

ECSU

SPORTS NEWS

Sports Information Office
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Eastern Connecticut State University
Little East Conference

508-999-8727
Tuesday, Feb. 24, 1998

UMASS DARTMOUTH MEN'S BASKETBALL TURNS BACK ECSU UPSET BID IN LITTLE EAST TOURNAMENT
Seven-point lead with 6:27 left erased in Warriors' 65-62 loss to top-seeded Corsairs

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. -- Jason Antonio hit a three-point basket ^{with three minutes left} to give the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth its first lead since the game's opening minutes as the top-seeded Corsairs posted a 65-62 Little East Conference men's basketball tournament victory over eighth-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday.

UMass (18-7), which has won eight of 11 conference tournaments, advances to host the tournament's semifinals and final rounds this weekend. Eastern (8-17), seeded last in the tournament, ends the season on a six-game losing streak, with five of the losses -- all in conference play -- coming by a combined total of 19 points.

Eastern held UMass scoreless for an eight-minute stretch in the first half, hitting 12 of its first 18 shots (UMass was 5-for-22) in amassing a 16-point 27-11 lead late in the first half. The Warriors led by nine at halftime, 31-22 and remained in front until the hosts ~~scored seven straight~~ ^{Used a 10-2 run to turn a 55-48 deficit with 6:27 left into} ~~five by Antonio~~ ^{with three minutes left.} to take their first lead since the game's opening minutes 58-57. Both of Antonio's baskets ^{in the run} followed turnovers by ECSU, which finished the game with 27.

Trailing by one, 63-62, ECSU had a prime opportunity to ^{WIN} the game after Manny Nunez missed both ends of a two-shot bonus for UMass with 16.3 seconds left. ECSU junior center Bryan Hall (HARTFORD) rebounded the second miss. After inboundng at halfcourt with 6.2 seconds left, Eastern turned the ball over in the paint with two seconds left.

Antonio led all players with 26 points -- hitting five three-point field goals -- while ~~he~~ ^{MICK} Cecilio had 13 and Tony Moreira 12.

Senior swingman Bryan Moretti (NORWICH) led ECSU with 19 points, Hall adding 14.

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February 21, 1998

ECSU DROPS FINAL LITTLE EAST CONTEST TO PLYMOUTH STATE

Bryan Moretti scores 1,000th point in 80-75 men's basketball loss

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Plymouth State College men's basketball team outscored Eastern Connecticut State University 10-2 over the final two minutes to post an 80-75 Little East Conference victory Saturday in the regular-season finale for both teams.

The loss is the 11th in 14 conference games for Eastern (8-16) while Plymouth (18-6) wraps up with 12 wins in 14 conference decisions. Plymouth shares the regular-season conference title with Massachusetts Dartmouth while the Warriors place last in the eight-team conference.

The eighth-seeded Warriors open conference tournament play Tuesday, travelling to face top-seeded UMass Dartmouth (17-7).

For Eastern Saturday, senior swingman **Bryan Moretti (NORWICH)** became the 15th 1,000-point scorer in the program's 58-year history with his third point of the game. Moretti, the team's leading scorer with a 13.7 average, managed only two first-half points on three shots before hitting a driving layup from the right side with 13:07 left in the game to give him points No. 1,000 and 1,001. Moretti finished with 14 points, giving him 1,011 in his collegiate career.

A basket by junior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** off a pass from Moretti had given ECSU a 73-70 lead with 2:14 left but ECSU was held to just two points the rest of the way. A pair of free throws by Todd Steffanides with 2:02 left gave Plymouth the lead for good 74-73 with 1:48 left. Eight of Plymouth's final ten points came in as many free throw attempts. The No. 1 free throw shooting team in the conference, Plymouth sank 19 of 24 tries from the line in the game.

Adam DeChristopher of Plymouth led both teams with 25 points, Doug Stokes adding 22 on 6-of-7 field goal shooting and 10-of-10 free throw shooting. Eastern, which shot 50.8 per cent from the floor, missed half of its 22 free throw tries. The Warriors were led by Moretti, Martin and sophomore guard Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN), each scoring 14 points. Junior center **Bryan Hall (BRIDGEPORT)** added 11 points.

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Eastern Connecticut State University
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203-837-9014

Tues., Feb. 17, 1998

McCALL KEYS WCSU MEN'S BASKETBALL COMEBACK WIN OVER ECSU 68-66
ECSU's Moretti moves within ~~two~~^{three} of 1,000th career points with 27

DANBURY, Conn. -- Kejuan McCall scored 11 of his 13 points in the second half -- nine coming in his team's 13-2 run late in the game -- to lift the Western Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 68-66 Little East Conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday.

Western (13-9) improves to 6-7 in the conference while Eastern (8-15) falls to 3-10 with one conference game remaining.

McCall, who hit just one field goal in the first half, scored nine of his team's 13 points over a six minute span when the Colonials turned a six-point, 59-53 deficit into a five-point, 66-61 lead with 41 seconds left.

Trailing by ~~one~~^{one}, 59-58, Western hit four field goals (three by McCall) and two free throws on its final six possessions.

Down by five, 66-61 with 40 seconds left, Eastern got five ~~straight~~ points from senior swingman Bryan Moretti (NORWICH) while the Colonials were hitting the back ends of two two-shot fouls. Eastern missed three shots after inboundng with ~~10~~^{five} seconds left, losing the ball out of bounds following the third miss as time expired.

Moretti led ECSU with a career-high 27 points, moving to within three of his 1,000th collegiate point. Sophomore guard Tom Gostomski ^(MacIver) added 13 points for Eastern, which closes out its regular season Saturday, hosting Plymouth State College at 2 p.m. in a Little East Conference game.

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Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Saturday, February 14, 1998

UMASS DARTMOUTH COMEBACK SPOILS ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL BID

Corsairs erase 17-point first-half deficit to post 83-78 conference win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Junior guard Tim Nelson sank four of six three-pointers in the second half to spark the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth to an 83-78 comeback over Eastern Connecticut State University in Little East Conference men's basketball Saturday.

In erasing a 17-point first-half deficit, UMass defeated ECSU for the 14th consecutive time. The Corsairs, who have won nine of 11 regular-season conference titles, improve to 15-7 overall, 10-2 in the conference. Eastern slips to 8-14 overall, 3-9 in the conference with its third straight loss.

The Warriors shot 69.6 per cent from the floor in moving out to a 14-point, 42-28 halftime lead. A 16-2 run in the half had given ECSU a 14-point, 26-12 lead with 8:48 left. The lead eventually swelled to 17, 34-17 with five minutes left before intermission.

UMass, which shot just 34.6 per cent in the first half, responded with a 67.9 per cent effort in the second half, including 53.3 per cent (8-of-15) from three-point range. Nelson missed both of his three-point field goal tries in the first half but sank four of six in the second half, finishing the half with 12 points.

Junior forward Tony Moreira gave UMD its first second-half lead 66-65 when he hit a basket and free throw with 6:05 left. ECSU senior swingman **Bryan Moretti (NORWICH)** gave ECSU its final lead 68-66 second later with his own three-point play but the Corsairs took command by scoring seven straight to open up a five-point 73-68 lead with just over three minutes left. ECSU managed to tie the game 76-all with one minute left on a bucket by junior center **Bryan Hall (HARTFORD)** but freshman guard Manny Nunez scored his team's final seven points, including a three-point field goal while falling down to snap a 76-all tie with 35 seconds left.

Nunez led UMD with 18 points, freshman center Nick Cecilio and Moreira adding 15 each, Nelson 14 and junior guard Jason Antonio 11.

Hall led both teams with a career-high 23 points, Moretti adding 20 and junior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** 14. Martin was removed from the game with 4:24 left after twisting his right ankle.

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

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Eastern Connecticut State University
Little east conference

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 1998

KEENE STATE COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL DEFEATS ECSU 115-84 IN LITTLE EAST

KEENE, NH -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team committed 24 turnovers in the first half en route to a 115-84 Little East Conference loss at the hands of Keene State College Tuesday.

Keene State (14-6, 6-5), the conference's team scoring leader with an 87.6 scoring average, exceeded the 100-point mark for the seventh time this season but *only* the second time in conference play. The loss is the third in the last four games for Eastern (8-13, 3-8).

The Owls, in their first season in Division III after moving down from Division II, scored the first nine points of the game. ECSU turned the ball over nine times and managed just three shots in the game's first 5:27. The Owls led by as many as 42 in the second half. *ECSU committed 38 turnovers in the game.*

Kareem Porter led five double-digit scorers with 23 points for Keene State. Senior guards Bryan Moretti (NORWICH) and Todd Richardson (WALLINGFORD) each had 20 points for Eastern. Junior forward Richard Martin (BRIDGEPORT) had a team-high seven rebounds.

Eastern hosts Massachusetts Dartmouth Saturday at 4 p.m.

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little east conference

Saturday, February 7, 1998

RIC MEN'S BASKETBALL TURNS BACK ECSU IN OVERTIME 89-85

PROVIDENCE, RI -- Senior guard Kenny Bliss scored ten of his game-high ~~26~~²⁸ points in overtime to lift the Rhode Island College men's basketball team to an 89-85 victory over Eastern Connecticut State University in Little East Conference action Saturday.

Rhode Island (10-9) snaps a three-game losing streak in improving to 4-6 in the conference. Eastern (8-12) had won three of four overall entering play and dips to 3-7 in the conference.

Bliss, the conference's second-leading scorer with an 18.4 average, missed the final shot in regulation to send the game into overtime, where he scored ten of his team's 17 points. The Anchormen scored on each of their nine overtime possessions while ECSU scored on seven of its ten.

A free throw by sophomore guard Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN) gave ECSU its last lead in overtime, 77-76 with 3:11 left. ~~but~~ The Anchormen scored seven of the next eight -- five by Bliss -- to take command 83-78 with 1:13 left.

With Eastern within three, 83-80, Bliss hit a long three-pointer with the shot clock running down to keep the Anchormen in front.

Bliss led five double-digit scorers for Rhode Island, which had only six players score points.

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James Thomas added 20 points and a game-high 15 rebounds.

Rhode Island, rated last in the conference in free throw percentage, sank eight of ten in overtime and 18 of 29 in the game.

Eastern shot 52.3 per cent from the floor but just 50.0 per cent from the foul line (15-of-30).

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Senior swingman Bryan Moretti (NORWICH) scored a team-high 22 points for ECSU while junior forward Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT) had 16 points on 8-of-11 field goals, a team-high 13 rebounds in 42 minutes.

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

Saturday, January 31, 1998

Eastern keeps streak alive against Southern Maine

WILLIMANTIC, Conn.-- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team defeated the University of Southern Maine 72-58 in a Little East Conference game Saturday.

Eastern raised it's record to 8-11, and 3-6 in the conference. Southern Maine fell to 7-11, and 3-6.

Senior swingman **Bryan Moretti (Norwich)** led Eastern with 18 points. Sophomore guard **Tom Gostomski (Meriden)** and junior forward **Rich Martin (Bridgeport)** each added 12 points.

Gostomski also had six rebounds in the game and Martin had 10 rebounds. Junior center **Peter Geissler (Vernon)** had a career high with 11 points and five rebounds. His previous high in a game was six points.

Eastern has won the last five games in a row against Southern Maine and is now tied with the Huskies in the conference in the conference this season.

Eastern held Southern Maine to 58 points which tied a season low for the Warriors, who also committed a season-low 11 turnovers.

Mike Fennessy had a game high 19 points for Southern Maine and eight rebounds. Bryan Hill had 13 points and 10 rebounds in the game. Frank Billings also added 11 points.

Eastern's next game is on the road at Rhode Island College Saturday in a Little East Conference game at 7:30 p.m.

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Eastern Connecticut State University

Little east conference

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

WCSU MEN'S BASKETBALL STOPS TWO-GAME LOSING STREAK 91-86

Colonials hold off ECSU charge in posting Little East Conference victory

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Western Connecticut State University men's basketball team -- ranked seventh in the eight-team Little East Conference in free throw percentage -- scored its final ten points from the line in 12 attempts in defeating Eastern Connecticut State University 91-86 Tuesday.

The win snaps a two-game losing streak for Western (10-6, 4-4) and hands Eastern (7-11, 2-6) its first loss after two straight wins. Western has beaten Eastern all nine times the teams have met in conference regular-season play since 1993/94, although the Warriors eliminated Western from last year's conference tournament in the first round.

Western entered play ranked seventh in the conference in free-throw percentage (59.5) but converted 27 of 37 in the game, including ten of 12 over the final 73 seconds. Ranked sixth in field goal percentage, Western also finished well above its season mark of 42.6 by hitting 31 of 57 attempts (54.4).

The Colonials scored the final nine points of the first half to open up a 16 point, 50-34 lead before ECSU roared back in the second half, cutting the gap to five, 79-74 with 2:16 left and to within a bucket 87-85 when freshman **Robert Butler (ROCKY HILL)** dropped in a three-point field goal while falling into the WCSU bench with 25 seconds left. Antonio Alexander (team-high 18 points/9-for-9 from the line) gave WCSU a four-point lead four seconds later with a pair of free throws and the Colonials held on.

Jon Marshall added 16 points for Western, hitting 7 of 9 field goals and Juma Jones had 11.

Senior swingman Bryan Moretti (NORWICH) equalled his season high with 23 points for Eastern while sophomore guard Jay Wetherell (MILFORD) added 14 points and seven rebounds, sophomore guard Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN) 12 points on 5-of-6 shooting and junior forward Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT) nine points and a game-high 11 rebounds.

Eastern hosts the University of Southern Maine Saturday at 2 p.m. in a Little East Conference game.

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Eastern Connecticut State University
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Saturday, January 24, 1998

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL DEFEATS UMASS BOSTON IN LITTLE EAST

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Senior swingman Bryan Moretti (NORWICH) scored a game-high 22 points on 7-of-9 shooting from the floor and the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team scored the final nine points of the game in defeating the University of Massachusetts Boston 76-70.

The win is the second straight for Eastern (7-10, 2-5) and avenges an early-season 71-65 loss at UMass Boston (6-9, 1-6) Dec. 6. The teams had entered action tied for seventh (last) in the eight-team conference. The Beacons have dropped nine of their last ten.

Eastern trailed by three 70-67 with just over two minutes left but scored the final nine points of the game. Moretti pulled the team to within one, 70-69 and junior center Bryan Hall (HARTFORD)'s only bucket of the second half gave the Warriors the lead for good 71-70 with 1:19 left. Eastern, which shot 40 per cent from the free throw line in a win over Wheaton College Thursday, sank five of six free throws in the final 54 seconds. Sophomore guard Jay Wetherell (MILFORD) and junior forward Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT) each sank a pair in the stretch while Moretti hit one of two.

Martin, who pulled down a career-high 18 rebounds Thursday, again led both teams with 11 rebounds while Hall added eight rebounds to go along with ten points. Moretti added six rebounds as ECSU held a decisive 42-34 advantage on the boards. Freshman guard Robert Butler (ROCKY HILL) added ten points, nine coming in the second half. In the game, the Warriors committed 16 turnovers -- equalling their second-highest total of the season.

Senior guard Al Rue led UMB with 19 points and seven rebounds.

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

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Thursday, Jan. 22, 1998

FIVE DOUBLE FIGURE SCORERS PACE ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL
Rich Martin grabs career-high 18 rebounds in +81-71 win over Wheaton (MA)

NORTON, Mass. -- Senior swingman **Bryan Moretti (NORWICH)** and sophomore guard **Jay Wetherell (MILFORD)** each had 16 points and junior forward **Rich Martin (BRDIGEPORT)** had 11 points and a career-high 18 rebounds to spark the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to an 81-71 win over Wheaton (MA) College Thursday.

The Warriors (6-10) entered play having lost four of their previous five but shot nearly 60 per cent from the floor for the second straight game, sinking 65.4 per cent of their second-half shots in pulling away from a three-point 34-31 lead. Wheaton, a loser to ECSU for the second straight season, falls to 5-9.

Eastern never trailed in the game, scoring the first eight points before settling for its three-point halftime edge. A 10-2 spurt over four minutes midway through the second half allowed ECSU to take control 56-48 as the hosts were able to get as close as three points only once thereafter.

The game was marked by atrocious free throw shooting on both sides. The Warriors missed 18 of 30 from the stripe while the Lyons failed on ten of 18.

Joining Moretti, Wetherell and Martin in double figures were sophomore guard **Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN)** with 13 points and senior guard **Todd Richardson (WALLINGFORD)** with ten.

Eastern, which shot 59.6 per cent from the floor in Tuesday's home loss to Keene State, nailed 31 of 53 tries last night for 58.5 per cent. Martin broke his previous career rebounding high of 12 with 18 -- 11 in the second half. Martin missed an astounding ten of 11 free throws but contributed six assists, four steals and three blocked shots to his scoring and rebounding totals. Gostomski had a season-high seven rebounds.

Top marksman from the floor for ECSU were Wetherell (7-for-11) and Moretti (6-for-8). **Damel Ling (19 points)** and **Justin Lefkowski (17)** led Wheaton, shooting a combined 15-of-24 from the floor.

The contest featured the return to the lineup of junior center **Bryan Hall (HARTFORD)**, who was forced to sit out the last four games due to academic difficulties. Hall had a bucket and rebound in nine minutes off the bench.

Junior guard **Alonzo Beckett (HARTFORD)** did not appear in the game and is expected to miss the remainder of the season after injuring his right knee with 24 seconds left in Tuesday's loss to Keene State. An MRI conducted Thursday indicated that Beckett had suffered a torn ACL. Beckett was the team's leading three-point shooter (27 "threes") and second-leading scorer (10.1). He was averaging 23.9 minutes per game through the first 15 games.

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Eastern Connecticut State University
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Tuesday, Jan. 20, 1998

KEENE STATE COLLEGE OUTLASTS ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL 99-93

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Keene State College men's basketball team shot 56.1 per cent from the floor and 80 per cent from the free throw line as the Owls defeated Eastern Connecticut State University 99-93 Tuesday in a Little East Conference game.

The loss is the fourth in the last five games for Eastern (5-10, 1-5) while Keene State (10-3, 4-2) won for the fifth time in the last six games. It was the first game ever between the two schools as members of the conference. Keene began conference play this year.

The Owls, the conference leader in scoring and free-throw percentage, scored at least 90 points for the sixth time this year. Keene hit 56.1 per cent of its field goals and converted 28 of 35 free throws (80.0 per cent).

The Warriors shot a season-best 59.6 per cent from the floor but was outrebounded 12-5 on the offensive glass.

Steve Treffiletti led Keene with 19 points, Kareem Porter, Rich Bahlmann and Fred Fieldhouse adding 14 each. Fieldhouse was perfect on the night, hitting all four field goals (3-of-3 from "three") and all three free throws. Porter and Bahlmann were both 6-of-6 from the line, Treffiletti 7-of-9.

Eastern, which got 20 points from senior guard Bryan Moretti (NORWICH) and a career-high 19 from sophomore guard Jay Wetherell (MILFORD), lost top scorer Alonzo Beckett (HARTFORD) to a right knee injury with 24 seconds left in the first half and leading rebounder Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT) to his fifth personal foul with nine minutes left in the game.

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Saturday, January 17, 1998
603-535-2752

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL DROPS 82-67 LITTLE EAST DECISION AT PLYMOUTH STATE
Warriors cut 20-point second-half deficit to one before bowing

PLYMOUTH, NH -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team managed just four points after cutting a 20-point deficit to one with five minutes left as the Warriors dropped an 82-67 Little East Conference decision to Plymouth State College Saturday.

The Warriors (5-9) drop to 1-4 in the conference while Plymouth (8-4), which had lost four of its last five entering play, improves to 4-1 in the conference.

The Panthers scored 14 of the first 16 points ^{in the second half} to build a 20-point, 54-34 lead with 15:40 left before the Warriors caught fire from three-point range. In one stretch, all five of the team's buckets were three-pointers, with junior guard Alonzo Beckett's (HARTFORD) fifth "three" of the contest pulling ECSU to within one 64-63 with 5:11 left.

At that point, however, the Warriors went cold, managing only a pair of free throws and tip-in by sophomore guard Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN) the rest of the way as Plymouth pulled away. Plymouth's final 11 points came on 12 free throw attempts.

Scoring runs of 13-2, 12-0 and the 14-2 spurt to open the second half allowed Plymouth to maintain the upper hand throughout. The Panthers converted 27 of 35 free throws in the game while ECSU was a miserable 4-of-12. The hosts missed 13 of 16 three-point field goals while ECSU hit a season-high 13 on 26 tries but 23 of Plymouth's 26 baskets came in the paint.

Adam DeChristopher led a balanced Plymouth attack with 18 points, Doug Stokes adding 14 (including the first eight of the second half), Jamodi Robinson 13 and Eric McQueen 12.

Beckett finished with 15 -- one shy of his career high -- while sophomore guard Jay Wetherell ^(MILFORD) had 13 and senior guard Todd Richardson (WALLINGFORD) 11. Junior forward Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT) had 11 rebounds, Wetherell a career-high ten.

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January 15, 1998

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL DEFEATS ALBERTUS MAGNUS 81-58

Warriors record ninth straight win over Falcons 81-58

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team hit a season-high ten three-point field goals and turned the ball over a season-low nine times in defeating Albertus Magnus College 81-58 Thursday.

The win is the fifth against eight losses for Eastern, which has beaten the Falcons all nine times the teams have met. Albertus falls to 1-10 with its sixth straight loss.

Senior guard **Bryan Moretti (NORWICH)** led four double-figure scorers with a game-high 15 points for Eastern, hitting seven of 12 field goals. Junior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** added 13 points on six of ten shooting from the floor while senior guard **Todd Richardson (WALLINGFORD)** had 11 points (4-of-8)-- his second-highest total of the year -- and junior guard **Jeff Brown (LISBON)** ten (4-of-7).

The Warriors unloaded 93 shots from the floor and scored (10) and attempted (31) season-highs in three-point field goals. ECSU, averaging 23.3 turnovers this year, committed a season-low nine, just three coming in the second half. The Falcons' final scoring total was also a season-low for Eastern, which had allowed better than 90 points in each of its last two games.

Senior center **Jason Crockett** led both teams with 17 points for Albertus, which shot just 31.4 per cent from the floor in falling behind by 16, 44-28 at halftime. Sophomore guard **Kevin Holmes** and freshman guard **Brian Quintana** led the Falcons with a game-high nine rebounds each.

Eastern returns to Little East Conference play Saturday, travelling to face Plymouth State College at 4 p.m.

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January 10, 1998

UMASS DARTMOUTH EASES PAST ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL 98-72
Warriors fall to Corsairs for 13th straight time in dropping conference decision

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. -- Little East Conference scoring leader Jason Antonio led five teammates in double figures with a game-high 26 points as the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth routed Eastern Connecticut State University 98-72 Tuesday.

The win is the fourth in the conference without a loss for the Corsairs (7-4), a winner of nine regular-season conference titles in 11 seasons. Eastern (4-8) falls to 1-3 in the conference after losing to UMass for the 13th straight time.

The hosts led from start to finish, shooting 59.3 per cent in mounting a 22-point, 52-30 halftime lead. In the game, UMass hit a remarkable 30 of 33 free throws, including its first 12 of the second half. The Corsairs drilled ten of 13 three-point field goals, with Antonino perfect on six tries.

Antonino, who brought a league-leading scoring average of 17.8 into the contest, converted eight of ten field goals in all and all four free throw attempts. Freshman guards Manny Nunez and Nick Cicilio followed with 23 and 17 points, respectively.

Junior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** scored a career-high 16 points and equalled his career high with 12 rebounds to pace Eastern, which committed 19 turnovers and shot just 39.1 per cent in the first half. Junior guard **Alonzo Beckett (HARTFORD)** added 12 points and first-year junior **Jeff Brown (LISBON)**, who had five points in five previous games, finished with 11 points. Beckett was 4-for-4 from three-point range, Brown 3-for-3.

The Warriors were without junior center **Bryan Hall (HARTFORD)**, the team's leading scorer and rebounder. Hall was dismissed by the University for academic reasons Monday, but is expected file a formal letter of appeal for reinstatement later this month.

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

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Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

January 10, 1998

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL BEATEN BY RIC IN LITTLE EAST GAME 93-86 *Warriors beaten by Anchormen for ninth straight time*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Senior guard Kenny Bliss shared team-high scoring honors with 19 points -- including the 1,000th of his four-year career -- as the Rhode Island College men's basketball team defeated Eastern Connecticut State University 93-86 Saturday in Little East Conference action.

The win is Rhode Island's first after two conference losses as the Anchormen improve to 7-4 overall. Eastern, which has been beaten by RIC the last nine times the teams have met, falls to 4-7 overall, 1-2 in the conference.

Bliss, the team's leading scorer with a 17.4 average, was limited to just two first-half points but scored 17 in the second half, his seventh of the second half with 13:42 left giving his team a 51-all tie and giving him his 1,000th career points. Bliss also added six assists and five rebounds.

All five starters finished in double figures for the Anchormen, who also got 19 points on 9-of-10 field goal shooting from senior center James Thomas, 15 from sophomore guard Brian Renaud, 14 from senior forward Oscar Victorino and 11 from senior forward Frank Minikon. Victorino also pulled down a team-high 11 rebounds.

Rhode Island held a slim lead throughout the early moments of the second half before ECSU junior guard **Alonzo Beckett (HARTFORD)** hit a three-point field goal with 14:30 left in the game to tie the score at 49-all and junior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** gave the Warriors a 51-49 lead with a tip-in 23 seconds later. At that point, Bliss sparked a run of 12 straight points by the Anchormen, hitting four straight baskets over the next two minutes as the Anchormen moved out to a ten-point 61-51 advantage.

Senior guard **Bryan Moretti (NORWICH)** led ECSU with a team and season-high 23 points -- one below his career high -- with Beckett adding 15, junior center **Bryan Hall (HARTFORD)** 13, sophomore guard **Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN)** 12 and Martin ten points, a career-high seven assists and team-high 11 rebounds.

Eastern committed a season-low 12 turnovers but missed 19 of 25 three-point field goals.

Eastern travels to Massachusetts Dartmouth Tuesday at 8 p.m.

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Eastern Connecticut State University
little east conference

Friday, January 2, 1998

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL LOSES TO ALLENTOWN COLLEGE 75-59 IN TOURNAMENT OPENER

HOBOKEN, NJ -- Freshman center Chris Shelly scored all ^{SIX} ~~SIX~~ of his points in his team's 17-4 first-half run as Allentown College defeated Eastern Connecticut State University 75-59 Friday in the opening round of the Buzz Seymour Holiday Tournament in men's basketball.

The loss is the fourth in the last five games for Eastern (3-6), which had been idle since Dec. 13. The Centaurs improve to 5-3.

Eastern will meet the loser of Friday's second first-round game between host Stevens Institute of Technology and RPI Saturday at 1 p.m. The finals are scheduled for 3 p.m.

Leading by four, 24-20 with seven minutes left in the first half, Allentown scored ~~##~~ 17 of the next 21 points to move out to a 17-point, 41-24 lead with just under a minute remaining in the half. Shelly concluded the Allentown run with his team's final seven points, ~~##~~ grabbing two offensive rebounds and scoring after each and adding another bucket in the paint.

The Warriors trailed throughout the second half but a string of nine straight points -- seven by sophomore guard Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN) -- sliced an 18-point deficit to nine 56-47 with 9:30 left. ECSU could get no closer as the Centaurs ~~scored twice in the paint to push the lead back to 13, 60-47~~ scored twice in the paint and added two free throws to push the lead back to 15, 62-47 with eight minutes left.

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Sophomore center Mark Watermasysk led both teams with 20 points and added a team-high six rebounds for Allentown, which outscored ECSU 19-1 from the foul line and hit half of its 34 field goals to take a 41-28 halftime lead.

Gostomski led ECSU with a season-high 13 points before fouling out with 7:22 left. Junior center Bryan Hall (HARTFORD) had eight points and a game-high eight rebounds despite playing only ¹⁵ ~~four~~ minutes ~~in the first half~~ due to foul trouble.

The Warriors outrebounded the Centaurs 46-42 but shot just 35.9 per cent from the floor and missed 14 of 16 tries from three-point distance.

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Saturday, January 3, 1998

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL DEFEATS RPI IN TOURNEY CONSOLATION

Gostomski scores career-high 22 points to spark 83-67 victory

HOBOKEN, NJ -- Sophomore guard **Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN)** came off the bench to score a game-high 22 points and lift the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to an 83-67 win over RPI Saturday in the consolation round of the Buzz Seymour Holiday Tournament, hosted by Stevens Institute of Technology.

Slowed all season by an injury to his right thumb, Gostomski broke his previous career high of 14 points, set last Jan. 16. Gostomski hit eight of 13 field goals (3-of-6 from "three") en route to his final total while also adding a season-high six rebounds and career-high four assists in 26 minutes.

Eastern (4-6) never trailed in the game and led by as many as 16, 31-15 with 7:29 left in the first half before the Engineers (2-5) used a 10-2 run over the next two minutes to cut the gap to eight 33-25. At that point, Gostomski sank two long three-point field goals to push the lead back to 14, 39-25 with four minutes left in the half.

Junior guard **Alonzo Beckett (HARTFORD)** followed Gostomski with 14 points clicking on four of six three-point field goals. Junior center **Bryan Hall (HARTFORD)** added 13 points and a team-high seven rebounds.

After hitting just one of six free throws in a 75-59 first-round loss to Allentown College Friday, Eastern converted 17 of 21 tries yesterday, including 13 of 15 in the second half. The Warriors also hit eight of 20 three-pointers after a 2-of-16 effort Friday.

Alex Dowlin led RPI with 16 points and 15 rebounds, hitting 10-of-10 free throws.

Allentown won the tournament title, overwhelming host Stevens Tech 81-61 in Saturday's championship game.

Eastern returns to Little East Conference play Saturday, hosting Rhode Island College at 4 p.m.

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Saturday, December 13, 1997

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL RALLIES TO EDGE SOUTHERN MAINE 65-63 *Warriors snap three-game losing streak with Little East Conference victory*

GORHAM, ME -- Sophomore swingman Jay Wetherell (MILFORD) equalled his career-high of 17 points -- scoring all of them in the second half -- as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team rallied for a 65-63 Little East Conference victory over the University of Southern Maine Saturday.

The win snaps a three-game losing streak for Eastern (3-5), which evens its conference slate at 1-1. The Huskies, who led by seven at halftime, lost for the fourth straight time and fall to 1-7 overall, 0-2 in the conference. Southern Maine has dropped its last 15 straight conference regular-season games.

With the score tied 61-all, Wetherell completed a three-point play with a free throw after being fouled while scoring inside with 12 seconds left. After the hosts turned the ball over on a pass which sailed out of bounds, junior center Bryan Hall (HARTFORD) hit one of two free-throws to give ECSU a four-point, 65-61 lead.

With one second left, Eastern fouled Southern Maine's Frank Billings as he attempted a three-point field goal. Billings sank the first two free throws to cut the gap to two but the Huskies were unable to gain control after the third try was intentionally missed.

Wetherell scored 17 points for the fourth time in his career to lead all scorers while Hall added 13. Wetherell also equalled his season-high with seven rebounds to complement junior post player Richard Martin (BRIDGEPORT), who shared game-high honors with eight.

As a team, Eastern missed ten of 22 free throws while Southern Maine hit 17 of 26.

Billings scored a game-high 16 points for Southern Maine, which has lost four games by a total of 14 points this year.

Eastern is idle until competing at the Stevens Institute of Technology Invitational Jan. 2-3 at Hoboken, NJ.

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Tuesday, December 9, 1997

BOWLER LIFTS WORCESTER OVER ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL

Senior guard scores 36 as Lancers turn back Warriors 85-72

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Senior guard John Bowler scored 21 of Worcester State College's final 27 points en route to a 36-point performance as the Lancers remained unbeaten with an 85-72 victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday.

Bowler, a six-foot co-captain, tossed in 25 of his game-high total in the second half -- scoring his team's final seven points -- as Worcester (5-0) defeated ECSU at Geissler Gym for the first time after eight straight losses. The loss is Eastern's third straight this year and fourth straight in five home decisions. *ECSU is 2-5.*

Bowler's individual heroics overshadowed a brilliant effort on the part of ECSU junior center Bryan Hall (HARTFORD), who set personal marks with 22 points and 21 rebounds. Hall scored 16 of his points and grabbed 14 of his rebounds in the second half, but the Lancers finally put ECSU away with a 10-0 run which pushed a one-point lead to 11, 67-56 with nine minutes left.

With Worcester leading 58-56 with 11 minutes left, Bowler outscored the entire ECSU team 21-16 the rest of the way, scoring 11 consecutive Worcester points over a six-minute span, beginning and ending the run with a three-point field goal.

The second half proved to be a series of scoring spurts for each team, with Worcester putting together spurts of eight straight, ten straight and a game-ending nine-straight points and ECSU countering with a 10-2 run and a final run of nine straight which got it to within four, 76-72 with 75 seconds left.

Senior guard Bryan Moretti's (NORWICH) field goal capped the nine-point run and pulled the Warriors to within 76-72 before the Lancers scored the final nine, two by Wayne Russell to stop the ECSU string and seven straight by Bowler, five coming from the line.

Neither team could put the game away at the line, with Eastern hitting only half of its 24 tries and Worcester just 12 of 25.

Former ECSU two-year letterwinner Kevin Pettway followed Bowler with 15 points while junior guard Alonzo Beckett (HARTFORD) and junior post player Rich ~~Hall~~ *MARTIN* (BRIDGEPORT) followed Hall with 11 and ten points, respectively.

Eastern closes out the 1997 portion of its schedule Saturday, travelling to face the University of Southern Maine at 4 p.m.

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Eastern Connecticut State University
Little East Conference

Saturday, December 6, 1997

ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL DROPS 71-65 CONFERENCE DECISION *Warriors shoot 18.2 per cent in first half in losing to UMass Boston*

BOSTON, Mass. -- Senior guard Martin Wilson scored a team-high 16 points to lead five double-digit scorers as the University of Massachusetts Boston men's basketball team edged Eastern Connecticut State University 71-65 Saturday in the Little East Conference opener for both schools.

The loss is the second straight for Eastern (2-4) while the Beacons, who defeated ECSU three times last year, won for the fourth straight time to open the season. UMass reached last year's conference tournament title game and went on to participate in the ECAC New England Division III tournament.

The Warriors shot just 18.2 per cent in the first half but trailed by only three, 29-26 at the break

Following Wilson in scoring for UMass was senior guard Al Rue (13), senior forward Taharri Turner (12), senior center Pedro Gomes (12) and freshman center Salih Rowe (11).

Senior guard **Todd Richardson (WALLINGFORD)** tossed in a career and game-high 17 points for Eastern while junior center **Bryan Hall (HARTFORD)** had a season-high 16 points and career-high 12 rebounds. Senior swingman **Bryan Moretti (NORWICH)** had a season-high 14 points and career-high totals of 12 rebounds and five assists. Richardson hit four of six three-pointers, all coming in the game's final eight minutes.

Junior starters **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** and **Peter Geissler (VERNON)** did not play in the second half due to injuries suffered in the first half.

Eastern hosts Worcester State College Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Massachusetts Boston 71, Eastern Conn. 65

EASTERN CONN. (2-4): Dennis Insogna 0-0-0; Bryan Moretti 3-8-14; Todd Richardson 4-5-17; Tom Gostomski 2-0-4; Alonzo Beckett 1-7-9; Jay Wetherell 1-0-3; Rich Martin 0-0-0; Kevin Innes 1-0-2; Bryan Hall 5-6-16; Peter Geissler 0-0-0. TOTAL: 17-26-65.

Three-point goals: Richardson 4, Wetherell.

UMASS BOSTON (4-0): Martin Wilson 6-3-16; Al Rue 3-4-13; Kevin Flood 0-0-0; Hasan Bailey 1-0-2; Keenan Gibson 1-0-2; Dan Garcia 0-2-2; Taharri Turner 4-3-12; Jim Baxter 0-1-1; Pedro Gomes 6-0-13; Salih Rowe 5-1-11; Bill Torney 0-0-0; TOTAL: 26-14-71.

Three-point goals: Rue 3, Wilson, Baxter.

Score at halftime: 29-26, UMB

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Thursday, Dec. 4, 1997

WESLEYAN NIPS ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL 65-64
Warriors overcome nine-point deficit before falling to Cardinals

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Junior forward Sean Huse's only second-half points snapped a 62-62 tie with 68 seconds left and the Wesleyan University men's basketball team held on to edge Eastern Connecticut State University 65-64 Thursday.

The lead changed hands nine times in the final seven minutes before Huse, who scored only five points in the game, was fouled while hitting a bucket with 1:08 left and hit the free throw as Wesleyan (2-3) took the lead for good 65-62.

Junior center Bryan Hall (HARTFORD), who had scored 12 first-half points, pulled ECSU to within one, 65-64 with his only second-half points (two free throws) with 39 seconds left and the Warriors (2-3) had a chance to win the game at the buzzer after a missed Wesleyan free throw but sophomore guard Tom Gostomski's (MERIDEN) 20-footer bounded off the back of the rim.

The Warriors led by as many as seven points midway through the first half and by five with five minutes left in the opening half before Wesleyan scored seven straight to take a 29-27 lead and an eventual three-point, 38-35 margin into the lockerroom. Eastern scored the first points of the second half but Wesleyan answered again with eight straight to build its largest lead 46-37 three minutes into the stanza. Trailing by eight, Eastern scored ten of the next 12, junior forward Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT) capping the run and tying the game 51-all by completing a three-point play with a free throw with 7:33 left.

After shooting 46.9 per cent from the floor in the first half, Eastern dropped to 30.6 over the final 20 minutes.

Hall led ECSU with a season-high 14 points, sophomore Jay Wetherell (MILFORD) contributing his second straight game of 13. Martin tied his career-high with 11 points and set a career mark with a game-high 12 rebounds to power Eastern to a commanding 48-29 advantage on the boards.

Wesleyan senior guard Matt Kingsley led both teams with 19 points, sophomore forward Matt Hochstein adding 18 and junior forward Mark Zubko ten. Hochstein and Kingsley combined to sink 11 of 24 field goals, six of 13 three-pointers and nine of 12 free throws. The Cardinals equalled their season average with seven three-pointers (in 16 attempts).

The contest was the first for Eastern this season decided by less than 17 points.

Eastern opens its 14-game Little East Conference season Saturday at Massachusetts Boston at 3 p.m.

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ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL DEFEATS WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE 76-59

WESTFIELD, Mass. -- Junior center Bryan Hall (HARTFORD) came off the bench to pull down a career-high 11 rebounds, lifting the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 46-30 board advantage en route to a 76-59 win over Westfield State College Tuesday.

The win snaps a two-game losing streak for Eastern (2-2) and sends the Owls to their fourth loss in as many games.

In 18 minutes, Hall scored five points and led both teams with 11 rebounds, eclipsing his previous game-high of ten, set last Feb. ~~8/26~~ 15.

The Warriors led from the outset, scoring eight of the game's first nine points and building a ten-point, 31-21 lead at the half. Eastern had the lead cut to three 31-28 as Westfield scored the first seven points of the second half before later building it to 19, 63-44 with 5:55 left.

Eastern won the game at the foul line, hitting 17 of 19, 16 of 18 after the Sophomore Jay Wetherell (MILFORD) led a balanced effort of four double-digit scorers with 13 points for Eastern, sophomore Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN) adding 12, junior Alonzo Beckett (HARTFORD) 11 and junior Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT) ten.

Westfield was led by sophomore Chris Carr, who totalled a game-high 17 points and junior Jonathan Armstrong with 14.

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Tuesday, November 25, 1997

TRINITY COLLEGE WHIPS ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL 87-62

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Kevin Bednar had 21 points and nine rebounds to pace the Trinity College men's basketball team to an easy 87-62 victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday.

The Bantams (2-0) took the lead in the opening minutes and pulled away, scoring 13 straight points early in the second half to expand a ten-point, 41-31 halftime lead.

Bednar hit eight of 12 shots from the floor in the game to key the Trinity attack. The Bantams shot 58.8 per cent in the second half, canning 20 of 34 tries. John Mulfinger matched Bednar with 21 points, sinking eight of 14 field goals. As a team, Trinity converted seven of 15 three-point field goals, Mulfinger hitting four of seven.

Eastern (1-2), which got 14 points from junior guard Alonzo Beckett (HARTFORD), committed 26 turnovers in the game and shot just 30.0 per cent in the second half. Sophomore guard Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN) added ten points and junior center Bryan Hall (HARTFORD) a team-high seven rebounds.

Eastern travels to Westfield State College Tuesday at 7 p.m.