

RIC SPORTS INFORMATION 401 456- 8516

## ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL LOSES TO RI COLLEGE 72-61

PROVIDENCE, RI -- The Rhode Island College men's basketball team scored 16 of the game's final 21 points for a 72-61 Little East Conference victory over ~~the Warriors~~ *Eastern Connecticut State University Thursday*.

The outcome allows RIC to pull into a tie for fourth place in the LEC standings *with Eastern* with one game remaining for both teams. Eastern is 9-15 overall. RIC is 7-16. Both are 3-6 in the LEC.

With RIC trailing, *56-54, JUNIOR* sophomore guard Robert Sutton hit four free throws, and junior Anthony Mabray and senior Chris O'Toole each hit a bucket to spark an 8-1 run which lifted the hosts into a six-point, 62-57 lead.

Junior Bunky Gonzalez (21) and freshman James Hunter (19), both guards, paced ECSU in scoring while O'Toole finished with a game-high 23 points and game-high 11 rebounds.

Eastern hosts Plymouth State College Saturday at 4 p.m. in an LEC game.

## ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL DEFEATS UMASS/BOSTON

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WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Junior Don Palmer and freshman James Hunter each scored 15 points as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team pulled away for an 82-68 Little East Conference triumph over the University of Massachusetts/Boston Saturday. *82-68 B. by*

The win snaps a three-game losing streak for Eastern, 9-14 overall. The Warriors improve to 3-5 in the LEC. UMass/Boston falls to 7-15 overall, 0-8 in the conference with its seventh loss in eight outings.

Eastern shot 60.0 per cent (21-of-35) in the second half and limited the Beacons to 41.2 per cent shooting (14-fo-34).

Palmer (6-of-8 from the floor) also shared game-high rebounding honors with seven. ~~Junior guard Bunky Gonzalez~~ added 13 points, a season-high ten assists and six rebounds. *note*

Seniors Terry Kennedy and Shawn Perkins each had 17 points for the Beacons, with senior Willie Nealy adding 16 points and seven rebounds.

Eastern travels to Rhode Island College Thursday in an LEC contest.

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL LOSES AT SE MASSACHUSETTS

NORTH DARTMOUTH, MA -- Defending Little East Conference champion Southeastern Massachusetts University withstood a furious Eastern Connecticut State University second-half comeback in posting a 77-72 men's basketball win Thursday.

The win is the 18th in 21 outings for SMU, ranked second in New England, and sixth in seven LEC contests. ECSU falls to 8-14 overall, 2-5 in the conference.

Trailing by 14, 60-46 with 7:49 left, Eastern outscored the Corsairs 24-8 over the next six minutes to surge in front 70-68 with 1:59 remaining. The hosts outscored Eastern 9-2 the rest of the way, with 6-foot-8 inch senior Waldemar Sender scoring seven points, blocking a shot and grabbing two rebounds in the final two minutes. Sender scored seven straight points before senior guard Robert Williams sank a pair of free throws with three seconds left to ice the win.

The Warriors carried a 33-32 edge into the lockerroom but SMU scored 12 of the first 14 points in the second half to move out to a 44-35 lead.

Sender (23) led five SMU double-figure scorers. Williams was held scoreless from the floor in the first half and finished with 12 points.

Eastern junior Bunky Gonzalez scored a team-high 19 points for Eastern, with sophomore Matt Hidek adding 14, freshman James Hunter 12 and junior Don Palmer ten. Palmer and Hidek each had six rebounds for the Warriors while Sender had a game-high eight.

Eastern hosts LEC opponent UMass/Boston Saturday at 4 p.m.

## ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL LOSES AT PLYMOUTH STATE

PLYMOUTH, NH -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team couldn't overcome an early 13-point deficit in falling 92-77 in Little East Conference action Saturday.

Eastern (8-12 overall, 2-4 conference) entered play in third place in the LEC, one-half game ahead of Plymouth and Rhode Island College. The loss drops the Warriors into fourth place, one-half game behind Plymouth (12-6 overall, 3-4 conference) and one-half game ahead of RIC. The third and fourth-place finishers in the final conference regular-season standings host first-round tournament games.

Plymouth, a winner of ten of 12 home games this season, raced to a 21-8 lead eight minutes into the game and improved the lead to 20, 50-30 at the break.

The Warriors pulled within striking distance when they got out quickly in the second half. ECSU scored 20 of the stanza's first 26 points to cut the gap to six, 56-50 with 14 minutes remaining.

Limited to just two field goals in the first six minutes of the half, the conference's top scoring team (100.3 point average) responded with a nine point run at that point to regain a 15 point, 65-50 lead.

Thirty-five per cent first-half shooting had put ECSU in a hole but 57.6 shooting over the final 20 minutes put the Warriors back into contention.

First-year players Bari Winner (20) and James Hunter (17) of Willimantic and junior point guard Bunky Gonzalez (11) each finished in double figures in scoring for Eastern. It was a career-high for Winner while Hunter registered his second-highest point total in his first collegiate start.

Plymouth senior forwards Matt Swedberg (24) and Jay Osgood (19) led the hosts in scoring, with junior guard Dave Levesque added 17 and freshman forward Jason Peterson 15.

The Panthers canned 14 of 18 free throws while Eastern was awarded only six free throws, sinking four.

Eastern travels to the University at Albany Tuesday for its final non-conference game of the regular season.

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL SNAPS THREE-GAME LOSING STREAK

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team forced Rhode Island College into ~~22~~ 29 <sup>1/2</sup> turnovers and 29.0 per cent shooting in the second half in pulling away for a 68-55 Little East Conference victory Thursday.

The wins snaps a three-game losing streak for Eastern (8-11), which is 2-3 in the LEC. The Anchormen fall to 6-13 with their fourth straight loss. RIC is 2-4 in the conference.

Senior Alan Janes and junior Bunky Gonzalez paced ECSU with 13 points each while junior Don Palmer scored after returning to the lineup after missing the last two games with the flu. Janes added eight rebounds, sophomore Matt Hidek six. Gonzalez added four assists and four steals.

The Warriors' defense limited RIC to nearly 30 points under its scoring average of 82.6.

RIC shot 52.2 per cent from the floor in the first half and trailed by only two, 32-30 at the break.

ECSU travels to Plymouth State Saturday for a conference game.

## ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL LOSES AT SOUTHERN MAINE

GORHAM, ME -- A seven-minute scoreless lapse early in the second half allowed the University of Southern Maine to pull away for a 70-53 Little East Conference men's basketball triumph over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday.

The loss is ECSU's third straight after an opening conference win and drops the Warriors to 7-10 overall. The conference-leading Huskies won their sixth LEC game without a loss and improved to 12-4 overall.

ECSU scored the opening basket of the second half to pull to within 33-30 but managed only one additional hoop over the next eight minutes as the Huskies raced to a 17 point, 49-32 lead. The Warriors shot 33.3 per cent from the floor in the second half in scoring only 25 points. The final point total was ECSU's second-lowest of the year.

In a battle of the LEC's top defensive teams, the clubs split the game's first 40 points before junior transfer Ruben McGee (six points) and freshman Rob Laprise (three-point field-goal) sparked the hosts to a 9-2 run. The spurt gave USM a 29-22 lead and the Huskies took a 33-28 advantage into the lockerroom.

Senior center Tim Bonsant (19), McGee (18) and sophomore Jeff St. Laurent (14) led USM offensively, with McGee also grabbing a game-high ten rebounds.

Junior point guard Bunky Gonzalez had 12 points to lead ECSU.

The Warriors host regionally-ranked Western Conn. State University in a non-conference game Tuesday at 8 p.m.

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Southeastern Massachusetts University men's basketball team canned eight of ten free throws in the final 58 seconds to hold off Eastern Connecticut State University 75-64 Thursday in a Little East Conference game.

The victory is the 14th in 17 outings for SMU, now 3-1 in the conference. ECSU falls to 7-9, 1-2 in the LEC.

Eastern limited 6-foot-8 inch SMU senior Waldemar Sender, the LEC's top scorer, to just eight points and six rebounds but freshman guard Aaron Lee scored a game-high 19 points and senior guard Greg McCann 17. Sophomore Jon Dunlap added ten points off the bench.

Freshman guard Walt Hyslop scored a career-high 13 points and grabbed a career-high ten rebounds in 35 minutes for Eastern, with freshman guard James Hunter adding 12 points and senior center Alan Janes 11.

ECSU faces LEC leader Southern Maine Saturday at Gorham, ME.

ECSU DEFEATS WHEATON COLLEGE 83-50 IN MEN'S BASKETBALL

WILLIMANTIC, CT -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team never trailed in defeating Wheaton College 83-50 Tuesday.

Senior Alan Janes and freshman Walt Hyslop each scored eight points in the first half and sophomore Anthony Menard added seven as 51.2 per cent field goal shooting boosted ECSU (7-8) to a 45-22 halftime lead.

Leading 31-17, Eastern scored 12 straight points to open up a 43-17 advantage with 1:35 left in the first half. Six different players scored a basket during the run.

The final Wheaton point total was the lowest against Eastern this season. *and the lowest for Wheaton this season.*

The Lyons (4-9), who suffered their seventh straight loss, shot 26.3 per cent in the game while the Warriors canned 47.9 per cent of their field goals.

Hyslop (6-for-8 FG) equalled his career-high in leading ECSU with 12 points while sophomore Matt Hidek added 11 and freshman Bari Winner a career-equalling ten. Janes led a balanced rebounding attack with a game-high seven rebounds as the Warriors enjoyed a 55-27 rebounding advantage.

Sophomore Will Hawkins (14 points) scored his team's first four field goals and ten of Wheaton's first 11 points. Sophomore Chris Sullivan added 13.



*ECSU Mens basketball  
loses Liberty Bank  
Consolation*

MIDDLETOWN, CT -- The Connecticut College men's basketball team wiped out a nine-point halftime lead, sinking 36 free throws in the game, in defeating Eastern Connecticut State University 96-91 in the consolation game of the Liberty Bank Classic Saturday.

Wesleyan University won its second tournament title, defeating five-time champion Trinity College 95-88 in the championship game.

Eastern (6-8) led by as many as 12 points in building nine-point, 46-37 halftime lead. In the second half, Eastern shot 57.6 per cent but turned the ball over 17 times and was awarded only six free throws. The Camels (4-6) were awarded 56 free throws in the game, hitting 36. They converted 27 of 37 free throws in the second half and 50.0 per cent of their field goals.

Juniors Bunky Gonzalez and Chris Markovitz (career-high), sophomore Anthony Menard and freshman James Hunter each had 12 points for Eastern. Junior Don Palmer added ten points and shared game-high rebounding honors with 11. Gonzalez added seven assists.

Palmer represented ECSU on the all-tournament team. He totalled 25 points and 19 rebounds in two games. Palmer was joined on the all-tournament team by MVP Nelson Williams and Tim McBride of Wesleyan, Mike Allen and David Jones of Trinity and Ted Frischling of Connecticut College.

## SALEM STATE COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL WINS ECSU TIP-OFF

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WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Salem State College men's basketball team outscored Eastern Connecticut State University 18-9 over the final six minutes to post an 82-80 victory in the finals of the 11th Annual ECSU Tip-Off Tournament Sunday.

Sophomore guard Chris Green led both teams with 24 points en route to gaining the tournament's Most Outstanding Player award. Salem (2-0) got 18 points and a game-high nine rebounds from senior forward John Coffey and 11 points from junior guard Jim Edgehill. Coffey joined Green from Salem on the all-tournament team.

Trailing 71-64 with just under six minutes left, the Vikings pulled in front 77-76 when Green scored with two minutes left.

Junior guard Bunky Gonzalez led ECSU (1-1) with 21 points and seven rebounds while senior center Alan Janes had 14 points and junior Don Palmer 12.

Gonzalez and Palmer were named to the all-tournament team, as were Steve Blouin of Johnson State and Jeff Randall of Teikyo Post.

Salem State 82, Eastern Conn. 80

SALEM STATE (82): Kevin Sandefer 3-2-8; Chris Green 6-10-24; Jim Edgehill 4-1-11; Michael Bates 0-0-0; John Coffey 7-4-18; Troy Twitty 3-1-7; Dave Ace 1-00-2; Greg Landry 4-0-8; Bob Bruhnke 1-2-4; Mike Rockwell 0-0-0; TOTAL: 29-20-82.

ECSU (80): Walt Hyslop 3-0-6; Jeff Cavallo 0-2-2; Kevin Joiner 3-0-6; Don Palmer 4-4-12; Don Christophersen 2-0-4; Bunky Gonzalez 7-4-21; Chris Markovitz 2-2-7; Jason Zaniewski 0-0-0; Matt Hidek 0-0-0; Alan Janes 7-0-14; Bari Winner 4-0-8; David Edwards 0-0-0. TOTAL: 32-12-80.

Score at halftime, 44-38, Salem State.

Three-point goals: SSC, Chris Greene 2, Jim Edgehill 2; EC, Bunky Gonzalez 3, Chris Markovitz 1.

## ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL MOVES INTO TIP-OFF FINAL

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WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Junior Don Palmer scored a career-high 19 points and grabbed ten rebounds to help lift the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to an 83-71 win over Johnson State College in the first round of the 11th Annual ECSU Tip-Off Tournament Saturday.

Eastern (1-0) will meet Salem State College in the tournament final Sunday at 8 p.m. Salem defeated Teikyo Post University 116-84 earlier Saturday.

Palmer and junior point guard Bunky Gonzalez paced ECSU with 19 points each, with senior Kevin Joiner topping both clubs with ~~10~~ 11 rebounds.

Sophomore Steve Blouin of Johnson led both teams with 31 points while senior Steve Pratt had 20 points and a team-high ten rebounds.

ECSU 83, Johnson State 71

JOHNSON STATE (71): John Rock 0-1-1; Steve Pratt 6-4-20; Steve Blouin 12-6-31; Sean Fitzgerald 4-4-12; Kevin Besser 2-3-7; Adam Doran 0-0-0; Craig Martin 0-0-0; R.J. Garrow 0-0-0; Tom Roberge 0-0-0; Dave Deuso 0-0-0; Paul Sladyk 0-0-0; TOTAL: 24-18-71.

EASTERN CONN. (83): Walt Hyslop 4-0-8; Jeff Cavallo 0-0-0; Kevin Joiner 4-2-10; Don Palmer 7-5-19; Don Christophersen 2-0-5; Bunky Gonzalez 8-3-19; Chris Markovitz 0-0-0; Jeff Hill 0-0-0; Jason Zaniewski 0-0-0; Matt Hidek 1-2-4; Alan Janes 3-1-7; Bari Winner 4-1-9; Darren Bennett 0-0-0; Jeff Brandt 1-0-2; TOTAL: 34-14-83.

Halftime: 44-28, ECSU.

Three-point goals: JS, Steve Pratt 4, Steve Blouin 1; EC, Don Christophersen 1.