

Saturday, May 8, 2010

SLOW START COSTLY FOR EASTERN M-LAX IN LEC TITLE GAME *With just ne goal over first 20 minutes, Warriors dig early hole in 14-10 loss to Keene State*

KEENE, N.H. -- The top-seeded Keene State College men's lacrosse team built a six-goal lead by holding second-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University to one goal over the first 20 minutes and went on to win its third Little East Conference championship in six years with a 14-10 victory Saturday evening at the Owl Athletic Complex. In the process, Keene qualifies automatically for the NCAA Division III Tournament.

The win is the ninth straight this year and ninth in ten home matches for Keene (12-5), which has defeated Eastern (12-5) in the final in each of its championship seasons. A six-time playoff champion in the ten-year history of the event, Eastern has beaten Keene four times in the final.

The Warriors cut Keene's lead to two goals three times in the second half, but the Owls answered with two key goals – the final two of the game – in a span of 67 seconds and neither team scored the rest of the way.

Eastern converted four of five extra-man opportunities and its man-down unit killed eight of Keene's nine man-up tries. Entering the match, Keene ranked first in the LEC in man-up scoring and Eastern last in penalty-killing percentage.

Three of the Warriors final four goals in the game came with the man advantage.

Eastern's Eric Vasil, the national leader in faceoff percentage and ground balls per game, won 19 of 25 faceoffs and picked up 18 ground balls. In the game, he broke his own program season records for faceoff attempts and ground balls. In the semifinal victory over Western, he broke his own program record for faceoffs won.

Eastern sophomore attack **Michael Sullinger (Brookfield)** contributed an assist for the seventh straight game, collecting a career-high total of four. Sophomore midfielder **Salieu Bolivar (Norwalk)** took ten of Eastern's 30 shots, connecting on three. Freshman goalie **Donald Berube (Tewksbury, MA)** made 15 saves – one shy of his career high.

Keene's Griffin Meehan, who had five goals and three assists against Eastern in the regular-season game, led both teams with six goals to improve his conference-leading total to 66. While Meehan improved his season goal average, the Warriors shut down Ryan Shaire, the Owls' second-leading scorer. Shaire was held to one shot and a single assist.

Entering play, Eastern had won five straight matches – all against conference opponents -- since losing to visiting Keene State, 17-11, April 16.

A winner of at least ten matches for the 13th time in the 15-year history of the program this season, Eastern expects a bid to the ECAC New England Tournament for the fourth time in program history – its tenth post-season bid in the last 12 years.

Molta, Bob (Athletics)

From: Kaufman, Stuart [skaufman@keene.edu]
Sent: Saturday, May 08, 2010 9:19 PM
To: news@keenesentinel.com; news@monadnockradiogroup.com; sports@unionleader.com; Staton, Jamie F; sports@courant.com; sports@cmonitor.com; sports@vnews.com; sports@nashuatelegraph.com; sports@globe.com; sports@bostonherald.com; ssouza@cnc.com; tkrazit@ctlife.net
Cc: Molta, Bob (Athletics)
Subject: LITTLE EAST MEN'S LACROSSE TOURNAMENT : OWLS OVERCOME ADVERSITY TO CAPTURE CHAMPIONSHIP 14-10

LITTLE EAST MEN'S LACROSSE TOURNAMENT OWLS OVERCOME ADVERSITY TO CAPTURE CHAMPIONSHIP 14-10

KEENE, N.H. 5/8/10 - As his joyous teammates got ready to take the celebratory team photo after capturing its first men's lacrosse Little East Conference championship since 2007, junior Cam Sousa (Hollis, N.H.) raced over to the Owls' bench to grab Alec Corliss's jersey No. 31.

Keene State got six goals from tournament MVP Griffin Meehan (Simsbury, Conn.) and overcame the adversity of losing top goalie junior Alec Corliss (Waltham, Mass.) midway in the third quarter to defeat rival Eastern Conn. State University 14-10 to claim the LEC crown on Saturday evening at Owl Athletic Complex.

Riding a nine-game winning streak, KSC improves to 11-5. Eastern Conn., the defending LEC champs, fall to 12-4.

Corliss, who had made 10 saves, several on point-blank shots, went down following a collision at the side of the net at the 8:30 mark of the third-quarter. Nursing a slim 10-8 lead at the time, the Owls rallied behind their fallen goalie.

"That was a motivating factor for the boys," said KSC Coach Mark Theriault. "They met the challenge. After Alec left in the ambulance, I was going to call them together. But they didn't need me. I just let them do it by themselves. The emotion and heart was there and we just rolled from there."

The Owls raced out to a 4-1 lead after the first quarter. After Corliss robbed junior Grant Albertson (New Cannan, Conn.), who was alone in front, KSC scored two late goals, the last coming by Meehan, with two seconds to play in the quarter.

KSC outscored the Warriors 6-4 in the second quarter to go into the locker room with a 10-5 lead.

Junior Eric Vasil (Southington, Conn.), who won 19-25 face-offs, provided ECSU with possession of the ball and the opportunity to get back in the game. A man-up goal by sophomore Salieu Boliver (Norwalk, Conn.) cut the Owls' lead to 10-8.

"Our goal was to score 20 goals, but Vasil just got on fire and started dominating," said Theriault. "Fortunately, we got our bearings back."

The game was won in the trenches. Led by senior Easton Kezer (Derry, N.H.), the Owl defenders were able to get the ball away from the Warriors. "Today they just told me to go after the ball and it paid off," said Kezer.

After losing their goalie, the Owls rallied behind Meehan, who netted a pair of key goals to give KSC a 12-9 lead. "You have to rise above when your teammates need you," said Meehan, who leads the team with a school record 66 goals.

Holding a 12-10, lead, KSC scored a pair of transition goals to go up 14-10. Bursting out of the backfield with the ball, senior defenseman Kyle Barnett (Londonderry, N.H.) fed freshman Taylor Jette (Simsbury, Conn.) for a goal. Less than a minute later sophomore Warren Dill (Yorktown Heights, N.Y.) picked up a loose ball and scored to make it 14-10.

Keene State took advantage of several late Warrior penalties to maintain possession and claim the LEC crown.

Freshman Jonathan Roderick (Plaistow, N.H.) had three goals, Jette had two and senior Jamie LeSage (Exeter, N.H.), sophomore J.T. Galloway (Simsbury, Conn.), and Dill each scored a goal.

Boliver had three goals and senior Michael Glennon (Walpole, Mass.) and junior Vinny Tornatore (Norwalk, Conn.) each scored twice to lead Eastern Conn.

Freshman goalie Jason Lesser (Brewster, N.Y.) played the finals 24 minutes of the game and didn't record a save for KSC. Freshman Donald Berube (Tewksbury, Mass.) made 15 saves for the Warriors.

KSC will find out its next opponent when the NCAA field is announced on Sunday night.

"This is our goal every year," said Theriault. "In our locker room it says NCAA or bust."

It's the third LEC championship for the Owls, who also won titles in 2005 and 2007. Eastern defeated KSC 12-8 in last year's finals. The two teams have faced each other in six of the seven past LEC championship games

Thursday, May 6, 2010

EASTERN M-LACROSSE OUSTS PESKY WESTERN, ADVANCES TO FINAL
Warriors never trail against Colonials but need to produce in final minutes for win

MANSFIELD, Conn. – The second-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team moved into the championship game of the Little East Conference playoffs for the ninth time in the ten-year history of the playoffs, downing No. 3 Western Connecticut State University for the tenth time in ten meetings in this series, 13-11.

Defending champion Eastern, a winner of six championships, visits No. 1 Keene State College 11-4) Saturday at 5 p.m. The Owls will be making their seventh trip to the final in the past eight years after routing fourth-seeded Plymouth State University, 16-4, earlier Thursday. The Owls have won two titles, both at home over Eastern.

The teams will be meeting for the seventh time in the last eight years in the final, the Warriors having won four times. The home team has won every time in the final. Eastern, which has won its last five LEC games, lost 17-11 at Keene April 16.

Eastern never trailed against Western (7-10), outshooting the Colonials 29-14 in moving out to a 9-5 halftime lead. Trailing 12-10, Western got a man-up goal (its only one of the game) by leading scorer Sean Macey to cut the deficit to one and later had possession with a chance to tie after forcing an Eastern turnover. However, Eastern freshman goalie **Donald Berube (Tewksbury, MA)** made a save on a shot by Andrew Bascom, Eastern senior midfielder **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)** picked up the loose ball and buried a critical unassisted goal with 3:16 left to make it 13-11.

“We talked all week about the importance of getting out of the gate quickly and having a good first quarter, which is vital to our success. We did jump out to a great lead, and now we've got to work on playing with a lead, rather than playing from behind,” commented third-year Eastern head coach **Justin Axel** during a post-game interview with internet broadcaster Steve Piro.

“We didn't quite capitalize on lot of opportunities that we had throughout the game that could have blown the game open, but I'll give a lot of credit to Western, they hung tough the entire game, and kept clawing back. It was an excellent effort on their part.”

With Western playing a man down, Mike Schoen hit the post with 2:16 left and Berube came up with his 11th and final save on a bid by Ryan Gillis and the Warriors were able to salt away the win without allowing another shot.

Eastern junior faceoff specialist **Eric Vasil (Southington)** won 22 of 27 faceoffs and picked up 17 ground balls. In two wins this season over Western (in the last three games), Vasil won 44-of-51 confrontations at the X.

Andrew Barbieri of Western led his team with five goals on five shots but Sean Macey and Adam Lanchart – ranked first and third on the team in scoring, were limited to only three goals and two assists.

M-LAX: EASTERN CLOSES OUT VIKES

By Bob Molta on May 1, 2010 11:26 PM

Their LEC playoff status determined, Warriors subdue Salem in finale

SALEM, Mass. -- Already assured of the No. 2 seed and a first round bye in the upcoming Little East Conference men's lacrosse playoffs, Eastern Connecticut State University closed out the regular season with its sixth straight conference victory -- a 10-7 decision over Salem State College Saturday night.

While the outcome was noticeably closer than any of the previous eight meetings between the programs -- Eastern outscoring the Vikings by a 10-to-1 margin in those matches -- it was never seriously in doubt after Eastern (11-4, 6-1 little east) limited Salem (9-7, 3-4 little east) to one first-half goal and were in command of a 9-4 lead with 15 minutes left in the match.

The Warriors begin their chase for a seventh LEC playoff title in ten years -- second straight -- when they host a playoff semifinal-round match Thursday at 7 p.m. Eastern awaits the outcome of a Tuesday first-round match between sixth-seeded Salem and third-seeded Western Connecticut (6-9, 4-3 little east). Top-seeded Keene (10-5, 7-0 little east) will host the other Thursday semifinal against either fifth-seeded Massachusetts Dartmouth (7-9, 3-4 little east) or fourth-seeded PlymouthState University (7-7, 4-3 little east). The highest remaining seed will host the Saturday championship game.

Eastern is unbeaten all-time against both Salem and Western, but struggled early in a 14-6 victory over the Colonials in the regular-season meeting last Tuesday at Mansfield.

Against Keene, junior midfielder **Eric Vasil (Southington)** won 15 of 20 faceoffs and freshman goalie **Donald Berube (Tewksbury, MA)** made eight saves.

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

MEN'S LACROSSE

EASTERN CONN. 14, WESTERN CONN. 6

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Western Connecticut went scoreless for 26 minutes after scoring three of the game's first four goals as Eastern Connecticut State University remained unbeaten against the Colonials with its ninth victory in the series, a 14-6 Little East Conference win that secured the No. 2 slot in next week's conference playoffs.

Eastern (10-4, 5-1 little east), which has now won at least ten matches 13 times in the program's 15-year history, clinches a bye into the LEC playoff semifinals a week from Thursday as the No. 2 seed and will host that game. Keene State College clinched the No. 1 seed in the upcoming LEC playoffs and at least a share of the regular-season title with a 15-7 win over visiting Plymouth State.

Eastern junior midfielder Eric Vasil (Southington), the national leader in ground balls per game and second-ranked in faceoff percentage, won 22 of 24 faceoffs against five different Western ((5-9, 3-3 little east) and picked up 17 ground balls. Senior crease attackman Vinny Tornatore (Norwalk) led the Warriors with four goals and freshman goalie Donald Berube (Tewksbury, MA) made 14 saves.

Senior attackman Adam Lanehart, Western's second-leading scorer, scored his team's first three goals and powered the Colonials to an early 3-1 advantage early in the second period. However, Lanehart was held scoreless after that until breaking through with 21 seconds left in the third period with his team trailing 10-3.

Western leading scorer Sean Macey and Eastern scoring leader Grant Albertson were both held without a goal, Macey being contained by Eastern sophomore defenseman Tommy Flynn (Mineola, NY) and Albertson by Western sophomore defenseman Brandon Hall. Albertson managed two assists, Macey one.

Western capitalized on nine extra-man advantages by scoring four man-up goals, two coming in succession late in the third period after the Warriors had scored nine straight goals.

Eastern closes out the regular season Saturday at Salem State College in a conference game at 7 p.m. The Vikings dropped two games behind Eastern in the standings with a 10-9 home loss to UMass Dartmouth.

Saturday, April 24, 2010

FAST STARTS PROPEL EASTERN MEN'S LACROSSE, 15-7
Warriors get out quickly in first and second halves in Little East win over UMB

BOSTON -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team used fast starts to open the first and second halves on the way to a 15-7 Little East Conference victory over the University of Massachusetts Boston Saturday afternoon.

The win is the second straight – both in conference play – for Eastern (9-4, 4-1 little east) and 17th without a loss all-time against UMass Boston (4-9, 0-5 little east). The victory allows Eastern to remain a game behind conference leader Keene State College, which disposed of visiting Western Connecticut State University Saturday. Eastern and Western had begun the day tied for second in the conference.

The Warriors scored the first four goals of the match – two by junior attack **Brian Fechtmann (Levittown, NY)** and rolled up a 6-1 lead after one quarter. Leading 7-3 at the half, Eastern got out of the gates quickly in the second half, with senior attack **Vinny Tornatore (Norwalk)** scoring two of the team's first three goals to push Eastern's lead to 10-3.

Now 56-3 in ten years of regular-season conference competition, Eastern was successful on all but four of its 39 clears, scored three extra-man goals and more than doubled UMass Boston's shot total.

Junior faceoff specialist **Eric Vasil (Southington)** won 20 of 22 faceoffs and scooped up 18 of the team's 35 ground balls. Ranked first nationally in ground balls per game and second in faceoff percentage, Vasil averages 14.0 ground balls per game with a 74.3 faceoff percentage.

Freshman goalie **Donald Berube (Tewksbury, MA)** made three first-half saves before giving way to sophomore **Jamie Tommins (Fairfield)**, who shared second-half net responsibilities with freshmen **Drew Deane (Vernon)** and **Kyle Davenport (Colchester)**.

Eastern hosts Western Connecticut Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. on Seniors' Night.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 24, 2010

CONTACT: Alan Wickstrom (617) 287- 7815

UMASS BOSTON MEN'S LACROSSE FALLS TO EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE, 15-7

BOSTON, MA – Senior attackman Vinny Tornatore (Norwalk, CT) and junior attackman Grant Albertson (New Canaan, CT) combined for 10 points, each scoring three goals and dishing out two assist to lead the Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team over host University of Massachusetts Boston, 15-7, in a Little East Conference match today at the Clark Athletic Center field on the campus of UMass Boston. The Beacons fall to 4-9 overall, including 0-5 in LEC play, while the Warriors improve to 9-4 overall, 4-1 in the LEC.

The Warriors jumped ahead early, netting six first period goals, and never looked back. Junior attackman Brian Fechtmann (Levittown, NY) opened the games scoring and would later net his second goal of the period to put Eastern on top, 4-0, with 6:41 remaining in the first. Junior middle **John Canty (Milton, MA)** got the Beacons on the board with his 17th goal of the season at the 2:43 mark but junior attackman Jeremy Cogliano (Bedford, MA) answered only 18 seconds later, to give the Warriors a 5-1 cushion. The visitors would tack on a man-up goal, scored by sophomore middle Salieu Bolivar (Norwalk, CT) before the quarters close to increase their lead to 6-1.

UMass Boston battled back into the game by scoring the first two goals in the second quarter, cutting the Eastern lead to 6-3. Sophomore middle **Pat Driscoll (Hingham, MA)** made it 6-2 when he found the back of the net from an assist by senior middle **Al Craven (Milton, MA)**. The Beacons were than able to take advantage of a Warrior penalty and convert a man-up opportunity at the 7:16 mark when senior attackman **Dale Nunn (Hillsborough, NJ)** netted his 22nd goal of the season off a Canty assist. UMass Boston appeared to have the moment heading into halftime before the Warriors struck again with only :01 second remaining in the half when senior middle Zach Malouf (Norwich, CT) connected on his 14th goal of the season to give Eastern Connecticut State University the 7-3 halftime cushion.

The Warriors opened the third quarter strong, scoring the first three goals of the half to take a commanding 10-3 lead. Fornatore had his hand in all three tallies, netting two and assisting on the third, which came on a man-up score by sophomore attackman Michael Sullinger (Brookfield, CT).

Craven's unassisted goal with 4:03 remaining in the third made it a 10-4 contest but another Eastern man-up goal by Tornatore pushed their lead back to seven goals, making it 11-4 with 2:30 remaining in the third. Driscoll potted his second goal of the afternoon with 1:51 to play in the third before Albertson answered with his second tally of the day with only :32 second remaining in the third to give Eastern the 12-5 lead after three quarters of action.

Driscoll and Albertson traded goals early in the fourth quarter to make it 13-6, Eastern. With 12:52 remaining in the game, Malouf potted his second goal of the contest before Driscoll tallied his fourth goal on the game, 34th of the season, to cut the Warriors lead to 14-7. Freshman middle Kevin Fechtmann (Levittown, NY) rounded out Eastern's scoring with his first collegiate goal coming with 1:37 left to play to make it a 15-7 final.

UMass Boston sophomore goalie **Anthony Fitti (Havertown, PA)** was stellar in relief, playing the final three quarters making 11 saves. Freshman Donald Berube (Tewksbury, MA) made three saves in net for Eastern Connecticut State to earn the victory.

MEN'S LACROSSE: EASTERN 15, UMASS DARTMOUTH 6

MANSFIELD, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team led by five goals as the second quarter unfolded, and killed eight of nine of Massachusetts Dartmouth's extra-man opportunities in a 15-6 Little East Conference victory Tuesday night at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex.

The win snaps a two-game losing streak for Eastern (8-4, 3-1 little east), which defeated UMass (6-7, 2-2 little east) for the 14th time in this 14-game series. Eastern's win, coupled with Western Connecticut's 6-5 loss to visiting Salem State College Tuesday, pulls the Warriors into a two-way tie for second place in the conference with the Colonials. Keene State College won its fourth conference game without a loss with a 20-7 victory at Massachusetts Boston.

Now 55-3 in ten years of LEC regular-season competition, Eastern led 6-1 after sophomore midfielder Salieu Bolivar (Norwalk) scored an unassisted goal 13 seconds into the second quarter, and the visitors never got closer than four goals thereafter. The Warriors outscored UMass 7-3 in the second quarter – striking for six in a row in a span of just nine minutes.

Team scoring leader Grant Albertson (New Canaan), a first-year junior transfer -- equaled his personal best with a game-high five goals – scoring in his 12th consecutive game – and freshman goalie Donald Berube (Tewksbury, MA) turned back a career-high 16 minutes over the first 48 minutes.

Leading 14-5 after three quarters, the Warriors were flagged five penalties over the final 12 minutes, but were able to successfully kill three of UMass's four extra-man attempts.

Junior Eric Vasil (Southington) won 15 of 22 faceoffs and picked up a game-high ten ground balls for Eastern.

Eastern visits Massachusetts Boston Saturday at 1 p.m.

BASEBALL: EASTERN 8, TRINITY 1

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Senior righty Will Musson (Wethersfield) avenged his only collegiate pitching loss by striking out a career-tying 13 batters to spark the Eastern Connecticut State University baseball team to an 8-1 win over Trinity College Tuesday night at the Eastern Baseball Stadium.

The game was the first between the programs since Trinity (20-8) won the 2009 New England championship with a 5-4 win over Eastern (14-7) at the Eastern Baseball Stadium. In that game, Musson pitched seven strong innings three days after a route-going performance against Suffolk University, but was saddled with his first loss after nine straight wins.

With ten days rest this time, the 6-foot-1 inch, 225-pounder overmatched the Bantams by equaling his career high with 13 strikeouts. He gave only one run on three hits, three walks, and one hit

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

MAN-DOWN UNIT POWERS EASTERN M-LACROSSE, 15-6

Warriors kill eight of UMass' nine man-up opportunities in LEC victory

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The win snaps a two-game losing streak for Eastern (8-4, 3-1 little east), which defeated UMass (6-7, 2-2 little east) for the 14th time in this 14-game series. Eastern's win, coupled with Western Connecticut's 6-5 loss to visiting Salem State College Tuesday, pulls the Warriors into a two-way tie for second place in the conference with the Colonials. Keene State College won its fourth conference game without a loss with a 20-7 victory at Massachusetts Boston.

Now 55-3 in ten years of LEC regular-season competition, Eastern led 6-1 after sophomore midfielder **Salieu Bolivar (Norwalk)** scored an unassisted goal 13 seconds into the second quarter, and the visitors never got closer than four goals thereafter. The Warriors outscored UMass 7-3 in the second quarter – striking for six in a row in a span of just nine minutes.

Team scoring leader **Grant Albertson (New Canaan)**, a first-year junior transfer -- equaled his personal best with a game-high five goals – scoring in his 12th consecutive game – and freshman goalie **Donald Berube (Tewksbury, MA)** turned back a career-high 16 minutes over the first 49 minutes.

Leading 14-5 after three quarters, the Warriors were flaged five penalties over the final 12 minutes, but were able to successfully kill three of UMass's four extra-man attempts.

Junior midfielder **Eric Vasil (Southington)** won 15 of 22 faceoffs and picked up a game-high ten ground balls for Eastern.

Eastern visits Massachusetts Boston Saturday at 1 p.m.

Friday, April 16, 2010

IN BATTLE OF LEC ELITE, KEENE EMERGES WITH M-LAX WIN
Owls trail only once in taking down Warriors for first time ever at Eastern

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Keene State College snapped a three-game losing streak at the hands of Eastern Connecticut State University, winning the battle of early-season Little East Conference men's lacrosse unbeatens with a 17-11 victory Friday night at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex.

Returning home for the first time in a month, Eastern (7-4, 2-1 little east) never led after the opening two minutes but scored three extra-man goals in a span of eight minutes in the third quarter to make it interesting before the Owls sealed their first win ever after ten losses on Eastern's home field by scoring what amounted to three empty-net goals in the final two minutes.

In a game which featured the conference's elite – but young – teams, Keene trailed only once, moving out to a 9-5 lead at halftime. The Warriors got as close as two goals twice in the second half, the final time when freshman midfielder **Dan O'Reilly (Southington)** scored his fifth goal of the year on an assist from senior attack **Vinny Tornatore (Norwalk)** three minutes into the final quarter.

The Owls all but clinched the win when freshman midfielder Ian Hart scored a critical goal with just under five minutes left to re-store Keene's three-goal lead, 14-11. Conference scoring leader Griffin Meehan, a sophomore, managed only two goals through the first 58 minutes against Eastern all-conference defenseman **Tommy Flynn (Mineola, NY)**, but scored into a virtual open net three times in the final two minutes to provide the Owls with the final six-goal spread. Meehan added three assists – two coming when he set up sophomore teammate Matt Schairer for man-up goals two minutes apart in the third quarter that pushed the visitors into a four-goal lead five minutes into the third quarter. Meehan now has 36 goals and 20 assists in 11 games.

The teams, which feature 46 freshmen and sophomores, combined to score eight extra-man goals, the Warriors connecting on six of nine – three coming in an eight-minute span in the third quarter – and Keene three of five. In the game, the Warriors were never able to score more than two successive goals.

(more)

Eastern junior scoring leader **Grant Albertson (New Canaan)** improve his team-leading goal total to 29 with three markers but the first-year Division I transfer never scored more than one goal in any quarter and went the final 17 minutes without finding the back of the net. Senior midfielder **Zach Malouf (Norwich)** equaled his season high with three goals and tied his career high of five points on a career-high 14 shots. Malouf set up Tornatore to give the Warriors their only lead in the opening two minutes of play and Malouf's unassisted strike with 72 seconds left in the third quarter cut Keene's lead to two, 12-10, heading into the final frame.

Meehan's most damaging goal came after Malouf and sophomore midfielder **Salieu Bolivar (Norwalk)** scored 32 seconds apart late in the second quarter to slice the Keene lead to 8-5. The goals looked as though they would give the Warriors momentum heading into the half, but Meehan hooked up with freshman midfielder Jonathan Rodrick as time expired in the second quarter to give Keene a four-goal halftime lead.

Eastern junior midfielder **Eric Vasil (Southington)**, ranked first nationally in ground balls and second in faceoff percentage, won 23 of 31 faceoffs (74.2 percent), his win total establishing a personal game high. He also scooped up 18 ground balls – two shy of his all-time best. He improved his season faceoff percentage to .733 and his ground ball average to 14 per game.

Keene's Jason Lesser made nine saves to win the matchup of freshman goalies, with Eastern's **Donald Berube (Tewksbury, MA)** making seven stops.

Defenseman Kyle Barnett led Keene with six ground balls.

Eastern hosts Massachusetts Dartmouth Tuesday at 7 p.m. in a Little East Conference game.

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

EASTERN M-LACROSSE ENDS LONG ROAD TRIP ON DOWN NOTE
Warriors conclude run of six straight road games with 16-3 loss to Trinity

HARTFORD, Conn. – A four-game winning streak came to a screeching halt for the Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team Wednesday afternoon as the Warriors were roughed up by Trinity College, 16-3, in the final game of a stretch of six straight road encounters.

With the loss, Eastern (7-3) bookends the six-game road trip with losses to eight-time national champion Salisbury University and to Trinity (7-5). In between, the Warriors captured four games away from home by an average of less than four goals each.

Ranked No. 10 in New England, Eastern never got off the bus Wednesday, with three goals by sophomore attack **Michael Sullinger (Brookfield)** standing between the Warriors and the first shutout loss in program history. The Bantams downed Eastern for the fifth straight time by using the balance of 11 different scorers. Ironically, penalties did not lead to the Warriors undoing, as Eastern was not flagged for a penalty until less than three minutes remained.

The four players who have scored double figures in goals this year came up empty on a combined total of 16 shots, with Trinity sophomore goalie Peter Johnson called upon for only five saves and freshman Dom Piselli making three saves to blank Eastern over the final 15 minutes.

Eastern looks for its fourth home with without a loss this season when it hosts Keene State College in a Little East Conference match Friday at 6 p.m. on Alumni Day in its first appearance at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex since an encouraging 14-12 win over Amherst College nearly a month ago.

Sunday, April 11, 2010

EASTERN M-LACROSSE STRETCHES LEC WIN STREAK TO 16

Warriors win fourth straight road match with 12-8 decision over Plymouth State

PLYMOUTH, N.H. – The combination of senior midfielder **Maxim Fantl's (West Hartford)** career-high five goals, the near-perfect faceoff performance of junior midfielder **Eric Vasil (Southington)** and the team's season-low penalty total played key roles as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team won its 16th consecutive Little East Conference regular-season game with a 12-8 verdict over Plymouth State University Sunday afternoon at Panther Field.

Ranked 12th in New England, Eastern (7-2, 2-0 little east) won its fourth straight road game in what will eventually be a six-game road stretch and improved to 9-0 all-time against Plymouth State (2-6, 0-2 little east) in regular-season conference play. The Panthers were playing their first home game of the season.

Eastern outscored Plymouth 9-1 to roll to a 10-3 lead after three quarters. The Warriors held the hosts scoreless throughout the 15-minute third quarter, with Fantl scoring the first three goals of the period and junior attack and team scoring leader **Grant Albertson (New Canaan)** adding the fourth and final goal as time expired in the frame.

Averaging nearly nine penalties per game through the first eight games, Eastern spent a total of only two minutes in the penalty box on four flags. Plymouth capitalized on just one man-up situation – that coming on the first goal of the match two minutes into action.

Freshman goalie **Donald Berube (Tewksbury, MA)** worked the first 50 minutes and departed on the long end of a 10-3 lead. Berube made nine saves in winning his sixth game in seven decisions – his only loss coming to eight-time national champion Salisbury University on the first game of this six-game road trip March 21. Berube improved his save percentage to .552 and lowered his goals-against average to 10.48.

Vasil, a pre-season faceoff All-America, returned to the lineup after missing most all of the last two games with a hip injury and won 15 of 16 faceoffs.

The win was Eastern's 54th in 56 regular-season conference games spanning a ten-year period. The Warriors have been unbeaten seven times in the conference regular season and have captured six conference playoff titles.

Eastern plays the last of six straight road games Wednesday at Trinity College y at 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 3, 2010

EASTERN M-LACROSSE SURVIVES TO WIN PENALTY-PLAGUED GAME
Southern Maine scores six extra-man goals but can't catch Warriors in LEC match, 18-13

GORHAM, Maine – Eighteen Eastern Connecticut State University penalties resulted in six University of Southern Maine extra-man goals, but the Warriors survived to post an 18-13 victory in the Little East Conference opener for both schools Saturday at Paula Hodgdon Field.

Eastern used a fast start to take a 6-1 lead in the final minute of the first half but was never able to completely shake the Huskies, who capitalized on Eastern's season-high high total of 18 penalties to score six extra-man goals. Four of the man-up goals came in the first half, when Kayle Hamilton beat Eastern freshman goalie **Donald Berube (Tewksbury, MA)** on an assist from Kyle Baker with 67 seconds left to pull Southern Maine as close as it would get, 8-6.

Junior attack **Grant Albertson (New Canaan)** recorded personal-bests with five goals, three assists and eight points to carry Eastern (6-2) to its third straight road victory. Southern Maine (2-4) lost its second home game in as many contests.

Senior attack **Vinny Tornatore (Norwalk)** scored two of his season-high four goals in extra-man situations three minutes apart in the third quarter, and Albertson potted his second goal of the match soon after to give Eastern a 12-7 lead halfway through the third quarter.

Berube made 11 saves over the first 53 minutes and left with an 18-10 lead en route to his fifth win in net in six decisions.

Junior faceoff specialist **Eric Vasil (Southington)** missed the match after coming off the field with a hip injury in the opening minute of Thursday's 11-6 victory at Mount Ida College.

Eastern visits Plymouth State University Sunday at 12:30 in a conference match to be played at the Holderness School.

Thursday, April 1, 2010

EASTERN RE-GROUPS IN FOURTH QUARTER FOR WIN
In men's lacrosse, man-down unit kills seven penalties in Warriors' 11-6 victory

NEWTON, Mass. -- Senior midfielder **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)** turned a Mount Ida College fourth-quarter turnover into the team's first goal after 18 scoreless minutes and the Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team went on to an 11-6 non-conference victory Thursday afternoon at the Mount Ida Athletic Complex

Mount Ida (2-4) kept Eastern (5-2) off the board in the third quarter and scored twice to cut the Warriors' five-goal halftime lead to 7-5 before Fantl ignited a quick four-goal Eastern spurt as the Warriors re-gained the momentum to post their third win over the Mustangs in as many years.

Ranked No. 11 in New England, Eastern remains unbeaten in three matches this year against New England opponents and evens its road record at 2-2. The Mustangs are six-time defending North Atlantic Conference champions.

With Eastern's offense stalled throughout the third quarter, Fantl kick-started it in the early minutes of the fourth. Two minutes into the period, Mount Ida turned the ball over in Eastern's defensive end and Fantl picked it up and raced the length of the field before beating Mount Holyoke sophomore goalie Jimmy McAllister with a low shot from the right wing inside the left pipe to end the team's extended scoring drought.

Following Fantl's lead, senior midfielder **Zach Malouf (Norwich)**, sophomore midfielder **Salieu Bolivar (Norwalk)** and junior attack **Grant Albertson (New Canaan)** struck for goals over the next three minutes to push the Warriors' lead to 11-5 with 8:30 left.

Mount Ida's hopes for a comeback were dashed in the final five minutes when it was unable to capitalize on a two-man advantage. First, the Mustangs committed an unforced turnover that gave Eastern a critical possession, then were flagged with their only penalty of the match with 3:38 remaining and Eastern leading by six.

Freshman goalie **Donald Berube (Tewksbury, MA)** was credited with 13 saves, six coming with Eastern's offense sputtering in the third quarter and kept the hosts from pulling any closer than two goals.

Eastern's man-down unit played a key role in the victory, as it killed off all seven of Mount Ida's extra-man opportunities to improve its season percentage to .362.

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Junior defenseman **Daniel Dowling (Hamden)** and freshman midfielder **Josh Dubinsky (Woodstock)** combined to win ten of 18 faceoffs after junior faceoff ace **Eric Vasil (Southington)** left the field for the remainder with a hip injury after winning the games initial faceoff. Last year’s national leader in faceoff percentage and ground balls, Vasil brought a .721 success rate into the game.

Malouf and Bolivar each had three goals for Eastern, Malouf adding an assist. Albertston contributed two goals and a helper.to improve his team-leading point total to 25.

Eastern begins Little East Conference play Saturday at 2 p.m. against the University of Southern Maine at Deerfield High School in South Portland, ME at 2 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 11, Mount Ida College 6

Eastern Conn. (5-2)	4	3	0	4	--	11
Mount Ida College (2-4)	1	2	2	1	--	6

Goals: E-Zach Malouf 3, Salieu Bolivar 3, Grant Albertson 2, Maxim Fantl, Brian Fechtmann, Vinny Tornatore; M-Nick yacuzzi, Dan Harrington, Brandon Keith, Christopher Prophete, Matthew Savage, Kevin Mulvey.

Assists: E-Albertson, Fantl, Malouf, Dan O’Reilly; M-Harrington, Yacuzzi.

Shots: E-39, M-40; **Saves:** E-Donald Berube 13 (6 goals allowed, 56:48 min.), Jamie Tommins 1 (0, 3:12); M-Jimmy McAllister 15.

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

EASTERN M-LACROSSE EMERGES WITH ANOTHER CLOSE VICTORY
In see-saw match, Warriors score twice in final minute in 13-12 decision over Goucher

TOWSON, Md. – In the first dozen years of the Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse program, the outcome of a match was predictable. The Warriors would win in a blowout, or lose in a close one.

All that has changed.

Tuesday night, senior crease attackman **Vinny Tornatore (Norwalk)** scored a goal on his only shot with five seconds left as the Warriors emerged with their fourth victory in as many close decisions this year, 13-12, over Goucher College at Beldon Field.

Unbeaten on its home field in its first four matches this year, Goucher (5-3) took a one-goal lead until the final minute of play before first-year junior attack **Grant Albertson (New Canaan)** tied the match with 57 seconds left with an unassisted goal, and Tornatore scored his second game-winning goal in 11 days with time running out as Eastern (4-2) bounced back from a disappointing 20-6 loss at No. 3 nationally-ranked Salisbury University Sunday afternoon.

Eleven days ago, Tornatore's goal 2:24 into sudden-death overtime gave the Warriors an 11-10 victory over Montclair State University. This year, Eastern's four wins have come by a total of five goals and its two losses have been one-sided affairs to nationally-ranked opponents.

Tornatore's seventh goal of the year was set up on junior attack **Brendan Hoppey's (Shoreham, NY)** third assist of the match and was the team's third extra-man goal in four tries. In between Albertson's game-tying goal and Tornatore's game-winner, the Warriors killed off a 30 second penalty which was issued with just 48 seconds left. With the Gophers looking to capitalize on that man-up opportunity, sophomore defenseman **Tommy Flynn (Mineola, NY)** forced a critical Goucher turnover and picked up the loose ball. With 17 seconds left, Goucher was called for an unnecessary roughness penalty, and the Warriors made the extra-man try count.

Through its first five games, Eastern was unproductive with the man advantage, scoring only four times on 25 opportunities.

Tuesday's game featured seven ties and five lead changes. The Warriors opened the second half with four goals in a row for a 9-7 lead, but the Gophers answered with four in a row to open the fourth period to pull even at 11-11. Eastern never trailed by more than two goals and had moved out to a three-goal, 11-8, lead with five minutes left in the third period on a goal by senior midfielder **Zach Malouf (Norwich)**.

Making his fifth straight start, freshman goalie **Donald Berube (Tewksbury, MA)** stopped 14 shots for the third straight game in gaining the first road win of his career and improving his personal record to 3-1.

Freshman attack Matthew Janssen (Hillsborough, NJ) led Eastern with three goals and an assist, with Hoppey posting a team-high five points with two goals and three assists. Senior midfielder Maxim Fantl (West Hartford) chipped in two goals and an assist and Albertson two goals. Junior midfielder Eric Vasil (Southington) won 18 of 29 faceoffs and scooped up half (19) of the team's ground balls. Flynn caused three turnovers, including the one which set up the winning goal.

Goucher team scoring leaders Matt Lynch and Rory Avarett combined for seven goals and ten points, with senior goalie Chris Stricklin making nine saves.

Eastern plays the third of six straight road matches Thursday, April 1 at Mount Ida College at 3 p.m.

Sunday, March 21, 2010

NO. 3 SALISBURY WHIPS EASTERN M-LACROSSE BY 20-6

Eight-time national champs are never threatened in snapping Warriors' win streak

SALISBURY, Md. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team went 47 minutes with just one goal as eight-time NCAA Division III national champion Salisbury University pummeled the Warriors, 20-6, Sunday afternoon at Sea Gull Stadium.

The win is the eighth this year without a loss for No. 3 nationally-ranked Salis 12 mbury. Eastern (3-2) had a three-game winning streak snapped and has now been outscored 37-14 in road losses to two nationally-ranked teams this year.

Last year, with two eventual All-Americans and a four-year starting goalie, the Warriors represented themselves well in a 15-7 loss at Salisbury. With all three of those players gone this time, the Warriors trailed 10-0 26 minutes into the match and 18-1 with 12 minutes left before scoring five goals in the final 12 minutes.

Twelve different Salisbury players had either a goal or assist and all four of the team's goalies received time in the net. Attackmen **Grant Albertson (New Canaan)** and **Matthew Janssen (Hillsborough, NJ)** – both newcomers to the program – each had two goals for Eastern, with senior midfielder **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)** coming up with six ground balls. Freshman goalie **Donald Berube (Tewksbury, MA)** stopped 14 shots over the first 44 minutes. Junior **Eric Vasil (Southington)** won a career-low 46.4 percent of 28 faceoff attempts. Last year's national leader in that department, Vasil brought an 81.5 winning mark into the contest.

Honorable mention All-Americans Matt Cannone and Mike Von Kamecke combined for eight goals and six assists for Salisbury, with Jake DeLillo adding two goals and three assists. Winning goalie Johnny Rodriguez turned aside seven shots, giving up only one goal.

Salisbury outshot Eastern 54-23 and capitalized on seven man-up situations by scoring six times. Eastern potted just one goal on six extra-man tries.

Eastern visits Goucher College (5-2) Tuesday at 7 p.m. The Gophers have won five straight and are unbeaten this year on their home field.

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

AGAINST AMHERST, EASTERN M-LACROSSE WINS ANOTHER TIGHT ONE
Freshman Berube makes 14 saves, Warriors' man-down unit stymies Lord Jeffs, 14-12

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Freshman goalie **Donald Berube (Tewksbury, MA)** recorded double-digit saves for the first time in four collegiate appearances and the Eastern Connecticut State University man-down unit killed eight of nine extra-man opportunities as the Warriors downed Amherst College, 14-12, Tuesday afternoon at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex.

The win is the first for Eastern (3-1) in three tries against Amherst (0-2) and gives Eastern three straight victories at home in seven days by a total of four goals. The triumph follows one-goal wins over Babson College, 12-11, in its home-opener and an 11-10 overtime verdict over Montclair State University Friday night.

Although the final margin was only two goals, Eastern trailed only twice by one goal each time in the first quarter and was never behind throughout the final three periods. Sophomore midfielder **Salieu Bolivar (Norwalk)** and senior midfielder **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)** connected on the team's third and fourth shots of the game to provide the hosts with an early 2-0 lead and after senior attack Matt Kellman (Wilton) gave Amherst its second and final lead of the game late in the first period, Eastern took the lead for good. The Warriors tied the game with 57 seconds left in the first quarter on a goal by senior midfielder **Zach Malouf (Norwich)**, and freshman attack **Matthew Janssen (Hillsborough, NJ)** and Albertson beat Amherst freshman goalie Steve Levy (Plandome, NY) 13 seconds apart to make it 6-4. Janssen's goal came in a man-down situation after the Warriors were whistled for a slash with 19.8 seconds left in the first period.

The Warriors carried a three-goal lead into the fourth period and fattened that lead to five, 14-9, with nine minutes left when 6-foot-7 inch first-year junior transfer **Grant Albertston (New Canaan)** stuck in a man-down goal – his fifth of the game.

Eastern successfully killed the next seven minutes before Amherst (0-2) answered with three goals in 57 seconds to knock the lead down to the final two-goal margin. The Warriors turned the ball over with time running out but Berube made his 14th and final save in the final seconds to keep Amherst from making it a one-goal game.

Eastern's opponents had converted nine of 20 extra-man tries heading into the game but the Warriors successfully killed off eight of Amherst's nine power-play situations. Amherst was 0-for-4 in the first half and couldn't capitalize on two man-up advantages when it tried to rally in the fourth period.

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Eastern junior midfielder **Eric Vasil (Southington)** won 20 of 28 faceoffs and collected 15 of the team's 33 ground balls. In four games, Vasil has won 88 of 108 faceoffs (81.5) and picked up 68 ground balls.

Amherst sophomore Alex Fox (Garden City, NY) contributed to ten of Amherst's 12 goals by scoring seven and assisting on three. Fox took one third of his team's shots.

Eastern plays the first of six consecutive road games Sunday at No. 3 nationally-ranked Salisbry University at 1 p.m.

Friday, March 12, 2010

GOAL IN OT NETS EASTERN M-LACROSSE SECOND STRAIGHT ONE-GOAL WIN

Vinny Tornatore strikes 2:24 into sudden-death overtime in comeback victory over Montclair

In a battle of 2009 NCAA tournament teams and conference champions, the Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team snapped a three-game losing streak at the hands of Montclair State University with its second one-goal in three days, 11-10 in overtime Friday night at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex

Senior crease attackman **Vinny Tornatore (Norwalk)** scored his second goal of the match 2:24 into sudden-death overtime with a shot from in front of the cage on an assist from freshman attack **Matthew Janssen (Hillsborough, NJ)** to end the match. The lead was only Eastern's second of the match and first since the Warriors led 5-4 with 3:20 left in the first half, and the shot was the Warriors' only one in overtime.

Montclair led 4-1 late in the first quarter and 9-7 with nine minutes left in the game after sophomore attack Tyler Meth (Basking Ridge, NJ) scored his team-leading 11 goal of the season. Trailing 10-9, Eastern tied the match for the fourth time in the match when senior midfielder **Zach Malouf (Norwich)** scored on a pass from junior attack **Grant Albertson (New Canaan)** with just 85 seconds left in regulation.

Montclair started the overtime period with possession and a man up after Eastern was whistled for a push with eight seconds left in regulation. The Red Hawks were unable to capitalize on three overtime possessions, with two of their shots blocked by Eastern defenders. Eastern cleared the ball successfully, then called time out to set up the winning goal.

Making his second career start, Eastern freshman netminder **Donald Berube (Tewksbury, MA)** recorded seven saves to earn his first career win in his first career decision. Eastern junior faceoff specialist **Eric Vasil (Southington)** won 22 of 24 faceoffs to improve his nation-leading percentage to .850 (68-for-80) and also picked up 13 ground balls. Vasil, the team-leader with 53 ground balls, led Division III last year in faceoff percentage and ground balls.

Eastern survived 31 turnovers to gain its second home win in as many home matches this year.

Montclair's special teams scored six goals in the match – the man-up unit striking for five goals on nine chances and the man-down unit scoring once. The man-up unit scored twice in the first quarter to hold the Red Hawks into a quick 3-0 lead halfway through the period and that group scored one man-up goal in each of the final three quarters. With Eastern leading 5-4 late in the first half, Montclair's man-down tied the match with 2:10 left, and the extra-man unit scored just over a minute later to give the visitors a 6-5 halftime lead.

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Junior attack Mike Corsetto (Kinnelon, NJ) contributed four assists for Montclair,, setting up senior attack Patrick Nann (Livingston, NJ) for the team’s go-ahead goal with five minutes left in regulation. Albertson, a 6-foot-7 inch first-year Division I transfer, netted six points for Eastern with four goals and two assists, while Janssen chipped in two goals and two assists and junior attack **Brendan Hoppey (Shoreham, NY)** registered his first two goals of the year.

In three games, first-year players Albertson and Janssen have combined for 23 of the team’s 48 points, 15 of its 31 goals and eight of its 17 assists.

Eastern hosts Amherst College Tuesday at 4 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 11, Montclair State U. 10

Montclair State U. (1-3)	4	2	2	2	(0)	--	10
Eastern Conn. (2-1)	2	3	1	4	(1)	--	11

Goals: M-Matthew Prongay 2, Tyler Meth 2, Taylor Bonner 2, Robert Sinicola, Patrick Nann, Ryan Kloss, Patrick Ferry; E-Grant Albertson 4, Matthew Janssen 2, Vinny Tornatore 2, Brendan Hoppy 2, Zach Malouf.

Assists: M-Mike Corsetto 4, Meth, Nann, Prongay, Sinicola; E-Albertson 2, Janssen 2, Maxim Fantl.

Shots: M, 33, E-39; **Saves:** M-Andrew Rosado 5, E-Donald Berube 7.

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

EASTERN M-LACROSSE SURVIVES FOR HOME-OPENING VICTORY
Against Babson, Warriors respond late after giving up four-goal lead, 12-11

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- First-year junior attack **Grant Albertson (New Canaan)** scored his second goal of the game on a pass from sophomore midfielder **Salieu Bolivar (Norwalk)** with 18.7 seconds left to give the Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team a 12-11 victory over Babson College Wednesday night in the 2010 home-opener at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex.

Ranked in a tie for 11th in the first New England Division III poll, Eastern (1-1) led 9-5 midway through the third quarter but Babson outscored Eastern 6-2, tying the game on junior Armand Wilson's goal with just under a minute left. After a timeout, Eastern junior midfielder **Eric Vasil (Southington)** won the ensuing faceoff to give Eastern possession. Eastern maintained possession after the ball went out of bounds, and with 18.7 second left, running from left to right, Bolivar fed an unmarked Albertson stationed at the left of the cage. Vasil, last year's national leader in faceoff percentage and ground balls, then won his 23rd faceoff in 27 tries, scooping up his 20th ground ball and making one pass before the final horn sounded.

Freshman attack Alex Patinkin scored three of his game-high five goals to ignite Babson's second-half rally. Eastern freshman attack **Matthew Janssen (Hillsborough, NJ)** scored two of his team-high four goals in the fourth quarter. His first goal of the quarter gave Eastern a 10-8 lead and his second came on an extra-man opportunity and lifted Eastern into an 11-10 lead with eight minutes left in the game. Neither team scored for the next seven minutes until Wilson scored from in close on a pass from junior defenseman Christian Ebert to tie the game at 11-11 with 52 seconds left.

The Warriors allowed Babson only three extra-man opportunities after the first quarter and was not whistled for a penalty over the final 21 minutes. Babson scored twice on man-up tries in the first quarter in taking an early 3-1 lead. Eastern gave up the first goal of the second quarter and trailed 4-1 before striking for the next five goals and eight of the next nine to move out of its 9-5 lead. Senior midfielder **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)** was credited with his first three goals of the season to ignite that 8-1 rally and senior attack **Vinny Tornatore (Norwalk)** added two goals and Janssen two assists.

Sophomore **Jamie Tommins (Fairfield)** played the second half to receive his first collegiate victory in relief of starter **Donald Berube (Tewksbury, MA)**. Berube made eight saves over the first 30 minutes and carried a 6-4 lead into the half, but lost his bid for his first win when the visitors tied the match, 10-10, with 8:34 left.

The contest was the first for Eastern on the new synthetic turf at the Mansfield Complex. The win was the fifth straight and tenth in 14 meetings in this series for Eastern, ranked in a tie for 11th in the first New England Division III poll.

Eastern hosts Montclair State University Friday at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

EASTERN M-LACROSSE CAN'T GET UNTRACKED IN 2010 OPENER
Warriors can muster only one first-half goal as they are dumped by Ducks, 17-8

HOBOKEN, N.J. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University men's lacrosse team allowed five goals in the final eight minutes of the first quarter in dropping a 17-8 decision to No. 17 nationally-ranked Stevens Institute of Technology in the 2010 season-opener Wednesday afternoon at DeBaun Athletic Complex.

Featuring a starting lineup of two seniors, five juniors, two sophomores and one freshman, Eastern could not dig out of an early 12-goal deficit in falling to the nation's 17th-ranked team. Stevens (3-0), a winner of two of the last three ECAC Metro/South championships, was making its home debut after posting two consecutive one-goal wins, one of which came against No. 20 Endicott College. The Warriors were coming off a 15-4 campaign and NCAA tournament appearance.

Five of Eastern's goals came by players making their Eastern debuts: first-year Division I junior transfer **Grant Albertson (New Canaan)** scored twice and freshmen **Dan O'Reilly (Southington)**, **Matthew Janssen (Hillsborough, NJ)** and **Jonathan Nessa (Dedham, MA)** once each. Senior midfielder **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)** added two assists.

Junior midfielder **Eric Vasil (Southington)** – last year's Division III national leader in ground balls and faceoffs, won 23 of 29 faceoffs (12-for-13 in the second half) against five Stevens Tech faceoff men and picked up 20 ground balls. Vasil won 13 of 17 against Stevens senior or Bobby Steinhauer.

Stevens junior goalie Dave Decker – a first-team pre-season All-America, turned aside 12 of 16 shots before giving way to his backup with nine minutes left. After coming off the bench in seven games behind Kyle Savage last year, sophomore **Jamie Tommins (Fairfield)** surrendered 13 first-half goals before freshman **Donald Berube (Tewksbury, MA)** stopped four of ten shots on goal in his debut in the second half.

Four Stevens starters combined for 12 goals and nine assists. Junior Chris Laurita had three goals and five assists and sophomore Alex Hofrichter four goals and a helper. All-America defenseman Zach McHugh scooped up a team-high six ground balls for Stevens.

Eastern hosts Babson College Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the first of three straight home matches.

Stevens Tech 17, Eastern Conn. 8

Eastern Conn. (0-1)	1	0	3	4	--	8
Stevens Tech (3-0)	5	8	2	2	--	17

Goals: E-Grant Albertson 2, Salieu Bolivar, Zach Malouf, Matthew Janssen, Jonathan Nessa, Dan O'Reilly, Vinny Tornatore; S-Alex Hofrichter 4, Chris Laurita 3, Blair Koontz 3, Rich Dupras 2, Brandon Faubert 2, Dan Prakopeyk, Taylor Brown, Nicolas Philipi.

Assists: E-Maxim Fantl 2, Albertson, Bolivar, Brendan Hoppey, Eric Vasil; S-Laurita 5, Dupras 2, Koontz 2, Hofrichter, Tom Iadanza.

Shots: E-33, S-47; **Saves:** E- Jamie Tommins 6 (13 goals allowed, 30:00 min.), Donald Berube 6 (4, 30:00), S-Dave Decker 12 (4, 50:45), Eric Yando 2 (4, 9:15).