

# ECSU

## Sports News

Sports Information Office

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Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Saturday, November 28, 1998

### MARTIN LEADS ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL PAST STATEN ISLAND 77-71

*Junior forward scores 18 in second half en route to career-high 25*

STATEN ISLAND, NY -- Four days after turning the ball over a career-high nine times, senior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** posted career-highs in points, steals and blocked shots in helping lift the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 77-71 victory over the College of Staten Island Saturday.

Ten of Martin's 25 points came in the first ten minutes of the second half and sparked ECSU (2-2) to a run of 16 straight points, turning an eight-point, 51-43 deficit into an eight-point, 59-51 lead.

In addition to scoring more than 20 points for the first time in his four-year career, Martin added six blocked shots and six steals, pulled down a season-high 14 rebounds (second-most in his career) and contributed a season-high five assists. Martin led both teams in rebounds, blocked shots and steals while leading the Warriors in points and sharing the team lead in assists. Twenty of his points came on 10-for-14 shooting from the floor.

In an 81-75 road loss to Trinity College last Tuesday, Martin pulled down ten rebounds but was whistled for nine of the team's season-high total of 29.

Against Staten Island (1-2), Martin had seven points and six rebounds in the first half as ECSU took a 29-26 halftime lead. In the second half, the three-point shooting of Staten Island senior guard John Cali (5-for-9 in the game) triggered a 16-3 run and pushed the hosts into an eight-point 51-43 lead. Junior forward **LaVar Parker's (HACKENSACK, NJ)** only bucket of the game stopped the Dolphins' scoring blitz and began a run of 16 straight ECSU points -- six coming from Martin and four from junior wing **Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN)** -- as the Warriors took command 59-51 with eight minutes left.

In that 16-point run, Gostomski grabbed an offensive rebound on a missed Martin free throw and scored and also fed Martin for a basket after stealing the ball at halfcourt. Gostomski hit eight of 14 field goals (3-for-4 from "three") in the game and finished with a season-high 19 points.

In the second half, Martin scored 18 points (7-for-9 from the floor) with eight rebounds, five blocked shots, three steals and three assists to lead ECSU to a 48-point stanza.

Senior post player Bill Felci (29 points) and Cali (22) combined for 51 of Staten Island's points, Felci hitting 12 of 19 field goals.

Eastern plays three home games in a five-game span beginning Tuesday when it hosts Westfield State College at 7:30 p.m.

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Eastern Connecticut State University

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Tuesday, December 1, 1998

**ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL DEFEATS WESTFIELD STATE 72-51**  
*Warriors limit Owls to 12 first-half points, force 37 turnovers in win*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Junior center **Kevin Innes (EAST PATCHOGUE, NY)** came off the bench to score a career-high 14 points in 13 minutes -- eight in succession early in the second half -- to help lift the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to a 72-51 win over Westfield State College Tuesday.

Eastern (3-2) limited the Owls (1-3) to 12 first-half points -- holding Westfield State to five points over the final 13 minutes of the stanza -- in defeating Westfield for the eighth consecutive time.

The Owls committed 21 first-half turnovers and hit just five of 20 tries from the floor as the Warriors moved out to a 28-12 halftime lead.

Westfield hit two free throws in the opening minutes of the second half but Innes, who came off the bench two minutes into the half, hit his first career three-point field goal, followed with a jumper and completed a three-point play with a driving layup off a steal by senior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** and free throw to push the lead to 21, 36-15 four minutes into the frame.

The Warriors collected 18 steals as Westfield finished with 37 turnovers. ECSU sank 21 of 33 free throws in the game, including 14 of 21 in the second half.

Freshman guard **Rich Vega (HARTFORD)** followed Innes with 13 points while junior guard **Ronell John (CORONA, NY)** added ten points and four steals. Martin finished with five assists and four steals and junior forward **LaVar Parker (HACKENSACK, NJ)** eight points and five blocked shots.

Kris Kachelmeyer led Westfield with 16 points -- 12 in the second half -- but committed ten turnovers. Adam Manchester followed with 13 points, all in the second half, while Chris Carr pulled down a game-high ten rebounds.

Eastern hosts Wesleyan University Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

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Thursday, December 3, 1998

### ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL DROPS 79-66 DECISION TO WESLEYAN

*Cardinals hold 51-25 rebound advantage, defeat ECSU for third straight year*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Wesleyan University men's basketball team scored the first nine points of the second half to build a 14-point lead on the way to a 79-66 decision over Eastern Connecticut State University Thursday.

The win is the third in as many years for Wesleyan (2-3) over Eastern (3-2).

With the score tied 31-all, Wesleyan scored six of the final seven points to wind up the first half, then scored the first nine points of the second half to take a 14-point, 46-32 lead three minutes into the stanza. Wesleyan led by as many as 17 points later in the half before ECSU rallied to within seven, 73-66 with just under a minute left.

The Cardinals outrebounded ECSU 30-12 in the second half, finishing with a 51-25 advantage on the boards. Both teams missed 11 free throws, the Cardinals also withstanding 27 turnovers.

Wesleyan got 65 of its points from four players: Mark Zubko (game-high 23), Sean O'Brien (18), Josh Meyer (12) and Leo Jones (12). Jones came off the bench to score 12 points and share game-high rebounding honors with ten before leaving the contest nine minutes into the second half with a twisted left ankle. Meyer also had ten rebounds and O'Brien six assists.

The Warriors got all but 12 points from four players: junior swingman Jay Wetherell (MILFORD) 16, sophomore guard Jamaal Lee (JAMAICA, NY) and senior forward Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT) 14 each junior point guard Ronell John (CORONA, NY) ten. Martin had six rebounds and six blocked shots.

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

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Eastern Connecticut State University

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Saturday, December 5, 1998

### ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL OPENS LITTLE EAST SEASON WITH WIN *Warriors score ten straight in second half in 90-71 win over UMass Boston*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team scored ten straight points in the second half to break open a close game on the way to a 90-71 victory over University of Massachusetts Boston Saturday in the Little East Conference opener for both teams.

For Eastern (4-3), the win is the 11th in 13 regular-season conference home games over the Beacons (2-2) in 13 years of Little East play. This year, the win is the third in the last four games for the Warriors.

Leading by six, 47-41, Eastern scored ten straight points and 13 of 15 to move out to a 17 point, 60-43 lead midway through the second half. Freshman guard **Rich Vega (HARTFORD)**, making his first collegiate start, hit two of his three three-pointers in that stretch to spark the run. Vega equalled his season high with 16 points, sinking six of nine field goals.

Senior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** led ECSU with 18 points and added six rebounds, three blocked shots and three steals. Junior wings **Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN)** and **Jay Wetherell (MILFORD)** came off the bench to contribute. Gostomski had 13 points and four rebounds, Wetherell nine points and six rebounds. Sophomore guard **Jamaal Lee (JAMAICA, NY)** had a season-high seven assists to go along with five steals and seven points.

Senior forward Sean Harrington and junior forward Sammy Addo combined for 41 of their team's points and 25 of their team's 42 rebounds. Harrington had 26 points and 11 rebounds, Addo 15 points and 14 rebounds.

Eastern visits Worcester State Wednesday at 7 p.m.

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508-929-8128  
Wednesday, December 9, 1998

### ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL DEFEATS WORCESTER STATE 77-62 Warriors use 12-1 run early in second half to win fourth in last five

WORCESTER, Mass. -- Senior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** scored six of his game-high 18 points during Eastern Connecticut State University's 12-1 run early in the second half as the Warriors defeated Worcester State College 77-62 Wednesday in men's basketball.

The win is the fourth in the last five games for Eastern (5-3) while Worcester falls to 4-3 in having its three-game winning streak snapped.

The Warriors shot 57.1 per cent from the floor in the game -- 60.0 per cent in the first half when it took a 15-point, 42-27 advantage into the lockerroom. Martin hit eight of his nine field goal attempts in the game to improve his season's team-leading percentage to 58.5.

Worcester scored the first three buckets of the second half to slice the lead to 9, 42-33 but the Warriors bounced back to scored 12 of the next 13 to push the lead back to 20, 54-34 seven minutes into the second half.

Junior swingman **Jay Wetherell (MILFORD)** followed Martin with 15 points while sophomore guard **Jamaal Lee (JAMAICA, NY)** had ten points and a season-high six rebounds. Martin and Wetherell each added five rebounds.

Mario Horton led four double-digit scorers for Worcester with 14 points and a game-high seven rebounds.

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Saturday, December 12, 1998

### SOUTHERN MAINE MEN'S BASKETBALL DEFEATS ECSU 61-51 *Warriors shoot 30 per cent from floor, 35.3 per cent from line in loss*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The University of Southern Maine men's basketball team snapped a string of five straight losses at the hands of Eastern Connecticut State University, winning 61-51 in a Little East Conference game Saturday.

The win is the seventh in eight games this year for Southern Maine, unbeaten in two conference games. The Warriors had won four of their last five entering play but fall to 5-4 overall, 1-1 in the conference. ECSU had won the last five games between the schools.

The Warriors were held to less than 30 points in each half, shooting 30.0 per cent (21-for-70) from the floor and 35.3 per cent (6-for-17) from the line. ECSU missed 18 of 21 three-pointers.

Senior forward Mike Fennessy scored 16 of his team's 30 first-half points and grabbed five rebounds to help the Huskies to a slim 30-28 halftime edge. Fennessy finished with a game-high 20 points and ten rebounds, sophomore guard Rodney Broussard adding 14 points and seven rebounds.

Eastern, which committed just 12 turnovers, was led by junior wing **Jay Wetherell's (MILFORD)** season-high 17 points and seven rebounds. Junior wing **Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN)** added 15 points and six rebounds.

Eastern visits Marymount College Jan. 4 at 7 p.m.

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Monday, Jan. 4, 1999

**ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL BEATEN BY MARYMOUNT 83-79**  
*Warriors outscored 12-1 late in game in falling to Saints*

ARLINGTON, VA -- Andre Coles scored a game-high 23 points on 11-of-14 shooting from the floor and the Marymount University men's basketball team used a 12-1 run late in the game to surge past Eastern Connecticut State University 83-79 Monday.

The game was the first for Eastern (5-5) after a three-week layoff while the Saints (6-3) were playing their first game after a two-week layoff and their first game after top rebounder Tommie Blanks and top playmaker Clarence Thornton were declared academically ineligible.

Eastern trailed by ten points in the game's opening minutes but rallied back with a 21-8 burst that pushed it into the lead later in the stanza. Leading by four, 63-59 with six minutes left in the game, a succession of turnovers and missed shots cost the Warriors their momentum. The Saints held ECSU scoreless from the floor during a 12-1 run which turned the four-point lead into a seven-point deficit 71-64 with two minutes left. Eastern never got closer than three thereafter.

Coles, a 6-foot-4 inch forward, converted an assortment of layups and shot jumpers into a game-high point total achieved without the aid of a free throw. Junior guard Tramane Howard added 20 points for the winners, sinking ten of 12 free throws. Four of his free throws came in six tries in the final 67 seconds.

Eastern hit half of its field goals in the second half but the Saints hit at least 60 per cent of their shots in each half, finishing at 62.7 per cent for the game. Eastern outscored Marymount by one point from the floor -- hitting six three-pointers against just one for the Saints -- but was outscored by five from the stripe.

Senior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** led the Warriors in scoring (22) for the fifth time and in rebounding (10) for the seventh time this season in posting his second double-double of the campaign.

Junior guard **Ronell John (CORONA, NY)** scored a career-high 17 points while junior guard **Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN)** added 13 points to finish in double figures for the fourth straight game.

Wednesday, Jan. 6, 1999

**ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL HOLDS OFF SHENANDOAH IN OT 84-81**  
*Vega scores five of his career-high 17 points in extra session*

WINCHESTER, VA -- Freshman guard **Rich Vega (HARTFORD)** scored five of his career-high 17 points in overtime to lift the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to an 84-81 win over Shenandoah University Wednesday.

The wins snaps a two-game losing streak for Eastern (6-5), playing its second game in three nights in Virginia. Shenandoah is 2-9.

The Warriors squandered an 11-point lead in the final 3:26 of regulation but rallied in overtime, hitting three of their first four shots from the floor in the extra session and four of six free throws.

Vega, whose driving layup rolled off the rim at the end of regulation to force overtime, scored two baskets in the opening 1:36 of overtime and added a free throw later. Vega's driving layup off the opening tap of overtime put ECSU in front to stay.

Eastern never trailed after the first five minutes of the second half but the Hornets rallied to tie the game after trailing by 11, 72-61 with 3:26 left. The Warriors managed just one free throw over the final 3:26, missing five shots and three of four free throws and committing two turnovers on their final nine possessions.

Shenandoah missed 15 of 32 free throws in the game but hit all five of its free throws in the final two minutes of regulation, Merriwether hitting both ends of two-shot foul with 33 seconds left after getting fouled while grabbing an offensive rebound.

Senior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** scored a team-high 18 points and added a game-high 12 rebounds for Eastern while junior point guard **Ronell John (CORONA, NY)** and sophomore center **Ashon Avent (HARTFORD)** each added ten points. Avent scored eight of his points in the first half, sinking four of five field goals in all en route to his career-high total.

Freshman guard Ron Merriwether led the Hornets with a career-high 23 points (10-of-14 field goals), scoring his team's first nine points. Freshman guard Tyson Thompson added 19 points and senior forward Cameron Jones adding 15. Jones, who leads Shenandoah with a 20.1 scoring average, was held to just two first-half points, failing to score from the floor until 6:37 remained.

Shooting just 59 per cent from the foul line this season, Eastern converted 21 of 31 attempts in the game, Martin hitting all six of his free throws.

Eastern resumes Little East Conference play Saturday at 3 p.m. at Rhode Island College.

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little east conference

Saturday, January 9, 1999  
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### ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL SNAPS TEN-GAME SKID TO RIC *Warriors build 22-point lead, hold on for 69-64 win*

PROVIDENCE, RI -- Senior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** outscored the Rhode Island College men's basketball team 9-3 in the opening five minutes to help lift Eastern Connecticut State University to a 69-64 Little East Conference victory Saturday.

For Eastern (7-5, 2-1), the win is the first over the Anchormen (5-6, 1-2) after ten consecutive losses, the last two in Providence coming in overtime.

The Warriors scored 17 of the game's first 20 points over the first <sup>14</sup> minutes, with Martin scoring the first nine, junior guard **Ronell John (CORONA, NY)** adding six on two three-point field goals and freshman guard **Rich Vega (HARTFORD)** adding hoop on a driving layup.

Leading by 15, 40-25 at halftime, Eastern scored the first seven points of the second half -- five by junior guard **Jay Wetherell (MILFORD)** and a three-point field goal from John -- to push the lead to 22, 47-25 with 16:31 left.

The Anchormen, who have lost three straight, scored 13 straight points in a span of two minutes later to cut the gap to nine, 49-40 with 13:11 left. The hosts go as close as five, 53-48 with 8:21 left but ECSU scored seven of the next nine to open up a ten-point, 60-50 lead with 6:33 left.

Martin recorded his third straight double-double, scoring a team-high 17 points and grabbing a game-high 11 rebounds while adding seven blocked shots. John had 16 points, hitting five of eight three-pointers, while junior guard **Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN)** added 14 points, seven rebounds and five steals. Wetherell had eight points and tied his career-high with ten rebounds. The Warriors came up with 19 steals, forcing 25 turnovers.

Freshman guard Ken Jernigan led RIC with 20 points while sophomore guard Ken Payette had 15.

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

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January 12, 1999

### ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL BOWS TO UMASS DARTMOUTH IN LITTLE EAST *Corsairs score game's first ten points in opening 1:20 en route to victory*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth men's basketball team scored the first ten points of the game in the first 1:20 and was never seriously threatened in a 94-73 Little East Conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday.

The Corsairs (7-5, 1-3), who have won or shared ten of the conference's 12 regular-season titles, had lost their first three conference games this season but came out strong Tuesday in defeating ECSU for the 15<sup>th</sup> straight time overall and ninth at Geissler Gym.

Sophomore center Nick Cecilio (24 points) and senior guard Jason Antonio (20) led five-double-digit scorers for the winners, who shot 70.4 per cent from the floor in the first half in posting a 50-39 halftime lead.

The Corsairs committed 30 turnovers but forced ECSU into 33 and shot 57.4 per cent from the floor, hitting seven of 13 three-point field goals.

Senior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** led ECSU with 20 points and a game-high nine rebounds.

Eastern hosts Albertus Magnus College Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

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Saturday, January 16, 1999

### DeCHRISTOPHER SPARKS PLYMOUTH PAST EASTERN Senior guard scores nine points in final four minutes in Little East win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Senior guard Adam DeChristopher, held to just ~~four~~ <sup>five</sup> points over the first 36 minutes, scored nine points in the final four minutes as the Plymouth State College men's basketball team rallied for a 60-57 Little East Conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday.

Plymouth (9-4, 3-2), which shared last year's conference regular-season title, trailed by six points, 53-47 with four minutes left but outscored ECSU (7-7, 2-3) 13-4 the rest of the way to snap a two-game losing streak.

Last year's conference Player-of-the-Year, DeChristopher was limited to just four points until the final four minutes. In the final minutes, he scored five points on a pair of field goals and added four on free throws. With ECSU in possession of the ball and trailing by one, DeChristopher stole the ball with six seconds left and hit a pair of free throws to ice the win.

Junior forward Shannon Gallagher had given the Panthers the lead for good 58-57 when he hit a bucket with 28 seconds left on an assist from senior forward Jamal Pettiford-Jones.

Plymouth had led by as many as 12 points, 35-23 late in the first half and by nine 39-30 three minutes into the second half before ECSU rallied. Holding Plymouth scoreless from the field for 11 minutes, the Warriors went on a 15-4 run, taking a two-point, 45-43 lead with 7:3 left on a pair of free throws by sophomore center **Ashon Avent (HARTFORD)** with 7:34 left.

DeChristopher led Plymouth with 14 points, senior forward Eric McQueen adding 13 and Gallagher ten. Pettiford-Jones shared game-high rebounding honors with 11.

Junior swingman **Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN)** led ECSU with 17 points, senior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** and Avent adding 12 each. It was a career-high for Avent, making his first career start. Martin shared game-high rebounding honors with 11 and also had seven steals, five assists and a blocked shot.

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

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Tuesday, January 19, 1999

### KEENE STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL RACES PAST ECSU 101-73 Warriors drop third straight conference, falling to conference-leader

KEENE, NH -- Sophomore guard Chris Coates hit eight of ten field goals and totalled a game-high 22 points in just 15 minutes to lead the Keene State College men's basketball team to a 101-73 Little East Conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday.

The win is the fifth straight for Keene State (13-2, 6-0), which remains the conference's only unbeaten team. Eastern falls to 7-8 overall, 2-4 following its third straight loss.

Keene, which reached the conference tournament title game in its first year in the conference a year ago, easily exceeded its conference-leading scoring average of 89.6, hitting 62.5 per cent of its field goals, including ten of 16 from three-point range.

Coates led five double-figure scorers for the winners, who also got 15 points from Dave Stantial, 13 points and a game-high 11 rebounds from Stacey Massiah, 13 points from Alex Howard and ten from Jamie Smith.

Eastern, which shot a season-low 29.9 per cent from the floor, got a season-high 21 points from junior guard **Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN)** -- one shy of his career best -- and ten from freshman guard **Rich Vega (HARTFORD)**. Gostomski, who has finished in double figures a team-high 11 times this year, set an ECSU conference regular-season record by sinking all five of his three-point field goal attempts. In all, Gostomski hit eight of ten field goals and also had three steals and two blocked shots.

Senior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** led ECSU with nine rebounds and sophomore center **Ashon Avent (HARTFORD)** added eight but the Warriors lost a decisive 45-34 decision on the boards. Martin missed all eight of his field goal attempts and was held scoreless for the first time in 34 games.

Eastern visits Massachusetts Boston Saturday at 3 p.m.

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Saturday Jan. 23, 1999  
617-287-7815

MARTIN LEADS ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL OVER MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON 84-61  
Senior forward scores career-high 28 points as Warriors snap three-game skid

BOSTON, Mass. -- Senior forward Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT) responded with a career-high 28 points four days after being held scoreless for the first time in 34 games to power the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team to an 84-61 Little East Conference victory over the University of Massachusetts Boston Saturday.

The wins snaps a three-game losing streak for Eastern (8-8, 3-4). UMass Boston (7-8, 2-5) lost for the second time this year to Eastern.

Martin, who did not score in ECSU's 101-73 loss at Keene State Tuesday, sank 11 of 14 field goals and six of eight free throws Saturday in amassing his career-high total. He also had four steals and three assists with just one turnover in 23 minutes. *NINE REBOUNDS,*

Eastern scored the first 11 points of the game, holding the Beacons scoreless on their first nine possessions (six missed shots, three turnovers). The Warriors shot 55.9 per cent (19-of-34) from the floor in the first half, outrebounded the hosts 26-10 and forced UMass into 15 turnovers and 26.9 per cent (7-of-26) shooting from the field in building a 33-point, 49-16 halftime lead.

Sophomore center Ashon Avent (HARTFORD) added a career-high 13 points, hitting all five of his field goals for Eastern. Martin and junior forward Jay Wetherell (MILFORD) EACH had nine rebounds for the Warriors, who outrebounded the Beacons 51-35.

Sean Harrington led UMass with 15 points and seven rebounds.

Eastern faces Western Connecticut State University in a conference game Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Danbury.

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Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Tuesday, January 26, 1999

### ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL TRIMS WCSU IN LITTLE EAST 60-56

*Warriors defeat Colonials for first time in conference regular-season play*

DANBURY, Conn. -- Freshman guard **Rich Vega (HARTFORD)** hit a pair of field goals to key a 9-1 scoring run midway through the second half as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team defeated Western Connecticut State University 60-56 Tuesday in a Little East Conference game.

Although Eastern eliminated Western in the first round of the 1997 conference tournament, it was the Warriors' first *regular-season* conference win ever over the Colonials, who had won all ten meetings since joining the conference in 1993/94. It was ECSU's first regular-season win over Western *at Danbury* since a 57-56 decision Jan. 22, 1985.

The conference win for Eastern (9-8, 4-4) is its most in a season under fifth-year head coach Barry Davis. Western falls to 7-10 overall, 2-6 in the conference.

Leading by one, 43-42 with 10:02 left, Eastern held the Colonials scoreless from the field for the next four minutes, outscoring the hosts 9-1 to build a nine point, 52-43 lead with seven minutes left. Western twice cut the gap to two thereafter -- the second time at 58-56 with 9.2 seconds left, but ECSU sophomore guard **Jamaal Lee (JAMAICA, NY)** hit both ends of a one-and-one try one second later to ice the win.

Eastern, which has held only one opponent this season to less than Western's final point total, got a game-high 12 points from sophomore center **Ashon Avent (HARTFORD)**, who is averaging 11.5 points as a starter the last four games. Junior swingman **Jay Wetherell (MILFORD)** added 11 points and equalled his career-high with ten rebounds. Senior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** grabbed 12 rebounds -- his second-highest total this year -- to lead ECSU to a slim 38-34 advantage on the boards. Only eight of the game's points came from the foul line.

Matthews came off the bench to lead Western with 11 points but the Colonials' starters combined for only 22 points and ten rebounds.

Eastern visits Albertus Magnus College Thursday at 7 p.m. in a re-scheduled contest from a game postponed due to snow Jan. 14.

-30-

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# ECSU

## *Sports News*

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Eastern Connecticut State University  
little east conference

Thursday, January 28, 1998

### ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL ROUTS ALBERTUS MAGNUS 95-54 Every player contributes as Warriors remain unbeaten vs. Falcons

NEW HAVEN, Conn. -- All 13 Eastern Connecticut State University players in uniform contributed to the offense as the Warriors routed the Albertus Magnus College men's basketball team 95-54 Thursday for its third straight victory.

Eastern (10-8) equals its most wins ever in a season under fifth-year head coach Barry Davis in improving to 7-3 on the road. Albertus falls to 2-13.

Every player played at least 11 minutes with none playing more than 21 as ECSU remained undefeated in ten meetings all-time with Albertus.

Junior guard **Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN)** led five ECSU double-digit scorers with 16 points, hitting six of eight field goals (3-for-4 from "three"); first-year junior forward **LaVar Parker (HACKENSACK, NJ)**, sophomore center **Ashon Avent (HARTFORD)** and first-year sophomore guard **Paul Diasparra (MAHOPAC, NY)** each added 11 points and freshman guard **Rich Vega (HARTFORD)** ten. Gostomski, Parker and Diasparra all came off the bench.

First-year sophomore forward **Scott Davis (GLASTONBURY)** led ECSU with a season-high eight rebounds, junior center **Kevin Innes (EAST PATCHOGUE, NY)**, junior swingman **Jay Wetherell (MILFORD)**, first-year sophomore center **Nick Drobiak (GRISWOLD)** and Parker each grabbing seven to lead the Warriors to a 64-37 advantage on the boards.

For Eastern, the final point total was the highest and the 41-point winning margin the widest this season while the points allowed were the second-least.

The game was the final non-conference one this year for Eastern, which travels to meet the University of Southern Maine Saturday at 3 p.m. in a Little East Conference game. The Huskies defeated ECSU 61-51 when the teams met Dec. 12 at Geissler Gymnasium.

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Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

January 30, 1999

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### ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL RALLIES TO DEFEAT SOUTHERN MAINE

*Warriors wipe out 11-point halftime deficit in avenging earlier conference loss*

GORHAM, ME -- Freshman guard **Rich Vega (HARTFORD)** and junior guard **Ronell John (CORONA, NY)** helped the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team score the final five points of the game and complete a rally in a 61-59 Little East Conference decision over the University of Southern Maine Saturday.

John hit his second three-point field goal of the afternoon to tie the game 59-all with 1:28 left and Vega's 15-foot baseline jumper with 18 seconds left snapped the tie and gave ECSU three straight conference regular-season road wins for only the second time in 13 years of conference play.

Eastern (11-8, 5-4) has now won its most games in a season under fifth-year head coach Barry Davis and matches its longest winning streak (four) in that span. Eastern has now won eight of 11 road games this year and has equalled its most road wins in a season in the conference, improving to 4-1.

Six three-point field goals in the first half had helped Southern Maine (11-7, 5-4) roll to an 11-point, 34-23 halftime lead before ECSU rallied to post a win after trailing at halftime for the first time in eight tries this year. Eastern scored 12 straight points midway through the second half to turn a six-point deficit into a six-point lead 48-42.

Southern Maine, which leads the conference in three-point field goals, missed all eight of its second-half tries while Eastern hit five of 11 over the final 20 minutes and turned the ball over only five times. The Warriors went to the line only eight times in the game, sinking six.

Sophomore center **Ashon Avent (HARTFORD)** equalled his career high with 13 points on 6-of-9 field goal shooting. Junior swingman **Jay Wetherell (MILFORD)** and senior forward **Richard Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** added ten points each. Wetherell had eight rebounds and five assists, Martin six rebounds, four steals and three blocked shots and Vega a career-high seven rebounds. Vega had missed eight of ten field goals in the game until sinking the game-winner.

Starting guards Rodney Broussard and Corey Zimmerman, who combined for 23 points in Southern Maine's 61-51 win at Eastern Dec. 12, managed just nine points, with the duo being held scoreless from the floor in the first half. Mike Fennessy finished with a game-high 20 points for the hosts but was held to just seven in the second half. Andy MacVane added ten points for Southern Maine, which had a three-game winning streak snapped.

Eastern host Rhode Island College Saturday at 3 p.m. in a conference game.

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Tuesday, Feb. 9, 1999

**KEENE STATE HOLDS OFF EASTERN CONN. IN OVERTIME**  
*Owls win Little East Conference men's basketball 78-74*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Jamie Smith and Jack Reardon combined for all ten of their team's points in overtime as the Keene State College men's basketball team held off Eastern Connecticut State University 78-74 Tuesday in a Little East Conference game.

With the win, Keene (17-3, 10-1) maintained its hold on first place in the conference while Eastern falls to 12-9 overall, 6-5 in the conference. The win snaps a season-high five-game winning streak for Eastern, which began the streak after losing at Keene State 101-73 three weeks ago.

The Owls entered play averaging 92.3 points per game -- the fifth-highest mark in Division III.

Last night, Eastern scored seven of the final eight points in regulation to send the game into overtime, freshman guard Rich Vega (HARTFORD) hitting a pair of free throws with 1:24 left to knot the game 68-68.

In overtime, the Owls scored nine straight points after trailing 72-69 to take a 78-72 lead with 14 seconds left. Smith hit a layup and a resultant free throw to complete a three-point play and give Keene State the lead for good 74-72.

Smith finished with 18 points, Porter with 15 points and seven rebounds and Chris Coates with 13 points. Top rebounder and third-leading scorer Stacey Massiah did not play in the game. Coates, ranked fifth in the conference with a 19.5 scoring average, was limited to three points after the first half.

Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT) led ECSU with a game-high 20 points and added 11 rebounds in helping the Warriors to a 48-41 advantage on the boards. Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN) added 18 points and Vega 14 points, five assists, four rebounds and four steals.

Eastern visits UMass Dartmouth Saturday at 3 p.m.

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Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Saturday, February 6, 1999

### ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL ROUTS RHODE ISLAND IN LITTLE EAST *Warriors post longest winning streak under Barry Davis with fifth straight*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team scored the game's first seven points and never trailed en route to an 87-57 Little East Conference victory over Rhode Island College Saturday.

The win is the fifth straight for Eastern (12-8, 6-4) -- its longest winning streak under fifth-year head coach Barry Davis. Rhode Island (6-13, 2-8) lost for the seventh straight time and ninth time in ten road contests.

Eastern survived 25 turnovers in the game by shooting 50 per cent from the floor in each half. Rhode Island managed to shoot just 32.8 per cent from the floor and turned the ball over 30 times. Three Rhode Island starters combined for just ten points while ECSU got 47 from its starting five.

All 14 uniformed players saw action for Eastern, which got double-digit scoring from sophomore center **Ashon Avent (HARTFORD)**, junior guard Tom Gostomski (**MERIDEN**) and freshman guard **Rich Vega (HARTFORD)**. Avent scored a career-high 14 points on 7-of-8 shooting from the floor and is averaging 12.0 points since moving into a starting role seven games ago. Vega and Gostomski each had ten points, Vega handing out a career-high seven assists. First-year junior forward **LaVar Parker (HACKENSACK, NJ)** equalled his season-high with a team-high seven rebounds.

Senior forward Ross Callen led the Anchormen with 16 points, freshman guard Juan Carter adding 14.

Eastern hosts conference leader Keene State College Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

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Saturday, February 13, 1999

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### ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL SNAPS 16-GAME LOSING STREAK TO UMass

*Warriors score on ten of last 12 possessions in 79-72 Little East win*

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. -- Junior guard **Tom Gostomski** (MERIDEN) snapped a tie with a three-point field goal with 58 second left and freshman guard **Rich Vega** (HARTFORD) hit six free throws in the final 40 seconds as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team snapped a 16-game losing streak at the hands of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth with a 79-72 Little East Conference win Saturday.

With the win, Eastern (13-9, 7-5) maintains a share of third place in the eight-team conference with the University of Southern Maine, which defeated visiting Rhode Island College 74-59 Saturday. UMass falls to 13-9 overall and two games behind Eastern and Southern Maine with a 5-7 conference mark.

The Warriors scored points on ten of their last 12 possessions over the final 5:34 yesterday, hitting six of seven field goals and eight of ten free throws.

With ECSU trailing 68-66, Vega hit a pair of free throws with 2:22 left to tie the game and begin a run of nine straight ECSU points that gave the Warriors a 75-68 lead with 30 seconds left. Gostomski put ECSU ahead for good 71-68 with his three-pointer with 58 seconds left and Vega his six of six free throws over the next 22 seconds to push the lead to seven 77-70 with 17.9 seconds left.

A run of 12 straight points had shot ECSU into an 11-point, 36-25 lead with four minutes left in the first half but the Corsairs, who have won ten of 12 conference regular-season titles, scored nine points on three three-pointers in the final two minutes to cut the gap to three, 42-39 at halftime.

The win is the first for Eastern over UMass Dartmouth since Feb. 29, 1992, when the Warriors defeated the host Corsairs 71-64 in the finals of the Little East Conference tournament. ECSU was beaten by UMass 94-73 when the teams met Jan. 12 at Willimantic. The Warriors have won six of their last seven.

(more)

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Vega and junior guard **Jay Wetherell (MILFORD)** led a balanced attack with 15 points each, with sophomore center **Ashon Avent (HARTFORD)** adding 14 (6-of-8 from the floor) and Gostomski 13.

Senior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** had eight points and a game-high 13 rebounds (eight in the second half) to lead the Warriors to a 42-31 advantage on the boards. Wetherell added five rebounds, five steals and three assists. ECSU had just seven turnovers in the second half, just one over the final 12 minutes.

Senior guard Jason Antonio of UMass Dartmouth led all players with 22 points, sophomore guard Jay Norton adding 21 and sophomore center Nick Cecilio 14. Antonio scored his team's first eight points in the second half but was held scoreless from the floor over the final 16:31, managing just two free throws. The 6-foot-8 inch Cecilio was held to just four points after scoring ten of his team's first 19 points over the game's first nine minutes.

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

# ECSU

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Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Tuesday, February 16, 1999

### WCSU MEN'S BASKETBALL EDGES ECSU IN LITTLE EAST 71-64 Colonials force three-way tie for third place in conference ~~win~~ <sup>win</sup> victory

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Freshman guard Joe Annino sank six free throws in the final 29 seconds to help the Western Connecticut State University men's basketball team to its sixth straight win, a 71-64 Little East Conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday.

By winning, Western (13-10, 7-6) forces a three-way tie for third place in the conference with Eastern (13-10, 7-6) and the University of Southern Maine (13-10, 7-6). Southern Maine entered play sharing third place with Eastern but dropped a 74-60 decision at Massachusetts Boston Tuesday. There remains one conference game for each team. The top four finishers in the final regular-season conference standings host a first-round LEC tournament game Tuesday.

Trailing by six, 65-59 with 1:47 left, Eastern pulled to within one 65-64 with 29 seconds left before Annino hit six free throws over a span of 14 seconds to keep the Colonials in front.

Senior center Juma Jones, limited to six points when ECSU defeated Western 60-56 Jan. 26, totalled a game-high 21 points on eight of 11 shooting from the floor.

Junior guard **Jay Wetherell (MILFORD)** led ECSU with 19 points, sinking ten of 12 free throws. Freshman guard **Rich Vega (HARTFORD)** added 13 points and senior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** added 11.

Eastern visits Plymouth State College Saturday at 4 p.m. in the regular-season finale.

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Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Saturday, Feb. 20, 1999

### ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL BEATEN BY PLYMOUTH IN OT *Warriors to open Little East Conference tournament Tuesday at Southern Maine*

PLYMOUTH, NH -- Plymouth State College senior guard Todd Steffanides's three-point field goal in the final seconds of regulation forced overtime and the Panthers clinched a share of the Little East Conference regular-season title and the tournament's No. 1 seed with an 82-76 Little East Conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday.

By winning, Plymouth (18-6, 11-3) gained a share of the conference regular-season title for the second straight year, and by virtue of two regular-season wins over co-champion Keene State College, gains the No. 1 seed in the conference tournament, which gets underway Tuesday. If it advances beyond Tuesday's first-round game against Rhode Island College, Plymouth will host the semifinals and final Feb. 26-27.

Eastern (13-11, 7-7), which lost two regular-season games to Plymouth this year by a total of nine points, finishes in a tie for fourth place with the University of Southern Maine in the final conference standings -- its highest finish since an identical one in 1993/94. However, a regular-season win by Southern Maine over Plymouth gives the Huskies the No. 4 seed. **Fifth-seeded Eastern will visit Southern Maine (13-11, 7-7) in a first-round tournament game Tuesday at a time not yet determined.**

Yesterday, a pair of free throws by junior wing **Jay Wetherell (MILFORD)** gave ECSU a three-point 68-65 lead with 17 seconds left. After calling time out with seven seconds left, Plymouth got the ball to Steffanides, who let go the game-tying three-pointer with 2.2 seconds left in the final regular-season home game of his career. Plymouth, ranked in a tie for sixth in the NCAA Division III Northeast Region, never trailed in overtime. With the game tied 71-71, Plymouth scored six straight on a three-point field goal by senior forward Eric McQueen, and a pair of free throws and layup by senior guard Adam DeChristopher to take a 77-71 lead with 45 seconds left. Steffanides clinched the win with three free throws in the final 24 seconds.

Led by DeChristopher (20), all five Plymouth starters finished in double figures. Senior forward Jamal Pettiford-Jones helped the hosts to a 55-38 rebounding advantage by grabbing 17.

ECSU freshman guard **Rich Vega (HARTFORD)**, who did not play when Plymouth beat ECSU 60-57 Jan. 16, scored a career-high 21 points while Wetherell had 13, senior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** 12 and senior center **Ashon Avent (HARTFORD)** 11.

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Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

### ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL WINS LEC TOURNAMENT OPENER

*Warriors improve to 10-4 on the road by eliminating Southern Maine 68-52*

GORHAM, Maine -- Fifth-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team advanced beyond the opening game of the Little East Conference tournament for the second time in three years, shooting 52.6 per cent in the first half en route to a 68-52 win over host fourth-seeded University of Southern Maine Tuesday.

With the win -- Eastern's tenth in 14 road games this year -- the Warriors (14-11) advance to the tournament semifinals Friday at 8 p.m. against host Plymouth State College. The top-seeded Panthers, who shared the regular-season conference title, eliminated Rhode Island College 91-81. In the other semifinal-round games Friday, second-seeded Keene State College meets third-seeded Western Connecticut State University at 6 p.m. Keene defeated seventh-seeded UMass Boston 91-82 while Western stopped sixth-seeded and nine-time tournament champion UMass Dartmouth 56-49.

Eastern defeated Southern Maine (13-12) for the second time this season at Gorham, scoring 16 of the game's first 18 points and shooting 53.6 per cent from the floor in the first half. ECSU led by 20, 32-12 before the hosts -- who hit just 26.9 per cent of their first-half shots -- scored ten of the next 12 to get to within 12, 34-22 at halftime.

Senior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** led three double-figure scorers with a game-high 22 points on 11-of-16 shooting from the floor. Junior forward **Jay Wetherell (MILFORD)** added 13 points and a career-high 13 rebounds and junior guard **Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN)** 12 points. Freshman guard **Rich Vega (HARTFORD)** had seven points, a career-high ten rebounds, five assists and three steals.

Mike Fennessy was Southern Maine's only double-figure scorer, finishing with 15 but missing 16 of 21 shots from the floor. Three of the team's starters were held scoreless. More than half (31 of 60) of the hosts' field goal attempts came from three-point range.

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Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Friday, February 26, 1999  
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### PLYMOUTH STATE HOLDS OFF ECSU IN LITTLE EAST SEMIFINALS *Panthers edge Warriors for third time this year, 97-90 to advance to final*

PLYMOUTH, NH -- Senior guard Adam DeChristopher led a balanced Plymouth State College attack with a team-high 24 points in leading the top-seeded Panthers past fifth-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University 97-90 in the semifinal round of the Little East Conference men's basketball tournament Friday.

Plymouth, ranked fourth in New England, advances to the tournament final Saturday at 3 p.m. against third-seeded Western Connecticut State University. The Colonials blasted second-seeded Keene State College 95-78 earlier Friday.

The win was the third this year for Plymouth over Eastern (14-12) -- second in a week -- the victories coming by a total of 16 points.

Freshman guard **Rich Vega (HARTFORD)** scored ECSU's final ten points over the final 48.4 seconds, hitting five of seven free throws, a driving layup and a three-point field goal with 19.3 seconds remaining which cut the Plymouth lead to three, 93-90. On the inbound, Vega fouled Josh Farnsworth, who hit a pair of free throws to cement the win, 95-90 with 17.9 seconds left.

The Warriors trailed by 15, 79-64 with 3:42 left but battled back behind Vega. Down by seven 87-80 with 48.4 seconds left, the Warriors had one last gasp when Vega was fouled on a three-point field goal attempt by Shannon Gallagher. Gallagher was whistled for a technical foul when protesting the call, giving Vega two additional free throws and ECSU possession of the ball.

Hoping to pull ECSU within one made field goal, Vega hit three of the five free throws, cutting the margin to four, 87-83, but junior guard **Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN)** couldn't convert a long three-point attempt. Vega got the rebound but had his shot blocked and Jamal Pettiford-Jones dropped in two free throws with 41.5 seconds left to open the Plymouth lead to six, 89-83.

DeChristopher, last year's conference Player-of-the-Year, scored 24 points to lead the Panthers, with all five starters finishing in double figures.

Vega scored a career-high 29 points -- 22 in the second half -- with senior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** adding 20 and junior forward **Jay Wetherell (MILFORD)** 19. The Warriors outrebounded Plymouth 49-38 after being outrebounded by an average of ten in the two regular-season meetings. It was only ECSU's fifth road loss this year in 15 outings.

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Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Tuesday, November 24, 1998

### TRINITY COLLEGE EDGES ECSU MEN'S BASKETBALL 81-75

*Four-time NCAA qualifiers withstand Warriors' upset bid*

HARTFORD, Conn. -- A 25-point loser to Trinity College a year ago, the Eastern Connecticut State University men's basketball team held the upper hand until the final ten minutes before dropping an 81-75 decision to the Bantams Tuesday.

Eastern shot 49.0 per cent from the floor in the game but Trinity (3-0) managed to pull the game out by converting 28 of 38 free throws, shooting 54.5 per cent in the second half and forcing the Warriors (1-2) into 29 turnovers.

A qualifier for four straight NCAA Division III tournaments, Trinity got a game-high 26 points from Jason Levin and 18 points and a game-high 11 rebounds from Kevin Bednar, both 6-foot-6 inch senior forwards.

Having lost 87-62 to Trinity a year ago in Willimantic, Eastern led throughout most of the first half, limiting the Bantams to just 29 points in taking a three-point edge into the lockerroom. Levin scored 20 of his points and Bednar 21 of his total in the second half, however. Ten of Levin's points came on 13 free-throw tries in the second half.

Freshman guard **Rich Vega (HARTFORD)** led three ECSU double-figure scorers with 16 points, sinking six of eight field goals and all three of his three-pointers. Junior forward **Tom Gostomski (MERIDEN)** added 13 points and junior swingman **Jay Wetherell (MILFORD)** 13 points. Wetherell was perfect from the floor and free throw line, attempting four shot from each. Senior forward **Rich Martin (BRIDGEPORT)** had a team-high ten rebounds but no other player had more than four as the Warriors were outrebounded 35-27.

Eastern visits the College of Staten Island Saturday at 4 p.m.

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