

Saturday, Sept. 4, 2010

DEFENDING CHAMP EASTERN M-SOCCER WINS BABSON CLASSIC OPENER

Furman scores first goal and assists on winner in 2-1 season-opening victory over MIT

BABSON PARK, Mass. – Junior forward **Matt Furman (Montville)** scored the first goal and assists on sophomore midfielder **Cory Tobler's (Portland)** game-winning early in the second half as defending Babson College Classic champion Eastern Connecticut State University turned back MIT, 2-1, Saturday at Rogers-Hartwell Field.

Babson (2-0-0) recorded its second straight 3-0 victory of the year, downing Wentworth Institute of Technology earlier Saturday. The winner of the Eastern-Babson match Sunday at 1 p.m. will be declared the champion of the fourth annual tournament.

The top returning scorer from a 2009 team which lost its top two scorers, Furman scored his eighth goal in 22 matches at Eastern in the 14th minute. MIT (1-1-0) tied the match three minutes before intermission before Tobler one-timed a cross from Furman in the 57th minute to provide junior keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** with a lead that he protected over the final 33 minutes. Furman's goal glanced off an MIT defender and trickled past diving junior keeper Dylan Rankin., who was beaten by Eastern, 3-1, in last year's tournament opener.

Senior Christian Therkelsen stole the ball from a defender and sent a perfect cross into the box from the left side to set up MIT's tying goal. Junior Zachary Kabelac headed a shot over Appel and just under the crossbar.

MIT outshot Eastern 19-10 and amassed a 10-5 advantage in corner kicks, forcing and Appel into seven saves. Rankin made three.

Eastern's veteran returning team featured only two freshmen in the starting line-up: forward **Mitch Power (Douglas, MA)** and defender **Mike Radlbeck (Westbrook)**.

The Warriors defeated Babson in last year's second game, 1-0, on a fluke goal ten minutes into the second half. In his collegiate debut, goalkeeper **Jordan Munsell (Waterford)** made four saves in the shutout victory.

Eastern, which tied the program record last year with 16 wins, has won 17 of 19 matches against New England competition over the last two years. The Warriors have now won nine straight regular-season and Little East Conference tournament matches since a 2-0 loss at Kean University last October 12.

Eastern Conn. 2, MIT 1

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

Scoring: E-Matt Furman 13:32; M-Zachary Kabelac (Christian Therkelsen) 41:46; E-Cory Tobler (Furman) 56:51.

Shots: E-10, M-19; **Saves:** E-Carl Appel 7, M-Dylan Rankin 4.

Corner kicks: E-5, M-10.

Sunday, Sept. 5, 2010

EASTERN M-SOCCER RETAINS BABSON COLLEGE CLASSIC TITLE

For second straight season, Warriors top host Beavers by a goal in championship game

BABSON PARK, Mass. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men’s soccer team capped its second two-game sweep in the Babson College Classic in as many years, repeating as the champion by beating the host team by a goal in the title game, 3-2, Sunday afternoon at Hartwell-Rogers Field.

Three of Eastern’s (2-0) four wins in the tournament in two seasons have come by a goal. Last year, the Warriors downed MIT, 3-1, and Babson, 1-0. This year, Eastern emerged with a 2-1 victory over MIT Saturday. Pairings in the tournament are pre-determined.

Junior forward **Matt Furman (Montville)** contributed to four of the team’s five tournament goals with a goal and assist in each contest. The team’s leading returning scorer, Furman assisted on sophomore midfielder **Cory Tobler’s (Portland)** tying goal midway through the first half, then scored an insurance goal on an assist from sophomore midfielder **Jon DeCasanova (Glastonbury)** to make it 3-1 midway through the second half.

After Tobler tied the match in the 21st minute, junior back **Aaron Smiles (Bedford, MA)** found freshman midfielder **Luke Capezzone (Colchester)** with a free kick six minutes later to give the Warriors the lead for good. The goal was the first in the career of Capezzone. Smiles had two assists, bringing his total to 20 in 45 career matches.

Babson (2-1) scored first – in the 18th minute -- when sophomore Eric Anderson sent the ball to junior captain Max Walker in the right corner. Walker then sent a cross into the box, where junior Jimmy Stento headed a shot into the upper right corner. Behind an experienced defense, Eastern junior keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** kept the hosts off the board over the next 50-plus minutes – enough time for the Warriors to knock three of their own behind Babson junior netminder Peter Crowley. Appel totaled seven saves in each tournament match. Crowley did not stop any of Eastern’s three shots on net.

Eastern answered Babson’s early goal with a pair of goals in a six-minute span, both coming off restarts after Babson fouls just outside the box on the right side. On the first, Smiles sent the ball to the far side, where Furman headed the ball back to the near side post. There, Tobler easily blasted it over the goal line.

Six minutes later, another foul gave the Warriors another free kick at nearly the same spot. Smiles again hit a perfect service, this time to the center of the box where Luke Capezzone one-timed it inside the right post to make it 2-1.

(more)

Eastern scored what would prove to be the decisive goal in the 68th minute, as a perfect through-ball by DeCasanova sent Furman in all alone on Crowley. The junior forward then tucked it past the charging goalie and inside the right post to make it a two-goal margin.

Following last year's tournament encounter between the teams, both clubs went on to capture their respective conference titles, earn a bid to the NCAA Division III tournament , and post near-identical final records (Eastern 16-5-1, Babson 15-6-1).

Starting freshman forward **Mitch Power (Douglas, MA)** twisted his ankle in the first half and will be out of action for an indefinite period.

Eastern Conn. 3, Babson College 2

Eastern Conn. (2-0)	2	1	--	3
Babson College (2-1)	1	1	--	2

Scoring: B-Jimmy Stento (Max Walker, Eric Anderson) 17:39; E-Cory Tobler (Matt Furman, Aaron Smiles) 20:06; E-Luke Capezzone (Smiles) 26:07; E-Furman (Jon DeCasanova) 67:22; B-Mike Fisher (Derek Foy) 70:32.
Shots: E-5, B-13; **Saves:** E-Carl Appel 7, B-Peter Crowley 0.

Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2010

NO. 4 EASTERN M-SOCCER DOMINANT IN VICTORY OVER FITCHBURG STATE
Warriors record 27-7 advantage in shots and score two early goals to soar past Falcons, 5-1

FITCHBURG, Mass. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men’s soccer team built a three-goal lead by the midway point of the first half and cruised to a 5-1 non-conference victory over Fitchburg State University Wednesday night.

Ranked No. 4 in the first NSCAA New England poll of the season, Eastern (3-0-0) soccer team scored twice in the first 11 minutes and pushed the lead to 3-0 in the 20th minute when sophomore midfielder **Jon DeCasanova (Glastonbury)** scored his second goal of the match on a feed from junior tri-captain **Sean Collins (Bristol)**. Sophomore back **Bradley Fletcher’s (Middletown)** first career goal made it 4-0 with 14 minutes left in the first half. Fletcher converted a penalty kick after sophomore midfielder **Cory Tobler (Portland)** was dragged down in the box.

DeCasanova re-directed junior back **Aaron Smiles (Bedford, MA)** corner kick past Fitchburg keeper Alex Ivanov to make it 1-0 in the fourth minute, and junior forward **Matt Furman (Montville)** scored his team-leading third goal of the year seven minutes later to double the margin. Freshman midfielder **Jordan Clark (Manchester)** came off the bench to score his first career goal to make it 5-0 with 20 minutes left.

Neither sophomore keeper **Jordan Munsell (Waterford)** nor junior keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** needed to make a save while splitting time in net. Eastern outshot the Falcons, 27-7 and featured a 9-3 advantage in corner kicks.

Eastern, last year’s Little East Conference champion, won for the 11th time in the last 12 matches (the loss coming in the NCAA tournament) and won for the seventh straight time over Fitchburg (0-3-0).

Eastern visits Ramapo College Saturday at 2 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 5, Fitchburg State U. 1

Eastern Conn. (3-0-0)	4	1	-- 5
Fitchburg State (0-3-0)	0	1	-- 1

Scoring: E-Jon DeCasanova (Aaron Smiles) 3:51; E-Matt Furman (Cory Tobler) 10:42; ;E-DeCasanova (Sean Collins) 19:28; E-Bradley Fletcher (penalty kick) 31:00; E-Jordan Clark 70:17; F-Carmen Bordonaro 76:39.

Shots: E-27, F-7; **Saves:** E-Jordan Munsell 0 (0 goals allowed, 45:00 min.), Carl Appel 0 (1, 45:00), F-Alex Ivanov 9; **Corner kicks:** E-9, F-3.

Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010

BEHIND APPEL, EASTERN MEN'S SOCCER WINS BATTLE OF UNBEATENS
Junior keeper shuts out Ramapo for second time in as many starts against Roadrunners, 2-0

MAHWAH, NJ. – Junior keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** shut out Ramapo College of New Jersey for the second time in as many career starts and sophomore midfielder **Cory Tobler (Portland)** broke a tie in the 57th minute as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team remained unbeaten with a 2-0 non-conference victory over the previously-unbeaten hosts Saturday afternoon at the RC Athletic Center.

Ranked No. 4 in New England, Eastern (4-0-0) is unbeaten (2-0-1) in its last three meetings with Ramapo (4-1-1) after losing eight of the first nine in the series which dates back to 1999. All four of the team's wins this year have come away from home.

Appel, who made five saves in shutting out the Roadrunners, 1-0, in his fourth career start two years ago on the same field, made nine saves Saturday to post his 13th full shutout in 45 career starts.

The game-winning goal is the second this season for Tobler, who scored with 56:51 gone to break a 1-1 tie in a season-opening victory over MIT a week ago at the Babson College Classic. Tobler's goal off a pass from junior midfielder **Sean Collins (Bristol)**. Eastern's defense kept that lead intact until freshman midfielder **Luke Capezzone (Colchester)** came off the bench for his second career goal inside the final ten minutes.

Eastern's starting defense of junior **Aaron Smiles (Bedford, MA)**, sophomores **Bradley Fletcher (Middletown)** and **Jon DeCasanova (Glastonbury)** and freshman **Mike Radlbeck (Westbrook)** helped the Warriors lower their season goals-against average to 1.00 (four goals in four matches). Ramapo sophomore forward Rob Santaniello, last year's New Jersey Athletic Conference Rookie-of-the-Year, managed nine of his team's 18 shots, with Appel making saves on four of them. Santaniello had scored 25 goals in his first 21 collegiate matches heading into play Saturday. Ramapo's best chance came in the 30th minute of a scoreless match when Santaniello hit the crossbar on a header.

Ramapo freshman keeper Stephen Monaghan matched Appel with nine saves.

Eastern makes its home debut Wednesday against Wheaton College at 7 p.m. The Lyons are ranked sixth in New England and are 1-8-1 against Eastern in the all-time series, although the clubs have not met since an 8-1 Wheaton win in 2002.

Eastern Conn. 2, Ramapo College of New Jersey 0

Eastern Conn. (4-0-0)	0	2	--	2
Ramapo College (4-1-0)	0	--	0	

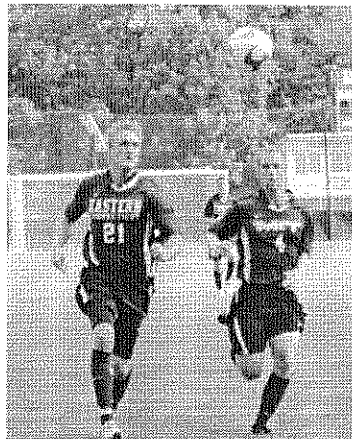
Scoring: Cory Tobler (Sean Collins) 56:52; Luke Capezzone 81:25.

Shots: E-16, R-18; **Saves:** E-Carl Appel 9, R-Stephen Monaghan 9. **Corner kicks:** E-6, R-4.

Men's Soccer: Defending Champ Eastern Wins Babson Classic Opener

By Bob Molta on September 4, 2010 8:16 PM

Furman scores first goal and assists on winner in 2-1 victory



BABSON PARK, Mass. - Junior forward **Matt Furman (Montville)** scored the first goal and assists on sophomore midfielder **Cory Tobler's (Portland)** game-winning early in the second half as defending Babson College Classic champion Eastern Connecticut State University turned back MIT, 2-1, Saturday at Rogers-Hartwell Field.

At left: Matt Furman

Babson (2-0-0) recorded its second straight 3-0 victory of the year, downing Wentworth Institute of Technology earlier Saturday. The winner of the Eastern-Babson match Sunday at 1 p.m. will be declared the champion of the fourth annual tournament.

The top returning scorer from a 2009 team which lost its top two scorers, Furman scored his eighth goal in 22 matches at Eastern in the 14th minute. MIT (1-1-0) tied the match three minutes before intermission before Tobler one-timed a cross from Furman in the 57th minute to provide junior keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** with a lead that he protected over the final 33 minutes. Furman's goal glanced off an MIT defender and trickled past diving junior keeper Dylan Rankin, who was beaten by Eastern, 3-1, in last year's tournament opener.

Senior Christian Therkelsen stole the ball from a defender and sent a perfect cross into the box from the left side to set up MIT's tying goal. Junior Zachary Kabelac headed a shot over Appel and just under the crossbar.

MIT outshot Eastern 19-10 and amassed a 10-5 advantage in corner kicks, forcing Appel into seven saves. Rankin made three.

Eastern's veteran returning team featured only two freshmen in the starting line-up: forward **Mitch Power (Douglas, MA)** and defender **Mike Radlbeck (Westbrook)**.

The Warriors defeated Babson in last year's second game, 1-0, on a fluke goal ten minutes into the second half. In his collegiate debut, goalkeeper **Jordan Munsell (Waterford)** made four saves in the shutout victory.

Eastern, which tied the program record last year with 16 wins, has won 17 of 19 matches against New England competition over the last two years. The Warriors have now won nine straight regular-season and Little East Conference tournament matches since a 2-0 loss at Kean University last October 12.

Eastern Conn. 2, MIT 1

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

Scoring: E-Matt Furman 13:32; M-Zachary Kabelac (Christian Therkelsen) 41:46; E-Cory Tobler (Furman) 56:51.

Shots: E-10, M-19; **Saves:** E-Carl Appel 7, M-Dylan Rankin 4.

Men's Soccer: Babson Titlists Again

By Bob Molta on September 5, 2010 8:19 PM

For second straight season, Warriors top host Beavers by a goal

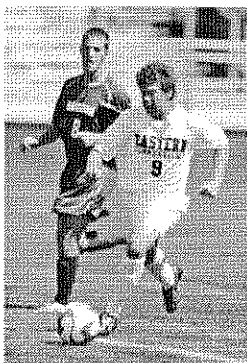


BABSON PARK, Mass. - The Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team capped its second two-game sweep in the Babson College Classic in as many years, repeating as

the champion by beating the host team by a goal in the title game, 3-2, Sunday afternoon at Hartwell-Rogers Field.

Three of Eastern's (2-0) four wins in the tournament in two seasons have come by a goal. Last year, the Warriors downed MIT, 3-1, and Babson, 1-0. This year, Eastern emerged with a 2-1 victory over MIT Saturday to set up Sunday's one-goal verdict. Pairings in the tournament are pre-determined.

Junior forward **Matt Furman (Montville)** contributed to four of the team's five tournament goals with a goal and assist in each contest. The team's leading returning scorer, Furman assisted on sophomore midfielder **Cory Tobler's (Portland)** tying goal midway through the first half, then scored an insurance goal on an assist from sophomore midfielder **Jon DeCasanova (Glastonbury)** to make it 3-1 midway through the second half.



At right: Cory Tobler.

After Tobler tied the match in the 21st minute, junior back **Aaron Smiles (Bedford, MA)** found freshman midfielder **Luke Capezzone (Colchester)** with a free kick six minutes later to give the Warriors the lead for good. The goal was the first in the career of Capezzone. Smiles had two assists, bringing his total to 20 in 45 career matches.

Babson (2-1) scored first - in the 18th minute -- when sophomore Eric Anderson sent the ball to junior captain Max Walker in the right corner. Walker then sent a cross into the box, where junior Jimmy Stento headed a shot into the upper right corner. Behind an experienced defense, Eastern junior keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** kept the hosts off the board over the next 50-plus minutes - enough time for the Warriors to knock three of their own behind Babson junior netminder Peter Crowley. Appel totaled seven saves in each tournament match. Crowley was not credited with saves on any of Eastern's three shots on net Sunday.

Eastern answered Babson's early goal with a pair of goals in a six-minute span, both coming off restarts after Babson fouls just outside the box on the right side. On the first, Smiles sent the ball to the far side, where Furman headed the ball back to the near side post. There, Tobler easily blasted it over the goal line.

Six minutes later, another foul gave the Warriors another free kick at nearly the same spot. Smiles again hit a perfect service, this time to the center of the box where Luke Capezzone one-timed it inside the right post to make it 2-1.

Eastern scored what would prove to be the decisive goal in the 68th minute, as a perfect through-ball by DeCasanova sent Furman in all alone on Crowley. The junior forward then tucked it past the charging goalie and inside the right post to make it a two-goal margin.

Following last year's tournament encounter between the teams, both clubs went on to capture their respective conference titles, earn a bid to the NCAA Division III tournament, and post near-identical final records (Eastern 16-5-1, Babson 15-6-1).

Starting freshman forward **Mitch Power (Douglas, MA)** twisted his ankle in the first half and will be out of action for an indefinite period.

Babson College Sports Information contributed to this game account

Eastern Conn. 3, Babson College 2

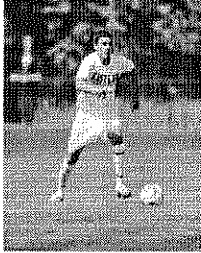
Eastern Conn. (2-0) 2 1 -- 3
 Babson College (2-1) 1 1 -- 2

Scoring: B-Jimmy Stento (Max Walker, Eric Anderson) 17:39; E-Cory Tobler (Matt Furman, Aaron Smiles) 20:06; E-Luke Capezzone (Smiles) 26:07; E-Furman (Jon DeCasanova) 67:22; B-Mike Fisher (Derek Foy) 70:32.
Shots: E-5, B-13; **Saves:** E-Carl Appel 7, B-Peter Crowley 0. **Corner kicks:** E-2, B-4.

Men's Soccer: Warriors Dominant, 5-1

By Bob Motta on September 8, 2010 10:57 PM

Against Fitchburg, they score two early goals and ease to third straight



FITCHBURG, Mass. - The Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team built a three-goal lead by the midway point of the first half and cruised to a 5-1 non-conference victory over Fitchburg State University Wednesday night.



At left: Jon DeCasanova

Ranked No. 4 in the first NSCAA New England poll of the season, Eastern (3-0-0) soccer team scored twice in the first 11 minutes and pushed the lead to 3-0 in the 20th minute when sophomore midfielder **Jon DeCasanova** (Glastonbury) scored his second goal of the match on a feed from junior tri-captain **Sean Collins** (Bristol). Sophomore back **Bradley Fletcher's** (Middletown) first career goal made it 4-0 with 14 minutes left in the first half. Fletcher converted a penalty kick after sophomore midfielder **Cory Tobler** (Portland) was dragged down in the box.

DeCasanova re-directed junior back **Aaron Smiles** (Bedford, MA) corner kick past Fitchburg keeper **Alex Ivanov** to make it 1-0 in the fourth minute, and junior forward **Matt Furman** (Montville) scored his team-leading third goal of the year seven minutes later to double the margin. Freshman midfielder **Jordan Clark** (Manchester) came off the bench to score his first career goal to make it 5-0 with 20 minutes left.

Neither sophomore keeper **Jordan Munsell** (Waterford) nor junior keeper **Carl Appel** (West Windsor, NJ) needed to make a save while splitting time in net. Eastern outshot the Falcons, 27-7 and featured a 9-3 advantage in corner kicks.

Eastern, last year's Little East Conference champion, won for the 11th time in the last 12 matches (the loss coming in the NCAA tournament) and won for the seventh straight time over Fitchburg (0-3-0).

Eastern visits Ramapo College Saturday at 2 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 5, Fitchburg State U. 1

Eastern Conn. (3-0-0)	4	1	-- 5
Fitchburg State (0-3-0)	0	1	-- 1

Scoring: E-Jon DeCasanova (Aaron Smiles) 3:51; E-Matt Furman (Cory Tobler) 10:42; E-DeCasanova (Sean Collins) 19:28; E-Bradley Fletcher (penalty kick) 31:00; E-Jordan Clark 70:17; F-Carmen Bordonaro 76:39.
Shots: E-27, F-7; **Saves:** E-Jordan Munsell 0 (0 goals allowed, 45:00 min.), Carl Appel 0 (1, 45:00), F-Alex Ivanov 9; **Corner kicks:** E-9, F-3.

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2010

EASTERN, WHEATON PLAY TO DRAW IN MEN'S SOCCER
In first meeting in eight years, regionally-ranked opponents remain unbeaten with 0-0 tie

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, Wheaton College had its way with the Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team.

No more.

Wednesday night in Eastern's (4-0-1) home-opener at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex, the Warriors battled Wheaton (4-0-2) through 90 minutes of regulation and 20 minutes of overtime in a scoreless draw that was a showdown between two early-season unbeaten teams ranked among the leaders in New England.

And while the Warriors had the better opportunities, they had to settle for a tie in the first meeting with the Lyons in eight years. In ten previous encounters with Wheaton, Eastern had managed only a single win and one tie. In 2001, the Warriors recorded their only win over Wheaton, 2-0, but paid the price the next season in an 8-1 blowout loss at Norton, Mass.

Both teams had a number of chances throughout the game, but were unable to break through against Eastern junior keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** and Wheaton senior **Chris Smart (Brookfield, CT)**. The final statistics were indicative of the balanced play. Both teams had ten shots and were near-even in both corner kicks and fouls. Appel made six saves for his 14th career shutout and Smart made four for his third shutout of the season.

In the second ten-minute overtime period, Appel came off his line to punch out a dangerous throw in traffic by Wheaton senior forward Jake Wagner that averted a possible disaster. Six minutes into overtime, Eastern sophomore forward **Cory Tobler (Portland)** unloaded a left-footed drive from close range that sailed wide. One of Wheaton's best scoring bids came late in regulation when sophomore back Howard Manly's shot was knocked down by Eastern freshman midfielder **Luke Capezzone (Colchester)** and Wheaton sophomore forward Will Nesbitt's followup was smothered by Appel. Smart's most impressive save came with 25 minutes left in regulation when he dove to his right to haul in a 25-yard free kick by Eastern junior back **Matt Esposito (East Haven)**, who put three of his team-high four shots on net.

Eastern entered play ranked No. 2 in New England and No. 16 in Division III and Wheaton was rated fourth in New England. And while Wheaton played a higher-ranked team to a draw on its home field, the younger Warriors (two seniors) were able to remain unbeaten against a team featuring 12 seniors, six of whom were in the starting lineup.

Eastern junior forward **Matt Furman (Montville)** was able to avoid serious injury despite being knocked to the ground on several occasions, but junior back **Aaron Smiles (Bedford, MA)** was not so lucky. Second on the team in minutes played, Smiles did not return to the game after leaving with 2:35 left in regulation following a collision with Appel in front of the Eastern goal.

Eastern visits Western Connecticut State University in its Little East Conference opener Saturday at noon.

Saturday, Sept. 18, 2010

EASTERN M-SOCCER EDGES WESTERN IN LEC OPENER

Ranked No. 16 nationally, Warriors still unbeaten following 1-0 victory over Colonials

DANBURY, Conn. – Sophomore midfielder **Jon DeCasanova (Glastonbury)** scored the game's only goal and the Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team remained unbeaten with a 1-0 victory over Western Connecticut State University in the Little East Conference opener for both teams at The Westside Athletic Complex Saturday afternoon.

In the 17th minute, DeCasanova received a pass, on the right side of the box, from junior midfielder **Sean Collins (Bristol)** and quickly placed the ball in the back corner of the net for his third goal of the season for Eastern, ranked No. 2 in New England and NO. 16 nationally.

After being outshot by Eastern (5-0-1, 1-0-0 little east) 11-3 over the first 45 minutes, Western (1-3-1, 0-1-0 little east) had several chances in the second stanza and drew even with the Warriors at 13 shots a side. In the 57th minute, Matt Hoffman had the best opportunity for the Colonials when he was left alone in front of the goal mouth but shot the ball high over the cross bar.

Mike Sullivan had a chance to knot the game with 7:25 remaining in the game, but could not get a quality attempt away as the Warriors defense collapsed around him after having an open look from 10 yards out. All-conference junior keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** earned his third shutout of the season, 15th of his career and third in as many career starts after making six saves.

The Warriors managed the win without the services of injured junior starters **Aaron Smiles (Bedford, MA)** and **Matt Furman (Montville)**.

With the win, the Warriors run their unbeaten streak against Western to 3-0-2, having last allowed a goal to the Colonials in a 1-1 tie at Danbury in 2006. The victory also ties the program's best start after six matches since the team won its first six on the way to a 7-0 start in 1978. Eastern was also 5-0-1 last year on the way to tying the program record of 16 wins.

Eastern hosts Trinity College Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2010

EASTERN MEN'S SOCCER STYMIED BY TRINITY COLLEGE, 1-0
Ranked No. 12 nationally, Warriors' season-opening unbeaten streak comes to an end

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Trinity College senior midfielder Matt O'Connell scored on a 20-yard free kick which deflected off an Eastern Connecticut State University player midway through the first half and the Bantams went on to shut out the Warriors for the third straight year and for the seventh time in the last eight meetings, 1-0, Tuesday night at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex.

The loss is the first this season for Eastern (5-1-1), ranked No. 2 in New England and tied for 12th nationally in the most recent NSCAA polls, released today. All four of Trinity's (2-2-0) matches this year have been decided by one goal, three by 1-0.

On the re-start, O'Connell drilled the ball to the left of the Eastern wall. After clearing the wall, it deflected off of an Eastern defender and sailed inside the far right post, beyond the dive of Eastern junior keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)**. The goal ended a streak of 325 consecutive scoreless minutes by Appel, who had recorded shutouts in his three previous starts was named the Little East Conference Goalkeeper-of-the-Week the last two weeks.

The first of three second-half saves by Trinity junior keeper Grant Schonberg was his best, when he stretched out diving to his left to bat away a one-timer by Eastern sophomore midfielder **Cory Tobler (Portland)** off a short cross in the box ten minutes into the second half. Six minutes later, Eastern threatened to tie the match again, but freshman forward **Romaro Johnson's (Bridgeport)** header in front off a cross from Tobler sailed wide. On an Eastern counter after Appel made a diving save to his right at the post on a shot by Dan Mayernick, Schonberg left his line to cut down the angle on a breakaway by Eastern first-year junior midfielder **Ryusuke Imamura (Kichijoji, Japan)** to preserve the Trinity lead. On a final bid inside the final ten seconds, Johnson again let loose a header from the near post off a cross from Tobler, but Schonberg hauled it in at the far post

Eastern managed only three shots in the first half -- none of them on goal. Trinity had the only real good opportunity in the half, but Eastern junior back **Matt Esposito (East Haven)** cleared a shot by Anthony El-Hachem off the line midway through the stanza.

The 1-0 shutout is the second in as many years for Schonberg against Eastern. In the last eight contests between the programs, Eastern has scored in only one -- a 3-1 victory at Trinity in 2007. Five have ended in 1-0 losses.

Eastern played the match without three starters: junior midfielder **Sean Collins (Bristol)**, junior back **Aaron Smiles (Bedford, MA)**, and junior forward and scoring leader **Matt Furman (Montville)**.

Eastern visits Keene State College Saturday at 1 p.m. in a Little East Conference match.

Molta, Bob (Athletics)

From: Kaufman, Stuart [skaufman@keene.edu]
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2010 4:51 PM
To: news@keenesentinel.com; news@monadnockradiogroup.com; sports@unionleader.com; Staton, Jamie F; sports@vnews.com; sports@cmonitor.com; sports@bostonherald.com; sports@globe.com; sports@telegram.com; sports@telegraph.com; sportsdesk@sungazette.com; dguttenplan@newburyportnews.com
Cc: Molta, Bob (Athletics); Harrison, Christian
Subject: KEENE STATE MEN'S SOCCER: OWLS UPSET #12 EASTERN CONN. 2-1
Attachments: KSC-ECSU soccer.jpg

Photo: KSC sophomore goalie Nick Allman and the Owls celebrate win over ECSU on Saturday.
Photo by Jesse Ferreira

KEENE STATE MEN'S SOCCER OWLS UPSET #12 EASTERN CONN. 2-1

KEENE, N.H., 9/25/10 – Sophomore Joe Senecal (Manchaug, Mass.) and junior Alex Larson (Williamsport, Pa.) scored second half goals to lead Keene State to a 2-1 come-from-behind upset win over #12 Eastern Conn. State University in a Little East Conference men's soccer game played at Owl Athletic Complex on Saturday.

Winners of four straight, Keene State improves to 7-2 (2-0 LEC). Eastern Conn., (5-2-1, 1-1 LEC), ranked second in New England, suffered its second straight loss.

The Warriors took a 1-0 lead at the 4:34 mark of the first half. After sophomore Cory Tobler (Portland, Conn.) was taken down in the box, junior Matt Esposito (East Haven, Conn.) scored on a penalty kick

KSC sophomore goalie Nick Allman (Newburyport, Mass.) kept it a one goal game with a diving stop at the corner of net on a bid by sophomore Jon DeCasanova (Glastonbury, Conn.) seven minutes into the second half.

The Owls went on the offensive from there. Senior Luke Sisco (Pine Plains, N.Y.) had a drive that ECSU junior goalie Carl Appel (West Windsor, N.J.) tipped over the cross-bar.

KSC tied the game five minutes later when freshman Scott Douglas (East Greenwich, R.I.) sent in Senecal for a breakaway goal. "Scotty gave me a great through ball and I just ran with it," said Senecal about his team-leading sixth goal of the season.

Appel, who finished with six saves, denied the Owls with a couple of nice saves to keep the game tied. He stopped a close-range bid by Senecal at the 24:50 mark and came out of the net to turn back a shot by freshman Bryce Lawlor (Woodbury, Conn.).

Larson's game winning goal with 14:02 to play came off a corner kick by freshman Mike Mulhall (Delmar, N.Y.). Lawlor headed the ball over to Larson, who volleyed the ball into the back of the net. "I saw the ball coming back post from the minute it went over my head. I just turned around and put it in the net," said Larson, who has two goals this season.

Strong play by the Owls midfield and defense kept the ball in the Warrior side of the field the rest of the way. "The defense starts all the way from the top and works its way to the back," said sophomore back Blake Nyman (Plymouth, Mass.). We did a real good job today creating pressure and were able to keep them in their half. When you faced a team that's 12th in the nation it gets the

blood flowing a little bit. We did a real good job today from keepers to strikers and it shows we can compete with anybody as long as we come ready to play.”

Freshman Romero Johnson (Bridgeport, Conn.) had a chance to get the equalizer for the Warriors in the closing minute of play, but his drive sailed just wide of the post.

Keene State finished the game with an advantage in shots (12-7) and corner kicks (7-2).

Allman made three saves to post his fourth win of the season.

“We came in knowing what we had to do and put it together on the field,” said Senecal.

“Today we put it all together and controlled most of the game,” said KSC coach Ron Butcher. We picked up the intensity in the second half and got two great goals and the midfield worked their tails off. That was the difference.”

Keene State is at Babson on Wednesday.

Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2010

EASTERN MEN'S SOCCER MASTERS SALEM STATE, 2-0
Warriors put two-game losing streak behind them after improving to 6-1 on road

SALEM, Mass. -- Ranked sixth in New England, the Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team won its sixth match in seven tries away from home this year, ending a two-game losing streak with a 2-0 non-conference victory over Salem State University Tuesday night at Alumni Field

Freshman forward **Tom Vear (Monson, MA)** scored his first career goal midway through the first half, and sophomore forward **Cory Tobler (Portland)** added his team-leading fourth of the season in the opening minutes of the second half as Eastern (6-2-1) ended its first two-game losing streak since the second week of fourth-year head coach **Greg DeVito's** first season in 2007.

Eastern is now unbeaten (2-0-1) in its last three meetings with Salem (3-3-2) after the Vikings posted a 14-game unbeaten streak (11-0-3) against the Warriors through 1995. The teams have met each season since the rivalry was renewed following a 12-year hiatus.

Junior keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** needed only one save to record his fourth shutout in eight starts this year -- the 16th of his career. Appel lowered his goals-against average to 0.80 and improved his goals-against average to .870. Salem keeper Luis Marques, a 6-foot-3 inch senior, made five saves in his sixth start of the season as the Vikings lost for the first time after three straight wins. It marked the first match this year that an opponent managed more than a goal against Salem.

Eastern hosts the University of Massachusetts Boston in a Little East Conference match Saturday at 1 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010

EASTERN M-SOCCER RALLIES PAST UMASS BOSTON, 2-1
In Little East play, Warriors win for first time this year after trailing in second half

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Sophomore midfielder **Jon DeCasanova (Glastonbury)** and freshman back **Mike Radlbeck (Westbrook)** scored 12 minutes apart as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team won for the first time this year after trailing in the second half in a 2-1 Little East Conference victory over the University of Massachusetts Boston Saturday afternoon at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex.

The win was the first at home this year for Eastern (7-2-1, 2-1-0 little east) after a loss and tie and is the Warriors' 11th straight over UMass Boston (1-8-0, 0-3-0 little east) dating back to 2000. Eastern is ranked No. 6 in New England.

Trailing 1-0, Eastern tied the match with 17 minutes left on DeCasanova's fourth goal of the season. On a re-start near midfield, sophomore back **Jordan Munsell (Waterford)** sent the ball back to junior back **Aaron Smiles (Bedford, MA)**, who chipped the ball from a spot ten yards behind midfield to a wide-open DeCasanova, who caught up to the serve on the third bounce and beat sophomore keeper Brycen Dowd with a flip shot that looped over the charging Dowd's head and bounced into the goal.

With just over five minutes left minutes left, Radlbeck one-timed a served ball from sophomore back **Ryan McCormack (Shelton)** following Smiles' re-start inside the right post, beyond the dive of Dowd for the game-winner. The goal was the first in the career of Radlbeck, whose two previous shots in the game were saved by Dowd.

Eastern senior keeper **Rick Emery (Brewster, NY)** won his first career decision in his first appearance this year (ninth of his career). Emery played the second half in relief of junior starter **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)**.

UMass had lost seven straight entering play but played the Warriors even in the first half, then took a 1-0 lead midway through the second half. Senior back Alex Cavallero began the scoring play with a free kick and sophomore midfielder Reyn Johnson later won the ball near midfield and sent a pass to sophomore midfielder Victor Costa in the middle of the field. Costa immediately found freshman forward Stefanos Galouzis streaking down the right flank. Galouzis caught up to the bouncing pass behind the Eastern defense and slipped a ground ball under Emery from close range.

Junior back **Aaron Smiles (Bedford, MA)** assisted on both Eastern goals, giving last year's LEC assist leader a team-leading five this year. McCormack's assist was the first of his career, as was backup Munsell's, which came on DeCasanova's tying goal. Normally the team's backup keeper, Munsell played all 90 minutes for the second straight start on defense.

Five minutes into the second half, UMass lost the services of sophomore back Verly Jean, who was injured while slide-tackling an Eastern player in the box. Jean did not return.

Eastern hosts Montclair State University Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2010

MONTCLAIR HOLDS DECISIVE EDGE IN 2-0 WIN OVER EASTERN M-SOCCER
Eastern keeper Carl Appel provides bright spot in match pitting regionally-ranked teams

MANSFIELD, Conn. — In a battle of regionally-ranked teams, the Montclair State University men's soccer team scored twice on corner kicks in the second half to post a 2-0 non-conference victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday night at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex.

Ranked No. 5 in the NSCAA New England region, Eastern (7-3-1) managed only three shots while Montclair State (8-1-2) collected 18 shots in defeating the Warriors for the fifth time in five meetings in the series. Montclair, which lost only one match a year ago in the regular season, is ranked No. 6 in the South Atlantic region.

Both of Montclair's goals came on corner kicks in the second half. Featuring eight seniors, Montclair broke from a scoreless first period when sophomore back William O'Connor (Wyckoff, NJ) scored his first goal of the season on senior forward Larry Geraghty's (Cranford, NJ) corner kick 6:30 into the second half. Team scoring leader Dan Mendoza (Hackensack, NJ), a freshman midfielder, made it 2-0 when he one-timed senior midfielder Chris Tatro's (Somerville, NJ) corner kick inside the right post. With just under ten minutes left.

Eastern junior keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** submitted a number of standout saves and came off his line to snare dangerous crossing passes to keep the match close. Two of his six saves came in a span of four minutes early in the match when he first dove to smother a one-timer by Geraghty, then corralled a shot by Mendoza off a feed from junior midfielder Kevin Zalewski (Parsippany, NJ). With Eastern down 1-0, Appel made his most spectacular save of the evening when he robbed Mendoza with a dive to his left midway through the second half. Less than two minutes before Mendoza finally broke through to make it 2-0, Appel foiled a pretty give-and-go between Mendoza and Tatro by leaving his feet to deny Tatro.

With junior forward **Matt Furman (Montville)** and senior midfielder **Luke Capezone (Colchester)** still sidelined with injuries, six of ten field players were forced to play all 90 minutes, including defenders **Aaron Smiles (Bedford, MA)**, **Jordan Munsell (Waterford)**, **Bradley Fletcher (Middletown)** and **Mike Radlbeck (Westbrook)**. Only freshman midfielder Luke Capezone (Colchester) saw substantial time off the bench, logging 45 minutes.

Montclair had 18 shots, putting eight of them on net, and held an 8-3 advantage in corner kicks.

Montclair sophomore keeper Anthony Rogic (Boonton, NJ) needed only one save to record his sixth shutout and lower his goals-against average to 0.34.

Eastern hosts the University of Southern Maine in a 1 p.m. Little East Conference match Saturday, then hosts Kean University Sunday at 6 p.m. in a non-conference match.

Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010

EASTERN MEN'S SOCCER GAINS GROUND IN LITTLE EAST

With 3-0 win, Warriors pull to within a point of conference leader Keene State

MANSFIELD, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team scored twice in a span of 11 minutes in the second half to pull away from the University of Southern Maine in a 3-0 Little East Conference victory Saturday afternoon at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex.

Ranked fifth in New England, Eastern (8-3-1, 3-1-0 little east) closed to within a point of LEC leader Keene State College, which played Massachusetts Dartmouth to a 1-1 overtime draw Saturday. The Warriors share second place with Rhode Island College, which shut out Plymouth State by an identical 3-0 count. Eastern entered the day locked in a four-way tie for second place, three points behind Keene.

Midway through the first half, junior forward **Cory Tobler (Portland)** scored his team-leading fifth goal of the season on assists from senior midfielder **Sean Capezzone (Colchester)** and sophomore back **Bradley Fletcher (Middletown)** to give Eastern a 1-0 lead, and the Warriors tacked on goals 11 minutes apart midway through the second half.

Coming off the bench in 36 minutes, junior forward **Matt Furman (Montville)** scored his fourth goal of the season in his return after missing six games with an injury to make it 2-0 on an assist from freshman midfielder **Zach Kice (Denver, CO)**, who recorded his first career point on the play. With 13 minutes left, junior midfielder **Sean Collins (Bristol)** scored his first goal of the season when he hammered a one-timer inside the right post when the ball deflected to him at the top of the box.

Although Eastern collected eight of its 13 shots in the first half, Southern Maine (3-8-1, 2-2-0 little east) senior keeper David Kreps (Agawam, MA) made a handful of outstanding saves to keep the game scoreless. With the Warriors nursing their 1-0 lead with seven minutes left in the first half, Kreps robed Eastern sophomore midfielder **Jon DeCasanova (Glastonbury)** from point-blank range, and Furman's

(more)

follow-up sailed wide. Three minutes later, Kreps denied Furman on a breakaway to keep the Eastern at one goal heading into the break. Kreps' best save came midway through the second half when he dove to the post, getting a hand on a shot by freshman forward **Romaro Johnson (Bridgeport)** who was trying to sneak it inside the far left post on a shot from the right.

First-team all-conference junior keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** stopped two shots to record his 17th career saves for the Warriors. Appel was not involved on Southern Maine's two best scoring chances: freshman midfielder Branden Lever (Aburne, ME) hit the post midway through the second half and senior forward Nick Johnson (South Portland, ME) put his bid over the top from the left side after sophomore midfielder Matt Powers (Strafford, NH) slotted him a perfect through-ball.

The win was the 50th in the four-year head coaching career of **Greg DeVito**, who has lost 19 and tied eight overall. DeVito improved his four-year conference regular-season record to 18-4-3.

Eastern hosts Kean University Sunday at 6 p.m. The Cougars are rated No. 10 in the NSCAA South Atlantic Region.

Sunday, Oct. 10, 2010

EASTERN'S FURMAN BACK WITH A BANG; LEADS M-SOCCER PAST KEAN
In second game back from injury, he nets hat trick in 3-1 non-conference win over Cougars

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Junior forward **Matt Furman (Montville)** recorded the first multiple-goal game of his career, recording a hat trick in his second game back from injury to power the Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team to its fourth win in the last five matches with a 3-1 victory over Kean University Sunday evening at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex.

In his return Saturday from an facial injury that forced him out of six games, Furman came off the bench to score the team's second goal in a 3-0 Little East Conference win over the University of Southern Maine. Sunday, the second-year transfer from the University of Rhode Island gave Eastern an early lead with a goal in the eighth minute, and he added his team-leading sixth and seventh goals of the season in a span of five minutes early in the second half to snap a 1-1 tie.

In seven matches this year, Furman has matched his entire goal total in 21 matches last year. Seven of his career 14 goals are game-winners.

Eastern is rated No. 5 in the NSCAA New England Region while Kean is ranked No. 10 in the NSCAA South Atlantic Region.

Furman's first goal came when his shot from near the goal line was deflected past freshman keeper Tyler Callahan, and set up on a pass from senior midfielder **Sean Capezzone (Colchester)**. That lead held up for nearly 40 minutes before Kean tied the match two minutes into the second half on the second goal of the season from senior back Kyle Venerable.

Furman buried a one-timer on a pass from sophomore back **Bradley Fletcher (Middletown)** to give Eastern the lead for good four minutes later against second-half senior keeper Alfredo Oquendo, and Furman added an insurance goal soon after. The final goal followed a corner kick from junior back **Matt Esposito (East Haven)** that was knocked to the foot of Furman on a deflection off the head of Eastern sophomore midfielder **Jon DeCasanova (Glastonbury)**.

Kean had a number of strong shots sail wide or over the net as Eastern junior keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** made only one save to record his 37th career win against 11 losses and four ties..

Eastern was playing its second game in as many days and Kean its fifth in nine days, all away from home.

Eastern visits Rhode Island College Saturday at 1 p.m. in a Little East Conference match.

Saturday, Oct. 16, 2010

EASTERN M-SOCCER GAINS POINT IN LITTLE EAST WITH 1-1 TIE
In important conference match, Rhode Island remains stubborn road opponent

PROVIDENCE, R.I. -- Defending Little East Conference tournament champion Eastern Connecticut State University scored with 18 minutes left in regulation to salvage a 1-1 double overtime conference tie and gain a point against Rhode Island College Saturday afternoon at the RIC Soccer Field.

In its quest to overtake conference leader Keene State College, Eastern (9-3-2, 3-1-1 little east), lost a point in the race to the Owls, who routed visiting Massachusetts Boston, 6-1, Saturday. With two regular-season conference games remaining, Keene has 13 points on the basis of a 4-0-1 conference mark. The Warriors share second place with at least Rhode Island College (8-4-1, 3-1-1 little east), both clubs showing ten points. (A UMass Dartmouth win over host Plymouth State University in a late Saturday game would create a three-way tie for second place).

Eastern and Keene shared last year's regular-season title and shared the top spot in this year's LEC pre-season coaches poll. As the No. 1 seed, Keene was upset in the tournament's first (semifinal) round while Eastern blanked Rhode Island College and UMass Dartmouth en route to its second LEC tournament title in three years.

Saturday, freshman forward **Tom Vear (Monson, MA)** scored his second career goal on freshman back **Mike Radlbeck's (Westbrook)** first career assist with 18 minutes left in regulation to carry the Warriors back from an early 1-0 deficit and extend their modest unbeaten streak against RIC to three games (2-0-1).

While Eastern has dominated the Anchormen at home recently -- winning all five encounters since 2005 -- the Warriors have not enjoyed similar success at Providence, where they have lost three and tied one in the last four meetings there.

The Rhode Island's vantage point, the Anchormen settled for the tie despite a dominant first half which afforded them opportunities for more than one goal. The Anchormen outshot the Warriors, 13-1, over the first 45 minutes and did not allow Eastern a shot on goal for the entire frame.

The only goal of the first half came after a corner kick in the 13th minute. Junior midfielder Hector Espildora Fortuno served the ball in front of the net to an open junior forward Jonathan Goncalves who pivoted and scored his first goal of the season.

The best chance for the Anchormen to tack on a second goal came in the 28th minute when Espildora Fortuno once again found an open teammate off a corner kick. Senior midfielder Jose Ruiz placed a perfect header just inside the right post, but Eastern freshman midfielder **Kyle Surprenant (Coventry)** swooped in for a defensive save to keep the RIC margin at one goal.

(more)

Although the Anchormen continued to control the match, the momentum began to swing in the 65th minute, when the Warriors took more control of the ball and field position than they had previously. In the 73rd minute, Eastern took advantage of a quick-developing opportunity to tie the match. After a throw-in from near the box, the Anchormen appeared to be clearing the ball toward midfield. But after a couple of inadvertent deflections by players on both teams, Radlbeck found himself with the ball in space with his eye on a faraway teammate. Radlbeck lofted a long pass in front of the net for Vear, who outran his defender and beat junior goalkeeper Nic Clark for the equalizer.

While neither team was dominant in the overtime periods, Eastern saw the best opportunity to claim victory in the 107th minute. Off a corner kick, freshman forward **Mitch Power (Douglas, MA)** sent a shot toward the right post, but RIC freshman midfielder Mike Rasieleski covered the area for a defensive save, which preserved the tie.

In the first overtime, sophomore forward **Cory Tobler (Portland)** was taken down in the box without a whistle from referee Syrus Attai. The most penalized team in the LEC the past two seasons, Rhode Island accumulated three yellow cards Saturday to bring its conference-high total to 27. Eastern was issued one yellow Saturday, giving it a conference-low nine. Combining this year and last, RIC has totaled 68 warnings, Eastern 16.

In a battle of two of the conference's three keepers in regards to save percentage, first-team all-conference junior **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** of Eastern made eight saves, while Clark stopped four shots for the Anchormen.

In pre-game warm-ups, Eastern senior midfielder **Sean Capezzone (Colchester)** re-injured his repaired knee and did not see action.

In its final two regular-season conference matches, Eastern hosts UMass Dartmouth and Plymouth State University each of the next two Saturdays. Keene, which holds the tie-breaker over Eastern on the strength of its 2-1 triumph at Keene, NH Sept. 25, visits Western Connecticut Saturday and hosts the University of Southern Maine Oct. 30.

Eastern visits the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Wednesday at 7 p.m. in a non-conference match.

Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010

EASTERN M-SOCCER TEN-GAME WINNER AGAIN UNDER DeVITO

“Road Warriors” improve to 7-1-1 away from home with 3-0 shutout of Coast Guard

NEW LONDON, Conn.--Junior forward **Matt Furman (Montville)** scored his fifth and six goals in four matches since returning from injury and also had an assist to lift the Eastern Connecticut State University men’s soccer team to a 3-0 non-conference verdict over the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Wednesday night.

Eastern (10-3-2) won its tenth game in a season for the fourth straight year under fourth-year head coach **Greg DeVito** and improved to 7-1-1 away from home this season with its third regular-season victory over Coast Guard (5-8-1) in the last three years.

Eastern led 3-0 at halftime and allowed only three shots in the second half.as junior **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** and senior **Rick Emery (Brewster, NY)** combined on the team’s sixth shutout of the season.

Freshman forward **Tom Vear (Monson, MA)** blasted a shot off the right post and in just 6:29 into the match as Eastern took a 1-0 lead, Furman and sophomore forward **Cory Tobler (Portland)** assisting on the goal. Furman scored his first goal in the 20th minute as Coast Guard senior goalkeeper Chris Tarbell came too far out of the box and Furman found the back of the net for a 2-0 advantage, with sophomore back **Jordan Munsell (Waterford)** assisting.

Furman added his second goal of the game and team-leading ninth in nine matches with a shot just under the crossbar in the 33rd minute to close the scoring. Sophomore back **Bradley Fletcher (Middletown)** and freshman **Romaro Johnson (Bridgeport)** assisted for the Warriors, the point the first in the career of Johnson.

Since missing three weeks with a nose injury, Furman has returned to score six goals, one in his return Oct. 9 against the University of Southern Maine and three the next day against Kean University.

Since a 2-0 loss to Montclair State University, Eastern has won three and tied one in its last four. Coast Guard, which defeated Eastern to capture the 2008 ECAC Division III New England championship, has lost five straight, all by shutout.

In four years under DeVito, Eastern has won 52, lost 19 and tied nine and claimed two Little East Conference tournament titles. The team’s 16 victories last year tied the 40-year-old program season record for wins.

Eastern returns to conference play Saturday, hosting Massachusetts Dartmouth at 1 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 23, 2010

EASTERN M-SOCCER TRIMS UMASS DARTMOUTH, 2-1
Both teams have plenty of scoring chances in re-match of 2009 LEC title game

MANSFIELD, Conn. - The Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team gained a share of first place in the Little East Conference with its fifth straight win over UMass Dartmouth, 2-1, in a re-match of the 2009 Little East Conference championship match Saturday afternoon at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex.

Conference leader Keene State, Eastern and Rhode Island College all have 13 points, but Keene has played one less match. The Owls, who shared the top spot with Eastern in the 2009 regular-season conference standings, visits winless Western Connecticut State University Sunday at 1 p.m.

The teams were meeting for the first time since the Warriors won their second LEC tournament title in three years with a 1-0 triumph here last November.

Sophomore midfielder **Jon DeCasanova (Glastonbury)** had a goal in the tenth minutes and assisted on one by freshman back **Mike Radlbeck (Westbrook)** six minutes into the second half to lift the Warriors into a 2-0 lead before UMass cut the gap in half 17 minutes into the second half on a goal by Victor Ferreira. Radlbeck had cleared a shot by Kyle Estrella off the line eight minutes before Ferreira got UMass on the board.

Junior forward **Matt Furman (Montville)** improved upon his conference scoring lead by assisting on both goals to give him five assists and 23 points this year. Remarkably, Furman tops the LEC in points and is second in assists and goals despite appearing in only ten matches this year due to an early-season injury which cost him six matches. Furman, who has six goals and three assists in five matches since his return, found DeCasanova unmarked in front of the net with a pass from near the end line for Eastern's first goal, and deflected DeCasanova's free kick to Radlbeck crashing from the right side to make it 2-0 early in the second half.

UMass' bid for the tying goal was hampered when starting back Andrew Eggleston was sent off by referee Michael Connor for his second yellow card midway through the second half, and Ferreira, a starting midfielder, saw his afternoon come to a close after being given his second warning with six minutes left in play. UMass received eight yellow cards in the match.

Eastern had a handful of chances to extend its early 1-0 lead but was unable to penetrate further against UMass keeper Mike Phelan, who made three brilliant one-on-one saves in the first half by robbing junior midfielder **Matt Esposito (East Haven)**, Furman and freshman forward **Romaro Johnson (Bridgeport)** 12 minutes apart late in the first half.

Eastern junior keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** needed three outstanding saves -- two on shots by Ferreira -- to prevent UMass from tying the match. Three minutes into the second half, he made a late jump to tip a quick shot by Estrella over the crossbar, dove to his right to deny Ferreira ten minutes later, then stretched out to his left three minutes later when Ferreira found room after being sprung on a through-ball by Mike Alves.

(more)

Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010

MEN'S SOCCER
EASTERN CONN. 8, BECKER COLLEGE 1

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Freshman **Tom Vear (Monson, MA)** had three goals, junior **Sean Collins (Bristol)** three assists and senior keeper **Rick Emery (Brewster, NY)** made four saves in his first career start as the Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team extended its unbeaten streak to six with an 8-1 non-conference victory over Becker College Wednesday afternoon at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex.

Ranked No. 6 in New England, Eastern (12-3-2) got two goals from Vear 69 seconds apart midway through the first half and freshman **Romaro Johnson (Bridgeport)** scored his first two collegiate goals 50 seconds apart late in the match as Eastern defeated Becker (9-7-1) for the third straight season.

In his first collegiate start (ninth appearance), Emery made four saves for his second win of the season and of his career without a loss.

Junior team scoring leader **Matt Furman (Montville)** had two assists to improve his team-leading point total to 25 and team-leading assist total to seven in the 11 matches in which he has appeared. Junior back **Aaron Smiles (Bedford, MA)** also picked up his sixth assist of the season when he teamed with Furman on Vear's second goal. Smiles played 62 minutes despite wearing a cast on his left arm after fracturing his wrist in Saturday's 2-1 Little East Conference win over UMass Dartmouth.

Eastern closes out the regular season Saturday at 4 p.m., hosting Plymouth State University in a Little East Conference match.

Saturday, Oct. 30, 2010

EASTERN M-SOCCER GAINS No. 2 SEED IN UPCOMING LEC TOURNAMENT
A victory over Plymouth and Rhode Island loss gives Warriors semifinal home match Wednesday

MANSFIELD, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men’s soccer team’s 1-0 win over Plymouth State University, coupled with Rhode Island College’s overtime loss, gives the Warriors the No. 2 seed in the four-team Little East Conference playoffs, which being with semifinal-round matches Wednesday.

Eastern (13-3-2, 5-1-1 little east) faces No. 3 Rhode Island (10-6-1) for the fourth straight year in the semifinals, hosting the Anchormen at 6 p.m.. The winner faces the winner of Wednesday’s other semifinal-round game between No. 1 Keene State College and No. 4 UMass Dartmouth in the final Saturday at the site of the highest remaining seed.

Eastern has won two of the previous semifinal round matches against Rhode Island, having won both times at home.

Sophomore midfielder **Jon DeCasanova (Glastonbury)** broke a scoreless tie with just over four minutes left Saturday with a blast that hit the left post and skimmed past Plymouth sophomore keeper Bjorn Ohlsson. The goal was the seventh this year and second game-winner for DeCasanova. The goal came on a throw-in in front of the Plymouth (5-11-1, 1-6-0 little east) from freshman **Tom Vear (Monson, MA)**.

With the game scoreless, sophomore **Cory Tobler (Portland)** couldn’t connect on two great chances, one coming with five minutes left in the first half on a shot that skidded just to the right of the right post, and one when he hit the right post on a shot from the left of the goal. Plymouth best chances came seconds apart with 13 minutes left in the first half. A perfect through-ball from senior Tommy Schrey looked like it would spring freshman Moses Igah, but the ball caromed off Igah’s heel as he made his break. Igah then recovered the ball, carried to the end line and crossed it in front back to Schrey. Schrey’s shot from in close, however, was saved by Eastern junior keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)**.

Appel made five saves for his 18th career shutout and 40th career win (40-11-5). Appel is 10-3-2 this year with six shutouts, a 0.74 goals-against average and .860 save percentage.

Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011

FURMAN'S OVERTIME GOAL VAULTS EASTERN MEN'S SOCCER, 1-0

The pre-season Little East favorite, Warriors prevail against RIC in conference opener

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Senior midfielder **Sean Collins (Bristol)** set up junior forward **Matt Furman (Montville)** for the only goal of the match 11 minutes into overtime to lift the Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team to a 1-0, double-overtime victory over Rhode Island College in the 2011 Little East Conference opener for both schools Saturday afternoon at Thomas Nevers Field.

The game-winning goal came on Eastern's third shot of overtime. Eastern senior defender **Aaron Smiles (Bedford, MA)** dumped the ball into Eastern's offensive end and Collins served it to Furman, who headed a shot past RIC senior keeper Nick Clark (East Bridgewater, MA) for the ninth game-winning goal of his three-year career.

Rhode Island (2-4-0, 0-1-1 little east) had extended the match five minutes into overtime when Clark saved a penalty kick by Eastern junior forward **Cory Tobler (Portland)**. The penalty kick resulted when Tobler was taken down in the box while working a give-and-go with Furman.

Less than three minutes before PK, Eastern (4-1-1, 1-0-0 little east) could not convert a prime opportunity when freshman midfielder **Nicholas Demo (Brookfield)** fired an unmolested shot from the middle of the box right at Clark.

Last year's LEC scoring leader, Furman has 20 career goals and 55 points. The game-winner was his third of 2011.

Senior keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** made three saves for his third shutout of the season. The shutout ties the Eastern career record of 23.

One of RIC's best scoring opportunities came with five minutes left in the first half, when senior forward Bruno Costa sent a crossing pass from junior back Donald Dane off the post.

The contest was a re-match of last year's LEC semifinals at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex, when the third-seeded Anchormen advanced on penalty kicks against the second-seeded Warriors.

Ranked No. 7 in New England and the LEC pre-season favorite to win the regular-season title, Eastern extended its unbeaten streak against Rhode Island to five (3-0-2). The contest has gone into overtime the last three times the teams have met. Eastern is 6-0-1 against RIC the last seven times the teams have met on the Warriors' field, three of those being decided by 1-0 scores.

Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2011

TRINITY EDGES EASTERN MEN'S SOCCER AGAIN, 2-1
In non-conference match, game-winner comes midway through second half

HARTFORD, Conn. — In four years, the seniors on the Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team will have attained numerous accomplishments which include conference championships and post-season appearances.

Unless the Warriors and Trinity College meet in the 2011 NCAA tournament, however, one of those accomplishments will not have been a win over the Bantams.

Wednesday afternoon, Dan Mayernick scored both of Trinity's goals as the Bantams defeated Eastern for the fourth straight season, 2-1, in a non-conference match on the Trinity campus.

Ranked fifth in New England, Eastern dips to 1-2-1 away from home this season. Trinity is unranked in New England, but owns a 1-1 tie with Williams College in Williamstown, MA. The Ephs are ranked second in New England, 11th nationally,.

Since dumping the Bantams on their own field under then first-year head coach **Greg DeVito** in 2007, Eastern has played Trinity virtually on even terms but has only four losses to show for it.

Wednesday, Eastern snapped a string of three straight shutouts against Trinity when senior midfielder **Matt Esposito (East Haven)** put a game-tying penalty kick past Trinity senior keeper Grant Schonberg midway through the first period. The goal was the fourth of the year for Esposito, tying his total of each of his three previous seasons.

Mayernick had lifted the hosts to an early 1-0 lead, and later registered the game-winning goal after a string of 45 consecutive minutes midway through the second half.

Eastern senior keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** was credited with seven saves but sustained his fourth career loss (29 percent of his career total of 14) in as many starts against Trinity. Schonberg was Trinity's starting keeper for the third straight season against the Warriors.

Eastern looks to remain undefeated against Plymouth State University under DeVito when it returns to Little East Conference action on the road Saturday at 4:30 p.m. Ranked first in the LEC pre-season coaches' poll, Eastern opened LEC play Saturday with a 1-0 sudden death double overtime home win over Rhode Island College. Plymouth (1-5-0, 0-1-0 LEC) won its first match of the season Wednesday with a 3-2 overtime non-conference home victory over Castleton State College, gaining the winning goal three minutes into sudden death. The Panthers lost 1-0 Saturday at Massachusetts Dartmouth in its conference opener.

Mo Ita, Bob (Athletics)

From: Kingsley, David A [David.Kingsley@trincoll.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2011 9:20 PM
To: sports@courant.com; sports@journalinquirer.com; sports@rep-am.com; sports@globe.com; sports@bostonherald.com; Ed Bell (AP News) (aphartford@ap.org); ncaa-content@turner.com; Molta, Bob (Athletics)
Subject: Trinity College sports update, men's soccer v. Eastern Connecticut, 9/21/11

News from Trinity Sports

NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Report

For Immediate Release: September 21, 2011

Contact: David Kingsley (860) 297-2137

MAYERNICK SCORES TWO FOR TRINITY MEN'S SOCCER IN WIN OVER EASTERN CONNECTICUT

Hartford, Conn. – Senior captain forward Daniel Mayernick (Gladwyne, Pa.) scored both of his team's goals, including the game-winner in the 68th minute, to lead the Trinity College Bantams to a 2-1 win over the visiting Eastern Connecticut State University Warriors in men's soccer action this afternoon. Trinity improves to 2-1-2 with its second victory in a row and its fourth consecutive triumph over the Warriors. Eastern Connecticut falls to 4-2-1 with its first loss in five games.

Mayernick got Trinity on the board early with a goal from senior forward Chris Binnie (Kingston, Jamaica) 7:33 into the game, and sophomore Wesley Simon (New Hope, Pa.) nearly scored again for the Bantams shortly afterwards when his shot from point-blank range was stopped by Warrior senior tri-captain goalie Carl Appel (West Windsor, N.J.). In the 23rd minute, a Trinity foul in the box on Warrior senior tri-captain forward Matt Esposito (Oakwood, Conn.) gave Eastern Connecticut a penalty kick, which Esposito buried high and over the shoulder of Bantam senior captain goalie Grant Schonberg (Mendham, N.J.) to tie the game. Trinity junior midfielder Anthony El-Hachem (Vernon, Conn.) nearly gave Trinity back the lead with 2:38 left before the break when his shot from the left corner of the box sailed just over the cross bar.

Mayernick converted on the clinching goal thanks to passes by El-Hachem and sophomore midfielder Trevor Doolittle (Milford, Conn.). Schonberg came up with clutch saves in the 72nd minute and the 87th minute to preserve the win, finishing with three stops overall. Appel had seven saves for the Warriors.

box score<<http://athletics.trincoll.edu/sports/msoc/2011-12/tcmsec11.htm>>

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Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011

EASTERN MEN'S SOCCER SHUTS OUT PLYMOUTH IN LEC, 3-0

Newcomers net two goals as Warriors win second in two tries in conference play

PLYMOUTH, N.H. – First-year sophomore transfer **Christopher Giustina (Enfield)** and freshman **Nicholas Demo (Brookfield)** headed in corner kicks for their first goals in Eastern Connecticut State University uniforms and the Warriors broke open a tight match with two second-half goals in a 3-0 Little East Conference victory over Plymouth State University Saturday afternoon at Panther Park.

Eastern (5-2-1, 2-0-0 Little East) posted its fourth straight win over Plymouth, with the three-goal margin the largest winning margin in the series since the Warriors won 5-0 15 years ago at Thomas Nevers Field. Plymouth (1-6-0, 0-2-0 Little East) was coming off its only win of the season in overtime three days ago.

Leading 1-0 at halftime when Giustina headed in junior **Jon DeCasanova's (Glastonbury)** corner kick for his sixth collegiate goal (five coming last year at Sage College of Albany), Eastern broke the match open with two goals in a span of seven minutes midway through the second half.

It was still a one-goal game 15 minutes into the second half when a defensive breakdown in the Panther end of the field led to an Eastern "own" goal. Demo made it 3-0 with a beautiful header off a corner kick taken by first-year junior transfer **Carl Stensland (Storrs)** that went into the far side of the goal with 21 minutes remaining.

Senior **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** and junior **Jordan Munsell (Waterford)** combined on the team's fifth shutout this year. Appel made five saves, Munsell two.

Plymouth held a slim +2 advantage in shots but Eastern was awarded 11 of the 15 corner kicks in the match.

Eastern hosts Salem State University Tuesday at 4 p.m. at Nevers Field. Since the resumption of the series after a 13-year hiatus, Eastern is unbeaten (2-0-1) against the Vikings, winning by shutout each of the last two seasons.

Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011

EASTERN MEN'S SOCCER ROLLS PAST SALEM STATE, 5-0
Sophomore Mitch Power scores first three goals of his career in non-conference win

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – With each team having allowed only four goals in eight matches this season, the Eastern Connecticut State University-Salem State University men's soccer game Tuesday afternoon at Thomas Nevers Field figured to be low-scoring and tightly contested.

It didn't quite work out that way.

Eastern (6-2-1) broke through for two goals in the first 12 minutes and rode a breakout game by sophomore forward **Mitch Power (Douglas, MA)** as the Warriors dismantled Salem (6-3-0) in a faceoff between two programs which have qualified for NCAA tournament play in each of the past two years.

Power, who had managed only two assists in his first 23 matches after scoring 80 in a four-year high school career, found his goal-scoring touch with the first three goals of his career (along with an assist) as the Warriors rode to their fourth win without a loss this year at Nevers Field. They have outscored those four opponents, 15-0,

Since resurrecting a rivalry which lay dormant for 12 years, Eastern is unbeaten (3-0-1) and has posted shutouts each of the past three seasons against the Vikings, who had lost only seven of the first 26 times the teams had met through 1995. The win over Salem each of the last three years has left Eastern with an identical record of 6-2-1.

Having dropped from No. 5 to a tie for No. 7 in New England in this week's poll after a 2-1 loss at Trinity College six days ago, Eastern scored the only goal it would need Tuesday in the sixth minute of play when 2010 Little East Conference scoring leader **Matt Furman (Montville)** headed in his team-leading fifth goal of the season on a long cross from sophomore forward **Kyle Surprenant (Coventry)**.

Power's first career goal six minutes later made it 2-0, and Eastern put the match away with 16 minutes left in the first half when Power set up sophomore midfielder **Luke Capezzone's (Colchester)** second goal of the season. Power worked a give-and-go with sophomore back **Christopher Giustina (Enfield)** to make it 2-0, and Capezzone popped in the rebound of Power's shot to all but seal the game at 3-0.

Fifteen minutes into the second half, sophomore forward **Tom Vear (Monson, MA)** found Power alone in the box with a crossing pass from the right flank, and Power's hard shot hit the crossbar and bounced in to push the lead to 4-0. Power completed the hat trick with 6+ minutes left when he beat Salem junior keeper Scott Hall one-on-one after receiving a through-ball from sophomore midfielder **Zach Kice (Denver)** in stride.

(more)

Senior **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)**, who shares the program career record with 23 full shutouts, and junior **Jordan Munsell (Waterford)** combined on their second consecutive shutout. Appel made six saves in the first half and Munsell came on to leave his feet for three saves to preserve the shutout in the second half. Appel has started all four matches in net in his career against Salem and stretched his scoreless streak against the Vikings to 211 minutes and 14 seconds with Tuesday's 45 shutout minutes.

The five goals was the most scored by either team in this series since the Vikings' 5-0 win at Nevers Field in 1995. The Warriors had last scored at least five goals against Salem during their undefeated regular season in 1969 in a 9-0 verdict at the old Alumni Field.

Eastern hosts Western Connecticut State University Saturday at 1 p.m. in a Little East Conference match at Nevers Field.

Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010

EASTERN MEN'S SOCCER ELIMINATED IN NCAA SECOND ROUND

Ranked sixth nationally, Bowdoin turns back Warriors' upset bid with 2-1 win

BRUNSWICK, Maine - The Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team was eliminated in the second round of the NCAA Division III tournament with a 2-1 loss to Bowdoin College Sunday afternoon at Pickard Field.

The match was the second in four days for Eastern (14-4-3), which was coming off its first NCAA win with a 1-0 victory over Nichols College. Ranked first in New England and sixth nationally, Bowdoin (14-1-2), which tied a program record for wins with its first NCAA victory ever, had drawn a first-round bye. The Polar Bears advance to face Amherst Saturday, November 20 in a third-round match.

Sophomore Michael Gale and senior Ben Denton-Schneider scored their seventh and sixth goals of the season, respectively, to give Bowdoin a 2-0 lead six minutes into the second half before the Warriors cut the lead in half when freshman **Zach Kice (Denver, CO)** answered with his first career goal with just under ten minutes left.

Bowdoin controlled the early pace of play and, after sustained pressure throughout most of the period, found the back of the net in the 36th minute. Denton-Schneider controlled the ball in the left corner and centered a pass to Gale at the top of the box. Gale fired a blast to the lower-right corner that tucked inside the post, beyond the outstretched arms of Eastern junior netminder **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** to give the hosts a 1-0 advantage.

The Polar Bears doubled their lead in the 51st minute when Eddie Jones played a brilliant cross into the box that Denton-Schneider headed home for a 2-0 Bowdoin advantage.

Eastern battled back, and found its goal in the 81st minute when Kice beat Bowdoin senior goaltender Dan Hicks in a race to the ball and deposited his goal with just 9:20 remaining.

Appel stopped five shots in net while Hicks was credited with a pair of saves for Bowdoin. The Polar Bears held a 17-8 advantage in shots and 5-1 edge in corner kicks in the win.

The post-season tournament was the fourth straight under fourth-year head coach **Greg DeVito**, who owns an overall record at Eastern of 56-20-10. The Warriors are ranked sixth in New England.

Eastern started three freshmen in the match in midfielder **Luke Capezzone (Colchester)**, defender **Mike Radlbeck (Westbrook)** and forward **Tom Vear (Monson, MA)** and brought four additional freshmen off the bench in Kice, **Kyle Surprenant (Coventry)**, **Nathan Mozian (Southington)** and **Romaro Johnson (Bridgeport)**.

M-Soccer: Warriors Pass NCAA Test

By Bob Molta on November 11, 2010 10:07 PM

With 1-0 win, Eastern on winning end of NCAA game for first time

DUDLEY, Mass. The Eastern Connecticut State University men's soccer team won an NCAA tournament match for the first time in program history, riding sophomore midfielder **Jon DeCasanova's (Glastonbury)** eighth goal of the season with 18 minutes left in the first half and extending its unbeaten streak to nine (7-0-2) with a 1-0 verdict over Nichols College Thursday night in a first-round match at Michael Vendetti Field.

At left: Juniors Matt Furman (21), Carl Appel (12) and Aaron Smiles (10) in Thursday's NCAA win over Nichols College.

Ranked No. 6 in New England, Eastern (14-3-3) visits Bowdoin College (13-1-3) in a second-round match Sunday at 1p.m. Bowdoin is ranked No. 1 in New England, No. 6 nationally.

After freshman **Tom Vear's (Monson, MA)** goal was disallowed due to offside six minutes into action, Eastern followed with an undisputed one 20 minutes later, and the Warriors withstood unranked Nichols' (15-4-3) second-half barrage to advance for the first time in its third NCAA tournament appearance.

Eastern was playing in a post-season tournament for the fourth straight season, but didn't play that way in the second half. Nichols was appearing in its first NCAA tournament after winning the Commonwealth Coast Conference championship on penalty kicks, and didn't play that way, either, over the final 45 minutes.

Nichols owned the second half Thursday night, as Eastern's stellar defense (one or less goal allowed in each of the last nine matches) bent but wouldn't break. The Bison spent the second half in Eastern's end, but could not get one past junior keeper **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)**. The Bison collected nine corner kicks in the second half (Eastern had none) and unloaded 15 shots. Appel came up with saves on six of those second-half shots to post his third consecutive shutouts, eighth of the season.

DeCasanova's third game-winning goal of the year was set up by junior forward **Matt Furman (Montville)** and freshman midfielder **Zach Kice (Denver, CO)**. The play originated in the Eastern defensive end when Furman was taken down without a call by referee Lou Labadia. Kice, however, regained possession for Eastern near midfield and sent the ball to open space on the right wing. Furman re-gained his feet and caught up to the ball, carrying toward the end line before sending a crossing pass inside the goal box to DeCasanova, who beat Nichols junior keeper Brendan Hamilton (11 shutouts, 0.49 GAA, .907 save pct.) from in close. The assist was the team-leading eighth for Furman.

Big, fast and skilled and bearing little resemblance to the team that Eastern crushed two years ago, Nichols spent the second half knocking on the door, but the Warriors withstood the Bison's advances time after time. Nichols was awarded three corner kicks in the first two minutes of the

second half. Eastern managed only one legitimate shot in the second half, that coming when DeCasanova fired a feed from Furman over the crossbar with 14 minutes left.

Executing a perfect give-and-go, Nichols nearly tied the match with a wide-open shot from inside the box that sailed wide right of the right post. With 28 minutes left, a Nichols header off a corner kick also just missed its mark. Nichols' best chance came with 17 minutes left, but Appel timed his leap perfectly and got enough of Pat Gaumont's drive to tip it over the crossbar. Nichols nearly scored on the resulting corner kick with a shot that nearly crossed the goal line.

Eastern's defense did not allow a corner kick until just 15:30 remained in the first half, with Appel being called upon for only two saves. Freshman back **Mike Radlbeck (Westbrook)** broke up Nichols' scoring opportunity off that first corner. Following Nichols' second corner kick moments later, Mark Capitanio was left unmarked and one-timed a long serve on the left wing that carried wide of the left post.

All four of Nichols' losses this came by one goal, three by 1-0 margins. Two years ago, Eastern routed the Bison, 5-0, in the opening round of the ECAC tournament. Nichols's re-vamped roster featured 14 freshmen and sophomores who did not experience the beating administered by Eastern in 2008.

Eastern Conn. 1, Nichols College 0

Eastern Conn. (14-3-3) 1 0 -- 1
Nichols College (15-4-3) 0 0 -- 0

Jon DeCasanova (Zach Kice, Matt Furman) 26:59.

Shots: E-10, N-27; **Saves:** E-Carl Appel 8, N-Brendan Hamilton 2.

Corner kicks: E-4, N-12.

Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2010

RIC M-SOCCER ADVANCES PAST EASTERN IN LEC SEMIS

After the teams play to OT tie for second time this year, Anchormen win PKs

MANSFIELD, Conn. -- Following a 0-0 double overtime stalemate, third-seeded Rhode Island College converted all five of its penalty kicks for a 5-4 PK decision over No. 2 Eastern Connecticut State University Wednesday night that moved the Anchormen into the Little East Conference tournament championship match for the fourth time in seven years. The match is recorded as a tie.

After eliminating 2009 champion Eastern (13-3-3), Rhode Island (10-6-2) faces top seeded Keene State College in Saturday's noon title match at Keene, NH. Keene qualified for its eighth championship game appearance with a 2-1 home win over fourth-seeded UMass Dartmouth Wednesday night. Keene was upset by UMass in last year's semifinal and Eastern trimmed the Corsairs, 1-0, in the title game at Mansfield.

Wednesday, Eastern and RIC each their first four penalty kicks. Shooting first, Eastern then missed its fifth try when RIC junior goalkeeper Nic Clark made the save on a low shot sent directly at him, and junior Bruno Costa nailed the game-winner inside the right post. Hector Espildora Fortuno, Sean Maguire, Pedro Hernandez and Jose Ruiz also converted their tries for RIC.

All nine of the successful PKs in the shootout were perfectly placed either inside the post or under the crossbar. Neither goalkeeper had an opportunity to stop any of those shots.

Although Eastern brought a seven-game unbeaten streak into play and RIC was only 3-4-1 in its last eight, the Anchormen controlled the pace of the match throughout. Eastern junior **Carl Appel (West Windsor, NJ)** was forced to make a career-high 13 saves to keep the visitors off the board. Appel kept the game scoreless twice when he leapt to tip shots by Espildora Fortuno (first half) and freshman Ryan Rasicleski (second half) over the bar. Appel also dove to the post to deny Espildora Fortuno 17 minutes into the match and again to stop junior Mike Patriarca's quick turnaround shot seven minutes into the second half.

Clark was called upon for only four saves, but came up big when he left his feet in a dive to his right to grab freshman **Romaro Johnson's (Bridgeport)** bid from in close with seven minutes left in the first half. Junior Matt Furman (Montville), the conference point leader, nearly gave Eastern a 1-0 lead with 19 minutes left in regulation, but his 25-yarder skimmed off the crossbar.

On its home field, Eastern had shut out RIC in the semifinal round in winning LEC tournament titles in 2007 and last year and had beaten RIC at home the last five times the teams had met. In a 1-1 overtime draw during the regular season at Providence, the Anchormen outshot the Warriors 21-13, with Appel coming up with eight saves.

RIC won its only LEC title in 2008 over Plymouth State University after losing in the finals in 2004 and 2005, the '05 setback coming at the hands of Keene State.