
little east conference

Thursday, May 1, 2008

PLYMOUTH UPSETS EASTERN M-LACROSSE TO REACH LEC TITLE GAME
Panthers use overtime goal to hand Warriors first conference loss on home field, 11-10

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Steve Engel's (South Windsor) first goal of the match with 5:18 gone in sudden-death overtime vaulted the fifth-seeded Plymouth State University men's lacrosse team to an 11-10 victory over top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University in the semifinals of the 2008 Little East Conference playoffs at Thomas Nevers Field.

With its second one-goal playoff decision in three days, Plymouth State (12-5) moves into its first LEC playoff final in the eight-year history of the championship Saturday against No. 3 seeded Western Connecticut State University at Danbury, Conn. The Colonials upset second-seeded and defending conference champion Keene State College Thursday, 14-13, in overtime at Keene, NH.

The loss is the first at home in eight years of conference play for Eastern (10-7), which downed Plymouth State by a score of 14-10 when the teams met here April 6 on the way to a perfect 6-0 regular-season conference mark. It is the first time that the Warriors will not compete in the finals.

Neither team was able to score in the first four-minutes sudden-death overtime, although Eastern's **DJ Simmons (Mystic)** hit the pipe with midway through the period. In the second overtime period, Eastern committed an unforced turnover in its end of the field. Adam Krinsky (Concord, NH) picked up the dropped ball and fed it to Engel. Engel, who had put all three of his previous shots on net without a goal, was unmarked and fired a point-blank shot past Eastern goalie **Kyle Savage (Southington)** to end the match. The assist was the first of the game for Krinsky, the LEC leader in that category.

The win is Plymouth's first in four conference playoffs matches and allows the Panthers to tie the season record for wins in a season, set in 1970.

Plymouth fell behind early in the match but scored three straight goals to pull into a 4-4 tie in the first minute of the third period. In all, the Panthers outscored Eastern 6-3 in the third period and carried a 10-8 lead into the final eight minutes of the match. The Warriors forced overtime when Simmons scored with seven minutes left in the regulation, and tied it when Simmons found **Zach Malouf (Norwich)** for the game-tying goal with 3:03 left in regulation.

(more)

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Plymouth's Tony Aguiar (Northborough, MA), who had scored ten goals in ten previous matches this season, contributed to eight of Plymouth's goals with four goals and four assists. Aguiar scored the final two goals of the third period that put Plymouth in front, 9-7, and he assisted on a goal which re-established Plymouth's two-goal lead, 10-8, with eight minutes left in regulation.

at Willimantic, Conn.

Plymouth State U. 11, Eastern Conn. 10, 2 ot

Plymouth State (12-5)	0	3	6	1	(0)	(1)	--11
Eastern Conn. (10-7)	2	2	3	3	(0)	(0)	--10

Goals: P-Tony Aguiar 4, Adam Krinsky 2, Brian Giroux 2, John Cogswell, Matt Johansmeyer, Steve Engel; E-Zach Malouf 3, DJ Simmons 3, Brendan Hoppey, Eric Vasil, Matthew Savage, Ben Raccio.

Assists: P-Tony Aguiar 4, Mike Russell 2, Krinsky, Cogswell, Johansmeyer, Engel; E-Simmons 3, Hoppey 2, Vasil.

Shots: P-38, E-45; **Saves:** P-Billy Morgan 16, E-Kyle Savage 13.

Saturday, April 26, 2008

EASTERN UNDEFEATED IN LEC REGULAR SEASON FOR SIXTH TIME

In regular-season finale, Warriors lead by nine at halftime in 17-8 victory over UMass Boston

BOSTON, Mass. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men’s lacrosse team completed its sixth undefeated regular season in eight years of Little East Conference competition with a 17-8 victory over the University of Massachusetts Boston Saturday afternoon at the Clark Athletic Center field on the UMB campus.

Having already been assured of the No. 1 seed, Eastern clinched its sixth outright title in eight seasons and will advance into the semifinals of the conference tournament by hosting a game Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Eastern will face the winner of a Tuesday first-round match between No. 5 Plymouth State and No. 4 UMass Dartmouth. In the other semifinal Thursday, second-seeded Keene State will host the winner of a Tuesday match between No. 6 UMass Boston and No. 3 Western Connecticut.

The conference title game is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday at the site of the highest remaining seed, with the winner qualifying automatically for the NCAA Division III tournament.

Eastern (10-6, 6-0) scored the first ten goals of the match against UMass and was never threatened in improving to 15-0 in the all-time series with UMass Boston (4-10, 1-5 little east).

Senior midfielder **Pete Hamilton (Rutland, VT)** had four goals and three assists to lead the Warriors, and junior attackman **Matthew Savage (Southington, CT)** had three goals and three assists. Nine different player had goals for Eastern and seven contributed assists.

Eastern Conn. 17, UMass Boston 8

Eastern Conn. (10-6, 6-0 little east)	5	6	3	3	--	17
UMass Boston (4-10, 1-5 little east)	0	2	4	2	--	8

Goals: E-Pete Hamilton 4; Matthew Savage 3; DJ Simmons 2; Tyler Prescott 2; Vinny Tornatore 2; Brendan Hoppey; Eric Vasil; Pat Gority; Gavin Byrne ; MB- Nick Thomo 3; Jared Kinch 2; John Canty; John Ruiz; Robert Schwartz.

Assists: E-Hamilton 3; M. Savage 3; Hoppey 2; Simmons 2; Zach Malouf; Prescott; Mike Silvestrini; MB-Canty 2; Ruiz; Rich Stone.

Shots: E-56; MB 23; **Saves:** E-Kyle Savage 6 (6 goals allowed, 50:51 min.; Stephen Goomrigian 0 (2, 9:09).

Saturday, April 19, 2008

EASTERN M-LACROSSE SURVIVES IN BATTLE OF LEC UNBEATENS

Tyler Prescott scores game-ending triple-overtime goal against Keene State College

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Tyler Prescott (Norwalk, CT) scored on a pass from Matthew Savage (Southington, CT) with 11 minutes gone in sudden-death overtime to give the Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team a 11-10 Little East Conference victory over No. 17 nationally-ranked Keene State College Saturday afternoon at Thomas Nevers Field.

The loss is Keene's (7-2, 4-1 little east) first in a conference match since Eastern (9-5, 5-0 little east) defeated the Owls in the championship game of the 2006 LEC playoffs by a 14-12 score. The Warriors remain undefeated at home in eight years of conference play, with their four conference losses in that span coming at the hands of Keene, the 2005 and 2007 regular-season and playoff champion. The match was the longest in Eastern's 13-year history.

With one conference match remaining, Eastern is guaranteed of earning the No. 1 seed in the upcoming LEC playoffs which get underway a week from Tuesday with first-round matches and is also guaranteed of at least a share of the regular-season title. The loss is the second straight for Keene after seven opening victories.

Keene unloaded 17 shots on goal in 11 minutes of overtime but could not break through against Eastern goalie Kyle Savage (Southington, CT), who made six of his game total of 19 in extra time -- his game total equaling his second-highest total in a match in his career. Eastern had forced overtime when DJ Simmons (Mystic, CT) scored an unassisted goal with 3:28 left in regulation.

Keene scored the first three goals of the match and held a three-goal edge at halftime with a 6-3 lead. Thanks to three goals from Simmons, the Warriors finally tied the match at 6-6 all on a goal from Pete Hamilton (Rutland, VT) with nine minutes left in the third period. Eastern outscored the Owls 5-2 in the period to carry an 8-7 lead into the final 15-minute session of regulation. Hamilton gave Eastern its only two-goal lead by scoring his second goal of the match to open the fourth period, but the Owls answered with three in a row in a span four minutes to assume a 10-9 lead with 8:38 left. Simmons, however, was able to beat Keene All-America goalie Matt Johnson (Derry, NH) with a bad-angle shot with 3:28 left in regulation that eventually stood up to force overtime.

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Saturday, April 12, 2008

ROCHESTER TECH OVERWHELMS EASTERN M-LACROSSE 15-8
For Warriors against Tigers, seven-game winning streak goes by the boards

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – After holding the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth for more than 40 minutes in its last match, the Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team was shut down for 19 minutes Saturday in a 15-8 loss to Rochester Tech (RIT) that ended a seven-game winnings streak.

Coming off three straight Little East Conference home wins – including a dominant 16-2 victory over UMass Dartmouth -- Eastern (7-5) played RIT (7-6) on even terms through the first period Saturday before the Tigers kept the Warriors off the board for 19 minutes, scoring five unanswered goals in the second period to build a five-goal halftime lead.

After scoring three straight goal early in the match, Eastern never again scored as many as two in a row as the Tigers outscored the Warriors 11-4 after the opening stanza.

Junior midfielder **DJ Simmons (Mystic)** scored the final goal of the first period to pull Eastern even at 4-4, but the Warriors went scoreless and were outshot 18-4 in the second period before Simmons scored his second goal 1:31 into the third period.

RIT senior midfielder Andrew Ruocco scored all three of his goals in the second period and the Warriors never got closer than four the rest of the way.

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In the match, RIT outshot Eastern 57-25, had twice as many ground balls, and won 19 of 27 faceoffs. The win is the third straight for RIT over Eastern after the Warriors captured the initial meeting in the series in overtime.

Simmons led Eastern with four goals – the fourth time this year he has scored at least that many in a match -- but Eastern’s four other double-digit scorers on the season managed a combined total of only three goals on 16 shots.

Freshman midfielder **Eric Vasil (Southington)** won six of 14 faceoffs and shared team-high honors with senior attack **Tyler Prescott (Norwalk)** with four ground balls each.

Of RIT’s six losses this year, five have come at the hands of teams mentioned in the most recent USILA Division III national poll. Five of the team’s losses have also come by a combined total of six goals. Two weeks ago, the Tigers upset No. 6 nationally-ranked Ithaca College, 11-10 in overtime.

Eastern visits Mount Ida College Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the first meeting between the programs.

RIT 15, Eastern Conn. 8

Eastern Conn. (7-5)	4	0	2	2	--	8
RIT (7-6)	4	5	2	4	--	15

Goals: E- DJ Simmons 4, Matthew Savage, Maxim Fantl, Pete Hamilton, Brendan Hoppey; R-Wes Adam 4, Andrew Ruocco 3, Iric Bressler 2, Dan Rago 2, Chris Ferry, George During, Chris Cherami, Garrett Johnson.

Assists: E-M. Savage 2; Fantl, Steve Lane, Jordan Michaud. R- Ruocco 2; Adam, Bressler, David Burk, Ferry, Sean Gillies.

Shots: E-25, R-57; **Saves:** E-Kyle Savage 12, R-Brad Conlon 2 (4 goals allowed, 30:00 min.), Kevin Rattigan 4 (4, 30:00)

Thursday, April 10, 2008

EASTERN M-LACROSSE STAYS UNBEATEN IN LEC WITH 16-2 WIN
Warriors keep UMD off board for first 41 minutes; Savage scores seven

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team held the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth scoreless on its first 20 shots over the first 41 minutes of play in rolling up a 16-2 Little East Conference victory Thursday at Thomas Nevers Field.

The win is the seventh straight for Eastern (7-4, 4-0 little east) after an 0-4 start and keeps the Warriors unbeaten and atop the conference and unbeaten at Nevers Field in eight years of conference competition.. The Warriors are now 12-0 against UMass Dartmouth (7-2, 1-2 little east) in this series.. The Corsairs are 2-2 after a 5-0 start, with their previous conference loss coming at the hands of defending champion Keene State College, 10-8.

UMass was unable to solve Eastern junior goalie **Kyle Savage (Southington)** on its first 20 shots, with Savage making eight save. Down 12-0, the Corsairs broke through with 3:58 left in the third period.

Junior attack **Matthew Savage (Southington)** -- twin brother of Kyle -- scored a career-high seven goals -- four coming in the team's six-goal third period that build its lead to 14-1 entering the final period.. The goal total equals the third-most in a game and is just one shy of the match record, set by all-time goal leader Eddie Sheehan against Trinity College April 29, 1999 and equaled last May 3 by Tommy Laverty against Western Connecticut. Savage becomes the third player to score seven goals in a match in the program's 13-year history.

Nine different players combined for the team's nine assists in the game and 23 players contributed at least one ground ball. Freshman faceoff man **Eric Vasil (Southington)** won five of six faceoffs. In his fourth game, freshman **Lee Mascolo (West Hartford)** recorded his first career goal with 28 seconds left.

Eastern visits Rochester Tech Saturday at noon.

(more)

Eastern Conn. 16, Massachusetts Dartmouth 2

UMass Dartmouth (7-2, 1-2 little east)	0	0	1	1	--	2
Eastern Conn. (7-4, 4-0 little east)	2	6	6	2	--	16

Goals: MD-Andrew Foster, Matt Leary; E-Matthew Savage 7, Brendan Hoppey 2, Pete Hamilton, Maxim Fantl, Tyler Prescott, DJ Simmons, Eric Vasil, Zach Malouf, Lee Mascolo.

Assists: MD-Tim Walsh; E-Mike Silvestrini, Ben Raccio, Jon Snedeker, Hoppey, Hamilton, M. Savage, Fantl, Prescott, Simmons.

Shots: MD-25, E-41; **Saves:** MD-Steve Chase 13, E-Kyle Savage 9 (2 goals allowed, 49:32 min.), Stephen Goomrigian 2 (0, 10:28).

Sunday, April 6, 2008

EASTERN M-LACROSSE HAS ENOUGH FOR LITTLE EAST VICTORY
Warriors take early lead and hold off Plymouth State to remain undefeated in conference

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. - The Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team jumped to a quick three-goal lead and finally pulled away by scoring six of the final seven goals of the match in a 14-10 Little East Conference victory over Plymouth State University Sunday morning at Thomas Nevers Field that stretched the team's unbeaten streak to six following an 0-4 start.

The victory is the tenth without a loss for Eastern (6-4, 3-0 little east) in conference play against Plymouth State (4-3, 0-2 little east) and keeps the Warriors undefeated at Nevers Field in eight years of LEC regular-season and playoff competition.

Eastern and defending conference regular-season and playoff champion Keene State (2-0) are the only remaining undefeated teams in the eight-team conference.

After the Warriors got out to an early 4-1 lead late in the first period, Plymouth challenged to tie the match until midway through the third period. Five times, the Panthers was able to slice Eastern's lead to one, but each time, the Warriors responded with a goal.

Leading 9-8 two minutes into the third period, Eastern finally opened up breathing room by scoring four straight goals and six of the final seven. Junior attack **Matthew Savage (Southington)** gave the Warriors an 11-8 advantage with his team-leading 26th and 27th goals of the year two minutes apart midway through the third period, and senior midfielder **Pete Hamilton (Rutland, VT)** and senior attack **Tyler Prescott (Norwalk)** beat Plymouth freshman goalie Billy Morgan 22 seconds apart to make it 13-8 with 1:31 left in the third period.

Offensively, Matthew Savage and Hamilton netted four goals each. Defensively, Eastern's man-down unit successfully staved off five Plymouth extra-man opportunities, and junior goalie **Kyle Savage (Southington)** made 13 saves. Junior defensemen **Mike Silvestrini (Guilford)** and **Steve Lane (Groton)** combined for 11 ground balls and freshman faceoff man **Eric Vasil (Southington)** won seven of 11 faceoffs.

Matthew Savage, the team leader with 31 points, has scored 19 goals during the current six-game winning streak.

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Kyle Savage, who already owns the program career record for saves (526), needs 23 minutes to become the all-time leader in that category, and four starts to become the all-time leader in that department.

Eastern hosts Massachusetts Dartmouth Thursday at 4 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 14, Plymouth State U. 10

Plymouth State (4-3, 0-2 little east)	3	4	1	2	--	10
Eastern Conn. (6-4, 3-0 little east)	4	5	4	1	--	14

Goals: P-Steve Engel 2, Brian Giroux 2, John Cogswell, Tony Aguiar, Matt Johansmeyer, Conor McCullough, Mike Russell, Jordan Buzzell; E-Pete Hamilton 4, Matthew Savage 4, DJ Simmons 2, Jon Snedeker 2, Brendan Hoppey, Tyler Prescott.
Assists: P-Cogswell, Adam Krinsky; E-Hoppey 2; Fantl, Brian Fechtmann, Steve Lane.
Shots: P-41, E-29; **Saves:** P-Billy Morgan 5, E-Kyle Savage 13.

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

WESTERN MAKES EARLY STATEMENT, BUT EASTERN HAS FINAL SAY

In Little East Conference men's lacrosse, Warriors score final seven goals in 16-14 win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Western Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team opened the match with the first five goals, but Eastern Connecticut State University closed it with the final seven to rally for a 16-14 Little East Conference victory Wednesday afternoon at Thomas Nevers Field.

Eastern trailed 5-0 late in the first period and by five, 13-8, with seven minutes left in the third before scoring eight of the final nine goals of the match – including the last seven – to remain perfect at Nevers Field in eight years of conference competition.

The win is the fifth straight after an 0-4 start for Eastern (5-4, 2-0 little east), which has won all seven matches against Western (5-4, 1-1 little east) in the series.

Held scoreless in the first half, junior midfielder **DJ Simmons (Mystic)** scored all four of his goals in the decisive 8-1 run over the final 21 minutes of play. Simmons, who entered the game as the team's second-leading scorer, gave the Warriors their first lead, 15-14 with 8:18 left, then added an insurance goal with 3:34 remaining while Eastern was running time off the clock. Western did not score a goal over the 18:36 after taking a 14-9 lead with 3:36 left in the third period.

Western scored goals on its first three extra-man opportunities – two of them coming in the first 11 minutes of play – but the Warriors' successfully killed off all four of the Colonials' man-up tries in the second half. Another key to the comeback came when Eastern won four of six faceoffs in the fourth period after Western had dominated by winning nine of ten in the third.

Senior midfielder Dennis Skarda, Western's leader with 16 assists entering the match, had a hand in Western's first four goals with three assists and a goal, and freshman midfielder Mike Barnao added a goal with 2:46 left in the first period to give the Colonials their quick 5-0 lead. In danger of being run off its own field, Eastern gained a measure of momentum by responding with its first two goals of the match in the final two minutes of the first period.

Trailing 14-10 with 2:53 left in the third period, the Warriors got a shorthanded goal from Simmons to cut the gap to three heading into the final period. Senior midfielder **Pete Hamilton (Rutland, VT)** and freshman attack **Brendan Hoppey (Shoreham, NY)** each scored in the first two minutes of the fourth period to make it a one-goal match, and senior attack **Tyler Prescott's (Norwalk)** extra-man goal – his first marker of the game since scoring with 30 seconds left in the first period -- pulled the Warriors even at 14-14 with just under 13 minutes left.

Eastern junior goalie **Kyle Savage (Southington)** rebounded from a sluggish first half by stopping six of the ten shots he faced after the break. Four of his game total of 11 saves came when he stoned the Colonials in the fourth period.

Junior attack **Matthew Savage (Southington)** led Eastern with a career-high five goals on just seven shots and also added an assist to improve his team-leading totals to 23 goals and 27 points. Simmons finished with four goals and two assists to give him 20 goals and 26 points this year. Hamilton added three goals and Hoppey a goal and career-high four assists. Hoppey leads the club with 12 assists in nine matches.

Junior defenseman **Steve Lane (Groton)** and freshman midfielder **Eric Vasil (Southington)** each had six ground balls for Eastern, while junior midfielder Terry Stroz of Western collected 14 ground balls. Stroz handled all 34 faceoffs for the Colonials in the game, winning 22. Vasil, however, corralled the first four faceoffs of the final period, helping Eastern maintain its third-period momentum and allowing it to strike three times in the first 2:15 of the final frame to tie the match at 14.

Eastern plays the second of three straight home matches Friday when it hosts Plymouth State University at 4 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 16, Western Conn. 14

Western Conn. (5-4, 1-1 little east)	5	5	4	0	--	14
Eastern Conn. (5-4, 2-0 little east)	2	4	5	5	--	16

Goals: W-Adam Lanehart 3, Andrew Barbieri 2, Ron Pac 2, Mike Barnao 2, Dennis Scarda, Joseph Aitken, Kirk Zachary, Terry Stroz, Vincent Bevilacqua; E-Matthew Savage 5, DJ Simmons 4, Pete Hamilton 3, Tyler Prescott 2, Brendan Hoppey, Zach Malouf.

Assists: W-Skarda 5, Lanehart, Aitken, Zachary; E-Hoppey 4, Simmons 2, M. Savage, Eric Vasil, Maxim Fantl.

Shots: W-45, E-32; **Saves:** W-Kyle Wood 12, E-Kyle Savage 11.

Saturday, March 29, 2008

EASTERN M-LACROSSE WINS FOURTH STRAIGHT, EVENS RECORD
Warriors keep Southern Maine off board for 38 minutes in LEC opener, 11-2

PORTLAND, Maine – The Eastern Connecticut State University men’s lacrosse team kept the University of Southern Maine from scoring a goal for over 38 consecutive minutes and opened its Little East Conference season with an 11-2 victory at Fitzpatrick Stadium Saturday afternoon.

After Southern Maine (1-4, 0-1 little east) sophomore attack Alex Pleau tied the match at 1-1 with 6:45 left in the first period, the Huskies were not able to score again until Pleau broke the spell 1:25 into the fourth period. In-between, Eastern (4-4, 1-0 little east) scored nine times to move out to a comfortable 10-1 advantage en route to its 40th regular-season conference win in 42 decisions.

Since dropping its first four matches, Eastern has bounced back to win four in a row. The Warriors remain undefeated in seven meetings with Southern Maine in this series which dates back to 2001.

Junior goalie **Kyle Savage (Southington)** stopped 12 of the 14 shots that he faced before giving way to freshman **Stephen Goomrigian (Norwalk)** in the final minutes. The Huskies took 17 shots without scoring in the middle two periods, but the Warriors kept the pressure on with 29 of their 49 shots that resulted in five goals.

Senior midfielder **Pete Hamilton (Rutland, VT)** was among four multiple-goal scorers for Eastern with three goals. Senior attack **Tyler Prescott (Norwalk)**, junior attack **Matthew Savage (Southington)** and freshman midfielder **Eric Vasil (Southington)** all had two goals.

Eastern hosts Western Connecticut State University in Little East Conference play Wednesday at 4 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 11, U. of Southern Maine 2

Eastern Conn. (4-4, 1-0 little east)	4	4	1	2	--	11
Southern Maine (1-4, 0-1 little east)	1	0	0	1	--	2

Goals: E-Pete Hamilton 3, Matthew Savage 2, Tyler Prescott 2, Eric Vasil 2, Pat Gority, Jeremy Cogliano; S-Alex Pleau 2.

Assists: E-Brendan Hoppey, Jon Snedeker, Hamilton; S-Shane Billings, Lee Gauthier.

Shots: E-49, S-24; **Saves:** E-Kyle Savage 12 (57:27 min., 2 goals allowed), Stephen Goomrigian 0 (2:33, 0); S-James Suriyodorn 22.

Wednesday, March 26, 2008

EASTERN M-LACROSSE HOLDS ON FOR 10-9 WIN OVER BABSON
Warriors build four-goal lead in first half en route to third straight win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team built a four-goal lead late in the first half and hung on to win its third straight match, a 10-9 victory over Babson College Wednesday afternoon at Thomas Nevers Field.

Babson (0-7) scored an extra-man goal to pull to within 9-8 with 18 seconds gone in the fourth period but Eastern senior attack **Tyler Prescott's (Norwalk)** only goal of the match with ten minutes left gave Eastern (3-4) a two-goal cushion. Neither team was able to score again until the Beavers scored with five seconds left to cut the Eastern lead to a single goal for the third time in the match. Eastern freshman faceoff man **Eric Vasil (Southington)** sealed the victory by winning his tenth faceoff in 15 tries as time ran out.

The victory is the fifth without a loss for Eastern over Babson at home and improves the Warriors' all-time record at Nevers Field to 79-6. Eastern's three wins during its streak have come by a combined total of seven goals and its last five decisions have come by a combined total of ten goals.

Eastern scoring leader **Matthew Savage (Southington)** connected for four of Eastern's goals. Three of his goals came in the first half, but his second-half strike was a key one when he picked up a loose ball and scored midway through the third period to stop a run of two straight Babson goals in a two-minute span and give the Warriors an 8-6 lead.

Junior defensemen **Mike Silvestrini (Guilford)** and **Steve Lane (Groton)** combined for 13 of Eastern's game total of 53 ground balls. Silvestrini led the Warriors with seven, Lane adding six and Vasil five.

Junior attack E.J. Peterson (Framingham, MA) contributed to six of Babson's nine goals by scoring five and assisting on one. Peterson scored his team's first five goals, including one on a man-up situation and one when the Beavers were a man down.

Eastern junior goalie **Kyle Savage (Southington)** made ten saves while Babson freshman goalie Mike Saucier (Nashua, NH) had 17 saves and ten ground balls.

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Eastern was successful on all 12 of its clears in the first half and failed on only two of 27 in the match.

Eastern opens its Little East Conference regular season Saturday against the University of Southern Maine at 4:30 p.m.. at Fitzpatrick Stadium in Portland, Maine.

Eastern Conn. 10, Babson College 9

Babson College (0-7)	1	3	3	2	--	9
Eastern Conn. (3-4)	3	3	3	1	--	10

Goals: B-E.J. Peterson 5, Jason Wellemeyer 2, Matt Harrington, Andrew Packer; E-Matthew Savage 4, DJ Simmons 2, Jeremy Cogliano, Tyler Prescott, Maxim Fantl, Pete Hamilton

Assists: B-Bryan Wilbur, Peterson, Harrington; E-Brendan Hoppey, Prescott, Simmons, Hamilton.

Shots: B-33, E-45; **Saves:** B-Mike Saucier 17, E-Kyle Savage 10.

Saturday, March 22, 2008

EASTERN M-LACROSSE WINS SECOND STRAIGHT, 10-6
Warriors improve home record to 78-6 with victory over Wheaton

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team held Wheaton College (MA) from scoring in two out of four periods in posting its eighth straight win over the Lyons, 10-6, Saturday afternoon at Thomas Nevers Field.

The win is the second straight this year for Eastern (2-4) after four opening losses and is the first at home for first-year head coach **Justin Axel**. Axel, a former assistant coach at Salisbury University, had recorded his first collegiate coaching win Tuesday in a 14-12 win over SUNY Plattsburgh at Huntington, NY. In 13 years of intercollegiate play, Eastern has now won 78 and lost only six matches on Nevers Field.

The Warriors scored the first three goals of the match and did not allow Wheaton (1-3) a goal until 16:30 at expired in the match. Leading 3-2, Eastern shut out the Lyons for nearly 20 minutes and used a run of seven straight goals to put the game away, 10-2, with ten minutes left. The Lyons compiled a total of 16 shots in the first and third periods, but were unable to score against Eastern junior goalie **Kyle Savage (Southington)**, who came up with five saves in those periods.

In Eastern's decisive seven-goal run, junior attack **Matthew Savage (Southington)** and freshman attack **Brendan Hoppey (Shoreham, NY)** each had two goals.

Kyle Savage allowed only two goals over the first 49:13, making 11 saves and giving way to freshman **Stephen Goomrigian (Norwalk)** with the Warriors in command of a 9-2 lead with 11 minutes left.

On speciality teams, freshman midfielder **Eric Vasil (Southington)** won nine of 11 faceoffs for Eastern and the Warriors' man-down unit surrendered just one extra-man goal on ten Wheaton attempts. That extra-man goal came with eight minutes left in the match and Eastern safely in front, 10-2.

Vasil led Eastern to a 37-32 advantage in ground balls by scooping up seven, with defensemen **Jon Snedeker (Southington)** and **Steve Lane (Groton)** collecting five each.

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Senior defenseman Tom Ahern (Holliston, MA) led Wheaton with five ground balls. Freshman attack Chris Landers (Manchester, MA) was the only Wheaton player with more than one goal, finishing with three.

Two of Wheaton's top two goal-scorers this season -- senior midfielder Richie Rasamny (Redding, CT) and freshman attack Ben Cederberg (Duxbury, MA) -- combined to take 14 shots (eight of them on goal), but managed only one goal. Cederberg had scored four goals when the Lyons upset No. 13 nationally-ranked Endicott College, 11-9, Tuesday.

Eastern hosts Babson College Wednesday at 4 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 10, Wheaton College (MA) 6

Wheaton (1-3)	0	2	0	4	--	6
Eastern Conn. (2-4)	3	2	4	1	--	10

Goals: W-Chris Landers 3, Warren Garceau, Richie Rasamny, Bobby Barry; E-Matthew Savage 3, Vinny Tornatore 2, Pete Hamilton 2, Brendan Hoppey 2, Zach Malouf.

Assists: W-Jeff Gomer, Rasamny; E-, Gavin Byrne, Brian Fechtmann, Jon Snedcker, Tornatore, Hamilton.

Shots: W-40, E-30; **Saves:** W-Schuyler Horn 5, E-Kyle Savage 11 (2 goals allowed, 49:13), Stephen Goomrigian 3 (4, 10:47).

Saturday, Mach 15, 2008

KLIMCHAK POWERS MONTCLAIR PAST EASTERN M-LACROSSE

Senior attackman scores three of his five goals on extra-man chances

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Senior attackman Bryan Klimchak (Clark, NJ) scored three of his five goals on extra-man opportunities to power the Montclair State University men's lacrosse team to an 11-9 victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday afternoon at Thomas Nevers Field.

The game was tied four times before Klimchak gave Montclair (3-1) the lead for good with his fourth goal of the match on an assist from Mario Passafiume (Boonton, NJ) to give the Red Hawks an 8-7 lead with one second left in the third period.

Montclair scored on four of its ten extra-man tries as the Warriors 11 penalties with nine minutes and thirty seconds. Klimchak capitalized on extra-man opportunities to give Montclair a 2-2 tie five minutes into the match, a 5-4 lead with 7:22 left in the second period and an 11-8 advantage with four minutes left.

Sophomore fielder Taylor Bonner (Old Bridge, NJ) added four goals and six ground balls for the Red Hawks, who have own the last two meetings between the programs after Eastern (0-4) took the first two.

Junior attack **Matthew Savage (Southington)** led Eastern with three goals. Leading scorer **DJ Simmons (Mystic)** was held off the board on eight shots. Senior defenseman **Jon Snedeker (Southington)** topped the Warriors with nine ground balls, junior defenseman **Steve Lane (Groton)** collecting seven.

Eastern faces SUNY Plattsburgh Tuesday at 4 p.m. at Huntington (NY) High School

Montclair State 11, Eastern Conn. 9

Montclair State (3-1)	3	4	1	3	--	11
Eastern Conn. (0-4)	4	2	1	2	--	9

Goals: M-Bryan Klimchak 5, Taylor Bonner 4; John Shiavone; Tyler Meixner ; E-Matthew Savage 3; Vinny Tornatore ; Tyler Prescott; Eric Vasil; Zach Malouf; Brian Fechtmann.

Assists: Mike Corsetto 3; John Schiavone 2; Matthew DePaolera; A.J. Bachman; Klimchak; Meixner 1, Mario Passafiume 1; E-Prescott 2; Pete Hamilton; Will Lathrop; DJ Simmons.

Shots: M-41, E-38; **Saves:** M-Thomas Bowers 13 (9 goals allowed, 59:00 min.), Andrew Rosado 0 (0, 1:00); E-Kyle Savage 13.

little east conference

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

FOR EASTERN M-LACROSSE, LATE LEAD SLIPS AWAY IN OT LOSS

No. 7 Tufts rallies from five goals down in fourth period to catch Warriors, 13-12

MEDFORD, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team trailed only once in its bid to upset No. 7 nationally-ranked Tufts University, but it came at the worst possible moment -- six minutes into sudden-death overtime -- and provided the Jumbos a 13-12 double overtime victory Tuesday afternoon.

A 14-2 loser when the teams last met at Bello Field in 2006, Eastern (0-3) led by five goals entering the final period before Tufts (2-0) got back in the game by scoring four unanswered goals. Tufts tied the match 12-12 with 4:36 left in regulation and won it two minutes into the second four-minute overtime when freshman D.J. Hessler scored his third goal of the match -- all of which came after halftime. Possessing the ball under heavy pressure behind their own goal, the Warriors lost possession. The ball rolled in front of the net to the feet of an unmarked Hessler, who scored easily to end the match with 1:56 left in the second overtime.

The Warriors moved out to an 11-6 lead by scoring the final three goals of the third period on strikes by junior **Matthew Savage (Southington)**, sophomore **Vinny Tornatore (Norwalk)** and freshman **Brendan Hoppey (Shoreham, NY)**. The Jumbos scored 33 seconds into the fourth period, then pulled to within two goals, 11-9, by scoring twice in a span of 16 seconds minutes later in the period.

Eastern junior **DJ Simmons (Mystic)** tied his career high with five goals -- all of which came in the first 27 minutes of play and giving him a team-high ten goals through three matches. Tornatore's goal with four minutes left in the third period represented his first career point. Senior **Pete Hamilton (Rutland, VT)** assisted on Eastern's first goal -- coming off the stick of Simmons two minutes into play -- and also on its last with seven minutes left in regulation that gave Eastern a 12-10 advantage.

Freshman **Eric Vasil (Southington)** led the Warriors with six ground balls, senior **Jon Snedeker (Southington)** picking up five and Hoppey and junior **Mike Silvestrini (Guilford)** four each.

(more)

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Junior goalie **Kyle Savage (Southington)** made 15 saves for Eastern, while junior Matt Harrigan made nine for Tufts.

Tufts took 18 more shots than Eastern, but held only a seven-shot advantage on shots on goal.

Tufts is ranked seventh nationally in the most recent USILA Division III national poll and is coming off last year's NCAA tournament appearance and a final record of 13-4. Under the direction of first-year head coach Justin Axel, Eastern was coming off Sunday's 10-7 loss to unheralded Lasell College.

Hessler, who now has ten goals in his first two collegiate matches, was joined by sophomore Patrick Devine's three-goal game. Tufts was playing its second straight match this year without junior Clem McNally, who scored a team-high 40 goals last year.

Eastern is scheduled to play its first home match Saturday at 2 p.m. against Montclair State University.

Tufts U. 13, Eastern Conn. 12, 2 ot

Eastern Connecticut (0-3)	2	5	4	1	(0)	(0)	--	12
Tufts (2-0)	1	3	2	6	(0)	(1)	--	13

Goals: E-D.J. Simmons 5, Brendan Hoppey 2, Tyler Prescott 2, Matthew Savage 2, Vinny Tornatore; T-D.J. Hessler 3, Patrick Devine 3, Peter Whitney 2, Matt Caple, Chase Bibby, Brett Holm, Connor Ginsberg, Doug DiSesa.

Assists: E-Pete Hamilton 2, Hoppey, Tyler Prescott.T-Hessler 2, Cortese, Whitney

Shots: E-36, T-54; **Saves:** E, Kyle Savage 15, T-Matt Harrigan 9.

little east conference

Saturday, March 8, 2008

FIVE UNANSWERED GOALS SPARK LASELL PAST EASTERN, 10-7

In men's lacrosse, third-period scoring drought dooms Warriors again

NEWTON, Mass. – The Lasell College men's lacrosse team broke a tie by scoring five unanswered goals midway through the match and went on to post a 10-7 victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday afternoon at Grellier Field on the Lasell campus.

In the first meeting between the programs, Lasell (2-0) scored five straight goals to break from a tie and take a 9-4 lead in the first minute of the fourth period. In both of its matches this year, Eastern (0-2) has not been able to score a goal in the third period after trailing by only one at halftime.

Lasell scored in the final minute in each of the first three periods, using those goals to take a 4-1 lead after one period, 5-4 at halftime, and 8-4 at the end of the third period.

With Eastern trailing by 4-1 after one period, junior midfielder **DJ Simmons (Mystic)** scored the first three goals of the second period to bring the Warriors back into a tie, but the hosts responded by taking the lead for good on a goal by junior David Bulhoes with 23.6 seconds left before the half. The Lazers came out after the break to score all three goals of the third period, two by junior Mike Maggio.

Eastern outshot Lasell 39-26, but Lasell senior goalie Mark DeMieri made 15 saves.

Simmons took ten of Eastern's shot, but connected on only those three in the second period. Freshman **Brendan Hoppey (Shoreham, NY)** scored his first collegiate goal to give the Warriors a lead two minutes into the match, and was also credited with three assists.

With Eastern down 8-4 entering the fourth period, a succession of penalties had the Warriors trying to mount a comeback while playing short-handed. Both of Lasell's goals over the final 15-minute period were scored with Eastern players in the penalty box.

The Warriors' top attack line of junior **Matthew Savage (Southington)**, senior **Tyler Prescott (Norwalk)** and Hoppey combined for four goals and three assists. After Hoppey got Eastern on the board early, however, the line was shut down until the fourth quarter. Until Prescott scored his third goal of the year three minutes into the fourth period, Eastern was on the short end of a 9-4 score.

(more)

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The loss was the second straight for Eastern under new head coach Justin Axel. Wednesday, Eastern lost its opener by a score of 14-8 against RPI at Troy, N.Y., while Lasell disposed of host Emerson College, 14-2.

Eastern visits No. 9 nationally-ranked Tufts University Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 8, 2008

Lasell College 10, Eastern Conn. 7

Eastern Conn. (0-2)	1	3	0	3	--	7
Lasell (2-0)	4	1	3	2	--	10

Goals: E-DJ Simmons 3, Matthew Savage 2, Tyler Prescott, Brendan Hoppey; L-Mike Maggio 4, David Bulhoes 3, Brandon Keith 2, Derek Allan.

Assists: E-Hoppey 3, Pete Hamilton; L-Brian Yopez 3, Allan 3, Sean Speciale, Bulhoes.

Shots: E-39, L-26; **Saves:** E-Kyle Savage 8, L-Mark DeMieri 15.

little east conference

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

THIRD PERIOD DOOMS EASTERN M-LACROSSE IN 14-8 LOSS TO RPI

In debut of head coach Justin Axel, Warriors are outscored 5-0 in third period

TROY, N.Y. – Trailing by one goal at halftime, the Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team was outshot and outscored decisively in the third period as RPI pulled away for a 14-8 victory in the debut of first-year Warrior coach Justin Axel Wednesday afternoon at Harkness Field.

Eastern was shut out in the third period by RPI (1-1), which scored five goals by utilizing a 21-1 advantage in shots. Three of the goals came in a span of three minutes as the Red Hawks broke from a 7-6 halftime edge.

The match marked the head coaching debut of Axel, who helped Salisbury University to four national championships during his six-year tenure with the Sea Gulls. RPI, under the direction of Salisbury alumnus Jim Townsend, was coming off a 12-6 loss to No. 16 nationally-ranked Endicott College Saturday at Harkness Field.

The match was only the second between the programs – the first since the Red Hawks escaped with a 20-19 victory over visiting Eastern's fourth-year program in 1999.

Trailing 6-3 Wednesday, Eastern scored three of the final four goals of the first half. Senior midfielder **Pete Hamilton (Rutland, VT)**, and junior attack **Matthew Savage (Southington)** scored a minute apart to cut the deficit to one goal, 6-5. After the Red Hawks scored to make it a two-goal RPI advantage, the Warriors weathered a flurry of five straight RPI shots, finally forcing a turnover and responding with a goal by senior attack **Tyler Prescott (Norwalk)** with three minutes left to make it 7-6. The Warriors successfully killed an extra-man opportunity by RPI soon after Prescott's goal and survived four Red Hawk shots the rest of the way to keep the deficit at one heading into the half.

RPI owned the decisive third period, however. The Warriors turned the ball over six times before taking their only shot of the period midway through the 15-minute session. By that time, RPI had gotten a pair from sophomore Devin Arnold and one from senior Briggs Thompson for a 10-6 lead.

Prescott, Hamilton and junior midfielder **DJ Simmons (Mystic)** each had two goals for Eastern, which was outshot 49-30. Freshmen **Brendan Hoppey (Shoreham, NY)** and **Eric Vasil (Southington)** each had an assist to earn credit for their first collegiate points. Vasil and first-year sophomore transfer **Antonio Perretta (Hamden)** split faceoff duties, with Perretta winning five of nine and Vasil seven of 17.

(more)

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Making his 35th consecutive start, Eastern junior goalie **Kyle Savage (Southington)** stopped 12 RPI shots. RPI's Angelo Luppino, a 5-foot-10 inch, 245 pound freshman, made seven saves over the first half to gain the win in net. Sophomore Ryan DeJordy stopped five shots and allowed only two goals over the final 30 minutes.

A possible momentum-changing play occurred in the opening minutes of the game, when Simmons was tagged with a three-minute unreleasable penalty for an illegal stick after scoring what appeared to be a game-tying goal. The goal was negated – keeping intact RPI's early 1-0 lead – and the hosts were rewarded with a three-minute man-up opportunity. In that stretch, the Red Hawks unloaded five shots on goal. Savage saved three of them, but one found the back of the net that gave the hosts a two-goal edge that the Warriors were never able to erase.

RPI scored on three of its five extra-man opportunities which gave them a 2-0 lead six minutes into play, a 6-3 advantage six minutes into the second period, and which closed out the scoring with three minutes left. The hosts allowed Eastern only three man-up tries, with Simmons recording the team's one goal in that situation early in the fourth period.

Although the Warriors were outshot by 19, they collected only four less ground balls, won nearly half of the faceoffs, and turned the ball over only one more time than the Red Hawks.

Simmons collected six of Eastern's 27 ground balls and took a third of its shots.

Eastern visits Lasell College Saturday at 1 p.m.

RPI 14, Eastern Conn. 8

Eastern Conn. (0-1)	2	4	0	2	--	8
RPI (1-1)	5	2	5	2	--	14

Goals: E-Tyler Prescott 2, DJ Simmons 2, Pete Hamilton 2, Maxim Fantl, Matthew Savage. R-Devin Arnold 5, Mike Sampson 2, Briggs Thompson 2, PJ McComb, Alex MacDiarmid, Josh Secora, Ryan Bigham, Conor Chicheles.

Assists: E-M. Brendan Hoppey, Eric Vasil, M. Savage, Simmons, Fantl. R-Nicky Billy 2, McComb 2.

Shots: E-30, R-49.

Saves: E-Kyle Savage 12; R-Angelo Luppino 7 (30:00, 6 goals allowed), Ryan DeJordy 5 (30:00, 2).