
little east conference

Monday, Sept. 8, 2008

TRINITY SPOILS EASTERN MEN'S SOCCER HOME-OPENER

Bantams score two second-half goals 14 minutes apart to shut out Warriors, 2-0

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. - Freshman forward Dan Mayernick (Gladwyne, PA) and junior forward Samuel Wisner (Wayland, MA) scored second-half goals 14 minutes apart to lift Trinity College to a 2-0 victory over the Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team Monday afternoon at Thomas Nevers Field.

Making its home debut, Eastern (1-1) was shut out by Trinity (2-0) for the fifth time in the last six meetings. Last year, the Warriors snapped a four-game winless streak (0-3-1) with a 3-1 road win on the way to winning their first Little East Conference playoff title.

Coming off its first winning season in nine years -- as well as a season-opening 5-0 win over Albertus Magnus Saturday -- Trinity had several opportunities in the final minutes of the first half, but couldn't break through until Mayernick took a return pass from senior midfielder Michael Van Beuren (Spring City, PA) after his own throw-in in the 62nd minute and beat Eastern freshman keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** with a sliding shot in the box. Wisner, who nearly broke through for a goal midway through the first half, made it 2-0 when he one-timed a pass from sophomore midfielder Peter Marlette (Buffalo, NY) in the box inside the far left post.

All six of Trinity's second-half shots were on net as the Bantams scored twice and forced Appel to make four saves. Senior forward **Rukevwe Ehwarieme (Norwich)** proved to be Eastern's most legitimate threat against Trinity. Ehwarieme took nearly half (six of 14) of Eastern's shot, but forced Trinity senior keeper Zac Trudeau (Norwood, MA) to make only one save on those attempts. Last year, Trudeau played the second half in net against the Warriors and was saddled with the loss after giving up two goals.

Eastern came up empty despite matching Trinity in shots, and holding a 7-2 advantage in corner kicks. Both keepers were credited with six saves.

Eastern hosts Connecticut College Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

Trinity College 2, Eastern Conn. 0

Trinity (2-0)	0	2	--	2
Eastern Conn. (1-1)	0	0	--	0

Scoring: Dan Mayernick (Michael Van Beuren) 61:34; Samuel Wisner (Peter Marlette) 75:30.

Shots: T-14, E-14; **Saves:** T-Zac Trudeau 6, E-Carl Appel 6.

Corner kicks: T-2, E-7.

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Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2008

EASTERN M-SOCCER SHUTS OUT CONN COLLEGE BY 2-0

Freshman Appel records first career shutout in Warriors' non-conference win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Freshman midfielder **Kyle Wallace (Storrs)** came off the bench to score his first collegiate goal and freshman keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** made three saves for his first collegiate shutout as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team blanked Connecticut College, 2-0, in a non-conference match Wednesday afternoon at Thomas Nevers Field.

The win snaps a four-game losing streak at the hands of Conn (0-1) for Eastern (2-1), which had scored only one goal in those four losses.

Wallace, a first-year transfer from Ohio Wesleyan University, gave the Warriors a 1-0 lead four-and-a-half minutes before the break when he buried the rebound of a shot by all-region junior forward **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)** that was punched out by conn senior keeper Ted Lane (Portland, OR). Fantl helped Eastern put the game away with 20 minutes left when he sprung junior forward **Nicholas Boretti (Marshfield, MA)** for a breakaway goal. Boretti had moved up from his normal position to start at back in place of injured forward **Rukevwe Ehwarieme (Norwich)**.

Conn nearly took a lead in the first eight minutes of play but couldn't capitalize on bids from senior midfielder Chris Meinke (Westport) and sophomore forward Trevor Prophet (Nashua, NH). Appel made a diving stop and covered up on Meinke's hard shot from the right of the goal. Minutes later, Prophet, who led Conn in scoring with six goals as a freshman, sent a header wide of the right post.

Two key second-half defensive plays by the Warriors kept their lead intact. Stationed on the right post, sophomore midfielder **Justin Millette (Central Village)** first cleared Prophet's potential tying goal off the goal line. Thirteen minutes into the second period, Appel robbed Conn freshman midfielder **Oscar Brown's (Ridgefield)** doorstep attempt with his best save of the afternoon.

With 12 minutes left, Boretti limped off the field with a sprained ankle and is expected to miss Saturday non-conference game at Ramapo College.

Eastern Conn. 2, Connecticut College 0

Conn College (0-1)	0	0	--	0
Eastern Conn. (2-1)	1	1	--	2

Scoring: Kyle Wallace (Maxim Fantl) 40:24; Nicholas Boretti (Scott Mishley, Fantl) 70:08.
Shots: C-9, E-7; Saves: C-Ted Lane 2, E-Carl Appel 3. Corner kicks: C-3, E-8.

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Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008

FRESHMEN SEND EASTERN M-SOCCER TO 1-0 VICTORY
Mishley, Smiles combine for only goal and keeper Appel stops two penalty shots

MAHWAH, N.J. – Freshmen **Scott Mishley (Bridgeport)** and **Aaron Smiles (Bedford, MA)** combined to score the only goal and classmate **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** stopped two second-half penalty kicks to lift the Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team to a 1-0 inter-regional win over Ramapo College of New Jersey Saturday afternoon at the Athletic Center.

The win is only the second in this ten-game series for Eastern (3-1), which has been shutout seven times by the Road Runners (3-3). Ramapo is ranked No. 8 in the Metro Region.

Midway through the first half, Smiles found Mishley on a corner kick, and Mishley ripped a shot past Ramapo goalkeeper Brad Stockton for the only score of the match. It was Mishley's first career goal and Smiles' first career point. Mishley's first point had come on an assist in Wednesday's 2-0 win over Connecticut College.

In the second half, Appel made two game-saving saves on penalty kicks, the second coming with just 1:25 left in regulation. It was the second straight shutout for Appel, who collected five saves on 13 Ramapo shots. Stockton was called upon to make eight saves on an identical number of shots.

Eastern hosts Kean University Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. The Cougars are ranked No. 5 in the Metro Region.

Eastern Conn. 1, Ramapo College 0

Eastern Conn. (3-1)	1	0	-	1
Ramapo (3-3)	0	0	-	0

Scoring: Scott Mishley (Aaron Smiles) 22:48.

Shots: E-13, R-13; **Saves:** E-Carl Appel 5, R-Brad Stockton 8. **Corner kicks:** E-5, R-11.

little east conference
Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008

EASTERN M-SOCCER OPENS DEFENSE OF LEC WITH 3-1 WIN
Mishley and Bedini score goals to snap tie against Plymouth State

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Freshman midfielder **Scott Mishley (Trumbull)** scored the go-ahead goal 61 seconds before halftime and senior back **Kyle Bedini (Manchester)** added a second-half insurance goal as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team opened defense of last year's Little East Conference title with a 3-1 victory over Plymouth State University Saturday afternoon at Thomas Nevers Field.

The win is the fourth straight this season for Eastern (5-1-0, 1-0-0 little east), which has lost only two of its last 17 LEC regular-season matches (10-2-5). Coming off a 9-0 non-conference rout of Green Mountain College last Sunday, Plymouth (2-4-0, 0-1-0) has lost four of five since edging Potsdam State, 3-2, in its season-opener.

All-region junior forward **Maxim Fantl's (West Hartford)** team-leading fourth goal of the season less than two minutes into the match boasted the Warriors into a quick lead. After senior midfielder **Pat Connolly (Newton, NH)** tied the match 14 minutes later. Mishley recorded his second goal (both game-winners) with 61 seconds left in the first half on a cross from freshman back **Aaron Smiles (Bedford, MA)**. Bedini scored his first goal of the season on an indirect kick from just outside the box.

Connolly's game-tying goal in the 16th minute snapped Eastern freshman keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** scoreless streak of 286 minutes and 27 seconds. It was the first goal allowed by Appel since a 2-0 loss to Trinity College here 12 days ago.

The wins gives the Warriors two straight wins over Plymouth for the first time since 1991-92, when Eastern posted 4-0 and 3-2 (overtime) victories.

Eastern hosts Husson College Sunday at noon.

Eastern Conn. 3, Plymouth State U. 1

Plymouth State (2-4-0, 0-1-0)	1	0	--	1
Eastern Conn. (5-1-0, 1-0-0)	2	1	--	3

Scoring: E-Maxim Fantl (Justin Millette) 1:37; Pat Connolly 15:10; Scott Mishley (Aaron Smiles) 43:59; Kyle Bedini (James Picarella) 82:26.

Shots: P-6, E-13; **Saves:** P-Tyler Shute 3, E-Carl Appel 1.

Corner kicks: P-2, E-4.

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Tuesday, September 16, 2008

FANTL (2 goals, 1 assist) LEADS EASTERN M-SOCCER PAST KEAN, 3-1
Freshman keeper Appel extends scoreless streak to 271 minutes, 17 seconds

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – All-New England Region forward **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)** contributed to all of Eastern Connecticut State University's goal by scoring two and assisting on one in leading the Warriors to a 3-1 inter-regional victory over Kean University Tuesday afternoon at Thomas Nevers Field.

Unranked in New England, Eastern (4-1-0) defeated Kean (4-3-1) in the first meeting between the programs since 1994. The Cougars are ranked No. 6 in the Metro Region. The win is the second over a regionally-ranked Metro Region team for Eastern in four days. Saturday, the Warriors edged homestanding Ramapo College, 1-0. The Roadrunners were rated eighth at the time, and are currently ranked ninth in the most recent NSCAA regional poll, released today.

A co-captain, Fantl scored on one-on-one situations twice, giving the Warriors a 1-0 lead in the 25th minute on a pass from senior back and co-captain **Kyle Bedini (Manchester)**. After setting up junior forward **Nicholas Boretti (Marshfield, MA)** for the second goal of the match 12 minutes later, Fantl scored his team-leading third goal of the year to make it 3-0 when he chased down a pass from senior midfielder **James Picarella (Brewster, NY)** and beat Kean sophomore keeper Alfredo Oquendo with a ground ball inside the far post.

Freshman keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)**, who stopped two penalty kicks in Saturday's victory over Ramapo, made three saves over the first 77 minutes to extend his personal scoreless streak to 271 minutes and 17 seconds. Appel had recorded shutouts in his last two starts and has not given up a goal since allowed the second of two goals with 14:30 left in a 2-0 loss against Trinity Sept. 8. Appel was named the Little East Conference Goalkeeper-of-the-Week Monday.

Kean did not put a shot on Appel until six minutes had expired in the second half, but forced the keeper to make two saves in a period of 30 seconds in an effort to cut into Eastern's 2-0 halftime lead. Kean broke through for its only goal against Eastern first-year junior keeper **Rick Emery (Brewster, NY)** with ten minutes left when freshman forward Sergio Marchuk scored on his only shot of the match.

Twenty-two of the 33 roster players are new this year for Kean, which was coming off a 5-0 loss to 2007 national semifinalist Messiah College Saturday. The road contest was the seventh in eight matches this season for the Cougars.

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Eastern opens defense of its 2007 conference championship Saturday against visiting Plymouth State University at 1 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 3, Kean U. 1

Kean (4-3-1)	0	1	--	1
Eastern Con. (4-1-0)	2	1	--	3

Scoring: E-Maxim Fantl (Kyle Bedini) 24:22; E-Nicholas Boretti (Aaron Smiles, Fantl) 36:55; E-Fantl (James Picarella) 59:23; K-Sergio Marchuk 80:23.

Shots: K-8, E-10; **Saves:** K-Kyle Kemp 1 (2 goals allowed, 45:00), Alfredo Oquendo 1 (1, 45:00); E-Carl Appel 3 (0 goals allowed, 76:47), Rick Emery 1 (1 goal allowed, 13:13). Corner kicks: K-9, E-11.

little east conference

Sunday, Sept. 21, 2008

EASTERN ROUTS HUSSON; OFF TO BEST START IN 30 YEARS
Warriors score four goals in final 12 minutes of first half in posting fifth straight win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Nine different players contributed a goal or assist to power the Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team to an 8-1 non-conference victory over Husson College Sunday afternoon at Thomas Nevers Field.

The win is the fifth straight this year and sixth in seven outings for Eastern (6-1-0), giving the Warriors their best start after seven games since the 1978 team opened 7-0 en route to a 9-5 final record. Husson (3-5-0) had won three of its previous four entering the match after an 0-3-0 start.

Eastern took a 1-0 lead into the final 12 minutes of the first half before exploding for four goals to build a 5-0 cushion at halftime. Juniors **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)**, **Chris Bourdeau (Thompson)**, **Dustin Huguenin (Gales Ferry)** and **Mike Vekakis (Colchester)** each scored once in that span, with Vekakis also adding an assist and sophomore **Justin Millette (Central Village)** assisting on two of the goals.

Fantl, an all-region pick last year, finished the afternoon with his second five-point match in the last three. Fantl assisted on Bourdeau's first goal in the 22nd minute that gave Eastern a 1-0 lead, scored the second 12 minutes later, and in the opening minutes of the second half, made it 6-0 with his team-leading sixth goal of the season. Bourdeau also scored twice – his first and second goals in an Eastern uniform after scoring one goal in two seasons at Assumption College, while senior **Kyle Bedini (Manchester)** had a goal and assist. Fantl has a goal or assist in five of the six matches in which Eastern has scored this year.

In addition to Bourdeau, Huguenin, Vekakis and freshman **Sean Collins (Bristol)** found the back of the net for the first time this year. The goal was the first in the career of Collins, who scored on a head ball on his first career shot.

All three Eastern keepers saw the field, with freshman **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** playing the first 51 scoreless minutes to gain his sixth win in seven decisions. Appel, who has allowed only one goal in his last 412 minutes and 44 seconds, lowered his goals-

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against average to 0.62 and made three saves to improve his save percentage to .852. First-year sophomore **Pat Wagner (Naugatuck)** made one save over the final nine scoreless minutes in his collegiate debut.

Eastern visits Western Connecticut State University Sunday at noon in a Little East Conference match.

Eastern Conn. 8, Husson College 1

Husson (3-5-0)	0	1	--	1
Eastern Conn. (6-1-0)	5	3	--	8

Scoring: E-Chris Bourdeau (Maxim Fantl) 21:31; E-Fantl (Mike Vekakis, Kyle Bedini) 33:26; E-Dustin Huguenin (Justin Millette) 34:10; E-Vekakis (Millette) 38:53; E-Bourdeau (Matt Kalmin) 44:08; E-Fantl (Nicholas Boretti) 46:33; E-Sean Collins (Boretti) 51:27; E-Bedini 63:57; H-Justin Marks 64:42.

Shots: H-8, E-19; **Saves:** H-Brad Ala 3; E-Carl Appel 3 (0 goals allowed, 51:27), Rick Emery 0 (1 goal allowed, 29:44), Pat Wagner 1 (0 goals allowed, 8:49).

Corner kicks: H-1, E-8.

little east conference
Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008

EASTERN M-SOCCER STRETCHES UNBEATEN STREAK TO SIX

Warriors put 17 of their 28 shots on net but must settle for scoreless conference tie

DANBURY, Conn. –Eastern Connecticut State University freshman keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** improved upon his Little East Conference-leading goals-against average and save percentage by posting his third shutout of the season in the Warriors’ scoreless overtime conference draw with Western Connecticut State University Sunday afternoon at the Westside Athletics Complex.

The scoreless deadlock leaves defending LEC regular-season and playoff champion Eastern (6-1-1, 1-0-1 little east) unbeaten in the conference and on the road (2-0-1) and stretches its unbeaten streak this season to six (5-0-1). Western (4-5-1, 0-1-1 little east) is winless (0-1-2) in its last three matches against Eastern.

Ranked No. 6 in New England, Eastern has lost only two of its last 18 LEC regular-season matches (10-2-6). The Warriors shared the top spot in the LEC pre-season coaches poll while Western shared sixth place after a last-place finish a year ago.

Appel took over this year for Jay Barney – the two-time LEC Defensive Player-of-the-Year. He made seven saves against Western to post his third full shutout in eight starts, lower his conference-leading goals-against average to 0.52 and up his LEC-leading save percentage to .882. Appel has given up only four goals this season, just one coming in his last 522 minutes, 44 seconds over his last seven matches.

Sunday, however, Appel’s play was overshadowed by Western senior keeper **Dan Michalowski**. Michalowski, the losing keeper in Eastern’s 2-0 win a year ago in Willimantic, made seven of his 17 saves in the 20-minute, sudden death overtime session to preserve the scoreless tie. The Warriors outshot the hosts, 28-22, and tested Michalowski by putting 17 of their shots on net.

In the closing minutes of overtime, Eastern co-captains **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)** and **Kyle Bedini (Manchester)** produced three scoring chances that could have ended the game. Fantl, the LEC leader in points per game entering the match, and Bedini, both evaded the Western defense for shots that appeared headed toward the net, but in both cases were robbed by a diving Michalowski. With less than a minute to play, the fleetfooted Fantl again broke through defense, but again his shot was denied by Michalowski. Junior forward **Nicholas Boretti (Marshfield, MA)** and Fantl combined take 13 shots and forced Michalowski to make ten saves on those tries in order to keep the Warriors off the board. That duo scored both of Eastern’s goal against Western a year ago, with Boretti beating Michalowski for what proved to be the game-winner early in the second half of that win.

Western freshman Bruno Mendonca had the best scoring opportunity of the afternoon in the first overtime period, when he broke past the Eastern defense on the right side, but his potential game-ending goal sailed just inches over the crossbar.

Eastern visits Salem State College Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the first meeting between the programs in 13 years.

Eastern Conn. 0, Western Conn. 0, 2 ot

Eastern Conn. (6-1-1, 1-0-1 little east)	0	0	(0)	(0)	--	0
Western Conn. (4-5-1, 0-1-1 little east)	0	0	(0)	(0)	--	0

Shots: E-28, W-22; Saves: E-Carl Appel 7, W-Dan Michalowski 17; Corner kicks: E-8, W-3.

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little east conference

Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2008

EASTERN M-SOCCER GAINS 3-3 TIE IN REGIONAL MATCHUP

Against No. 4 Salem, No. 9 Warriors now unbeaten (3-0-11) in last 14 overtime games

SALEM, Mass. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men’s soccer team ended a losing streak and maintained an unbeaten one Tuesday night at Alumni Field in a 3-3 overtime tie against Salem State College in a non-conference match featuring two of New England’s Top Ten teams.

Ranked No. 9 in New England, Eastern (6-1-2) extended its unbeaten streak in overtime play to 14 games (3-0-11) with the tie against Salem State (7-0-1). The Warriors fell three minutes short of their first win over Salem in 27 years when Salem senior Padraic Boscoe tied the match at 3-all by heading in senior All-America center midfielder Yuta Kizaki’s corner kick in the 87th minute.

The tie ended a ten-game losing streak at the hands of Salem for Eastern, which is unbeaten (5-0-2) in its last seven matches.

The match was the first that the Vikings did not win this season. The Vikings had outscored their first seven opponents 19-4, with two of their shutout wins coming against Little East Conference foes Plymouth State and UMass Dartmouth. Salem is off to its best start since 1997.

After Kizaki’s 25 yard free kick staked Salem to a 1-0 lead in the 16th minute, Eastern senior forward **Maxim Fantl’s (West Hartford)** team-leading seventh goal of the year in the 31st minute tied the match 1-1. Fantl broke free down the left wing and beat Salem senior keeper Pawel Brzykcy with a rising shot inside the near post.

The Warriors took their first lead six minutes into the second half on freshman midfielder **Scott Mishley’s (Trumbull)** third goal of the year. After the Vikings tied the score less than a minute later, senior back **Kyle Bedini (Manchester)** gave the Warriors the lead again on a penalty kick (awarded for a foul in the box) midway through the half. The lead stood up until Boscoe forced OT with his third goal of the season. Kizaki contributed to all three Salem goals with a goal and two assists.

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Salem did not allow an Eastern shot in the second ten-minute OT session despite playing a man short after Boscoe was ejected after receiving his second yellow card with 16 seconds left in the first OT.

Eastern freshman **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** made six saves. In his first eight matches, Appel had surrendered but four goals.

The goal was the 23rd in 48 career matches for Fantl, a returning All-New England performer. He also had seven goals as a freshman, when he won conference Rookie-of-the-Year accolades.

Eastern returns to Little East Conference action Saturday at 1 p.m. at Keene State College in a re-match of last year's LEC playoff title match, won on penalty kicks by Eastern.

Eastern Conn. 3, Salem State College 3, 2 ot

Eastern Conn. (6-1-2)	1	2	(0)	(0)	--	3
Salem State (7-0-1)	1	2	(0)	(0)	--	3

Scoring: S-Yuta Kizaki 15:33; E-Maxim Fantl 30:50; E-Scott Mishley 51:19; S-Matt Figueiredo (Kizaki) 51:22; E-Kyle Bedini (penalty kick) 66:59; S-Padraic Boscoe (Kizaki) 86:54.

Shots: E-9, S-16; **Saves:** E-Carl Appel 6, S-Pawel Brzyczy 2.

Corner kicks: E-7, S-4.

little east conference

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008

NO SURPRISE: EASTERN AND KEENE PLAY TO OVERTIME TIE

In re-match of last year's Little East men's soccer title match, Warriors gain point

KEENE, NH -- The Eastern Connecticut State University and Keene State College men's soccer teams played to two overtime draws last year, the second coming in the Little East Conference championship match. To the surprise of few, the teams shared the top spot in this year's conference pre-season coaches' poll. So, it came as little surprise that the teams played to a 2-2 overtime draw Saturday.

It was the fifth straight time that the match between the clubs has extended into overtime and the fourth straight time it has ended in a draw.

The tie keeps No. 9 regionally-ranked Eastern (6-1-3, 1-0-2 little east) unbeaten in the conference and gives it five points. Keene State (3-5-3, 0-2-1 little east) remains winless in LEC play but picks up its first point.

Junior forward **Nicholas Boretti's** (Marshfield, MA) third goal of the year gave the Warriors a 2-1 lead with 19 minutes left in regulation, but Keene freshman midfielder John Fothergill answered with his second goal of the year with 11 minutes left to force overtime. In Tuesday's 3-3 overtime draw at No. 4 regionally-ranked Salem, the Warriros took a lead into the final three minutes before the Vikings gained the equalizer.

It is Eastern's third straight overtime tie this year. The Warriors have not lost any of their last 15 overtime matches (3-0-12) and have now lost only two of their last 21 conference matches (11-2-8/10-2-7 in the regular season). The Warriors also remain unbeaten (2-0-3) away from home this season. The overtime match was the sixth in 11 outings for Keene, which is 1-2-3 in ot games.

Sophomore midfielder Matt Johnson's first goal of the year on a free kick in the ninth minute gave Keene the early lead before senior back **Jimmy McConville** (Manchester) answered with his first goal of the season with a diving header on an assist from freshman back **Aaron Smiles** (Bedford, MA) 46 seconds before halftime to pull the Warriors even at the break.

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Both keepers turned in a number of standout saves to keep the match tied. Keene junior Peter Kersker came up big with diving saves twice to keep Eastern's leading scorer, all-region forward **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)** off the board. One came at in the closing minutes of regulation and the other coming at the 2:35 mark of the first overtime. Fantl took seven of Eastern's 17 shots, putting three on Kersker.

Eastern freshman keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** made a season-high ten saves, three in the second ten-minute overtime session. His best came in the second overtime, when he left his feet to stop a shot by Fothergill, barely getting an outstretched hand on the ball. Fothergill and freshman forward Quinton McMillian proved to be Keene's most dangerous offensive weapons. The pair combined to take 11 of the Owls' 16 shots, striking nine of them on net.

Keene, which has lost four straight, played without two starting defenders who were sitting out with red card suspensions, then lost senior forward Alex Horne in the first half due to injury. Horne is a three-time all-conference selection and has been second in conference scoring the last two years.

Eastern hosts Becker College Tuesday at 4 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 2, Keene State College 2, 2 ot

Eastern Conn. (6-1-3, 1-0-2 little east)	1	1	(0)	(0)	--	2
Keene State (3-5-3, 0-2-1 little east)	1	1	(0)	(0)	--	2

Scoring: K-Matt Johnson 8:29; E-Jimmy McConville (Aaron Smiles) 44:14; E-Nicholas Boretti (Mike Vekakis) 71:04; K-John Fothergill (Alex Larson) 78:42.

Shots: E-17, K-16; **Saves:** E-Carl Appel 10, K-Peter Kersker 5. **Corner kicks:** E-3, K-5.

little east conference

Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008

EASTERN M-SOCCER RUNS UNBEATEN STREAK TO TEN
Warriors remain undefeated in Little East with 2-0 victory over UMass Boston

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Eastern Connecticut State University all-region junior forward **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)** became the program's first ten-goal scorer in 15 years when the Warriors blanked the University of Massachusetts Boston, 2-0, Saturday in a Little East Conference men's soccer match at Thomas Nevers Field.

With its sixth home win in seven contests this season, Eastern (8-1-3, 2-0-2 little east) ran its unbeaten streak to ten (7-0-3). Eastern remains one of three unbeaten teams in the conference along with the University of Southern Maine and Rhode Island College. Both are 4-0-0.

After coming off the bench in a scoreless first half, freshman midfielder **Sean Collins (Bristol)** started the second half and needed only 85 seconds to give the Warriors a 1-0 lead with his second goal of the season. With a final 22-4 advantage in shots, Eastern was able to maintain that lead until Fantl recorded his team-leading tenth goal of the season with just over four minutes left. Both Eastern goals were set up on head balls by junior forward **Nicholas Boretti (Marshfield, MA)**, who is one of three players on the team with four assists.

Fantl, who has 26 career goals in 51 matches, becomes the first Eastern player with as many as ten goals since all-region forward Stephen Chirgwin totaled 14 for a 9-10-1 team in 1993.

The win is the ninth straight for Eastern over UMass (4-8-0, 0-4-0 little east) – the last eight coming by shutout. Eastern is 12-2-8 in its last 22 conference regular-season and post-season contests.

Freshman keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** lowered his goals-against average to 0.74 with his fifth shutout in 12 starts. Appel needed only three saves, all coming in the first half.

Eastern hosts Bridgewater State College in a makeup game Sunday at 2 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 2, Massachusetts Boston 0

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

Scoring: Sean Collins (Nicholas Boretti) 46:25; Maxim Fantl (Boretti) 75:49.

Shots: M-4, E-22; **Saves:** M-Domenick Persuitte 7, E-Carl Appel 3. **Corner kicks:** M-7, E-3.

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little east conference

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2008

EASTERN M-SOCCER DOMINANT IN 3-0 WIN OVER BECKER

Warriors stretch unbeaten streak to nine; one loss after 11 games best since '69

WILLIMANTIC, Conn.-- After challenging for goals throughout the first half, the Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team was rewarded in the second half in a 3-0 non-conference victory over Becker College Tuesday afternoon at Thomas Nevers Field.

In the second half, Eastern (7-1-3) unloaded 15 shots and accumulated nine corner kicks, finally breaking through 13 minutes into the half in extending its unbeaten streak to nine (6-0-3) and running its home record to 5-1. Unbeaten for nearly a month, the Warriors have lost only one of 11 matches this season – their least number of losses after 11 games since winning their first 15 matches and winning the New England championship in 1969.

All-region junior forward **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)** scored twice in a span of 43 seconds against first-time opponent Becker (5-5-1) to provide the only cushion that the Warriors would need. The goals were the eighth and ninth of the season for Fantl, who now has 60 points (25 goals, ten assists) in a 50-game career. Junior midfielder **Mike Vekakis (Colchester)** converted a 25-yard blast for his second goal of the year with 15 minutes left to round out the scoring.

Freshman keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** did not make a save to net his fourth shutout of the season in 11 starts and lower his goals-against average to 0.81. Becker's only shot on goal – one of only two shots it had in the match -- came with Eastern leading 3-0 with 11 minutes left. The shot by Becker leading scorer Dircilino DeBrito was cleared off the goal line by senior back **Kyle Bedini (Manchester)**. DeBrito had beaten Appel to the ball at the edge of the box and chipped it over the keepers head toward the goal, where Bedini steered it away.

(more)

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Fantl's first goal was a one-timer off a cross from Bedini. Bedini's cross to the top of the box was headed straight up in the air by a Becker defender to the foot of Fantl, who beat Becker junior keeper Aaron Fill to give Eastern a 1-0 lead.

Eastern had two prime opportunities in the first half but could not break through and two more in the opening minutes of the second half before Fantl finally broke the stalemate. Freshman back **Aaron Smiles (Bedford, MA)** was involved in all four of those scoring chances with two crossing passes and two corner kicks. Fantl's header went wide on a cross from Smiles with nine minutes left in the first half. Minutes later, Smiles sent a corner kick to the far post, where unmarked freshman midfielder Sean Collins's (Bristol) failed header bounced off his leg and out of bounds.

In the opening ten minutes of the second half, the Warriors made two more unsuccessful attempts to get on the board. Five minutes into the half, Fantl was able to one-touch on net Smiles' bouncing cross into the box, but Fill dove to his right to make one of his ten saves. Three minutes later, senior midfielder **James Picarella's (Brewster, NY)** header off a corner kick by Smiles sailed wide right as the Hawks dodged another bullet.

In the match, Eastern outshot the visitors, 21-2, and didn't allow a corner kick while accumulating 13 of their own.

Eastern returns to Little East Conference play Saturday when it hosts Massachusetts Boston at 1 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 3, Becker College 0

Becker (5-5-1)	0	0	--	0
Eastern Conn. (7-1-3)	0	3	--	3

Scoring: Maxim Fantl 57:51; Fantl (Scott Mishley) 58:34; Mike Vekakis 76:32.
Shots:B-2, E-21; **Saves:** B-Aaron Fill 10, E-Carl Appel 0. **Corner kicks:** B-0, E-13.

little east conference

Sunday, Oct. 12, 2008

EASTERN M-SOCCER STRETCHES UNBEATEN STREAK TO 11
Warriors score both of their goals in 72 seconds in 2-1 victory over Bridgewater State

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team used a 72-second window to score both of its goals on an afternoon dominated by near-misses and the Warriors emerged with a 2-1 non-conference victory over Bridgewater State College Sunday afternoon at Thomas Nevers Field.

Both teams entered play sharing tenth place in the most recent NSCAA New England regional poll and boasting long unbeaten streaks. Eastern (9-1-3) stretches its unbeaten streak to 11 matches (8-0-3) – its longest streak since a 15-0 start in 1969 – while Bridgewater (9-2-2) had a nine-game unbeaten streak ended.

Outside of that 72-second span, the Warriors were unable to capitalize on numerous opportunities, many of them coming when they spent most all of the first 45 minutes in their offensive end.

The Warriors trailed 1-0 until tying the game 1-1 with 31:50 left in the match on senior midfielder **James Picarella's (Brewster, NY)** first goal of the season. Just over a minute later, they went ahead for good on all-region forward **Maxim Fantl's (West Hartford)** team-leading 11 goal of the season.

After Bridgewater struck first in the ninth minute on senior back Jon Machado's (Weymouth, MA) second goal of the season, Eastern could not cash in on at least five legitimate bids throughout the rest of the half. Among the lost chances was a penalty kick which was first awarded after a clash in the box, then negated following a consultation between referee Randolph Croteau and his linesmen.

Also in the first half, Picarella had two near-misses, hammering one shot directly at Bridgewater senior keeper Ryan Seifert (Ludlow, MA) and sending another shot on the ground inches wide of the post. Fantl also volleyed a pass from freshman back **Aaron Smiles (Bedford, MA)** right at Seifert with 12 minutes left. With time running out in the half, Fantl found freshman midfielder **Matt Esposito (East Haven)** all alone in front of the goal with a backward volley, but Esposito's unmolested attempt hit the outside netting of the goal as time was running out.

(more)

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Picarella finally tied the score with 31:50 left in the match with a perfectly-placed 25-yarder on a pass from freshman midfielder **Sean Collins (Bristol)**. Picarella drove the shot to the far left post, where Seifert's perfectly-timed dive to the right came up inches short. Seventy-two seconds later, Fantl leaped to head in a free kick from Smiles, who was credited with his team-leading fifth assist of the season on the play.

Bridgewater's first-half goal began with a free kick from just outside the box by sophomore midfielder Donald Flores (Cranston, RI). Machado controlled the pass and sent a low shot through a crowd toward freshman keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)**. Appel appeared to have smothered the attempt, but the momentum of the ball carried through his legs and rolled into the net. It was only the fourth goal given up this year in the first half by Appel, who has an overall 0.76 goals-against average and .833 save percentage.

Eastern had a number of additional chances in the second half to pad its lead, and had to withstand one Bridgewater flurry in the final minutes that nearly forced overtime. The best second-half chance for Eastern came on senior back **Kyle Bedini's (Manchester)** free kick from just outside the box, but Seifert was able follow the flight of the ball through a crowd and with an all-out dive, knock the shot heading inside the left post away with his fingertips.

Bridgewater was held without a shot in the second half until collecting two inside the final two minutes.

Eastern improves to 7-1 at home this year. The loss was the first for Bridgewater away from home after six wins and a tie. By defeating the Bears by a goal in each of the last three meetings, Eastern has tied the all-time series at 6-6-4.

Eastern visits the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 2, Bridgewater State College 1

Bridgewater State (9-2-2)	1	0	--	1
Eastern Conn. (9-1-3)	0	2	--	2

Scoring: B-Jon Machado (Donald Flores) 8:32; E-James Picarella (Sean Collins) 58:10; E-Maxim Fantl (Aaron Smiles) 59:22.

Shots: B-5, E-12; **Saves:** B-Ryan Seifert 4, E-Carl Appel 1.

Corner kicks: B-2, E-9.

Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008

EASTERN M-SOCCER STRETCHES UNBEATEN STREAK TO TWELVE
Defense records sixth shutout of year as Warriors win at CGA for first time since '02

NEW LONDON, Conn. -- Senior back **Jimmy McConville (Manchester)** scored his second goal in five matches in the 61st minute and the Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team extended its unbeaten streak to 12 matches with a 1-0 win over the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Wednesday night.

Ranked No. 6 in New England, Eastern (10-1-3) scored its first goal against Coast Guard (7-5) since beating the Bears by an identical score at New London in 2002. It was only Eastern's second win at Coast Guard in its last eight tries (2-5-1). The one-goal decision was the fifth straight for Coast Guard, which had won its last two (in overtime) after losing two straight by 1-0 scores.

Eastern's defense - backstopped by freshman **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** - made McConville's header off a corner kick by freshman back **Aaron Smiles (Bedford, MA)** 15 minutes into the second half stand up. The assist was the team-leading seventh of the year for Smiles, who has a helper in each of the team's last three matches and in four of the last five.

The Warriors controlled play throughout much of the match, withstanding several Coast Guard bids to tie the match in the final minutes. Recognized as the Little East Conference Rookie-of-the-Week Monday, Appel recorded his sixth save in 14 starts, lowering his goals-against average to 0.71 - the lowest since Sept. 28. Appel has posted three shutouts in his last four starts, allowing only one goal in that stretch.

The unbeaten streak is Eastern's longest since the 1969 New England champions took a 15-0 record into the NAIA national tournament. Prior to this year, Eastern had not won as many as ten matches after 14 contests since 1973, when it was 10-3-1 after the same number of matches and eventually qualified for its last (NAIA) national tournament.

Eastern returns to Little East Conference action Saturday when it hosts the University of Southern Maine at 1 p.m. The Warriors, last year's LEC regular-season and playoff champ, is 2-0-2 in conference play this year. Southern Maine and Rhode Island College stand atop the conference with perfect 4-0 records.

Eastern Conn. 1, U.S. Coast Guard Academy 0

Eastern Conn. (10-1-3)	0	1	--	1
Coast Guard (7-5-0)		0	0	-- 0

Scoring: Jimmy McConville (Aaron Smiles) 60:17.

Shots: E-9, C-7; **Saves:** E-Carl Appel 4, C-Tim Olah 3; **Corner kicks:** E-5, C-2.

little east conference

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008

EASTERN M-SOCCER PUSHES UNBEATEN STREAK TO 13

In battle of Little East unbeatens, Warriors emerge with 4-3 victory over USM

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — All-region junior forward **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)** had two goals and an assist as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team extended its unbeaten streak to 13 with a 4-3 Little East Conference victory over the University of Southern Maine Saturday afternoon at Thomas Nevers Field.

In a showdown between two of the three remaining undefeated teams in the conference, No. 6 regionally-ranked Eastern (11-1-3, 3-0-2 little east) broke a tie by scoring twice in a span of eight minutes midway through the second half to hand Southern Maine (9-6-1, 4-1-0 little east) its first conference loss. Now 10-0-3 in its last 13 matches, Eastern has lost only two of its last 23 conference matches (13-2-8) in improving to 8-1 at home this year. The Huskies are the last team to defeat Eastern in conference play, winning a 3-2 decision last October 13 at Gorham, Maine.

Eastern remained in third place in the conference but pulled to within two points of Rhode Island College and one point of Southern Maine. Rhode Island tied Plymouth State Saturday to move a point ahead of Southern Maine in the standings.

With the score tied 2-2 in the 61st minute, Eastern freshman midfielder **Matt Esposto (East Haven)** took a cross from freshman midfielder **Scott Mishley (Trumbull)**, touched it once, and beat Southern Maine junior keeper David Kreps to give Eastern the lead for good. Fantl, who entered play sharing the LEC goal and point lead with USM junior midfielder Peter McHugh, scored his conference-leading 13th goal of the season eight minutes later. Fantl gathered a loose ball in the six-yard box that was misplayed by the USM defense and beat junior keeper David Kreps to make it 4-2.

Southern Maine, which lost out to Eastern for the conference regular-season title on the last day of last year, had tied the match 2-2 eleven minutes into the second half. Eastern freshman keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** saved a penalty kick by McHugh, and also turned away a second shot off the rebound before senior midfielder Derek Peters finally beat the keeper by scoring his first goal of the season. The save on a penalty kick was the third this year for Appel, who had knocked aside two penalty kicks to preserve Eastern's 1-0 win over Ramapo Sept. 13. The score remained tied for less than five minutes, however, before Esposito put the Warriors ahead for good.

(more)

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The teams traded early goals to open the match. Junior forward **Nicholas Boretti (Marshfield, MA)** headed in a cross from Fantl in the eighth minute, and USM responded less than two minutes later when senior midfielder Greg Cox scored from in the box on sophomore midfielder Alex Burnham's free kick. Midway through the half, senior back **Kyle Bedini (Manchester)** played a ball over the USM defense to Fantl, who carried into the box and beat Kreps with a shot into the lower left corner. Peters' rebound following the missed penalty kick tied the match again 11 minutes into the second half before Esposito and Fantl scored eight minutes apart to give Eastern a two-goal cushion.

McHugh's 12th goal of the season pulled the Huskies to within one with 14 minutes left, but the visitors could not gain the equalizer. McHugh's goal into the upper right-hand portion of the net, followed a USM free kick that was deflected to the top of the 18-yard box. The shot eluded the dive of Appel.

Southern Maine's best opportunity to tie the match came with five minutes left, when Cox received a cross from junior back Brian King, but his shot was headed away by Eastern junior midfielder **Chris Bourdeau (Thompson)**.

Eastern visits Fitchburg State College Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 4, U. of Southern Maine 3

Southern Maine (9-6-1, 4-1-0 little east)	1	2 --	3
Eastern Conn. (11-1-3, 3-0-2 little east)	2	2 --	4

Scoring: E-Nicholas Boretti (Maxim Fantl) 7:26; S-Greg Cox (Alex Burnham) 9:16; E-Fantl (Kyle Bedini) 22:18; S-Derek Peters 56:00; E-Matt Esposito (Scott Mishley, Mike Vekakis) 60:25; E-Fantl 68:18; S-McHugh 76:26.

Shots: S-6, E-13; **Saves:** S-David Kreps 4, E-Carl Appel 2. **Corner kicks:** S-1, E-7.

little east conference

Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008

WITH OVERTIME WIN, RIC ENDS EASTERN M-SOCCER STREAKS
Warriors' loss and UMD's tie guarantees third place finish in final LEC standings

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Senior midfielder Brandon Migliore scored his second goal of the match seven minutes into overtime as Rhode Island College maintained its hold on first place in the Little East Conference with a 2-1 men's soccer victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday afternoon.

By handing No. 13 nationally-ranked Eastern (12-2-3, 3-1-2 little east) its first overtime loss after three wins and 12 ties since mid-October of 2005, Rhode Island College (10-4-3, 5-0-1 little east) moves to within a win or tie of its first LEC regular-season championship. With one regular-season conference match remaining, the Anchormen hold a one-point lead over the University of Southern Maine, which blanked Western Connecticut State University Saturday. Rhode Island, ranked No. 9 in New England has lost only one of its last 14 matches (10-1-3) since opening the season with three straight shutout losses.

Rhode Island and Southern Maine will finish 1-2 in the conference, the order of which depends upon the outcome of their match next Saturday. UMass Dartmouth's 2-2 double overtime tie against homestanding Plymouth State University guarantees Eastern third place in the final conference standings and a conference playoff semifinal-round road match November 5 against the No. 2 seed (either Rhode Island or Southern Maine). Eastern outlasted Southern Maine, 4-3, last Saturday at Nevers Field.

Eastern had defeated Rhode Island twice by 1-0 scores last year, the second time in the conference playoff semifinals at Nevers Field en route to its first LEC playoff title. The loss Saturday ends a string of four straight one-goal victories for Eastern, which also had a 14-match (11-0-3) unbeaten streak ended. The Warriors, which lost on the road for the first time after four wins and three ties, had not lost since a 2-0 decision to Trinity College in their home-opener Sept. 8.

After the hosts drew first blood on Migliore's 45-yard free kick in the 19th minute, Eastern a-region junior forward **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)** tied the match in the final minute of the first half with his conference-leading 14th goal — the most in a season by an Eastern player since freshman Stephen Chirgwin reached the total in 1993.

(more)

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Following a scoreless second half -- where Eastern outshot the hosts 9-2 -- RIC carried play in the extra session, which helped set up Migliore's heroics. Eastern freshman keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** slid in the box to control an Anchormen dump in, but could not corral the ball. Junior midfielder Ryan Kelley (Coventry, RI) settled the ball and sent a perfect crossing pass to a streaking Migliore, who ended the match with his fourth goal of the season.

The Anchormen dominated play in the first half and led 1-0 before Eastern got on the board with just 44 seconds remaining in the frame. Freshman back **Matt Kalmin (Burlington)** launched a pass from midfield that senior forward **Rukevwe Ehwarieme (Norwich)** flicked to Fantl. Fantl ran onto the ball and beat freshman goalkeeper Justin O'Connor to even the contest. The point is the first this year for Ehwarieme, who has been slowed this year by injuries after last year's 14-point season.

Appel has allowed more than one goal in just two of his last seven starts.

Eastern had not lost to Rhode Island in the four previous meetings between the program, the Warriors winning three and tying one.

Eastern hosts UMass Dartmouth Saturday at 1 p.m. in its regular-season finale.

Rhode Island College 2, Eastern Conn. 1, ot

Eastern Conn. (12-2-3, 3-1-2 little east)	1	0	(0)	--	1
Rhode Island (10-4-3, 5-0-1 little east)	1	0	(1)	--	2

Scoring: R-Brandon Migliore 18:18; E-Maxim Fantl (Rukevwe Ehwarieme, Matt Kalmin) 44:16; R-Migliore (Ryan Kelley) 96:53.

Shots: E-15, R-11; **Saves:** E-Carl Appel 3, R-Justin O'Connor 8; **Corner kicks:** E-5, R-2.

Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2008

EASTERN M-SOCCER EDGES FITCHBURG TO EXTEND WIN STREAK

One day after gaining first national ranking, Warriors win fourth straight one-goal decision

FITCHBURG, Mass. -- For the Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team, something new -- a national ranking -- produced something old -- a one-goal win -- in Wednesday night's 1-0 non-conference victory over Fitchburg State College.

One day after earning its first-ever national ranking (13th) in the NSCAA Division III Top 25 poll, the Warriors posted their fourth straight one-goal victory of 2008. The triumph came courtesy of junior defender/forward **Nicholas Boretti (Marshfield, MA)**, who cashed in his fifth goal of the season with less than three minutes remaining to snap a stalemate and give Eastern its 14 straight match without a loss (11-0-3).

The win is Eastern's fourth this season against three ties away from home and marks the fourth straight time in a span of 11 days that Eastern has emerged from a one-goal game with a win. A week ago Sunday, Eastern edged Bridgewater State, 2-1 at Nevers Field, then trimmed the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, 1-0, last Wednesday before recording a crucial 4-3 Little East Conference verdict over the University of Southern Maine Saturday at home.

Although Eastern was without senior backs **Kyle Bedini (Manchester)** and **Jimmy McConville (Manchester)** -- both nursing pulled muscles -- freshman keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** needed to make only two saves in order to register his seventh shutout of the year -- fourth in the last six starts. To replace the two defenders, Boretti began the evening on defense, and was joined there by regular midfielder **James Picarelli (Brewster, NY)**.

Early in the match, Boretti joined all-region forward **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)** up front. After 87 minutes of action, the move eventually paid dividends when Fantl found Boretti alone in the box with just under three minutes left. Boretti's initial shot was blocked by a Fitchburg (4-9-1) defender but bounced back to Boretti, who delivered his fifth game-winning goal in two years inside the near post, past junior keeper Matt Carey.

Eastern doubled Fitchburg's shot total (16 to 8) and was credited with six of the game's eight corner kicks.

(more)

For the second time in a week, Eastern will be involved in a battle of conference unbeatens when it faces Rhode Island College at noon. Eastern is 3-0-2 in the conference, Rhode Island 4-0-1. The Anchormen lead the LEC with 13 points, with the University of Southern Maine next with 12 points and Eastern third with 11.

Eastern Conn. 1, Fitchburg State College 0

Eastern Conn. (12-1-3)	0	1	--	1
Fitchburg State (4-9-1)	0	0	--	0

Scoring: Nicholas Boretti 87:07.

Shots: E-16, F-8; **Saves:** E-Carl Appel 2, F-Matt Carey 7. **Corner kicks:** E-6, F-2.

little east conference

Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008

EASTERN M-SOCCER PREPS FOR LEC PLAYOFFS WITH 7-0 WIN
Warriors open defense of their conference playoff title Wednesday at Rhode Island College

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. - The Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team put the finishing touches on its winningest regular season in 16 years with a 7-0 Little East conference victory over the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Saturday afternoon at Thomas Nevers Field.

Senior forward **Rukevwe Ehwarieme (Norwich)** scored his first two goals of the season and conference scoring leader **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)** added his 15th for Eastern (13-2-3, 4-1-2), which opens defense of its 2007 LEC playoff championship Wednesday at Rhode Island College. The loss leaves UMass Dartmouth (7-10-1, 2-4-1) out of the five-team LEC playoffs. The Corsairs entered play in a two way tie for fourth place.

The Warriors are seeded third behind regular-season champion University of Southern Maine and second seeded Rhode Island. USM won its first conference title by besting visiting Rhode Island, 1-0. Saturday. Rhode Island is the only team to beat Eastern in conference play this year, recording a 2-1 overtime victory at Providence last Saturday. Fourth-seeded Plymouth State University will host fifth-seeded Western Connecticut State University in a Monday play-in game. Western qualified with a 3-0 win over five-team conference playoff champion Keene State Saturday night.

Eastern scored three times in the opening 18 minutes Saturday in scoring as many as seven goals in a match for the first time since downing Westfield State College by an identical score Sept. 22, 1992. It is the most goals scored by either team in the 42-game series with UMass. The Warriors are 4-0-1 against the Corsairs in the last five meetings.

Ehwarieme and senior midfielder **Mike Vekakis (Colchester)** both scored on headers to spark Eastern to a quick 2-0 lead eight minutes into play, and senior midfielder **James Picarella (Brewster, NY)** made it 3-0 with his second goal of the season in the 19th minute of play.

Eleven different players had either a goal or assist for Eastern, which is the top offensive team in the conference. Behind Ehwarieme, Vekakis and Fantl had a goal and assist each. No Eastern player has scored more than 15 goals in a season since Jason Brasher totaled 17 as a senior in 1991.

(more)

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Freshman **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** and junior transfer **Rick Emery (Brewster, NH)** combined on six saves to help the Warriors to their eighth shutout of the season.

The loss to Rhode Island last week ended a 14-game unbeaten streak for Eastern, which shut out RIC, 1-0 in last year's playoff semifinals at Nevers Field.

Eastern Conn. 7, UMass Dartmouth 0

UMass Dartmouth (7-10-1, 2-4-1 little east)	0	0	--	0
Eastern Conn. (13-2-3, 4-1-2 little east)	4	3	--	7

Scoring: Rukeywe Ehwarieme (Aaron Smiles) 2:58; Mike Vekakis (Nicholas Boretti) 8:19; James Picarella (Vekakis, Maxim Fantl) 18:15; Stephen Bafumi 37:58; Fantl (Chris Bourdeau) 48:17; Dustin Huguenin (Scott Mishley) 82:42; Ehwarieme (Kyle Wallace) 87:12.

Shots: MD-7, E-30; **Saves:** MD-Anel Brkic 12, E-Carl Appel 4 (75:00 min.), Rick Emery 2 (15:00). **Corner kicks:** MD-0, E-7.

little east conference

Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008

EASTERN M-SOCCER TRIPPED UP IN LITTLE EAST SEMIS

For second time in 11 days, Rhode Island posts a 2-1 home victory over Warriors

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – for the second time in 11 days, Rhode Island College defeated Eastern Connecticut State University by a score of 2-1 in a Little East Conference men's soccer match. The first time, it halted the Warriors' 14-game unbeaten streak. Wednesday night, it ended their bid for a second straight conference playoff title.

After 64 scoreless minutes, the teams combined for all of the game's goals in a span of five minutes. The teams traded goals two minutes apart before reserve junior forward Dan Rodrigues gave second-seeded Rhode Island College (11-5-4) the lead for good when he headed a free kick from senior midfielder Brandon Migliore inside the right post with 21 minutes left.

Third-seeded Eastern (13-3-3), which won its first LEC playoff title a year ago, awaits a possible at-large bid to the NCAA Division III tournament when invitations are extended Monday. Eastern was ranked sixth in the most recent NCAA New England regional rankings, which is voted on by the NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Committee. Rhode Island was unranked.

Rhode Island, which has lost only two of its last 17 following an 0-3 start, chases its first conference title in its second championship match appearance in four years when it hosts fourth-seeded Plymouth State University Saturday. The Panthers advanced to the title match for the fifth time with a 3-0 upset of top-seeded University of Southern Maine earlier Wednesday. Plymouth opened the tournament by eliminating fifth-seeded Western Connecticut, 6-0, Monday in a play-in game. Plymouth won its only title in 2000.

The match featured the conference's top-ranked defensive team in Rhode Island (the Anchormen have not given up more than one goal in their last 13 matches) against the loop's top-rated offense in Eastern (the Warriors were second in defense during the regular season) and featured freshmen keepers in **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** of Eastern and Justin O'Connor of Rhode Island.

Wednesday, freshman forward Bruno Costa ended a stalemate with his team-leading seventh goal of the season when he capitalized on an Eastern turnover and beat Appel by

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drilling a shot inside the post in the 64th minute. Just over two minutes later, Eastern answered back when Eastern senior back **Kyle Bedini (Manchester)** unloaded a long free kick that tied the match. The match stayed tied for less than three minutes when Rodrigues knocked in a head ball off Migliore's corner kick that kept Rhode Island unbeaten (8-0-2) at home this season.

Eastern had a number of opportunities to tie the match and Rhode Island made several bids to add a goal to their cushion. After Rodrigues' go-ahead goal, Eastern uncorked six of its 15 shots, with O'Connor forced to make three saves. The Warriors also earned three corner kicks in a span of four minutes in their bid to gain the equalizer, but none resulted in a shot on goal.

Following a scoreless and evenly-played first half, Rhode Island applied pressure throughout most of the second half, collecting four shots in the first nine minutes of the stanza. Costa nearly scored the game's first goal but his uncontested shot off a goal punt skidded wide, and a shot by junior midfielder Ryan Kelley less than a minute later hit the post.

Eastern junior forward **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)**, the LEC's leading scorer with 15 goals, was bottled up by the Rhode Island defense, which held him without a shot.

O'Connor was called upon to make nine shots. Appel made three saves and also got help from the defense, which cleared two balls off the goal line.

Rhode Island College 2, Eastern Conn. 1

Eastern Conn. (13-3-3)	0	1	--	1
Rhode Island College (11-5-4)	0	2	--	2

Scoring: R-Bruno Costa 64:13; E-Kyle Bedini 66:17; R-Dan Rodrigues (Brandon Migliore) 69:03.

Shots: E-15, R-16; **Saves:** E-Carl Appel 3, R-Justin O'Connor 9. **Corner kicks:** E-6, R-4.

little east conference

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008

EASTERN M-SOCCER OPENS ECAC TOURNEY WITH 5-0 WIN

Warriors host Husson College Saturday at 1 p.m. in semifinal round

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. Five different players contributed goals as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team won its first post-season game since 1977 with a 5-0 victory over Nichols College in the first round of the ECAC New England Division III Tournament Wednesday afternoon at Thomas Nevers Field.

Top-seeded Eastern (14-3-3) advances to the tournament semifinals Saturday when it hosts fourth-seeded Husson College (11-6-1) at 1 p.m. In the other semifinal Saturday, second-seeded Curry College hosts the third-seeded U.S. Coast Guard Academy. In other quarterfinal-round matches Wednesday, Husson blanked fifth-seeded University of Southern Maine, 3-0, Curry downed seventh-seeded Laswell College, 1-0, and Coast Guard eliminated sixth-seeded Saint Joseph College, ME in overtime, 1-0. The tournament championship match is scheduled for Sunday at the site of the highest remaining seed.

Junior forward **Nicholas Boretti (Marshfield, MA)** took a return feed from senior midfielder **Mike Vekakis (Colchester)** and scored on a one-timer from ten yards with just 4:06 elapsed to give Eastern a quick lead. Junior forward **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)**, the Little East Conference Offensive Player-of-the-Year, scored his team-leading 16th goal of the year five minutes before halftime, and the Warriors scored three times in 14 minutes in the second half. Fantl's goal total is the highest in a season since Jason Brasher was credited with 17 in 1991.

Nichols (11-10-1), which reached the championship game of The Commonwealth Coast Conference (TCCC) tournament as the No. 7 seed, was held without a shot until sophomore midfielder Michael Schell (South Windsor, CT) sent a 25-yarder well over the crossbar eight minutes into the second half. Eastern freshman keeper **Carl Appel's (West Windsor, NJ)** only save over his 71-minute stint came with 25:36 left in the match.

Ranked third in New England and No. 24 in Division III, Eastern improved to 10-1-0 at home this year with its seventh win without a loss to Nichols in this series. It was the first meeting between the clubs since 1987.

The post-season win was the first for Eastern since it outlasted Wesleyan University, 3-2, in eight overtime in the semifinals of the 1977 ECAC Division II-III tournament at Middletown. It marked Eastern's first post-season match at home in 35 years. If Eastern wins its next two matches and captures its second ECAC crown (first since 1974), the Warriors would tie the program record of 16 wins, set during a 16-2 season in 1969, when it won the New England championship.

Eastern defeated Husson College, 8-1, on Sept. 21 at Nevers Field.

Eastern Conn. 5, Nichols College 0

Nichols (11-10-1)	0	0	--	0
Eastern Conn. (14-3-3)	2	3	--	5

Scoring: Nicholas Boretti (Mike Vekakis) 4:06; Maxim Fantl (Kyle Bedini) 37:47; Rukevwe Ehwarieime (Boretti, Fantl) 57:35; Matt Esposito (Stephen Bafumi) 63:09; Dustin Huguenin 71:20.

Shots: N-5, E-23; **Saves:** N-Brendan Hamilton 6 (4 goals allowed, 63:09), Clayton Johnson 1 (1, 26:51); E-Carl Appel 1 (71:20), Pat Wagner 1 (9:20), Rick Emery 0 (9:20); **Corner kicks:** N-6, E-6.

little east conference

Saturday, Nov. 15, 2008

EASTERN M-SOCCER ADVANCES TO ECAC TITLE GAME

Top-seeded Warriors roll to 6-0 win, visit third-seeded U.S. Coast Guard Sunday

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University scored five goals in the second half on the way to a 6-0 victory over fourth-seeded Husson University Saturday afternoon in the semifinals of the 2008 ECAC New England Division III Tournament at Thomas Nevers Field.

The win moves Eastern (15-3-3) into its first ECAC title match since 1977. The Warriors, who captured the 1974 ECAC Division II-III title, will visit third-seeded U.S. Coast Guard Academy (12-8-1) in the championship match Sunday at 1 p.m. Unplayable field conditions necessitated the move from Eastern's grass field to Coast Guard's artificial turf facility. Coast Guard scored in the second minute of play and went on to a 2-0 win at second-seeded Curry College Saturday afternoon.

The first goal of the match against Husson was the first point in the career of Eastern senior back **Bill Constantine (Glastonbury)**, whose shot bounced off the leg of a Husson defender at the right post to snap a scoreless tie with nine minutes left in the first half. Eastern scored twice in five minutes to make it 3-0 early in the second half, and added three more goals in eight minutes late in the match.

Sophomore midfielder **Justin Millette (Central Village)** followed Constantine's first career goal by scoring his first goal of the season to give Eastern a 2-0 lead 11 minutes into the second half, and junior forward **Nicholas Boretti (Marshfield, MA)** made it 3-0 five minutes later with his seventh goal of the season. Millette blasted in an 18-yarder on the rebound of a shot that bounced directly to him in the middle of the box, while Boretti finished off a pretty setup from junior midfielder **Chris Bourdeau (Thompson)** and junior forward **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)** following a short Eastern corner kick.

Senior forward **Rukevwe Ehwarieme (Norwich)** scored twice in the final ten minutes and junior forward **Dustin Huguenin (Gales Ferry)** scored, then assisted, on the final two goals of the match. Ehwarieme has five goals and an assist in the last four matches after failing to score a goal in his first 13 matches this season. Ehwarieme staved off a double team in the box to slip the ball inside the far post, and Huguenin capitalized on a Husson turnover inside the box, sending in his fourth goal of the season into the net from the right post.

(more)

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Eastern concludes its home season with 11 straight wins after losing its opener, defeating Husson (11-7-1) decisively at Nevers Field for the second time this year. On Sept. 21, the Warriors posted an 8-1 win over the Eagles. The Warriors are the only team to beat Coast Guard on its home field this season, recording a 1-0 win Oct. 15 when senior back **Jimmy McConville (Manchester)** knocked in a header off a corner kick from freshman back **Aaron Smiles (Bedford, MA)** in the 61st minutes. The Bears are 9-1-1 at home, Eastern 4-2-3 on its opponents' home field.

Eastern has won one ECAC title, that coming in the Division II-III tournament in 1974 with one-goal wins over the University of Hartford and New England College. In 1977, Eastern defeated Wesleyan University in overtime in the opening round of the tournament before losing to Middlebury in overtime.

An Eastern win Sunday would equal the program record of 16 wins in a season, set in the New England championship season of 1969.

Eastern Conn. 6, Husson U. 0

Husson U. (11-7-1)	0	0	--	0
Eastern Conn. (15-3-3)	1	5	--	6

Scoring: Bill Constantine (Jimmy McConville) 36:32; Justin Millette (Nicholas Boretti) 56:23; Boretti (Chris Bourdeau, Maxim Fantl) 61:43; Rukevwe Ehwarieme (James Picarella, Scott Mishley) 79:58; Dustin Huguenin 83:50; Ehwarieme (Huguenin) 87:34. **Shots:** H-9, E-23; **Saves:** H-Miguel Dominguez 9, E-Carl Appel 2 (79:58), Rick Emery 1 (10:02). **Corner kicks:** H-2, E-8.

little east conference

Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008

EASTERN M-SOCCER DENIED ECAC TOURNAMENT CROWN

Third-seeded Bears score only goal of match with 2:20 left to defeat top seed

NEW LONDON, Conn. – The third-seeded U.S. Coast Guard Academy avenged its only home loss of the season by scoring the only goal of the match with 2:20 left to knock off top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University in the championship game of the 2008 ECAC New England Division III Tournament Sunday afternoon.

Beaten by Eastern (15-4-3) by an identical score a month ago, Coast Guard avenged that loss when senior back James Toohey scored in the box on a long serve from junior midfielder Brandon McMillan in the 88th minute of play following a throw-in. It was the only goal allowed by either team in five tournament games, as both clubs had posted shutouts in their previous tournament matches.

Coast Guard concludes the season with ten wins and a tie at home while Eastern finishes with a 4-3-3 record on the road. A winner of its final 11 home games after an opening loss Sept. 8, Eastern easily won its first two tournament games at home, but the title match was moved to Coast Guard's artificial turf field after the weekend rain made Eastern's Thomas Nevers Field unplayable.

The top-rated offensive team in the Little East Conference this year (averaging 2.7 goals per game), Eastern re-grouped in the second half Sunday after spending the better part of the first half in its own end. Applying offensive pressure throughout, the Warriors outshot the Bears 10-4 over the final 45 minutes, but were unable to cash in on a number of near-misses. Coast Guard junior keeper Tim Olah was called upon for only four saves in the match, as the majority of Eastern's scoring bids either sailed over the crossbar or wide of the post.

"We didn't finish our chances today, but I thought we played great soccer for most of the game," noted second-year head coach Greg DeVito, who led Eastern this year to only its second ECAC tournament since 1977. "I thought that we had the better of play. We sort of got beat today on a weird bounce and a lucky skim off someone's head or whatever the ball hit. But the defense was totally solid. We didn't really concede a solid scoring opportunity the whole match, and we probably had ten of our own."

(more)

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After Toohey scored his third goal of the season after getting behind the Eastern defense and picking up a deflected serve, Eastern had a corner kick headed over the end line in the final minutes, and with 31 seconds left, senior forward **Rukevwe Ehwarieme (Norwich)** sent a header off a serve from freshman back **Aaron Smiles (Bedford, MA)** over the bar.

After a scoreless first period, the Warriors created no less than four opportunities to score the first goal of the match in the second half. Seven minutes into the frame, junior forward **Maxim Fantl (West Hartford)** found room in front of the net, but volleyed a pass from junior midfielder **Chris Bourdeau (Thompson)** over the bar. Sixteen minutes later, Olah left his feet to knock away a re-directed shot, then found good fortune when sophomore midfielder **Stephen Bafumi (Meriden)** sent the rebound off the right post of an unprotected goal. Junior forward **Nicholas Boretta (Marshfield, MA)**, who missed 11 minutes of the second half with a knee injury after being knocked over the end line and onto the track, returned with 21 minutes left in the match. A minute later, he received the ball in front of the net following an Eastern corner kick, but sent it over the crossbar to keep the game scoreless.

With just under 16 minutes left, Fantl targeted freshman midfielder **Matt Esposito (East Haven)** with a crossing pass into the box from the end line. The ball squirmed loose when Olah collided with Esposito. Eastern regained possession and sophomore midfielder **Justin Millette (Central Village)** sent a back pass to the top of the box to Bourdeau, who hammered a left-footer over the crossbar. Two minutes later, Smiles drove a shot toward an open net that eluded Olah's dive to his left, but settled into the outside part of the netting.

Freshman keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** made six saves, five coming in the first half when Coast Guard controlled the tempo and threatened to score first by serving long balls into the box.

Appel started all 22 matches this year and had a 0.83 goals-against average and .811 save percentage and collected seven full shutouts and shared three additional ones. The opponent was limited to one or no goals 16 times.

DeVito was disappointed that the championship game was moved to Coast Guard's home field but was not disappointed with his team's effort.

(more)

“No matter where you play, you have to show up to play. You have to be sharp, and you have to finish your chances,” pointed out DeVito. “We created a lot of chances to score, and we felt like we played well enough to win. I think that our (home) field would have been a little too sloppy (to play there Sunday), but I would have liked to see (ECAC officials) wait one more day and play this game (Monday), to be honest with you, so that we could have the home field advantage... we worked our butts off all season long to get it.”

Ranked third in New England and 24th nationally in the final NSCAA regular-season polls, Eastern allowed only 20 goals in 22 matches this year and finished by equaling the second-highest win total in a season in program history. Only the 1969 New England championship team compiled more wins en route to a 16-2 record. This year’s win total is the highest since 1969.

Mike Vekakis (Colchester), who controlled play at center midfield throughout the match for Eastern, was one of six seniors who closed out careers. Other seniors were Ehwarieme, midfielder **James Picarella (Brewster, NY)** and backs **Jimmy McConville (Manchester)**, **Bill Constantine (Glastonbury)**, and **Kyle Bedini (Manchester)**. All except Vekakis were four-year players.

“The seniors brought this program a long way,” praised DeVito. “We were in the (national) Top 25 and in the top five in New England most of the season. We accomplished a lot of things.”

U.S. Coast Guard Academy 1, Eastern Conn. 0

Eastern Conn. (15-4-3)	0	0	--	0
Coast Guard (13-8-1)	0	1	--	1

Scoring: James Toohey (Brandon McMillan) 87:40.
Shots: E-15, C-10; **Saves:** E-Carl Appel 6, C-Tim Olah 4.

MOLTA, Bob (Athletics)

From: Southard, Jason S. [Jason.S.Southard@uscga.edu]
Sent: Sunday, November 16, 2008 3:57 PM
To: sports@theday.com; sports@norwichbulletin.com; sports@courant.com; sports@globe.com; Sports@bostonherald.com; results@ecac.org; NEWMAC Media Relations; MOLTA, Bob (Athletics)
Subject: ECAC Men's Soccer Championship: Coast Guard 1, Eastern Conn. 0

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11/16/08

**ECAC DIVISION III NEW ENGLAND TOURNAMENT
 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME**

COAST GUARD 1, EASTERN CONN. 0

(at New London, Conn.)

Coast Guard	0	1	--	1
Eastern Conn.	0	0	--	0

Goals: C-James Toohey (Brandon McMillan), 87:40.

Shots: E 15; CG 10..

Saves: E-Carl Appel 6; CG-Tim Olah 4.

Team Records: E 14-4-3; C 13-8-1.

NEW LONDON, CONN.--ECAC Tournament Most Outstanding Player senior James Toohey scored with 2:20 left in regulation as third-seeded Coast Guard beat top-seeded Eastern Connecticut 1-0 to capture the ECAC New England Division III Championship.

The Bears (13-8-1), who did not allow a goal in the entire tournament, win the program's third ECAC Championship and first since 1998.

Coast Guard which got to play on its home field because the Eastern Connecticut field was unplayable, got payback as the Warriors were the only team to beat the Bears at home this season as Coast Guard finishes 10-1-1 at home. Eastern Conn. beat the Bears 1-0 on Oct. 15th.

Junior Brandon McMillan assisted on the only goal of the game, but each team had other chances.

Eastern (14-4-3), ranked 24th nationally and third in the New England, had a chance to take the lead when junior Maxim Fantl blasted one over the crossbar with 38:22 left and then with 15:46 left in regulation junior Chris Bourdeau missed high, sailing it over the cross bar.

11/16/2008

Coast Guard also had an opportunity with 21:30 left when senior David O'Brien's header was stopped by freshman keeper Carl Appel

Appel finished with six saves while Coast Guard junior Tim Olah, made four saves and recorded his third straight shutout in the tournament and eighth of the season.

Eastern Conn. was making its first appearance in an ECAC Championship game since 1977.