and coasted some the rest of the way, getting playing time for all 15 players in uniform.

PSU completes the regular season at 16-9 overall and 8-6 in conference play, good for sole possession of fourth place. The Panthers will host fifth-seeded UMass Dartmouth Tuesday in the first round of the LEC Tournament (7:00 p.m.)

The Warriors wrap up the regular season at 9-16 overall and 3-11 in the Little East. Eastern, which finished in a tie for seventh with Southern Maine, will be the seventh seed in next week's conference tournament and will visit second-seeded UMass Boston for a first-round game on Tuesday (7:00 p.m.)

Keene State captured the LEC regular season title with an 11-3 conference record.

little east conference

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2006

WESTERN HOLDS OFF LATE EASTERN M-BASKETBALL RALLY
Warriors fall to 1-9 on opponent's home court following 83-68 Little East loss

DANBURY, Conn. – Little East Conference scoring leader Greg Cole scored 15 points in the second half to help carry the Western Connecticut State University men's basketball team to an 83-68 conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday night at Feldman Arena.

With the loss, Eastern (9-15, 3-10 little east) remains in a tie for last place in the conference with the University of Southern Maine, which was beaten by conference co-leader UMass Boston Thursday night., 67-62. With the win -- the Colonials' sixth straight over Eastern -- defending conference playoff champion Western (13-11, 5-8 little east) avoids sharing the conference basement. The loss is Eastern's ninth in ten games this year on its opponent's home court.

Western took the lead for good in the opening minutes of the game, held a eight-point, 37-29 lead at halftime by took a 13-point lead into the final four minutes of the game. At that point, Eastern sophomore guard **Daniel DeJesus (HARTFORD)** converted a three-point play to begin a run of seven straight Eastern points -- junior guard **Geoffrey Richardson (HARTFORD)** also sinking four of four free throw around a steal by DeJesue -- that cut the gap to six, 69-63, with two minutes left. Cole then completed his own three-point play to put the lead back to nine and Western was 7-for-7 from the free-throw line the rest of the way to preserve the lead.

In two wins over Eastern this year, Western has canned 41 of 53 free throws.

Cole led all scorers with 23 points, Jamie Procino (17) and Dashon Jennings (12) adding double figures off the bench. Cole and Procino combined to shoot 17-for-20 from the foul line while Jennings handed out a game-high six assists. Jason Barnett added 11 points and 11 rebounds.

(more)

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Richardson finished with 19 points, DeJesus coming off the bench for a career-high 14 points in 19 minutes. He did not miss a shot in the game, going 5-for-5 from the floor, 3-for-3 from three-point range and 1-for-1 from the stripe. Sophomore center **Kevin Zalucki (ENFIELD)** posted his first double-double in 15 games, finishing with ten points and ten rebounds.

Eastern closes out the regular season Saturday at 3 p.m. with a Little East Conference game at Plymouth State University. The Warriors will open the conference playoffs with a road game Tuesday.

little east conference

Saturday, Feb. 11, 2006

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL DOWNS UMD IN OVERTIME, 68-65

Warriors gain Little East Conference season split with UMass Dartmouth

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Sophomore guard **Greg Lasota (NEWINGTON)** broke an overtime tie with two free throws and junior forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** grabbed two defensive rebounds in the final 34 seconds as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team edged the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, 68-65, Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

With the win, Eastern (9-14, 3-9 little east) evens its final regular-season home record at 6-6 and moves out of last place in the conference and into a two-way tie for seventh with the University of Southern Maine, which lost, 75-68, at Rhode Island College. Having lost eight games this year by five or less points or in overtime, the Warriors have captured four of their last six. UMass Dartmouth (12-11, 5-7 little east) has lost four of its last five and falls to 3-9 on its opponents' home court.

The Corsairs forced overtime at the buzzer ending regulation when sophomore guard A.J. Tavares (New Bedford, MA) swished a three-point basket from the corner after Lasota had given Eastern a three-point lead with two free throws with 6.4 seconds left. Tavares' tying basket was set up on a miraculous half-court pass by freshman guard Reece Freeman. After Lasota hit the second free throw, UMass's inbound pass sailed over the head of Freeman, who chased it down just before it went out of bounds at half court and flung an off-balance pass down the sideline and into the hands of Tavares.

In overtime, junior guard **Geoff Richardson (HARTFORD)** and Lasota sandwiched two free throws each around a missed UMass three-pointer ten seconds part to give Eastern the lead for good, 62-60 one minute into the extra session. Trailing by one, 66-65, UMass missed a three-point try, which was rebounded by Martin. After Lasota hit one of two free throws to make it 67-65, Martin pulled down another missed UMass shot, then sank one of two free throws with 12 seconds left to make it 68-65. The Corsairs' three-point attempt to tie the game banged off the rim and was pulled down by Martin as time expired.

(more)

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Richardson missed seven minutes in the second half after injuring his leg when he crashed to the floor on a drive to the basket with 9:39 left, but returned for the final 2:28 of regulation and overtime to finish with a team-high 14 points, as well as five rebounds and five assists. In overtime, he had four points, two rebounds and an assist. Martin added 11 points and seven rebounds. Martin (5-for-7) and Lasota (6-for-8) led the Warriors at the free throw line, where they were 16-for-20 after the break. Eastern is ranked eighth (last) in the conference in free-throw percentage.

Junior guard Devon Maiorano (Rehoboth, MA) led UMass with 15 points, sinking four of five three-pointers. Junior forward Stephane Abelard added 14 points (3-for-4 three-pointers) and junior center Dan Holbrook (Lexington, MA) had ten points and a game-high 11 rebounds. UMass missed eight of 15 free throws, including seven of 11 in the second half.

Eastern visits defending conference tournament champion Western Connecticut State University Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

little east conference

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2006

JOHNSON'S RECORD NINE THREE-POINTERS POWER EASTERN

Sophomore breaks own record in men's basketball's win over Albertus

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Sophomore guard **Kris Johnson (STURBRIDGE, MA)** broke his own program record for three-pointers in a game with nine in leading the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team past Albertus Magnus College, 107-58 Thursday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

The 6-foot-1 inch Johnson led all players with a career-high 31 points – the most by an Eastern (8-14) player this year. He was 7-for-11 from three-point range in scoring 23 points in the first half, tied his own program record with his eighth three-pointer on a pass from sophomore guard **Shiwon Davis (STRATFORD)** with 7:03 left, then broke the mark with his ninth on a pass from sophomore guard **Saliym Davis (MANHATTAN)** with 5:58 left that gave the Warriors a 92-40 lead. Johnson was 9-for-16 from three-point range in the game, 10-for-17 overall.

Johnson, who has a team-high 45 three-pointers this year in 16 games (2.8 per game), had tied the game record with seven three-points Jan. 21 at UMass Boston, then broke it a week later when he converted eight of 13 at the University of Southern Maine. He is 11 three-pointers shy of the individual program season record of 56, set last year by Mark Bartunck. This year, Johnson is shooting 44.6 per cent on 101 three-point attempts.

Behind Johnson, Eastern broke the program team game record for three-pointers with 17 on 35 attempts (48.6 per cent). The old record was 13 and had been achieved four times, most recently last Feb. 15 at Keene State College. Seven different players contributed a three-pointer. Ten different players also chipped in with at least one assist – led by junior forward **Leon Martin's (WOODBURY)** career-high total of five – as the Warriors compiled a season-high total of 25 helpers.

(more)

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Martin was 6-for-6 from the floor to add 12 points with junior guard Geoffrey Richardson **(HARTFORD)** adding ten points. He was 4-for-6 from the floor, including 2-for-3 from three-point range for the Warriors, who have won three of their last five.

Freshman forward Bobby Leonzo and junior center Bill Rose both posted double-doubles for Albertus (8-14), which starts three freshmen. Leonzo had 19 points and ten rebounds, Rose 12 points and a game-high 14 rebounds. Freshman forward Shawn Mendenhall added ten points for the Falcons, who have dropped six straight and fall to 2-15 all-time against Eastern.

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

little east conference

Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2006

KEENE STARTS FAST IN SECOND HALF, RUNS PAST EASTERN, 71-59

In men's basketball, Warriors' offense can't match defense in conference loss

KEENE, NH -- Sophomore guard David Sontag scored seven straight points when the Keene State College men's basketball opened the second half with an 18-2 run on the way to a 71-59 Little East Conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday night at Spaulding Gymnasium.

Trailing by 22 points eight minutes into the second half, Eastern (7-14, 2-9 little east) cut 13 points off the lead over the next nine minutes behind the three-point shooting of sophomore guard **Kris Johnson (STURBRIDGE, MA)**, but could not get any closer than nine. Eastern's final nine baskets of the game and 27 of its final 29 points came on three-pointers.

The game featured the conference's top offensive team in Keene State (15-6, 8-3 little east) and the No.-1 ranked defense in Eastern. For the second time this year, Eastern held the Owls well below their season's scoring average of 89 points. The first game resulted in a nine-point win (83-74) over Keene State three weeks ago. Although they converted ten of 23 three-pointers this time, the Warriors couldn't match their overall offensive output this time around.

The victory is the 11th in 12 home games this year for Keene while Eastern lost for the eighth time in nine games on its opponents' home floor.

Johnson had set the program game record with seven three-pointers Jan. 21 against conference-leader UMass Boston. Tuesday, he came off the bench to can five of seven three-pointers in a span of seven minutes in the second half that keyed an 18-5 run. The burst cut Keene's 22-point lead to nine, 58-49, with seven minutes left. Leading by that nine-point margin, however, Keene tore off the next 11 points -- getting points from six different player -- to pull away over the final minutes.

(more)

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Eastern never led after scoring the first basket of the game, but scored seven of the final nine points of the first half to slice an 11-point deficit to six, 29-23, at the break. The Warriors held the hosts scoreless from the floor over the final four minutes to get back into the game at the half.

The momentum generated over the final minutes of the first half did not carry over to the second, Eastern managing only junior forward **Leon Martin's (WOODBURY)** short jumper through the opening five minutes as Keene scored 18 of the first 20 points in rolling up a 22-point, 47-25 lead. Sontag chipped in seven points in the midst of that run, the six-footer scoring on a driving layup off a steal and laying in a basket in the paint before connecting on a three-point field goal.

Keene senior forward Sean Sullivan was 9-for-16 from the floor and 5-for-6 from the foul line on the way to a game-high 23 points. Sullivan got his team out of the blocks quickly, scoring the first six points of the game on a pair of short jumpers and a follow-up basket and ten of his team's first 25 points. Sontag added 15 points (6-for-9 from the floor) and Carl Slate contributed 11 points in 16 minutes.

Tyler Nathan and Sullivan combined for 15 rebounds for Keene, which turned the table after being dominated on the boards in its loss to the Warriors. After outrebounding Keene by 18 in the victory, Eastern was outrebounded 41-27 this time.

Johnson led Eastern with 15 points – all on three-pointers, Martin scoring ten points (5-for-8 from the floor). Eastern's starters were outscored by Keene's first five, 56-19, with four Eastern starters combining for only nine points.

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

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2006

LATE COMEBACK VAULTS RIC PAST EASTERN M-BASKETBALL, 78-76
Anchormen end game with 19-4 run to overcome late double-digit deficit in LEC

WILLIMANTIC, Conn.-- Senior guard Kevin Payette hit tying and go-ahead three-point field goals in the final minute to cap a remarkable Rhode Island College men's basketball comeback, 78-76, in a Little East Conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Payette tied the game at 74-all with a three-pointer from the corner with one minute left, and gave Rhode Island (13-7, 6-4 little east) the lead for good, 77-74 with six seconds left with another three-pointer from the same spot. Both buckets were set up on passes from junior guard Kinsey Durgin.

Eastern (7-13, 2-8 little east) scored the first eight points of the game, led by as many as 14 with eight minutes left and by 13 with four minutes remaining before the Anchormen ended the game with a 19-4 run. Trailing by 13, 72-59, the Anchormen scored nine straight to slice the Eastern lead to four, 72-68 with just over two minutes left. Leading by three, 74-71, Eastern turned the ball over and Payette answered with his game-tying three-pointer. Eastern missed a three-pointer, then was called for a shot clock violation after regaining possession, Payette swished his go-ahead three points with six seconds left.

Eastern trailed by the final two-point margin after Payette missed one of two free throws with 3.5 seconds left, but Durgin stole a cross-court pass at midcourt to snuff out the Warriors' attempt at a game-tying or game-winning field goal.

Payette and Durgin each scored 12 points in the second half, sinking seven of 12 field goals (4-for-7 from three-point range) and six of seven free throws and grabbing eight rebounds. After shooting just 25.8 per cent from the floor and trailing by six, 37-31 at halftime, Rhode Island shot 51.7 per cent in the second half on the way to its fifth straight win.

Durgin (20) and Payette (19) led the Anchormen offensively and also combined for ten rebounds. Junior forward Brian Stanko added 14 points. He was 6-for-6 from the foul line, Durgin 5-for-5 and Payette 5-for-6 and freshman forward Kaseem Johnson 4-for-5. The Anchormen were 22 of 26 from the stripe, Eastern 16 of 22.

(more)

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Eastern sophomore center **Kevin Zalucki (ENFIELD)** had a team-high 14 points and game-high eight rebounds before fouling out with 3:54 left. Zalucki was issued a technical foul (his fifth foul of the game) for hanging on the rim after his dunk gave Eastern a 13-point lead.

Junior forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** added 11 points and five rebounds for Eastern, which committed 14 unforced turnovers in the game. Junior guard **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** also had 11 points and junior center **Dan Trudeau (ROCKVILLE)** ten on 5-for-6 shooting from the floor before being ejected when he was charged with his fifth personal foul that allowed Stanko to complete a three-point play and pull the Anchormen to within three, 74-71, with 1:19 left. Zalucki and Martin combined to convert 11 of 16 shots from the floor.

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

little east conference

Thursday, Feb. 2, 2006

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL HOLDS OFF WORCESTER, 48-45

Late baskets from Albon and Johnson help Warriors to second straight win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Junior **Matt Albon (MIDDLEBURY)** and sophomore **Kris Johnson (STURBRIDGE, MA)** scored baskets following Worcester State College turnovers in the final minutes of play as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team posted a 48-45 victory Thursday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

The win gives Eastern (7-12) two straight wins for the first time this year while Worcester (9-10) has lost four straight following a five-game winning streak.

The Warriors led by 13 points seven minutes into the game, by seven at halftime and by nine early in the second half before the Lancers used a 12-2 run over four minutes to take a one-point lead seven minutes into the second half, 33-32. Trailing by two, Eastern capitalized on three straight unforced Worcester turnovers, however, scoring baskets off each to move out to a 48-43 lead with 68 seconds left.

Following a Worcester turnover, junior forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** put back a missed three-pointer by Johnson to tie the game at 43 with three minutes left. Albon then sank a reverse layup on a pass from sophomore guard **Greg Lasota (NEWINGTON)** with two minutes left to give the Warriors a two-point lead, and Johnson sank his only three-point field goal in seven tries with 1:08 left to make it 48-43. A Worcester basket and Albon's missed three-point field goal in the closing seconds set up the Lancers for a potential game-tying three-pointer, but senior guard Ryan Hopkins' bid from the top of the key with 1.2 seconds left bounced off the rim and was grabbed by Eastern sophomore guard **Shiwon Davis (STRATFORD)**.

Albon led all players in the game with 18 points, sinking four three-point field goals in eight attempts. Martin added 12 points, six coming on six free throws. Davis came off the bench to score eight points, hitting both of his three-point attempts in the second half.

Hopkins scored all 12 of his team-high points in the second half. He was 3-for-5 from the floor and 5-for-6 from the stripe.

The game was the lowest-scoring one of the season for Eastern, which both scored and allowed its fewest number of points this year. Both teams shot under 40 per cent from the floor, with Worcester missing nine of 21 free throws.

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

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little east conference

Saturday, Jan. 28, 2006

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL ENDS THREE-GAME SLIDE, 70-60

Kris Johnson nails record eight three-pointers to carry Warriors past Southern Maine

GORHAM, Maine – Sophomore guard **Kris Johnson (STURBRIDGE, MA)** converted a program record eight three-point field goals – hitting six of eight in the second half – to carry the Eastern Connecticut State University men’s basketball team to a 70-60 Little East Conference victory over the University of Southern Maine Saturday afternoon at the Warren G. Hill Gymnasium.

The win snaps a three-game losing streak for Eastern (6-12, 2-7 little east), which handed Southern Maine (9-10, 3-6 little east) its fifth straight loss. The Warriors gain a split in the home-and-home regular-season series with the Huskies, each team winning on the other’s court. Eastern, which has beaten USM in four of the last six meetings, was beaten by the Huskies in overtime, 68-66 Dec. 10 at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Johnson, who had scored 22 points last Saturday in an 84-77 loss at UMass Boston, improved his career-high with 25 points against the Huskies. At one point in the second half, he was credited with six straight Eastern baskets and 19 of the team’s 20 points. The Warriors led by three, 39-36 with 13:30 left before Johnson went on a tear, connecting on four straight three-pointers as the Warriors moved out to a ten-point, 51-41 lead with 9:41 left. He recorded his record number of three-pointers on 12 tries. Overall, he was 8-for-13 from the floor in 22 minutes.

Junior guard **Geoff Richardson (HARTFORD)** added 14 points for Eastern, which was able to gain the win despite losing junior post players **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** and **Dan Trudeau (ROCKVILLE)** with five personal fouls in the final four minutes. Sophomore center **Kevin Zalucki (ENFIELD)** was charged with two personal fouls through the game’s first nine minutes but was still able to grab a team-high seven rebounds in 22 minutes.

Southern Maine sophomore guard Walter Phillips, who had contributed 14 points in his team’s earlier win against Eastern this year, was held to seven points on 2-for-10 shooting from the floor in 31 minutes in this game. He was guarded primarily by Richardson.

(more)

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Until this game, Johnson had shared the program game record of six three-pointers in a game. He had done it twice this year, Jan. 7 at Rhode Island Colleg and last Saturday at Massachusetts Boston. Chris Booth was the first player to hit as many as six in a game Dec. 6, 1987 at Southern Maine and Fran DeBari matched that mark Feb. 4, 1993 at Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Sophomore forward Bill Hardwick of Southern Maine led all players with 19 points and he also added six rebounds. Senior forward Jesse McKinnell had 11 points and a game-high 11 rebounds for Southern Maine, which played without top scorer Josh Daniels (17.0 ppg.). A sophomore guard, Daniels has been sidelined recently with a leg injury. Daniels scored a team-high 18 in the Huskies' win over Eastern this season.

The win is the first for Eastern on its opponent's home court since Feb. 10 of last year, when the Warriors routed Albertus Magnus College, 96-79. It snapped a string of ten straight such losses. It was also the first victory over a conference opponent on the opponent's home court since an 80-77 overtime victory over Massachusetts Boston last January 15.

Eastern hosts Worcester State College Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

little east conference

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2006

FREE THROWS THE DIFFERENCE AS EASTERN M-BASKETBALL FALLS

Western converts 19 of 25 from the stripe, erased late deficit in 83-77 OT win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Sophomore guard Kyle Norfleet (Waterbury, CT) sank four free throws in overtime to spark the Western Connecticut State University men's basketball team to an 83-77 Little East Conference overtime victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Ranked sixth in the eight-team conference in free throw percentage, Western (10-7, 3-5 little east) connected on 19 of 25 free throws in the game while Eastern (5-12, 1-7 little east) missed 14 of 27 from the stripe. The Colonials hit eight of nine free throws in overtime and 13 of 16 after the half, when they trailed by three, 32-29. The Warriors missed 13 of 24 free throws after halftime.

Western, last year's conference playoff champion, wiped out a five-point deficit with 30 seconds left in regulation to force overtime, where it took the lead for good on Norfleet's basket in the paint two minutes into the extra session. With Western down by five in regulation, 67-62, senior guard Greg Cole (Terrytown, NY) canned a three-pointer to cut the gap to two with 25 seconds left. With Western pressing, freshman guard Dashon Jennings (Bridgeport, CT) stole the ball under the basket and layed it in with 17 seconds left to tie the game at 67 and force overtime.

Cole, the conference leader in three-point field goals, led all players with 18 points – nine coming on three three-pointers. Norfleet added 15 points while senior forward Jason Barnett (Windsor, CT), freshman forward Marcus Mann (Windsor, CT) and sophomore center Andrew Snell (Bogota, NJ) each had seven rebounds.

Junior forward Leon Martin (Woodbury, CT) paced five double-figures scorers for Eastern with 14 points, sophomore guard Shiwon Davis (Stratford, CT) adding 13, junior guards Matt Albon (Middlebury, CT) and Geoffrey Richardson (Hartford, CT) 11 each and sophomore center Kevin Zalucki (Enfield, CT) ten points and a game-high nine rebounds.

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

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Saturday, Jan. 21, 2006

UMB HAS ENOUGH TO DOWN EASTERN M-BASKETBALL, 84-77

Trailing by 23, Warriors outscore Beacons 22-6 over final 4:30 in Little East loss

BOSTON – Sophomore guard **Kris Johnson (STURBRIDGE, MA)** and junior guard **Geoffrey Richardson (HARTFORD)** combined for 17 points in a 22-6 run over the final 4:30 but the University of Massachusetts Boston had enough to hold on for an 84-77 Little East Conference men's basketball victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday afternoon at the Clark Athletic Center.

Eastern (5-11, 1-6 little east) remains in last place in the conference by losing for the seventh time in as many games this year on its opponent's court. The win, coupled with a loss by conference-leading Keene State College, forges a three-way tie for first place in the conference between Keene, UMass Boston (10-6, 5-2 little east) and Plymouth State University.

Trailing by 23, 78-57, Eastern outscored the Beacons 22-6 the rest of the way to cut the margin to the final spread of seven points. Johnson scored nine points in the run on three three-pointers and Richardson added eight, while sophomore guard **Saliym Wilson (MANHATTAN, NY)** chipped in five.

Johnson, who played 24 minutes off the bench, finished with a career and game-high 22 points, tying his career-high with six three-point field goals on 13 tries. Richardson contributed his first career double-double with 15 points and a career-high 13 rebounds while sophomore center **Kevin Zalucki (ENFIELD)** had 14 points (6-for-9 from the floor).

Led by Richardson (6-for-8), Eastern sank 17 of 21 free throws in the game but turned the ball over 26 times – one shy of this year's season high.

UMass, which sweeps the regular-season series after being swept each of the last two years, had four players in double figures. Rodney Bennett had a team-high 20 points for UMass, James Hall adding 19. The pair combined to hit 15 of 24 fields goals. Tony Barros, who scored 18 points in the second half of the Beacons' 76-72 win over Eastern Dec. 3, was limited to five points in 19 minutes.

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

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little east conference

Thursday, Jan. 19, 2006

EASTERN M-BASKETBALL CAN'T PUT AWAY OLD WESTBURY

Last-second shot won't drop for Warriors, who fall to Panthers, 47-46

OLD WESTBURY, NY – Junior guard **Geoff Richardson's (HARTFORD)** driving layup attempt in traffic bounced off the back of the rim as time expired, leaving the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team with a 47-46 loss at the hands of SUNY Old Westbury Thursday night at the Clark Athletic Center.

With its eighth loss in the last ten games, Eastern (5-10) remains winless in six games on its opponent's home court this year. The Warriors were coming off Tuesday's nine-point home win over Little East Conference leader Keene State College which snapped a four-game losing streak.

Thursday, there were two ties and five lead changes over the final eight minutes, the final lead change pushing Old Westbury (7-6) into a 47-46 lead with 14.7 second left. Trailing by one, the Panthers missed three tries at the basket before sophomore guard Divine Jackson swished a drive in the paint after Old Westbury had inbounded with 33.2 seconds left. With 9.6 seconds left, Richardson inbounded for Eastern at halfcourt and later took a return pass, tossing up a runner in the paint from the right side. The ball bounced off the back of the rim and was hauled down in a crowd by Old Westbury senior forward Jared Weir as the horn sounded.

Eastern got out of the gate quickly at the start of the game and at the start of the second half. The Warriors led by nine, 13-4, nine minutes into the game but had to settle for a two-point, 18-16 halftime lead. Both teams shot under 30 per cent in the first half and committed nine turnovers. The Warriors penalized themselves further by missing eight of 13 free throws over the first 17 minutes of the game.

The Warriors re-grouped at the start of the second half, turning two steals and an Old Westbury missed shot into three easy inside buckets from junior forward **Leon Martin (WOODBURY)** and sophomore center **Kevin Zalucki (ENFIELD)**. The six quick points gave Eastern an eight-point, 24-16 lead in the opening minutes but would be the team's only points from the floor for the next eight minutes as the hosts used a 19-5 run over six minutes to turn the eight-point deficit into a six-point, 35-29 lead midway through the half.

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Senior guard Russell Brereton scored 12 of his 15 points in that scoring stretch for Old Westbury. Brereton is the team's second-leading scorer but was held scoreless in the first half. The Panthers had three three-point plays during that scoring run – two three-point field goals and one conventional three-point play.

Old Westbury senior guard Michael Garrett – his team's leading scorer – managed only six points but his free throw with 1:15 left snapped a tie and gave his team a 45-44 lead. On Eastern's next possession, first-year sophomore guard **Greg Lasota (NEWINGTON)** found Martin for a 15-footer as the Warriors regained the lead for the final time, 46-45, with 52 seconds left. The Panthers then missed three inside attempts – Lasota blocking the third try out of bounds – before Jackson sank the winning bucket after his team inbounded with 33.2 seconds left.

More than half of Old Westbury's second-half points (17 of 31) were the direct result of Eastern's ten second-half turnovers.

Jackson led all players with 16 points (7-for-12 from the floor). Martin's final bucket gave him a total of ten points and made him Eastern's only double-digit scorer. Zalucki had nine points and six rebounds. Lasota contributed eight points, four rebounds and three assists. He converted both of his three-point tries but the rest of the team was 2-for-13 from that range.

It was the least number of points scored by either Eastern or its opponent this season.

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