

ECSU BASKETBALL BEATEN IN SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT FINAL

NORTH DARTMOUTH, MA -- University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth sophomore point guard Stefan Pagios had 18 points and six assists and the Corsairs forced 22 Eastern Connecticut State University turnovers in posting a 75-64 win in the championship game of the NCAA Division III East-Northeast Sectional Tournament Sunday.

The win is the 19th straight for the Corsairs (25-4), who handed ECSU four of its seven losses this year. Both teams are members of the Little East Conference. Eastern concluded its 12th season under head coach Dr. Dan Switchenko by equalling the school record of 21 victories.

Pagios, named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player, scored ten of his team's first 15 points and finished the tourney with 29 points, 11 assists and four steals. Pagios also sank 17 of 19 free throws in the tournament.

The Warriors committed 22 turnovers -- many of them unforced -- and shot just 38.7 per cent from the floor in the second half when the hosts opened up a lead of as many as 14 points 57-43 with 12:41 left.

UMass/Dartmouth, the No.-1 seed in the Northeast Regional, shot only 28.6 per cent from the floor in the second half but outscored ECSU 15-3 from the line over the final 20 minutes.

The Warriors had five more field goals than the Corsairs but UMD sank 22 of 25 free throws in the game. ECSU was awarded only eight free throws in the game, sinking six.

The top three-point field-goal shooting team in the conference, UMass/Dartmouth equalled its average of nine three-pointers (in 22 attempts). ECSU managed only four of 16 from three-point range.

Eastern scored ten of the first 14 points of the game but the Corsairs, who won 11 of 12 home games this year, battled back with a 9-2 run to take its first lead 13-12. Leading 45-41 early in the second half, the Corsairs converted four straight three-point field goals -- two by senior Jason Correiro -- and used a 12-2 run to take a 14-point, 57-43 lead.

Sophomore Aaron Lee led UMD with 20 points, with senior Steven Haynes adding 16 points and a game-high nine rebounds and Correiro 12 points -- all on three-pointers in the second half. Lee and Haynes joined Pagios on the all-tournament team.

All-tournament pick Rossie Covington (47 points, 15 rebounds) led the Warriors with 21 points and nine rebounds while junior James Hunter had 17 points and junior Bari Winner ten points and nine rebounds.

Scott Fitch of Geneseo State was also named to the all-tournament team.

The Corsair committed just 14 turnovers (eight against Eastern) in the tournament.

The Corsairs had advance^d to the tournament final with a 68-66 win over Geneseo State Friday on freshman Eric Eaton's three-point buzzer-beater. Eastern had edged New York University in double overtime 78-73 Friday. The scheduled tournament final Saturday night was postponed due to snow.

UMass/Dartmouth opens play in its first NCAA Division III Final Four Friday against Ohio Northern University at Buffalo, NY.

ECSU ADVANCES TO SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT FINAL
Warriors prevail in double overtime 78-73

NORTH DARTMOUTH, MA - The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team held New York University without a field goal for the first four minutes of the second overtime in edging New York University 78-73 in the opening round of the NCAA Division III Northeast-East Sectional Tournament *FROM NY*.

The Warriors (21-6), who equalled the program record for wins, advance to the tournament final Saturday at 7 p.m. Eastern will meet the winner of the UMass/Dartmouth (23-4)-Geneseo State (23-3) game, scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. Friday.

NYU (23-3), which had won 14 of 15 entering play, hit a pair of free throws to open the second overtime session before the Warriors scored nine straight to take a 72-65 lead with one minute left. Junior center Rossie Covington hit two buckets, junior James Hunter hit a three-point field goal and junior Bari Winner sank two free throws in the run.

Eastern, the third seed in the Northeast Region, took a lead of as many as 12 points in the first half but the Violets clawed back to take a 43-41 lead midway through the second half.

Six-foot-eight inch junior Jon Gabriel hit a pair of free throws with 3:32 left and neither team scored thereafter as the score was tied 54-all at the end of regulation.

Eastern scored the first five points of the first overtime but junior Adam Crawford sank a key three-point field goal with two minutes left and freshman Danny Stevens sank two free throws with 1:29 left to tie the game 63-all at the end of the first overtime.

Covington led all players with 26 points, Winner adding 15 points and team-high ten rebounds. Senior Anthony Menard had 12 points. Covington, who scored his 1,000th point at Eastern in the first half, also had seven rebounds.

The Violets managed only five field goals over the final 17 minutes of the game, with three of them coming in the final minute of the second overtime with ECSU comfortably in front.

Gabriel led the Violets with 16 points and game-high 12 rebounds, with Crawford adding 13 points and junior Tom Bowman adding 12 points. Crawford and Bowman, the starting backcourt tandem, did not score in the first half.

NYU, the No.-1 seed in the East Region, outrebounded ECSU 56-39.

ECSU SPORTS INFO 207-780-5434

UMASS/DARTMOUTH WINS FIFTH LITTLE EAST BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT CROWN
Corsairs defeat Eastern Conn. for third time this season

GORHAM, ME -- Aaron Lee, Steve Haynes and Stefan Pagios combined for 67 points and the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth shot 53 per cent from the floor in winning its fifth Little East Conference men's basketball title 87-73, over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday.

The Corsairs (22-4), the No.-1 ranked team in the region and the tournament's top seed, receives an automatic bid to the 40-team NCAA Division III tournament, which gets underway this week.

Eastern (19-6) had a six-game winning streak snapped in losing for only the second time in its last 11 games. Both losses were to the Corsairs.

Eastern had beaten UMD 71-64 in last year's tournament final to earn its first NCAA tournament bid.

UMass/Dartmouth, which won for the 16th straight time, scored 16 of the game's first 20 points in building a 14-point, 40-26 lead. The team sank seven of its first nine shots.

The Warriors, ranked fifth in the NCAA Northeast Region, got to within eight points several times in the second half, the latest at 66-58 with 6:56 left.

UMass/Dartmouth converted 57.1 per cent of its 28 field goal attempts in the first half and finished the game by sinking 12 of 26 three-point field goals.

Pagios had 20 points, six rebounds and six assists in the final and was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player with a two-game total of 41 points, seven rebounds and nine assists and committed just two turnovers in 64 minutes.

Pagios was joined on the all-tournament team by Haynes (23 points and game-high 13 rebounds in the final) and Lee (team-high 24 points, seven rebounds).

Junior center Rossie Covington and junior forward Bari Winner led ECSU with 28 and 17 points, respectively and were named to the all-tournament team. Covington added ten rebounds and Winner eight.

Junior Moses Jean-Pierre of Plymouth State was also named to the all-tournament team.

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL ADVANCES TO LEC TOURNAMENT FINAL
Warriors win sixth straight conference game

GORHAM, ME -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team limited the University of Southern Maine to 11 first-half points and 31 per cent shooting from the floor in advancing to the championship game of the Little East Conference post-season tournament with a 75-57 win over the host Huskies Friday.

The win is the sixth straight -- all in conference play -- for Eastern (19-5), which has won nine of its last ten. ECSU, the defending tournament champion, faces top-seeded University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth (21-4) in Saturday's 2 p.m. championship game in a rematch of last year's final. The Corsairs won their 15th straight game, edging Plymouth State College 74-72 in Friday's second semifinal game. UMass/Dartmouth is ranked first in the Northeast, Eastern fifth.

The tournament champion receives a bye into the 40-team NCAA Division III post-season tournament, which gets underway next week.

The wins are also the most in a season for Eastern under 12th-year head coach Dr. Dan Switchenko and equals the second-most triumphs in the program's 54-year history (the 1969-70 team won 21 games).

Eastern, which has held Southern Maine (13-12) to its two lowest scoring outputs in conference play this year, held the Huskies scoreless for nine minutes in the first half and moved out to a 25-7 lead with 3:39 left after scoring 17 straight points. Eastern, the top defensive team in the conference, has limited 11 opponents this year to 60 points or less.

The Warriors hit their first 18 free throws and 24 of 28 in the game while USM sank 21 of 26.

Senior forward Bari Winner led Eastern with 17 points on 6-of-6 shooting from the floor (3-of-3 from three-point range) while juniors Rossie Covington and James Hunter added 15 each. Covington led all players with ten rebounds.

Eastern, which has won seven of eight games this year on its opponents' home floor, has beaten Southern Maine the last three times the teams have met at Gorham.

Will Robinson led Southern Maine with a game-high 24 points, posting single-game tournament records for free-throws made (17) and attempted (21).

The Warriors held a 43-31 rebounding advantage over Southern Maine, which lost five of its final six.

2-20-93

ECSU DISPLAYS USM IN MEN'S BASKETBALL TO GAIN TOURNAMENT RYE
Cavallo keys second-half comeback; ECSU commits no second-half turnovers

GORHAM, ME-- Junior point guard Jeff Cavallo hit three three point field goals to spark a second-half Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball rally as the warriors gained a bye into the semifinal round of the upcoming Little East Conference playoffs with a 60-59 win over the University of Southern Maine Saturday.

The win in the final regular season game for both clubs leaves ECSU (18-2, 7-3) in sole possession of second place in the final conference standings. The Warriors gain a bye into the semifinal round of the conference tournament. ECSU meets the winner of the BSM ~~vs~~ (12-11, 6-1) Rhode Island College game Friday at 2 p.m. Those two teams meet in first round play Tuesday at Gorham. ECSU is the defending post season tournament champion.

Eastern, which has won five straight and eight of nine, was limited to 12 first-half points and trailed by 14 at halftime. In the second half, Cavallo hit three three point field goals -- the first cutting a ten-point margin to seven and the third pulling the Warriors to within one, 46-45 with six minutes left. Junior guard James Hunter put ECSU in front for good 55-34 with 44 seconds left, and ~~ECSU never trailed thereafter~~. Hunter scored seven of Eastern's final eight points, hitting 14 of his game high 13-point total in the second half. All 13 Cavallo's points came in the second half. Junior center Rossie Covington added 16 points for Eastern, junior forward Bari ~~more~~ Winner adding ten.

The Warriors committed 12 turnovers in the first half but did not commit any over the final 30 minutes. ECSU hit 18 of 22 free-throws in

February 18, 1993
ECSU Sports Info 203-456-5483

ECSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL WINS FIFTH STRAIGHT

WILLIMANIC, Conn. -- Senior Sherry Kennie scored 20 points and added four assists and four steals in lifting the Eastern Connecticut State University women's basketball team to a 73-57 Little East Conference win over the University of Massachusetts at Boston Thursday.

The win is the fifth straight for Eastern (13-9, 6-3) and 14th straight over the Beacons in conference regular-season play. UMass is 8-14 overall, 0-9 in the conference.

Sophomore Bridgit Neville had a career-high 14 rebounds and freshman Collene Gregory a career-high 12 points in 11 minutes. Senior Lisa Matukaitis had ten points, six steals and five assists, junior Lori Franchina ten points and four assists.

Eastern closes out its regular season Saturday at conference champion University of Southern Maine.

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL WINS FOURTH STRAIGHT

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Senior Anthony Menard scored a career-high 19 points in his final regular-season home game to pace the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 78-60 Little East Conference win over the University of Massachusetts at Boston Thursday.

The win is the fourth straight and seventh in eight games for the Warriors (17-5, 6-3), ranked in a tie for fifth in New England. The Beacons fall to 11-11 overall, 3-6 in the conference.

Menard, the team's only senior, sank seven of 11 field goals en route to his game-high scoring total and added four assists, two steals and a blocked shot. Junior Bari Winner added 13 points, seven rebounds and four steals, senior center Rossie Covington 12 points, seven rebounds and three assists. Sophomore center Jon Gould equalled his season high with 11 points and his career high with ten rebounds.

Jeff Jackson led UMB with 16 points.

Eastern closes out its regular season Saturday at the University of Southern Maine.

February 13, 1993

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL DEFEATS PLYMOUTH STATE 98-76

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team shot 62.1 per cent in the second half in defeating Plymouth State College 98-76 in a Little East Conference game Saturday.

The win is the third straight and sixth in the last seven outings for the Warriors (16-5, 5-3), who swept the Panthers in regular-season conference play for the first time. Plymouth is 11-10 overall, 3-5 in the conference.

Eastern's win, coupled with Southern Maine's loss to UMass/Dartmouth, pulls ECSU to within a half-game of second-place Southern Maine (6-3). The top two finishers in the regular-season conference standings gain a first-round bye in the upcoming LEC post-season tournament.

Junior center Rossie Covington led ECSU with 23 points while junior guard James Hunter had 18 points, senior forward Bari Winner 14 points and a game-high nine rebounds and junior guard Fran DeBari 11 points. Senior guard Anthony Menard had eight assists.

Plymouth junior guard Moses Jean-Pierre led all players with 28 points, but was limited to six in the second half when ECSU broke open a 42-41 halftime lead. Jean-Pierre fouled out with 5:37 remaining and his team trailing 74-64.

ECSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL WINS FOURTH STRAIGHT 67-60

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Senior forward Missy Kowolenko had 21 points and six steals and sophomore forward Bridgit Neville added 12 points and seven rebounds as the Eastern Connecticut State University women's basketball team defeated Plymouth State College 67-60 Saturday in a Little East Conference game.

The win is the fourth straight for Eastern (12-9), which improves to 5-3 with two conference games remaining. Plymouth falls to 9-12 overall, 2-7 in the LEC. ECSU has defeated Plymouth 13 times in 14 regular-season conference games.

The Warriors shot 52.4 per cent in the second half to overcome a 30-28 halftime deficit.

Kowolenko, who entered play with a school-record 1,308 points, finished in double figures for the 20th time in 21 games. Plymouth is the only team to limit her to less than ten when it allowed her only nine in a 66-58 loss Jan. 30.

Eastern outscored Plymouth 25-6 from the foul line. The Warriors converted 17 of 31 second-half attempts from the line. ECSU also forced the Panthers into 27 turnovers with 22 steals.

Senior forward Sherry Kennie had ten points, a game-high eight rebounds and seven steals for Eastern while senior guard Lisa Matukaitis had eight assists and five steals.

Melissa Bryce and Betsy Bruce each had 14 points for Plymouth.

2-4-93 508-999-8727

UMASS/DARTMOUTH DEFEATS ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL 96-75

NO. DARTMOUTH, MA - ARON LEE SCORED A CAREER HIGH 39 POINTS - SINKING A SCHOOL RECORD EIGHT THREE-POINT FIELD GOALS - IN LEADING THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT DARTMOUTH TO A 96-75 LITTLE EAST CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL VICTORY OVER EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY THURSDAY

THE WIN IS THE TENTH STRAIGHT FOR THE CURSAIRS (15-4, 6-0), WHO DEFEATED ECSU FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS YEAR. EASTERN FALLS TO 13-5 OVERALL, 2-3 IN THE CONFERENCE. THE LOSS SNAPS A THREE-GAME ECSU WINNING STREAK.

LEE, A 6 FOOT-5 INCH GUARD, SHOT 13 OF ~~18~~¹⁹ FROM THE FLOOR, INCLUDING EIGHT OF ~~13~~¹³ FROM THE THREE-POINT RANGE. LEE HIT NINE OF TEN FROM THE FLOOR IN THE SECOND HALF (7-OF-8 FROM THREE-POINT RANGE).

TRAILING 63-54, ECSU SCORED NINE STRAIGHT POINTS TO TIE THE GAME 63-63 WITH 8:47 LEFT. AT THAT POINT, THE CURSAIRS ANSWERED WITH A NINE POINT RUN OF THEIR OWN - LEE HITTING THREE STRAIGHT THREE-POINT FIELD GOALS - TO TAKE CONTROL 72-63 WITH SEVEN MINUTES LEFT.

FRAN DeBARI (22) AND BARI WINNER (21) POSTED CAREER-HIGHS IN POINTS IN LEADING EASTERN, RANKED SIXTH IN THE NORTHEAST. UMD IS RANKED ~~THE~~ FOURTH.

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL WINS THIRD STRAIGHT

PLYMOUTH, NH -- Senior guard Anthony Menard posted career highs with 17 points and ten assists in his first start of the season and junior center Rossie Covington added game highs with 26 points and eight rebounds in Eastern Connecticut State University's 91-85 Little East Conference men's basketball win over Plymouth State College Saturday.

The win is the third straight for Eastern (13-4), which evens its conference record at 2-2. Plymouth falls to 10-7 overall, 3-2 in the LEC.

It was Eastern's first regular-season conference win at Plymouth in four years -- a span of three games.

Menard, starting in place of junior James Hunter (ankle), hit a pair of key free throws with 52 seconds left after the Panthers had clawed back to within one, 84-83 after trailing by ten with three minutes left.

Covington posted his fourth 20-point game in the last five, sinking 11 of 14 tries from the floor. Senior forward Bari Winner added 16 points and six rebounds while junior guard Fran DeBari had 12 points, five assists and four rebounds.

Eastern shot 57.6 per cent from the floor as compared to 46.6 per cent for Plymouth.

Junior guard Moses Jean-Pierre led Plymouth with 24 points, nine assists and five steals but sat out much of the first half after picking up two early fouls. Freshman Alan Conlan added 15 points for Plymouth, which got only six points from its other three starters.

Eastern travels to UMass/Dartmouth Thursday.

January 28, 1993

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL WINS FIRST LITTLE EAST CONFERENCE GAME

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team shot 64.7 per cent from the floor and 85.0 per cent from the foul line in the second half in edging Rhode Island College 76-70 Thursday in a Little East Conference game.

The win is the first against two conference losses for Eastern, which improves to 12-4 overall. The Warriors are ranked eighth in the Northeast. RIC is 3-14 after its 11th straight loss and remains winless with an 0-6 LEC record.

Junior Rossie Covington led ECSU with 21 points and 12 rebounds while junior Fran DeBari had 13 points.

Mike Kolesnik led RIC with a game-high 22 points.

ECSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL LOSES FIRST TO RIC AFTER 11 WINS

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Rhode Island College womens' basketball team wiped out a seven-point second-half deficit with a 12-4 run and went on to defeat Eastern Connecticut State University 84-79 in a Little East Conference game Thursday.

Eastern (7-7, 1-2), had beaten the Anchorwomen (13-4, 4-2) the previous 11 times the teams had met.

RIC outscored Eastern 25-9 from the foul line, hitting 21 of 28 in the second half. The Anchorwomen lead the conference in free-throw percentage.

Robin Gobeille led RIC with a game-high 27 points, Jerilynn Johnson adding 20 points and 13 rebounds.

Senior Missy Kowolenko led Eastern with 21 points and nine rebounds, senior Sherry Kennie adding 16 points, senior Holly Zimmerman a career-high 15 and freshman Michelle LaChapelle a career-high 13. RIC converted 54.7 per cent of its 53 field goals. ECSU shot just 38.1 per cent in the second half after shooting 60.7 per cent in taking a 43-39 halftime edge.

January 26, 1993

ECSU MEN UPEND THIRD-RANKED WESTERN CONN. 61-59

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Senior guard Anthony Menard hit a driving layup with seven seconds left as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team upended Western Connecticut State University 61-59 Tuesday.

The loss snaps an eight-game winning streak for Western (11-3), ranked third in the Northeast Region. Eastern's first win over Western after five losses snaps a three-game losing streak. The Warriors, ranked eighth in the Northeast, are 11-4.

Eastern led by as many as 17 points in the first half but had to play catch-up down the stretch. Trailing 59-56 with 1:01 left, Eastern got one back on a free-throw by Rossie Covington and tied the game with :51 seconds left when Menard hit a pair of free throws. The Colonials then committed an unforced turnover with 23 seconds left. After a timeout, Eastern ran the clock down to seven seconds and Menard was fouled making a driving layup. He missed the free throw but Western missed a three-point field-goal attempt at the buzzer.

Junior Fran DeBarí led ECSU with 15 points (four three-pointers), Covington adding 13.

Bret Nichols led Western with 15 points, Scott Nesbit adding 13 points and a game-high ten rebounds and Pat Symecko 12. The Colonials played without second-leading scorer Paul Ellis.

January 23, 1993

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL LOSES TO SOUTHERN MAINE IN OVERTIME

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Dan Clifford scored eight points in the first two minutes of overtime to lift the University of Southern Maine to a 62-57 Little East Conference men's basketball victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday.

The win is the tenth in 15 outings for the Huskies, 4-1 in the conference. The Warriors, ranked second in the Northeast Region, fall to 10-4 with their third straight (home) loss. ECSU is 0-2 in the conference.

Southern Maine missed two attempts at the buzzer after ECSU had tied the game with 69 seconds left to send the game into overtime. In overtime, Clifford put the Huskies ahead for good with a three-point field goal 19 minutes into the session, then sank a conventional three-pointer one minute later.

Clifford and Mark Sawyer led USM with 15 points each, while Will Robinson had 13 point.

ECSU's Rossie Covington led all players with 26 points (12-of-15 from the floor) including his team's first ten. Anthony Menard added 11 points and four assists. The Warriors shot 51.0 per cent from the floor but were outscored 19-3 from the line.

January 21, 1993

ECSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL DEFEATS UMASS/DARTMOUTH 74-54

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Senior Missy Kowolenko had 26 points, 11 rebounds and six steals in leading the Eastern Connecticut State University women's basketball team to a 74-55 Little East Conference victory over the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth Thursday.

Eastern (6-5, 1-0) defeated the Corsairs (9-4, 1-2) for the tenth consecutive time. UMD is ranked seventh in New England.

Junior Lori Franchina added 16 points and three steals while sophomore Bridgit Neville added 11 points, nine rebounds and four assists for Eastern. Senior Sherry Kennie had 10 points, five assists, four steals and four rebounds.

Marybeth Callahan led UMD with 14 points, Amy Harvey adding 13. The Corsairs committed 24 turnovers and shot 35.1 per cent from the floor. ECSU shot 51.6 per cent from the floor.

UMASS/DARTMOUTH RALLIES PAST ECSU IN MEN'S BASKETBALL

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth men's basketball team rallied from a nine-point deficit with 6:10 remaining to defeat Eastern Connecticut State University 75-73 in a Little East Conference game Thursday.

Eastern (10-3, 0-1) loses for the second straight home game while the Corsairs improve to 11-4 overall, 3-0 in the conference.

Eighteen of UMD's final 25 points over the final six minutes came from the foul line. The Corsairs missed their four first-half free-throws but sank 24 of 30 in the second half. ECSU outscored UMD 64-51 from the field.

Eastern led 59-50 with 6:10 left UMD got back into the game at 63-61 with an 11-4 run.

Stefan Pagios scored a game-high 27 points for UMD, ranked seventh in New England.

Rossie Covington had 23 points on 11-of-14 field-goal shooting and a team-high eight rebounds. Bari Winner had a career-high 22 for Eastern on 9-of-12 shooting. He also had six rebounds, four assists and four steals. James Hunter added 16 points and seven rebounds for Eastern.

January 19, 1992

WHEATON SNAPS ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL FIVE-GAME WINNING STREAK

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Wheaton College men's basketball team withstood an Eastern Connecticut State University rally in the final four minutes in edging the Warriors 60-57 Tuesday.

The loss is Eastern's second against ten wins and snaps a five-game winning streak. The setback was also ECSU's first in the last nine home games and first after 16 straight triumphs against New England competition. Wheaton is 8-3.

Trailing by ten, 53-43 with 4:24 left, Eastern pulled to within two 57-55 and had possession of the ball following a steal by Kevin Pettway with 40 seconds left. The Warriors missed a three-point field goal attempt with 34 seconds left, however, and Dave Miller sank two frees -- his only points of the game -- to give Wheaton a 59-55 lead with 31 seconds left.

Eastern shot just 35.7 per cent from the floor and missed nine of 22 free-throw attempts. ECSU was also out-rebounded for the first time this season, 43-31.

Wheaton's Will Hawkins, ranked sixth nationally with a 25.4 scoring average, led all players with 16 points -- 14 coming in the second half. Chris Sullivan added 13 for the Lyons, 11 in the second half. Mahlon Williams of Wheaton grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds.

Rossie Covington led ECSU with 12 points but the team's second-leading rebounder was held without one. Fran DeBari added 11 points, Bari Winner ten points and a team-high eight rebounds.

Eastern, ranked second in the Northeast, opens play in the Little East Conference Thursday, hosting seventh-rated UMass/Dartmouth at 8 p.m.

1-15-93

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL ADVANCES TO LIBERTY FINAL

MIDDLETOWN CT - THE EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM ADVANCED TO THE FINAL OF THE 11TH ANNUAL LIBERTY BANK CLASSIC FOR THE FIFTH TIME WITH AN 84-68 VICTORY OVER CONNECTICUT COLLEGE FRIDAY.

ECSU (9-1) MEETS HOST WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY (3-3) IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME AT 3 P.M. THE CARDINALS DEFEATED TRINITY COLLEGE (3-4) 82-67 IN THE OTHER FIRST-ROUND GAME. TRINITY IS A SIX-TIME TOURNAMENT CHAMP AND HAD PARTICIPATED IN NINE OF THE PREVIOUS TEN CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES.

BOTH ECSU AND WESLEYAN ARE COMPETING IN THEIR FIFTH FINAL. EACH HAS WON TWO ~~PREVIOUS~~ TITLES. TRINITY MEETS CONN IN THE CONSOLATION AT 1 P.M.

THE WARRIORS, OFF TO THEIR BEST START IN 33 YEARS, OUTSCORED CONN COLLEGE (4-5) 11-2 OVER A FOUR-MINUTE STRETCH TO PULL AWAY 75-64 WITH FOUR MINUTES LEFT. SENIOR ANTHONY MENARD HAD FOUR POINTS IN THAT SPAN, JUNIOR FRAN DeBARI THREE, SENIOR BARI WINNER AND JUNIOR RUSSIE COVINGTON TWO EACH.

more

Winner tied his career high with 21 points and added a team-tying seven rebounds. Covington, who left the game at with eight points in the first four minutes, returned four minutes into the second half and finished with 15 points and seven rebounds. Covington was whistled for two fouls in the opening minutes and was suffering from a cut hand suffered just minutes before the game. He received three stitches at halftime. Menard finished with 13 points for ECSU, which shot 54.0 percent from the field (34 of 63). Conn shot 51.8 percent (29 of 56).

Junior point guard Jeff Cavallo scored six points in 31 minutes and did not commit a turnover for the third straight game.

The teams battled to a 31-31 standoff in rebounding. The Warriors have not been outrebounded this year and are 9-0 when allowing less than 70 points.

Will Betts and Bub Turner led Conn, a loser of four straight, with 23 and 20 points, respectively.

ECSU and Wesleyan will be meeting in the title game for the first time.

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL CRUSHES CLARK 102-65
Covington nets career-high 32 points in rout

WORCESTER, MA -- Six years ago, Rossie Covington scored 21 points in seven games as a freshman at Clark University.

Monday night, the 6-foot-2 inch junior center poured in a career-high 32 in 28 minutes against his former team in leading the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 102-65 rout.

The triumph is the third straight and eighth in nine outings this year for Eastern, ranked fourth in the NCAA Northeast Regional poll, released Monday afternoon. The Warriors have won 15 of their last 17, dating back to last Feb. 13 and have won their last 14 against New England competition.

In the team's last game last Monday, Covington did not finish in double figures in scoring for the first time in his two-year ECSU career. Last night against Clark, with whom he saw limited action in 1986-87, Covington scored ten points in the first 14 minutes and added six rebounds, three assists, two steals and a blocked shot in the game to complement 15-of-21 field-goal shooting.

It marked the sixth time under 12th-year head coach Dr. Dan Switchenko that ECSU has finished in triple figures and represented the most points ever in a road game (the Warriors had scored as many as 100 points on the road only once previously in a 101-73 triumph at Salve Regina Feb. 26, 1983). The final 37-point differential also represented the largest margin of victory in a 100-point game under Switchenko and the 65 points allowed was the least number allowed in a 100-point game.

The Warriors pocketed the win in a 5:30 span early in the second half. Leading 30-28, Eastern outscored the Cougars (6-5) 25-5 -- getting scoring contributions from six different players -- to take a 55-33 lead with 14:30 remaining. Junior guard James Hunter outscored Clark 9-3 with three straight three-point plays in that run, with Covington adding five points. Hunter, held scoreless on five field goal tries in the first half, scored all but one of his final ten-point total in that span.

All 13 players in uniform contributed offensively for Eastern, which outrebounded its opponent for the ninth straight game, 44-41. The Warriors forced 29 Clark turnovers with the help of 19 steals. Senior guard Anthony Menard came off the bench to score 13 points to go along with four assists and four steals; Junior guard Fran DeBari added 11 points, sinking three of five field goals. Senior forward Bari Winner and sophomore forward Phil Morales each had seven rebounds.

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DeBari also keyed a defense which limited scoring sensation Larry Norman of Clark to two first-half points. Norman, the leading scorer in Division III with a 30.6 average, finished with a team-high 23 but 16 of them came after ECSU had built a 20-point second-half lead. Jack Scott added 16 points for the Cougars.

Eastern meets Connecticut College in the opening round of the Liberty Bank Classic Friday at 8 p.m. at Wesleyan University in Middletown.

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL WINS SEVENTH IN EIGHT TRIES

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Junior guards Fran DeBari and James Hunter scored 15 and 14 points, respectively, to lift the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 65-54 victory over Albertus Magnus College Monday.

The win is the seventh in eight games for Eastern -- off to its best start under 12th-year head coach Dr. Dan Switchenko -- and eighth straight at home dating back to last February 13. Albertus Magnus is 4-5.

Leading by just three 23-20, Eastern scored the final 11 points of the first half to take a 34-20 advantage into the lockerroom. DeBari sank two three-point field-goals and Hunter added two free throws and a field goal to spark the run.

Sophomore
Junior center Jon Gould had eight points on 4-for-4 field-goal shooting, six rebounds and an assist in 15 minutes while senior guard Anthony Menard had nine points, four assists, four steals and three rebounds in 21 minutes. Both came off the bench.

ECSU junior center Rossie Covington was limited to eight points -- the first time he has not scored at least ten points in his 35-game career -- while junior guard Jeff Cavallo missed his first free throw after 18 straight successive ones.

Brian Fogle scored a game-high 23 points off the bench for the Falcons, who shot just 28.6 per cent from the floor in the first half.

Eastern held a 37-32 rebounding advantage, outrebounding its opponent for the eighth straight game this year.

The Warriors travel to face Clark Monday at 7:30 p.m.

December 28, 1992

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL RESUMES PLAY TUESDAY AT SALEM INVITE

The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team resumes play following a three-week layoff this afternoon against Stockton State (NJ) College in the opening round of the Salem State College Christmas Invitational.

The Warriors, 5-0, face the Ospreys, 5-2 in the first of two semifinal-round games at 4 p.m. Host Salem State, 2-3, meets Rivier College, 4-5 at 8 p.m.

The tournament consolation (3 p.m.) and championship game (7 p.m.) are set for Wednesday.

Eastern is led in scoring by juniors Rossie Covington (21.4), James Hunter (11.0) and Fran DeBari (11.0) and in rebounding by Covington at 9.2.

ECSU sophomore center Jon Gould is expected to see his first action of the season. The 6-foot-6 inch Gould has been idled since suffering a pre-season left knee injury.

Stockton is led in scoring by junior guard Jermaine Clay (16.0), senior forward Chris Mitchell (14.0) and sophomore wing Ramon Gaines (10.4).

The Ospreys won their first five games this year before dropping their last two.

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FINISHES THIRD AT SALEM STATE TOURNAMENT

SALEM, MA -- Five different players contributed at least one basket during a 17-2 scoring burst in the first half as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team defeated ~~###~~ Rivier College 78-56 Wednesday in the consolation game of the Salem State College Christmas Tournament.

Eastern (6-1) returns to the winning tract after having a five-game winning streak snapped 72-62 Tuesday against Stockton State College in the tournament's first round. ^{Rivier} Rivier is 4-7.

Host Salem State (3-3) meets Stockton State (6-2) in the tournament title game Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Junior center Rossie Covington (23 points), senior guard Anthony Menard (12), and junior guard James Hunter (12) and Fran DeBari (11) also finished in double figures for ~~Eastern~~ Eastern, which limited its opponent to less than 70 points for the sixth time this year.

~~#####~~ Senior ;forward Bari Winner grabbed a career-high 12 rebounds to help the Warriors to a 53-24 advantage on the boards. ECSU has outrebounded each of its seven opponents this year.

Trailing 12-11 five minutes into the game, Eastern scored ten straight points and outscored the Raiders 17-2 over a six-minute span to build a 28-14 lead.

Eastern led by as many as 29 points, 78-49 in the closing minutes.

Jamie Cunneen led Rivier with 12 points, Doug Lavigne adding ten. The Warriors limited Rivier to 40.0 per cent ⁽²⁰ 2-of-50) shooting from the floor.

CHAMPIONSHIP - Stockton State 93
Salem State 83

ALL-TOURNAMENT

DOUG LAVIGNE - RIVIER
BARI WINNER - ECSU

OTHA NELSON - SALEM ST
MIKE BATES - SALEM ST
CHRIS MITCHELL - STOCKTON ST
MVP - JERMAINE CLAY - STOCKTON STATE

STOCKTON STATE ENDS ECSU'S FIVE-GAME WINNING STREAK

SALEM, Mass. -- Chris Mitchell scored six of his game-high 21 points to spark a 14-2 run early in the second half and help Stockton State (NJ) College to a 72-62 men's basketball victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday in the first round of the Salem State College Christmas Tournament.

The loss is the first for Eastern after a 5-0 start and drops the Warriors into the consolation-round game Wednesday at 3 p.m. ~~8 p.m.~~. Eastern will face the loser of the other first-round game between host Salem State College and Rivier ~~(NH)~~ (NH) College, scheduled for 8 ~~p.m.~~ *later Tuesday*.

Stockton (6-2), which snapped a two-game losing streak, scored nine straight points and outscored Eastern 14-2 after the Warriors had closed to within 38-34 with the first two buckets of the second half. The run gave the Ospreys a 16 point, 52-36 lead with 13 minutes left. Twice, Eastern cut the deficit to nine, the latest 68-59 ~~##~~ with 29 seconds left.

Jermaine Clay ~~##~~ followed Mitchell with 16 points while Dean Ferguson added 13 off the bench.

Junior center Rossie Covington and junior guard James Hunter shared team-high scoring honors for Eastern, both finishing with 14. Covignton scored in double figures for the 33rd consecutive game at Eastern. Senior Bari Winner added 13 points for the Warriors, who outrebounded their opponent for the sixth straight game, *30-27*.

Covington, Winner and junior guard Jeff Cavallo each had seven rebounds.

Stockton faces the Salem State-Rivier winner Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the tournament title game. Salem has won the past seven championships.

** ECSU vs Rivier wed 3 pm
SALEM 89, Rivier 61 - other 1st Round*

December 8, 1992

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL WINS FIFTH STRAIGHT

WORCESTER, Mass. -- Senior guard Anthony Menard assisted on two baskets and scored a third in a two-minute span late in the game to help the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team post a 69-63 comeback victory over Worcester State College Tuesday.

The win is the fifth in as many games this year for Eastern, which matches its best start ever under 12th-year head coach Dr. Dan Switchenko. Worcester State lost for only the second time against five victories.

The Warriors trailed by 11, 34-23 at halftime but used a 12-4 run in the first three minutes of the second half to cut the gap to three, 38-35.

With the score tied 57-all with 4:29 left, Menard found junior center Rossie Covington and junior guard Jeff Cavallo under the basket for easy layups, then scored on a driving layup to give ECSU a 63-59 lead with 2:45 left.

A pair of free throws by Covington ten seconds later pushed the advantage to six, 65-59, but the hosts sandwiched baskets around two consecutive ECSU turnovers to pull to within two, 65-63 with 65 seconds left. After Eastern called two timeouts, junior guard James Hunter swished a jump shot with the shot clock winding down to give ECSU a 67-63 lead with 24 seconds left.

Eastern shot 58.6 per cent from the floor and sank 11 of 12 free throws in the second half. The Warriors outrebounded their opponents for the fifth time, holding a 47-28 advantage in the game.

Defensively, Menard and Hunter combined to limit Worcester guard Alan Pettway (28.5 scoring average) to 2-of-17 shooting from the floor and seven total points. Pettway's first field goal came with 62 seconds left in the first half. As a team, Worcester entered play averaging 100.7 points. ECSU had limited its four previous opponents to an average of 60.8 points.

Covington led all players with 22 points and had eight rebounds while senior forward Bari Winner had a season-high 16 points and tied his career high with a game-high 11 rebounds. Winner canned seven of ten tries from the floor. Hunter had a season-high 15 points to go along with a season-high seven rebounds and four steals. Menard had seven points, six rebounds and five assists.

Scott Fenner had 19 points and Robert Ashton 14 to pace Worcester State, which shot 33.3 per cent from the floor in the second half.

Eastern looks to conclude first-semester play without a loss for the first time under Switchenko Saturday when it hosts Albertus Magnus College (7:30 p.m.).

December 5, 1992

ECSU ROLLS OVER BRIDGEWATER STATE IN MEN'S BASKETBALL 84-61

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team limited three Bridgewater State College starters to a combined total of six points in an 84-61 victory Saturday.

The win is the fourth without a loss for Eastern while the Bears slip to 1-5 with their third straight setback.

The Warriors scored the first eight points of the game and moved out to a 13-2 advantage minutes later. Bridgewater would get no closer than five points, 33-28 thereafter.

Junior center Rossie Covington of New Haven shared game-high scoring honors with 24 points on 10-of-15 shooting from the floor for Eastern while adding a game-high ten rebounds and game-high five steals.

Junior wing Fran DeBari tossed in a game-high 17 points, sinking five of seven three-point field goals. He also pulled down a career-high seven rebounds in helping the Warriors to a 48-28 advantage on the boards.

Junior guard James Hunter and senior forward Bari Winner added 11 points for Eastern, with Hunter adding five assists.

Joe O'Connor led Bridgewater with 24 points and Erik DeBoer added 13.

ECSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ADVANCES TO COLONIAL CLASSIC FINAL

DANBURY, Conn. -- Senior forward Sherry Kennie of Berwick, ME scored a career-high 30 points on 12-of-17 field goal shooting in helping the Eastern Connecticut State University women's basketball team to a 90-52 victory over Concordia (NY) College Saturday in the first round of the Colonial Classic.

The win lifts the Warriors (3-1) into the tournament final Sunday at 3 p.m. against Western Connecticut State University. The Colonials defeated Williams College 62-50 in the other first-round game. Eastern is ranked fourth in New England Division III, Western third.

Concordia is 1-5.

Senior center Missy Kowolenko added 17 points and sophomore forward Bridgit Neville added career highs with 12 points and 12 rebounds. Senior guard Lisa Matukaitis had a career-high 11 steals to shatter the tournament game record and equal the tournament record.

Patty McLoughlin led Concordia with 11 points.

December 3, 1992

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL WINS THIRD STRAIGHT

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Junior center Rossie Covington scored a career-high 27 points and grabbed a career-high 12 rebounds as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team defeated North Adams State College 79-60 Thursday.

The win is the third straight for Eastern without a loss while the Mohawks fall to 1-4.

Covington, a co-captain from New Haven, sank 11 of 15 tries from the floor in pacing four double-figure scorers. Covington scored 16 of his points in the first half when ECSU moved out to a 34-26 lead. Ledaing 19-17, the Warriors outscored the visitors 10-3 to open up a 29-20 advantage. ECSU led by as many as 24 points in the final minutes.

Junior guard James Hunter (13), senior forward Bari Winner (12) and junior guard Fran DeBari (12) followed Covington with double-digit scoring for Eastern. Winner added seven rebounds to help ECSU build a 44-28 advantage on the boards.

Jimmy Hardee came off the bench to score 10 points for North Adams, which committed 23 turnovers and shot just 37.5 per cent from the floor. Eastern committed 28 turnovers but shot 50.9 per cent from the floor.

Eastern hosts Bridgewater State Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

ECSU MEN WIN SUBWAY TIP-OFF TOURNAMENT
Menard named Most Outstanding Player

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Senior guard Anthony Menard of East Hampton equalled his career high with 15 points and added six steals in leading the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 77-62 win over Teikyo Post University in the final of the Subway Tip-Off Tournament Sunday.

Menard, who came off the bench in both ECSU wins, was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player with 29 points, nine steals and two assists in two games.

The tournament title is the fourth overall in the 13-year history of the tournament and first since 1988 for Eastern, which was beaten 88-84 by Teikyo Post (1-1) in the first round of last year's tournament.

Trailing by seven 31-24, Eastern (2-0) pulled to within three at the half when Menard hit a three-point field goal and junior center Rossie Covington of New Haven, also an all-tournament pick, hit a pair of buckets.

Junior swingman Fran DeBari (career-high 15 points) of Portland scored the first five points of the second half to give Eastern its first lead since the opening minutes 36-34 and hit a three-point bucket with 7:26 left to give ECSU the lead for good 54-53.

Covington led both teams with 16 points and eight rebounds while junior point guard Jeff Cavallo finished with ten points and four assists.

Eastern scored 24 points from the foul line on 29 attempts while Post was 7-of-9.

Frank Langston led the Eagles with 13 points, with Joel Miller and Craig Drezek adding 12 each.

Menard, Covington, Langston and Miller were joined on the all-tournament team by Steve Dunham of Ithaca and Damon Brown of Plattsburgh State.

Ithaca defeated Plattsburgh 71-60 in the third-place game.

ECSU MEN ADVANCE TO TOURNAMENT FINAL

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team wiped out a ten-point halftime deficit by limiting the University at Plattsburgh to 24 second-half points in a 65-60 win in the opening round of the Subway Tip-Off Tournament Saturday.

Eastern will meet Teikyo Post University Sunday at 6 p.m. in the tournament final. Post advanced to its second title game in as many years with a 71-65 win over Ithaca College.

Eastern trailed after the opening basket against Plattsburgh until junior guard James Hunter hit his only three-point field goal of the game to break a 60-60 tie with 1:30 remaining. Junior Jeff Cavallo sank a pair of free throws with 18 seconds left to ice the win.

Plattsburgh raced to a lead of as many as ten points in the first half on 55.6 per cent field-goal shooting. In the second half, however, the Cardinals managed only eight points in the first ten minutes as ECSU pulled ahead. Plattsburgh shot 26.7 per cent in the second half.

ECSU junior center Rossie Covington led both teams with 18 points while senior Anthony Menard had 14 points -- one below his career high.

Gregory James and Brian Kochanowicz each had 16 to lead Plattsburgh, which meets Ithaca in Sunday's 1 p.m. third-place game.