

Saturday, May 10, 2008

DEFENSE, EASTERN FALTER IN NCAA SOFTBALL TOURNEY

St. John Fisher capitalizes on errors for 5-4 win that ends Warriors' season

PLATTSBURGH, N.Y. — Two of Eastern Connecticut State University's four errors led to three unearned runs as the Warriors were eliminated from the 2008 NCAA Division III Plattsburgh Regional softball tournament with a 5-4, eight-inning loss to St. John Fisher College Saturday afternoon at Cardinal Park on the SUNY Plattsburgh campus.

Fifth-seeded Eastern (28-14) led twice in the game on two-run home runs by junior first baseman **Rachel Denny (East Haddam)** and senior rightfielder **Kate Livingston (West Hartford)**, but an outfield error helped third-seeded St. John Fisher (26-20) score three runs in the third and the game-ending run with two out in the bottom of the eighth inning.

The loss ends Eastern's winningest season in 14 years, while St. John Fisher advanced in the losers' bracket to face second-seeded Endicott College Saturday at 2 p.m. Fourth-seeded Cortland State, the only remaining unbeaten team, needs one win Sunday to capture the regional championship.

The Warriors were coming off consecutive one-run wins over seventh-seeded Keuka College and top-seeded and No. 5 nationally-ranked Montclair State University Friday — victories which kept Eastern alive after an opening-round 14-5 setback at the hands of Cortland.

Saturday, St. John Fisher stranded 14 runners through the first seven innings. In the eighth, the Warriors committed their fourth error of the game on Jamie Harmon's sacrifice bunt. On that error — which allowed Harmon to reach safely with none out — Nicole Middleton raced from first to third, and scored one batter later on a sacrifice fly to left by Kristi Bradley.

The program's season RBI record-holder with 50, Rachel Denny gave the Warriors a 2-0 lead with her team-leading 11th home run of the year. An inning-opening error, three hits and a sacrifice bunt accounted for three St. John Fisher runs in the third before the Warriors re-gained a 4-3 lead when Livingston launched a two-out, two-run home run just over the fence in left. Rachel Denny had opened the inning with a first-pitch single.

In the fourth, Middleton's sacrifice fly plated Nicole Watkins from third to tie the game, 4-4.

After seeing limited action over the second half of the season, junior right-hander **Lisa Cody (Webster, MA)** allowed only the game-winning (unearned) run over her four-inning relief stint. The third of three Eastern pitchers, Cody (3-4) allowed five hits and only one walk after replacing freshman righty **Caitlin Cravens (Ellsworth, ME)** while the Cardinals were scoring the game-tying run in the fourth. Cody escaped jams in the fifth, sixth and seventh before the Empire-8 champions broke through in the eighth.

Cody saved both of Eastern's one-run wins Friday, giving up only one hit over 2 2/3 innings. Opposing batters managed only six hits in 6 2/3 tournament innings against Cody, who walked only two and was not charged with an earned run.

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St. John Fisher, which did not commit an error for the third straight tournament game, threatened in every inning against Eastern, leaving two runners aboard five times and the bases loaded once. The Cardinals could not break a 4-4 tie in the sixth when a single, walk and error loaded the bases, but Cody got a weak infield pop to end the threat.

The Warriors also came up empty in the sixth. With two out and none on, Livingston singled to center on the first pitch from complete-game winner Amanda Shevchuk (16-13), and was advanced to third on junior **Kelly Finlay's (Thomaston)** third pinch hit in four tournament at-bats. Finlay took second on the play, but both runners were stranded in scoring position when Shevchuk got a swinging strikeout to end the inning.

All-region sophomore centerfielder **Ashley Sullivan (Trumbull)** had a 14-game hitting streak snapped by going 0-for-4, and finished the season with a .456 batting average, three hundredths of a percentage point shy of Sarah Marchetti's season mark of .459.

Denny and Livingston had two hits each in Eastern's seven-hit offense. Four players had two hits, five players scored a run, and four were credited with at least one RBI in SJF's 12-hit attack. The top four hitters combined for six hits and four runs scored.

Record-setting season:

Both Rachel and senior catcher **Krystle Denny (West Haven)** broke the 20-year-old program record for slugging percentage. Rachel Denny finished at .783, Krystle Denny at .725. The old record of .693 was held by Eastern Hall of Famer Mariann Sumbo. Krystle Denny was hitless in four at-bats and finished one shy of tying Trish Wodatch's 22-year-old record of 98 total bases. With 11 and eight home runs, respectively, both Rachel and Krystle Denny broke the previous season record of six, set last year by Rachel Denny and **Kim Church (Farmington)**. Rachel Denny also broke Shumbo's (both are graduates of Nathan Hale-Ray HS) career home run record of eight. She has 19 in three years. With 16 doubles, Krystle Denny also broke by one Michelle Cunningham's 1998 season record of 15.

Cravens came out of the bullpen in all four regional tournament games and completed her first season with a program season record 20 relief appearances, eight more than the old record.

With 85 doubles and 28 home runs, the Warriors broke the season records in those categories for the second straight year.

St. John Fisher 5, Eastern Conn. 4

Eastern Conn. (28-14)	200	200	00	--	4	7	4
St. John Fisher (26-20)	003	100	01	--	5	12	0

Katie Pensiero, Caitlin Cravens (3), Lisa Cody (4) and Krystle Denny. Amanda Shevchuk (16-13) and Jamie Harmon. HR-Rachel Denny (11), Kate Livingston (3) (E).

Eastern Conn. 4, Keuka College 3

Keuka College (23-9)	200	001	0	--	3	5	2
Eastern Conn. (27-13)	010	030	x	--	4	8	1

Jen Shaughnessy (12-6) and Stacy Schreiner. Katie Pensiero, Caitlin Cravens (3), Lisa Cody (7) and Krystle Denny. WP-Cravens (11-4). Save-Cody (2). 2B-Shaughnessy (K), Rachel Denny, Ashley Sullivan, Kelly Finlay, Casey Mahoney (E); 3B-K. Denny (E).

Eastern Conn. 3, Montclair State U. 2

Montclair State (43-6)	000	020	0	--	2	9	0
Eastern Conn. (28-13)	210	000	x	--	3	7	1

Kelly Karp (16-1), Elia Persico (2), Carolyn McCrea (6) and Kacie Neurouter. Katie Pensiero (14-5), Caitlin Cravens (5), Lisa Cody (6) and Krystle Denny. Save-Cody (3). 2B-Kim Church 2, Rachel Denny, Casey Mahoney (E).

Friday, May 9, 2008

EASTERN SOFTBALL ALIVE AT NCAA PLATTSBURGH REGIONAL

Fifth-seeded Warriors stun top-seeded Montclair State for second one-run victory of day

PLATTSBURGH, N.Y. – Three teams have been eliminate from the NCAA Division III Plattsburgh Regional Softball Tournament. Thanks to solid pitching, timely hitting, and sure-handed defense, Eastern Connecticut is not one of them.

Friday at Carrdinal Park on the campus of SUNY Plattsburgh, fifth-seeded Eastern (28-13) avoided elimination with a pair of one-run victories over seventh-seeded Keuka College, 4-3, and top-seeded Montclair State University, 3-2. Keuka and Montclair, ranked No. 5 nationally, were eliminated.

After going ten years without a victory in the NCAA tournament, the Warriors won twice in ten hours. Three Eastern pitchers allowed only one extra-base bit while the Warriors had eight doubles and a triple.

Four teams remain in the original field of seven, with the championship round getting underway Sunday at noon. Second-seeded Endicott College faces fourth-seeded SUNY Cortland Saturday at 10 in a showdown of the tournament's only remaining undefeated teams., with the winner advancing to Sunday's championship round needing one victory to secure the title Eastern meets St. John Fisher Saturday at noon. The loser of that game is eliminated, with the winner staying on the field to meet the Cortland-Endicott loser.

Junior righty **Lisa Cody (Webster, MA)** gained a save in each game, pitching a total of 2 2/3 scoreless innings while giving up just one hit.

Against Keuka, Eastern scored three times in the fifth inning to wipe out a 2-1 deficit. Senior catcher **Kryslé Denny (West Haven)** drove in the tying run with a triple, Sophomore centerfielder **Ashley Sullivan (Trumbull)** gave Eastern a 3-2 lead with an RBI double, and junior pinch hitter **Kelly Finlay (Thomaston)** made it 4-2 with a two-out pinch double. With the tying run on second, Cody retired the final two batters of the game.

Against Montclair, Eastern handed starter Kelly Karp her first loss in 17 decisions by scoring twice in the first and knocking her out of the game in the second by scoring a third run. Both Eastern runs were walked in in the first, and sophomore shortstop **Kim Church's (Farmington)** RBI double made it 3-0 in the second. Junior righty **Katie Pensiero (Stamford)** won her 14th game in 19 decisions by pitching into the fifth inning. She gave up only one earned run on six hits. Cody left the tying run on in the sixth and seventh to earn her second save of the day.

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The top four hitters in the Cortland lineup combined for 10 hits, 11 RBI, and seven runs scored. After grounding out in her first at-bat, freshman all-region second baseman and leadoff hitter Donnalyn Cross scored runs on each of her ensuing four hits, and drove in three runs. Her one-out, two-run home run over the right-field fence ended the game.

Eastern's top four hitters in the lineup combined for only two hits and two runs and did not drive in a run. Junior first baseman **Rachel Denny (East Haddam)**, the team-leader with a program-record 48 RBI, had only one opportunity to drive in a run in the game.

SUNY Cortland 14, Eastern Conn. 5 (6 inn.)

Eastern Conn. (26-13)	014	000	--	5	11	2
Cortland (35-11)	132	503	--	14	17	0

One out when game-ending run scored.

Katie Pensiero (13-5), Caitlin Cravens (3), Pensiero (4) and Krystle Denny. Katie Finch, Maria Carucci (3), Finch (4) and Amanda Barnett. WP-Carucci (1-0). 2B-Barnett, Annemarie Nelson, Emily Ringen ©; 3B-Ashley Sullivan (E); HR-Donnalyn Cross (3) ©.

Thursday, May 8, 2008

IN NCAA SOFTBALL OPENER, CORTLAND POWERS PAST EASTERN
Warriors can't match Red Dragons' firepower in tournament-opening 14-5 loss

PLATTSBURGH, N.Y. – The Eastern Connecticut State University softball team matched the offensive firepower of SUNY Cortland for three innings before the Red Dragons pulled away for a 14-5 six-inning victory Thursday morning in the opening game of the 2008 NCAA Division III Plattsburgh regional at Cardinal Park on the campus of SUNY Plattsburgh.

In compliance with the eight-run rule, the game was stopped after Cortland scored three runs in the bottom of the sixth inning

Making its 15th NCAA post-season appearance but first in ten years, Eastern (26-13) falls into a loser' bracket game of the seven-team, double-elimination tournament and is scheduled to play an elimination game Friday morning at 10 a.m. Seeded fifth in the tournament, the Warriors will play the loser of Thursday's 3 p.m. first-round game between No. 2 seed Endicott College and No. 7 seed Keuka College. Fourth-seeded Cortland (35-11) advances to play No. 1 seed Montclair State University Thursday at 4 p.m. Montclair drew a first-round bye.

Featuring a team .348 batting average, Eastern knocked around Cortland sophomore right-handed ace Katie Finch, driving her from the game by scoring four runs on six hits in the top of the third inning to take a 5-4 lead. The Red Dragons, who scored in all but one of six innings, answered with two runs in the bottom of the third, however, to take the lead for good, 6-5. They put the game away by scoring five times on six hits in the fourth to move out to a 11-5 advantage.

Trailing 4-1, Eastern sent nine batters to the plate in the third and scored four runs after there were two out. Six consecutive batters reached safely in the inning on five hits and a hit batter. First-team all-region centerfielder **Ashley Sullivan (Trumbull)** and junior pinch hitter **Kelly Finlay (Thomaston)** drove in runs in the inning with singles, and No. 8 hitter **Ashley Marchitto (Canton)**, the team's senior leftfielder, plated the tying and go-ahead runs with a two-run single to make it 5-4. The Warriors threatened for more but the inning ending when Cortland all-region centerfielder Annemarie Nelson threw out Finlay trying to score from second on No. 9 hitter **Casey Mahoney's (Willimantic)** single.

Leading 6-5 in the bottom of the fourth, Cortland also batted around, scoring five times in on six hits – four of the runs coming after there were two out. Amanda Barnett capped the surge with a two-out, two-run double – her second two-run hit of the game.

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little east conference

Saturday, May 3, 2008

RHODE ISLAND WINS THIRD STRAIGHT LEC SOFTBALL TITLE
Anchorwomen sweep four straight to gain automatic NCAA tournament bid

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Tournament MVP **Krystal Bilek (Fitchburg, MA)** batted a team-leading .636 and freshman right-handed pitcher **Melanie Neece (Westfield, MA)** won three games as the Rhode Island College fastpitch softball team swept through the 2008 Little East Conference tournament to record an unprecedented third consecutive title Saturday at Howard Spector Field on the Eastern Connecticut State University campus.

Ranked first in the New England region but seeded second in the tournament, Rhode Island (33-7) wrapped up the title by routing fourth-seeded Keene State College (25-12) in the first game of Saturday's championship round, 13-4. After losing a 5-3 decision to Rhode Island Friday in the second round of the double-elimination tournament, the Owls bounced back to eliminate sixth-seeded Plymouth State University Friday night, then post a dramatic 7-6 come-from-behind, eight-inning win over top-seeded Eastern Connecticut earlier Saturday. Keene would have needed two wins Saturday to claim its fifth tournament title in the 11-year history of the tournament.

Rhode Island, the first team to win three straight LEC tournament titles, will host the New England Regional Tournament at the Dayna A. Bazar Memorial Softball Field beginning Thursday.

Rhode Island had lost the No. 1 seed and hosting rights on the final day of the regular season when it was swept by Eastern at Spector Field. The Anchorwomen opened the tournament Thursday with a 6-3 win over fifth-seeded University of Southern Maine, and edged Keene State in the second round Friday afternoon. In the winners' bracket final, Rhode Island scored six times in the first inning and pounded Eastern, 10-1, in a game stopped after five innings.

In Saturday's win over Keene State– the fourth in as many games for RIC this year against the Owls – the Anchorwomen collected 14 hits, six of them good for extra bases. Making her first tournament start, **Jenna Deveines (Lowville, NY)** pitched into the fifth inning to gain her 14th win in 17 decisions and Neece closed it out with 2 2/3 hitless innings.

(more)

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Against Keene Saturday, Bilek was 3-for-4 with a double and her third home run of the season, and four RBI. The team's third baseman and cleanup hitter, Bilek gave her team a 1-0 lead in the first inning with a two-out RBI single. In a decisive four-run fifth inning that pushed the team's lead to 8-1, Bilek doubled home two runs, and in a five-run seventh, she drilled a solo home run to center. In the title game, leadoff hitter and first baseman **Christie Lotti (Watford, CT)** reached safely three times with a single and two walks. She also scored twice. Designated player and No. 3 hitter Kayla Jandreau (**Plainville, CT**) was 2-for-2 with two runs scored. She doubled and scored ahead of Bilek's single in the first and swatted her fourth home run of the year to center to drive in two runs in the third and give RIC the lead for good, 4-2.

Keene led once in the title game when **Katie Allenson (Clifton Park, NY)** had an RBI double and **Colleen Ferguson (Sussex, NJ)** a two-out RBI single in a two-run first inning. Leadoff hitter **Jenna Patnode (Surry, NH)** recorded two of Keene's five hits and scored two runs. Losing pitcher **Ashlee Nicholson (Swanzey, NH)** started all five of Keene's game in the tournament and pitched all but 2 2/3 innings. She was 3-2 with a 4.08 ERA.

Against Eastern, Keene tied the game by scoring twice in the bottom of the seventh inning when **Melissa Scata (Medway, MA)** belted a two-run home run and won the game on No. 8 hitter **Julia May's (Deep River, CT)** second tournament home run leading off the eighth -- blast to right-center. Trailing 4-2, Eastern had vaulted into a 6-4 lead when **Ashley Sullivan (Trumbull, CT)** unloaded a seventh-inning grand slam for her first homer of the year. The home run -- which adds to Eastern's season program record of 27 -- should prove to be the last one by an Eastern player at Howard Spector Field, which celebrated its 31st and final season this season.

Neece won RIC's first three games on the mound, allowing only three earned runs in 17 2/3 inning. She fanned 13 and walked six and did not allow an extra-base hit. Bilek batted .636 (7-for-11) in the tournament with 14 total bases (a 1.272 slugging percentage), a .733 on-base percentage, seven RBI and four runs scored. **Donielle Mattoon (Coventry, RI)** (6-for-14) and **Jeanne Rosa (Milford, CT)** (3-for-7) both batted .429 and Jandreau batted .400 (4-for-10) with six runs scored and three RBI.

May led Keene in the tournament with a .467 batting average (7-for-15), with Jess Starkey at .410 (7-for-17) and No. 9 hitter **Allie D'Amato (Bristol, CT)** at .400 (6-for-15). May hit two of her team's three home runs in the tournament.

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Rachel Denny (East Haddam, CT) batted a team-high .545 (6-for-11) for Eastern, with Sullivan at .538 (7-for-13) with a team-high six RBI and team-high 13 total bases. **Kim Church (Farmington, CT)** batted .500 (7-for-14) with 12 total bases and a team-high six RBI. **Katie Pensiero (Stamford, CT)** won both of her decisions on the mound. **Krystle Denny (West Haven, CT)** broke the Eastern season record with her 16th double of the year in the third inning against Keene Saturday.

Game 9
Keene State College 7, Eastern Conn. 6 (8 inn.)

Eastern Conn. (26-12)	002	000	40	--	6	9	2
Keene State (25-110)	000	004	21	--	7	14	0

None out when winning run scored.

Katie Pensiero, Caitlin Cravens (6) and Krystle Denny. Ashleen Nicholson (15-5) and Melissa Scata. LP-Cravens (10-4). 2B-K. Denny (E), Kaity Conklin, Julia May (K); HR-Ashley Sullivan (1) (E), Melissa Scata (5), Julia May (2) (K).

Game 10
Championship Game
Rhode Island College 13, Keene State College 4

Rhode Island (33-7)	103	040	5	--	13	14	2
Keene State (25-120)	200	020	0	--	4	5	2

Jenna Deveines (14-3), Melanie Neece (5) and Jeanne Rosa. Ashlee Nicholson (15-6), Jess Starkey (5), Jessie Williams (7) and Melissa Scata. 2B-Michelle Perrin, Kayla Jandreau, Krystal Bilek, Amanda Perry ®; Jess Starkey, Katie Allenson (K); HR-Jandreau (4), Bilek (3) ®.

little east conference

Thursday, May 1, 2008

TWO-OUT LIGHTNING CARRIES EASTERN SOFTBALL TO WIN

At home, Warriors open Little East Conference tournament with 6-2 victory over PSU

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University scored five runs after there were two out and junior righty **Katie Pensiero (Stamford)** won her 12th game in 18 starts with a complete-game five-hitter as the Warriors opened the 2008 Little East Conference Softball Tournament with a 6-2 victory over sixth-seeded Plymouth State University Thursday afternoon at Howard Spector Field.

Playing its first home game ever in the double-elimination round of the tournament, Eastern (25-10) broke a 2-2 tie by scoring two unearned runs with two out in the second inning and rode Pensiero's (12-4) ninth complete game of the year to an opening win in the six-team tournament. Plymouth (25-13) remained alive in the tournament by eliminating fifth-seeded University of Southern Maine, 8-6, in Thursday's late game.

Eastern faces third-seeded Western Connecticut (29-11) Friday at 1 p.m. The Colonials, three times the tournament champion, scored twice in the bottom of the seventh to tie their opener with fourth-seeded Keene State before the Owls answered with three in the top of the eighth to post a 5-2 win. Western, which split its regular-season doubleheader with Eastern at Spector Field, needs a win to remain alive. After playing Western, Eastern will play again Friday night at 7 p.m.

Thursday, sophomore centerfielder **Ashley Sullivan (Trumbull)** gave Eastern a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first with a two-out, two-run triple, and after Plymouth (24-13) tied the game with its only two runs off Pensiero, sophomore shortstop **Kim Church (Farmington)** hit a go-ahead two-out, two-run home run to center to give the Warriors the lead for good, 4-2. An infield error with two out allowed senior No. 9 hitter **Casey Mahoney (Willimantic)** to reach safely before Church drove a 2-2 pitch over the center field fence for her fourth home run of the year.

Eastern added insurance runs in the fourth when junior first baseman **Rachel Denny (East Haddam)** plated Church (walk) from second with a single to center, and freshman pinch hitter **Rachel Soychak (Mahopac, NY)** hit her first home run of the season with two out in the sixth to make it 6-2.

(more)

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After surrendering a two-run home run to Sammi Romano in the second inning, Pensiero retired nine of the next 11 hitters. Pensiero was touched for a one-out double in the fifth, but retired the final eight batters in order to record her second win this year over Plymouth in as many starts. Thursday, she struck out two and walked one.

Denny, Church and Sullivan all had two hits in Eastern's eight-hit attack. Denny is batting .714 (5-for-7) with four RBI and a .727 on-base percentage in three games this year against Plymouth. Church has two home runs, six runs scored and five RBI this season against the Panthers.

Eastern Conn. 6, Plymouth State U. 2

Plymouth State (24-13)	020	000	0	--	2	5	2
Eastern Conn. (25-10)	220	101	x	--	6	8	0

Kat Roland (11-5) and Laura Kaplan. Katie Pensiero (12-4) and Krystle Denny. 2B-Kay LaBric, Leanne Barry (P), Ashley Sullivan (E); 3B-Sullivan (E); HR-Sammi Romano (4) (P), Kim Church (4), Rachel Soychak (1) (E).

MOLTA, Bob (Athletics)

From: Kent Cherrington [kcherrin@plymouth.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 01, 2008 4:53 PM
To: sid@littleeast.com; MOLTA, Bob (Athletics)
Subject: corrected version

A corrected version:

For Immediate Release

May 1, 2008

Contact: Kent Cherrington, SID

**PSU Softball falls to Eastern Conn. in LEC Tourney opener
 Panthers to face Southern Maine in Game 4 Thursday evening**

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Sophomore **Ashley Sullivan** (Trumbull, Conn.) cracked a two-run triple in the first inning and classmate **Kim Church** (Farmington, Conn.) added a two-run home run in the second inning Thursday afternoon and top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University went on to defeat sixth-seeded Plymouth State University, 6-2, in Game One of the Little East Conference Softball Tournament at ECSU's Howard Spector Field.

The Warriors, 25-10, advance in the double-elimination championship bracket and will play again Friday at 1:00 p.m. against the loser of Game Three. The Panthers, 24-13, will play another game on Thursday, meeting fifth-seeded University of Southern Maine in an elimination game at 7:00 p.m. The Huskies were defeated by second-seeded Rhode Island College in Game Two of the tournament, 6-3.

Church led off the bottom of the first for Eastern Conn. with a single to left. Two outs later, clean-up hitter and senior co-captain **Krystle Denny** (West Haven, Conn.) drew a walk and Sullivan put the Warriors on the board, knocking in two runs with a triple to right field.

PSU bounced right back with two runs in the top of the second inning. Freshman **Melissa Caiazzo** (Portland, Maine) led off with a single through the left side, and after classmate **Andrea Pydynkowski** (Danvers, Mass.) reached on a fielder's choice that erased Caiazzo, sophomore **Sammi Romano** (Kingston, N.H.) cracked a home run to center field to tie the score at 2-2. It was Romano's fourth homer of the season.

Eastern took the lead for good with a pair of unearned runs in the last of the second inning. Senior **Casey Mahoney** (Willimantic, Conn.) reached base on a two-out error, and the next batter was Church, who smacked her fourth home run of the season to left field.

The Warriors added single runs in the fourth and sixth innings on an RBI single by Denny and a pinch-hit solo home run by freshman **Rachel Soychak** (Mahopac, N.Y.), her first of the season. That was plenty of run support for Eastern junior **Katie Pensiero** (Stamford, Conn.), who shut down the Panthers after the second inning.

Pensiero earned the victory (12-4) with a complete-game effort, allowing five hits and a walk while striking out two. Sophomore **Kat Roland** (Norton, Mass.) suffered the loss (11-5) for PSU, allowing six runs (four earned) on eight hits and three walks while fanning four.

Church, Denny and Sullivan all had two hits for the Warriors, who swept the regular-season series from Plymouth State, 9-8 and 7-3, back on Apr. 6. Caiazzo was the only multiple-hit performer for the Panthers with a pair of singles.

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Saturday, April 26, 2008

EASTERN SOFTBALL NO. 1 SEED FOR LITTLE EAST TOURNAMENT
Warriors hand RIC first conference losses, gain share of regular-season title

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University softball team gained a share of its first Little East Conference regular-season title in 13 years of LEC play by sweeping conference leader Rhode Island College, 8-2, 6-4 Saturday afternoon at Howard Spector Field.

By winning twice over Rhode Island (29-7, 12-2 little east), Eastern (24-10, 12-2 little east), earned a share of its first conference regular-season championship and was awarded the No. 1 seed and hosting honors for the six-team, double-elimination LEC tournament Thursday through Saturday at Spector Field. The Anchorwomen share the title after claiming the regular-season crown outright the last four years.

Eastern will open the tournament against sixth-seeded Plymouth State Thursday at 10 a.m. The Warriors posted 9-8, 7-3 wins over the Panthers during the regular season April 6.

After junior righty **Katie Pensiero (Stamford)** threw a complete-game six-hitter in the opener, Eastern erased a one-run deficit twice in the second game. Sophomore shortstop **Kim Church (Farmington)** tied the second game at 4-4 when she led off the fifth with her third home run of the year to center field, and senior rightfielder **Kate Livingston (West Hartford)** drove in the go-ahead runs by stroking a first-pitch two-run single to center with two out -- her only hit of the day.

Junior first baseman **Rachel Denny (East Haddam)** broke the 16-year-old season RBI with a third-inning single in the first game that gives her 43. Pensiero won her 11th game in 15 decisions in the first game, fanning six and walking five. Freshman **Katie Dinibanian (Stratford)** and sophomore centerfielder **Ashley Sullivan (Trumbull)** both had two hits and two RBI in the opener.

Eastern broke open the first game by scoring four runs in the fourth on four hits, a walk, sacrifice bunt and an error and knocking out RIC freshman righty Melanie Neece (Westfield, MA). Church and Sullivan both drove in runs in the inning with doubles, Church knocking in the first two runs.

(more)

Freshman righty **Caitlin Cravens (Ellsworth, ME)** pitched into the sixth inning of the second game and was credited with her tenth win in 13 decisions. Junior righty **Lisa Cody (Webster, MA)** inherited a 4-3 lead and two baserunners in the sixth, and ended the RIC threat with a pair of swinging strikeouts. With the tying runs aboard in the seventh with two out, RIC freshman rightfielder Donielle Mattoon (Coventry, RI) lined out to Rachel Denny at first to end the game.

In the doubleheader, Church had three hits, drove in three runs and scored three runs; Rachel Denny and Sullivan each had three hits and drove in two runs, with Denny also scoring twice; Dinihanian had two hits, scored three runs and drove in two.

Junior leftfielder Kelli McCartin (Cranston, RI) had five of RIC's 17 hits on the afternoon. She scored twice in the second game. Batting leadoff, senior first baseman Christie Lotti (Waterford) drove in two runs in the second game and scored once. She reached on a bunt single in the first inning and scored the team's first run on a single by senior third baseman Krystal Bilek (Fitchburg, MA), and gave the visitors a 3-2 lead with a two-run single to center in the second. Freshman second baseman Amanda Perry (New Bedford, MA) brought a .489 average into play but was hitless in seven at-bats.

Eastern entered the day batting .349 with 23 home runs on the season. Rhode Island was batting .344 with 12 home runs.

The 12 regular-season conference wins are the most by Eastern, one more than the 2006 team which finished a half-game behind RIC in the final regular-season conference standings due to a tie.

Ceremonies were held before each game of the doubleheader recognizing the final season at Howard Spector Field, where the Warriors have played their home games since 1978. On the field, Eastern had won nine straight regional championships between 1983 and 1991, as well as the 1985 national title. The field had never previously hosted a Little East Conference tournament.

(more)

Game 1
Eastern Conn. 8, Rhode Island College 2

R.I. College (29-6, 12-1 little east)	010	000	1	--2	6	1
Eastern Conn. (23-10, 11-2 little east)	002	420	x	--8	9	4

Melanie Neece (15-3), Jenna Deveines (4) and Kayla Jandreau. Katie Pensiero (11-4) and Krystle Denny. 2B-Kim Church, Ashley Sullivan (E); HR-Jandreau (3) (R)

Game 2
Eastern Conn. 6, Rhode Island College 4

R.I. College (29-7, 12-2 little east)	120	100	0	--4	11	5
Eastern Conn. (24-10, 12-2 little east)	210	030	x	--6	9	1

Jenna Deveines (13-3), Melanie Neece (5) and Jeanne Rosa. Caitlin Cravens (10-3), Lisa Cody (6) and Krystle Denny. Save-Cody (1). 2B-Donielle Mattoon @; 3B-Courtney Caswell (E); HR-Kim Church (3) (E).

Thursday, April 24, 2008

EASTERN SOFTBALL RE-GROUPS FOR SPLIT WITH CGA

Rachel Denny ties season RBI record with three in 13-0 second-game victory

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Junior first baseman **Rachel Denny (East Haddam)** tied the Eastern season record for RBI and senior catcher **Krystle Denny (West Haven)** moved to within one of tying the season doubles record when the Eastern Connecticut State University softball team split a non-conference doubleheader with the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Thursday night at Howard Spector Field.

In the twinbill for Eastern (22-10), nine different players drove in runs., eight scored runs and ten contributed hits. Coast Guard (14-24) erased an early three-run deficit to post an 11-7 win in the first game before the Warriors scored 11 runs in their final two at-bats to take a 13-0 decision in the five-inning nightcap.

Rachel Denny, the program's season and career home run leader, had RBI doubles in consecutive at-bats in the nightcap. She had an RBI double in the third inning and tied Carrie Loring's 1992 RBI record of 42 with a two-run double in the fourth that hit the top of the fence and bounced back into play.

In the doubleheader, **Ashley Sullivan (Trumbull)** reached base six times. She was 4-for-6 with four runs scored and three RBI and also walked twice; Rachel Denny, senior rightfielder **Kate Livingston (West Hartford)** and junior DP **Kelly Finlay (Thomaston)** all had three hits. Livingston and Finlay both drove in two runs. The hits were the first of the season for Finlay, who had batted only six times all season prior to Thursday.

Krystle Denny matched Rachel Denny with two doubles, moving her to within one of Michelle Cunningham's 1998 season record of 15 doubles. Krystle Denny had two hits, scored two runs and drove in two runs and also reached twice by walk. Freshman outfielder **Katie Dinihanian (Stratford)** and sophomore shortstop **Kim Church (Farmington)** each reached four times with a hit and three walks.

Eastern had nine hits and received ten walks in the opener, but stranded 12. Coast Guard scored four unearned runs on four hits and two errors in the third to wipe out a 3-0

(more)

Eastern lead, and broke a 4-4 tie with four runs in the fourth on two hits. A wild pitch gave the Bears a 5-4 lead and Amanda Frederick later drove in two runs in the inning with a two-out double. Frederick, the No. 3 hitter, drove in four runs in the first game for Coast Guard and No. 9 hitter Becky Miller reached base four times with three hits and a walk, drove in two runs and scored two.

Lisa Cody (Webster, MA) threw her third shutout in ten starts for Eastern in the nightcap to gain her first win in five weeks and push her season record over .500 to 3-2. She gave up only four hits while fanning two and walking one in recording the five-inning complete game.

Sophomore righty Crystal Lee Coonan pitched all 11 innings for Coast Guard. She allowed 20 hits and 20 runs (14 earned) while fanning ten and walking 17.

Eastern hosts Little East Conference leader Rhode Island College Saturday at 1 p.m. on the final conference weekend of the regular season. An Eastern sweep will give the Warriors a share of first place in the final regular-season standings and make them the top seed in next week's LEC tournament. Prior to each game of Saturday's doubleheader, ceremonies recognizing the 31st and final season on Howard Spector Field will be staged. The Warriors are schedule to play their final regular-season games on thefield Tuesday against Wesleyan University.

Game 1

U.S. Coast Guard Academy 11, Eastern Conn. 7

Coast Guard (14-23)	004	420	1	--	11	11	3
Eastern Conn. (21-10)	301	011	1	--	7	9	3

Crystal Lee Coonan (14-17) and Amanda Frederick. Katie Pensiro (10-4), Caitlin Cravens (4) and Krystle Denny, Rachel Soychak (4). 2B- Colleen Denny 2, Frederick, ©, K. Denny, Ashley Sullivan, Katie Livingston, Kelly Finlay (E); 3B-Kim Church (E).

Game 2

Eastern Conn. 13, U.S. Coast Guard Academy 0 (5 inn.)

Coast Guard (14-24)	000	00	--	0	4	4
Eastern Conn. (22-10)	205	6x	--	13	11	0

Crystal Lee Coonan (14-18) and Amanda Frederick. Lisa Cody (3-2) and Krystle Denny. 2B-Jeannie Crump ©, R. Denny 2, K. Denny (E).

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

EASTERN SOFTBALL CRUNCHES UMASS DARTMOUTH, 9-0, 9-1
By winning two, Warriors put themselves in position for a piece of their first LEC title

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Senior catcher **Krystle Denny (West Haven)** homered twice, doubled, tripled and singled and drove in five runs and senior leftfielder **Ashley Marchitto (Canton)** was 4-for-4 with a double and triple as the Eastern Connecticut State University fastpitch softball team gained a key Little East Conference doubleheader sweep of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Tuesday evening at Howard Spector Field. Both games were stopped after UMass had batted five times, due to the conference's eight-run rule.

Eastern (21-9, 10-2 little east) had four doubles and four triples among its 12 hits in winning the opener, 9-0. In a 9-1 win in Game 2, the Warriors erased a one-run deficit, breaking the game open by scoring four runs in the third and four more in the fourth on the way to its 34th win over UMass Dartmouth (8-22, 2-10 little east) in 36 meetings.

With two games remaining in the conference regular season, Eastern moves into sole possession of second place ahead of Western Connecticut (8-4), which was swept by conference leader and defending champion Rhode Island College (12-0) Tuesday. A sweep against Rhode Island Saturday would give Eastern a share of the conference regular-season title and make it the top seed and host for next month's LEC double-elimination tournament.

The first-game win gives Eastern 20 wins for the third straight year and fourth time in the last five seasons. The Warriors have won seven of their last ten overall – the losses coming in doubleheader splits with Bridgewater State College and conference foes Keene State College and Western Connecticut State University. The ten LEC wins equal the second most by the team in 13 seasons of competition and are just one shy of the program record of 11, set two years ago.

Krystle Denny recorded the 100th career hit of her four-year career with her second hit of the first game – a one-out double. She was 3-for-3 in the first game with a single, double and triple and hit her seventh and eighth home runs of the season in the second game. She became the sixth player in program history with two home runs in a game. The team's four triples in Game 1 were just one shy of the team record for triples in a game.

(more)

On the day, sophomore shortstop **Kim Church (Farmington)** had five hits -- including a double and triple -- and scored four runs and drove in two. Junior first baseman **Rachel Denny (East Haddam)** drove in four runs with a first-inning single in the first game, sacrifice fly in the third inning of the second game and a two-run infield double in the fourth inning of the second game. The four RBI move Rachel Denny into third place all-time with 99 and give her a personal season best total of 39 -- just three shy of Carrie Loring's 1992 program season record of 42. Denny is 19 RBI behind Loring's career mark of 118.

In eight innings in the doubleheader, Eastern had 22 hits -- 13 of them good for extra bases (seven doubles, four triples and two home runs).

Junior righty **Katie Pensiero (Stamford)** won her tenth game against three losses in the opener, shutting out the Corsairs on three hits while fanning three and walking one. Freshman righty **Caitlin Cravens (Ellsworth, ME)**, last week's LEC Rookie-of-the-Week, gave up one unearned run in pitching the first four innings of the nightcap to improve to 9-3.

Game 1
Eastern Conn. 9, UMass Dartmouth 0 (5 inn.)

UMass Dartmouth (8-21, 2-9 little east)	000	00	--	0	3	3
Eastern Conn. (20-9, 9-2 little east)	101	7x	--	9	12	0

Amie Nickerson (5-11) and Kathleen L'Abbe. Katie Pensiero (10-3) and Krystle Denny. 2B-Kim Church, Rachel Soychak, Ashley Marchitto (E); 3B-Kim Church, K. Denny, Ashley Sullivan, Marchitto (E).

Game 2
Eastern Conn. 9, UMass Dartmouth 1 (5 inn.)

UMass Dartmouth (8-22, 2-10 little east)	100	00	--	1	4	0
Eastern Conn. (21-9, 10-2 little east)	014	4x	--	9	10	1

Ashley Puls (1-10) and Kathleen L'Abbe. Caitlin Cravens (9-3), Lisa Cody (5) and Krystle Denny. 2B-Kate Kelly (MD), Rachel Denny, Kate Livingston, Rachel Soychak (E); HR-K. Denny 2 (8).

Sunday, April 20, 2008

WITH SPLIT, EASTERN SOFTBALL STILL ALIVE IN LEC
Cravens, Sullivan play key roles as Warriors gain nine-inning win in nightcap

KEENE, NH – Sophomore centerfielder **Ashley Sullivan's (Trumbull)** second RBI of the day drove in freshman leftfielder **Katie Dinihanian (Stratford)** from second base in the top of the ninth inning to give the Eastern Connecticut State University softball team a 2-1 win over Keene State College and a split of Sunday's makeup doubleheader at Owl Athletic Complex.

In the first game, Keene (17-7, 5-5 little east) senior righty Ashlee Nicholson flirted with a perfect game and no-hitter before settling from a complete-game three-hit 3-2 victory over Eastern (19-9, 8-2 little east).

Eastern's second-game win handed Keene its first conference loss after five straight wins and moved the Warriors back into a two-way tie for second place in the conference with Western Connecticut. With four regular-season conference games remaining, defending champion Rhode Island College (10-0) holds a two-game lead over Eastern and Western.

In the second game, freshman **Caitlin Cravens (Ellsworth, ME)** pitched her second CG in five starts and improved her record to 8-3. Eastern tied the game 1-1 in the fourth by scoring an unearned run on an inning-opening error and a sacrifice fly by senior rightfielder **Kate Livingston (West Hartford)** and went ahead in the ninth on Sullivan's run-scoring single with two out. Sophomore shortstop **Kim Church (Farmington)** and senior catcher **Krystle Denny (West Haven)** also had singles in the inning to help spark the rally. In the ninth, Cravens issued a one-out walk but the game ended when Church turned a double play

Keene had taken a 1-0 lead in the second inning of the second game on a leadoff triple senior Colleen Ferguson and RBI single by sophomore Stephanie Lavado.

While Nicholson (9-4) was dominant in the first game, Eastern solved her in the second game by collecting eight hits over the final five innings. Nicholson had replaced freshman starter Jessie Williams to start the fifth with the score tied at 1-1.

(more)

Trailing 3-0 in the first game, Eastern scored twice in the top of the seventh on RBIs by Sullivan and Livingston, but Nicholson stranded the tying run at first base with a game-ending strikeout. The Owls had scored one run in the second inning of the second game on a bases loaded walk and added two more in the fifth on an RBI single from Colleen Ferguson and a sacrifice fly.

Eastern hosts Massachusetts Dartmouth Tuesday at 5 p.m. in a Little East Conference doubleheader.

Game 1
Keene State College 3, Eastern Conn. 2

Eastern Conn. (18-9, 7-2 little east)	000	000	2	--	2	3	3
Keene State (17-7, 5-4 little east)	010	020	x	--	3	8	1

Katie Pensiero (9-3) and Krystle Denny. Ashlee Nicholson (9-3) and Melissa Scata. 2B-Rachel Denny (E), Jessica Patnode (K).

Game 2
Eastern Conn. 2, Keene State College 1 (9 inn.)

Eastern Conn. (19-9, 8-2 little east)	000	100	001	--	2	13	1
Keene State (17-7, 5-5 little east)	010	000	000	--	1	8	1

Caitlin Cravens (8-3) and Krystle Denny. Jessie Williams, Ashlee Nicholson (5) and Stephanie Lavado. LP-Nicolson (9-4). 2B-Jessica Patnode, Jessica Starkey, Lavado (K); 3B-Colleen Ferguson (K).

Saturday, April 19, 2008

WITH SWEEP, EASTERN SOFTBALL KEEPS PACE IN LITTLE EAST RACE

Rachel Denny poles two more home runs and Warriors collect 15 hits in nightcap vs. USM

GORHAM, Maine – Junior **Rachel Denny (East Haddam)** hit her ninth and tenth home runs of the season and the Eastern Connecticut State University fastpitch softball team kept pace in the Little East Conference race with a Little East Conference doubleheader sweep of the University of Southern Maine Saturday afternoon at Towers Field. The scores were 6-1 and 11-8.

By sweeping, Eastern (18-8, 7-1 little east) remains in a tie for second place with Western Connecticut, trailing defending regular-season and tournament champion Rhode Island College (10-0). The Warriors are off to their best start after eight LEC games since going 8-0 in 1998. There are six conference games remaining in the regular season prior to the start of the LEC tournament May 1.

Rachel Denny extended her season home run record to ten and her career mark to 18 by hitting home runs in each game. Senior **Krystle Denny (West Haven)** also hit her sixth HR of the year in the second game. Krystle Denny and sophomore **Ashley Sullivan (Trumbull)** each had four hits in the doubleheader, Krystle Denny moving to within five of the 100th hit of her career.

Rachel Denny drove in six runs in the twinbill on just two hits – a grand slam in the fifth inning of the first game and a two-run HR in the second inning of the second game -- and Krystle Denny plated four runs in the twinbill. Junior **Courtney Caswell (Wakefield, RI)** reached base five times with two hits and three walks also drove in three runs. She was one of six players with at least two hits on the afternoon.

A winner of seven total games in her first two years, junior righty **Katie Pensiero (Stamford)** won her ninth game of the year by pitching the first five shutout innings in the opener, allowing only three hits and a walk.

After being held in check (five hits) by USM senior righty Kristina Grondin in the opener, the Warriors uncorked 15 hits and were additionally aided by four USM errors and four walks in the nightcap.

(more)

Southern Maine (12-14, 3-5 little east) had won seven of nine entering the contest and Eastern had dropped four of its previous six. After being unable to sweep Southern Maine at Gorham in the first 18 years of the series, Eastern has now performed the feat each of the last two times the teams have met there.

With Eastern holding to an 8-7 lead heading into the seventh inning of the second game, Krystle Denny connected for her 11th career home run - a three-run shot with two outs -- to give the Warriors some insurance.

Eastern visits Keene State College Sunday at 1 p.m. in a makeup conference doubleheader.

Game 1
Eastern Conn. 6, U. of SouthernMaine 1

Eastern Conn. (17-8, 6-1 little east)	000	240	0--	6	5	0
Southern Maine (12-13, 3-4 little east)	000	000	1--	1	5	2

Katie Pensiero (9-2), Caitlin Cravens (6) and Krystle Denny. Kristina Grondin (7-3) and Sabrina Sevigny. 2B-K. Denny, Kate Livingston (E), Grondin (S); HR-R. Denny (9) (E), Sevigny (4) (S).

Game 2
Eastern Conn. 11, U. of SouthernMaine 8

Eastern Conn. (18-8, 7-1 little east)	420	110	3--	11	15	2
Southern Maine (12-14, 3-5 little east)	200	230	1--	8	11	4

Lisa Cody, Caitlin Cravens (4) and Krystle Denny. Larisa O'Connor (2-10), Sarah Deroche (4) and Sabrina Sevigny. WP-Cravens (7-3). 2B-Katie Dinihanian, Ashley Sullivan, Casey Mahoney (E), Sevigny 2, Deroche, Heather Gilman, Sabrina Mills (S); 3B-Dinihanian (E); HR-Rachel Denny (10), K. Denny (6) (E).

Thursday, April 17, 2008

EASTERN, WESTERN SPLIT LITTLE EAST DOUBLEHEADER
Games are a battle of regionally-ranked and conference unbeatens

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University softball team equaled its best Little East Conference start since 1998 by rallying from five runs down to win the opener by a score of 9-7, and Western Connecticut State University senior righty Cortney Romyns pitched a complete-game shutout in the nightcap in a 2-0 win as the teams divided a doubleheader Thursday night at Howard Spector Field.

Both teams entered played at 4-0 in the conference, trailing only unbeaten conference leader and defending LEC champion Rhode Island College (8-0) in the standings. Western (20-8, 5-1 little east) is ranked No. 2 in the New England coaches' poll, Eastern (16-8, 5-1 little east) is No. 7 in the region.

With the first-game win, Eastern equaled its best start in the conference since capturing its first eight games in 1998 as Western had a five-game winning streak snapped. The Warriors wiped out a 7-2 deficit by scoring four runs in the bottom of the fifth and three runs in the bottom of the sixth. Junior first baseman **Rachel Denny (East Haddam)** drove in the first run of the sixth with a double and sophomore DP **Katie O'Toole (Waterbury)** drove in the tying and go-ahead runs with a one-out single to center. The RBIs gave O'Toole nine in just 36 at-bats this season.

Senior catcher **Krystle Denny (West Haven)** was 2-for-3 with two RBI and two runs scored in the first game for Eastern. Sophomore shortstop **Kim Church (Farmington)** was 2-for-3 with two runs and an RBI. In addition to her game-winning RBIs, O'Toole was 3-for-3 with a run scored after coming off the bench as a pinch hitter in the fourth inning.

For Western, Romyns had two hits and scored two runs as the leadoff hitter and leftfielder and freshman rightfielder Amy Hartman had two hits, drove in three runs and scored one. Hartman hit a leadoff HR in a three-run second that gave the Colonials a 4-0 lead, and added two-run triple in the fourth that made it 7-2.

(more)

In the second game, Romyns (3-0) pitched her first complete-game shutout of the year, allowing only four hits (three singles) while fanning one and walking one.

With Western winning 2-0, senior leftfielder Megan Brunell threw out a runner at the plate to end the fourth inning, and Romyns allowed only one baserunner (walk) over the final three innings.

Senior cleanup hitter and third baseman Stacey DiMaggio gave Western a 1-0 lead in the first with a two-out RBI double. Hartman led off the Western second with a double and later scored on a ground ball to make it 2-0.

Junior righty **Lisa Cody (Webster, MA)** pitched her third complete game in eight starts for Eastern, allowing six hits while striking out two and walking one. The loss was her second against two wins.

In the doubleheader, Church was 4-for-6 with a walk, three doubles, two runs scored and an RBI, with O'Toole and sophomore centerfielder **Ashley Sullivan (Trumbull)** collecting three hits each.

Eastern continues conference play Saturday with a doubleheader at the University of Southern Maine and Sunday with a makeup pair at Keene State College at noon.

Game 1
Eastern Conn. 9, Western Conn. 7

Western Conn. (19-8, 4-1 little east)	131	200	0	--	7	13	2
Eastern Conn. (16-7, 5-0 little east)	101	043	x	--	9	13	2

Shelby Slie, Amanda Caouette (6) and Brittany Finkeldey. Katie Pensiero (8-2), Caitlin Cravens (7) and Krystle Denny. LP-Caouette (1-2) Save-Cravens (3). 2B-Cortney Romyns, Finkeldey, Rebecca Andruskiwec (W), Kim Church 2 (E), Katie O'Toole, Rachel Denny, K. Denny (E); 3B-Amy Hartman (W); HR-Hartman (5) (W).

Game 2
Western Conn. 2, Eastern Conn. 0

Western Conn. (20-8, 5-1 little east)	110	000	0	--	2	6	0
Eastern Conn. (16-8, 5-1 little east)	000	000	0	--	0	4	0

Cortney Romyns (3-0) and Brittany Finkeldey. Lisa Cody (2-2) and Krystle Denny. 2B-Stacey DiMaggio, Amy Hartman (W), Kim Church (E).

Thursday, April 10, 2008

EASTERN SOFTBALL SPLITS NON-CONFERENCE DOUBLEHEADER
Warriors pound Bridgewater State in opener, settle for split against Bears

BRIDGEWATER, Mass. – Sophomore shortstop **Kim Church (Farmington)** had four this and scored three runs and junior first baseman **Rachel Denny (East Haddam)** had three hits and drove in three runs as the Eastern Connecticut State University softball team split a non-conference doubleheader with Bridgewater State College Thursday afternoon at Alumni Park.

Eastern (15-7) had 14 hits and capitalized on five Bridgewater State (12-14) errors in routing the Bears in the opener, 12-1, in a game stopped after five innings due to the eight-run rule. In the nightcap, Bridgewater scored four runs in its final at-bats to break open a tight game and post a 6-1 victory.

Rachel Denny hit her eighth home run of the season in the first game – a three-run shot in a four-run fifth inning – while Church belted her second homer of the season in the nightcap – a solo shot in the second inning that staked freshman righty **Caitlin Cravens (Ellsworth, ME)** to a 1-0 lead. The home runs give the Warriors 18 in 22 games this year – only seven shy of last year's season record total. Rachel Denny extended her season record for home runs and her career mark of 16.

Senior catcher **Krystle Denny (West Haven)** had three hits in the opener and sophomore centerfield **Ashley Sullivan (Trumbull)**, Rachel Denny and Church all had two. Sullivan drove in three runs with a single and triple and Denny plated three. Church scored two runs.

Junior righty **Katie Pensiero (Stamford)** won her seventh game in nine decisions in the first game with her staff-leading fifth complete game. Pensiero, who gave up only three hits while fanning four and walking three, lost her shutout bid in the fifth when she surrendered a leadoff double, a walk, and a two-out single by No. 9 hitter Ciana Godin.

In the second game, Bridgewater overcame Eastern's brief 1-0 lead by scoring two runs in the second on a two-out, two-run double by No. 9 hitter Stacy Capodicece – and later scored two more in the fifth on three hits – two of them bunts – and an Eastern error.

Church was 2-for-2 with a run scored and RBI in the second game.

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

(more)

Game 1
Eastern Conn. 12, Bridgewater State College 1 (5 inn., 8 run rule)

Eastern Conn. (15-6)	012	54	--	12	14	1
Bridgewater State (11-14)	000	01	--	1	3	5

Katie Pensiero (7-2) and Krystle Denny. Jamie Ducinski (1-3), Jillian Vancelette (4) and Lindsey Allison. 2B-Katie Dinihanian, Kim Church (E). Rachael Sprague (B); 3B-Ashley Sullivan (F); HR-Rachel Denny (8) (E).

Game 2
Bridgewater State College 6, Eastern Conn. 1

Eastern Conn. (15-7)	010	000	0	--	1	6	2
Bridgewater State (12-14)	020	121	x	--	6	10	0

Caitlin Cravens (6-3), Lisa Cody (3) and Rachel Soychak. Alyssa Verronneau (6-3) and Lindsey Allison. 2B-Casey Mahoney (E), Stacy Capodiece (B); HR-Kim Church (2) (E), Melissa McNamara (1) (B).

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

MOYNAGH SHUTS DOWN EASTERN SOFTBALL, 2-1, 3-0

Averaging eight runs per game, Warriors held in check in two losses

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Senior righty Jodi Moynagh limited the Eastern Connecticut State University softball team to nine hits in carrying Wheaton College (MA) to 2-1, 3-0 wins over the Warriors in a non-conference doubleheader Tuesday evening at Howard Spector Field.

Moynagh pitched her 11th and 12th complete games and sixth shutout of the season in lifting Wheaton (23-7) to its fourth and fifth straight wins of the season. Moynagh, who recorded her 100th inning of the season in the first game, allowed only nine hits – seven of them singles -- in the doubleheader. She struck out two and walked two in the first game and struck out three and walked four in the second game. She had walked only 12 in 93 innings entering the game and had struck out 111.

It was the first shutout of the season for Eastern, which was averaging over eight runs per game and had a .359 batting average with 16 home runs and 61 extra-base hits.

Eastern stranded eight runners in each game, including the tying and winning runs in scoring position in the seventh inning of the first game. Five of Eastern's stranded baserunners in the second game were in scoring position. Four of Wheaton's five runs in the doubleheader came home with two out.

Wheaton managed only five hits against complete-game loser **Katie Pensiero (Stamford)** in the first game, but scored a single run in the third inning on senior third baseman Erika Marini's two-out RBI single to center and an insurance run in the fifth on junior DP Stacey Kelleher's two-out RBI single to left.

In the seventh inning of the first game, Eastern broke through on singles by sophomore centerfielder **Ashley Sullivan (Trumbull)** and senior second baseman **Casey Mahoney (Willimantic)**, a sacrifice bunt, and a ground ball by senior rightfielder **Kate Livingston (West Hartford)**. With Mahoney on second, freshman leftfielder **Katie Dinihanian (Stratford)** singled to center, moving Mahoney to third. Dinihanian took second on the play to move the winning run into scoring position, but Moynagh got a one-strike pop to second to end the game.

(more)

In the second game, Wheaton scored all of the runs it would need by reaching complete-game loser **Caitlin Cravens (Ellsworth, ME)** for four of its five hits. Marini drove in the first run with a single and junior catcher Lynn Cotto plated two more with a two-out double. A freshman Cravens did not allow after the first another hit until Kelleher's one-out double in the sixth. Cravens allowed only five hits while fanning two and walking none. In 48 innings this year, Cravens has walked only seven and fanned 26.

Eastern junior first baseman **Rachel Denny (East Haddam)** doubled once in five at-bats and walked twice. She entered the game batting a team-leading .458 with seven home runs and 25 RBI. She reached once in the first game on an infield error and in the second game walked twice and doubled to the base of the center field wall in the fifth.

Sullivan had three of Eastern's hits and scored one run and Mahoney had two hits. Each also reached on a walk.

Eastern visits Bridgewater State College Thursday for a 3:30 p.m. non-conference doubleheader.

Game 1

Wheaton College (MA) 2, Eastern Conn. 1

Wheaton (22-7)	001	010	0	--	2	5	2
Eastern Conn. (14-5)	000	000	1	--	1	6	1

Jodi Moynagh (12-1) and Lynn Cotto. Katie Pensiero (6-2) and Krystle Denny.

Game 2

Wheaton College (MA) 3, Eastern Conn. 0

Wheaton (23-7)	300	000	0	--	3	5	2
Eastern Conn. (14-6)	000	000	0	--	0	3	1

Jodi Moynagh (13-1) and Lynn Cotto. Caitlin Cravens (6-2) and Krystle Denny. 2B-Stacey Kelleher, Cotto (W), Rachel Denny, Courtney Caswell (E).

Sunday, April 6, 2008

FOR EASTERN SOFTBALL, SIXTH-INNING EXPLOSION FUELS SWEEP

Five-run inning wins opener en route to two Little East wins against Plymouth State

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University fastpitch softball team scored five runs after there were two out and none on in the bottom of the sixth inning to gain a come-from-behind 9-8 win in the opener on the way to a Little East Conference sweep of Plymouth State University Sunday afternoon at Howard Spector Field.

In the sixth inning of the first game, senior rightfielder **Kate Livingston (West Hartford)** and junior third baseman **Courtney Caswell (Wakefield, RI)** stroked back-to-back doubles and junior first baseman **Rachel Denny (East Haddam)** followed with a two-run home run that tied the game, and Eastern (14-4, 4-0 little east) scored what proved to be the winning run on a three-base error and wild pitch. The victory ended Plymouth's (14-4, 2-2 little east) program-record 14-game winning streak, which began after two season-opening losses.

The Warriors wrapped up their 36th win against Plymouth in 41 career meetings by winning the nightcap, 7-3. Junior righty **Katie Pensiero (Stamford)** won her sixth game in seven decisions, Livingston had three hits and scored three runs and freshman third baseman **Rachel Soychak (Mahopac, NY)** drove in three runs in the third with a two-out double.

With 14 wins in 18 games, the Warriors are off to their best start since 1990, when they opened the season with a 16-2 record on the way to their fifth and most recent national title.

In the second game Sunday, Livingston singled and scored on Rachel Denny's sacrifice fly in the first, Soychak cleared the bases in the third with her three-run double and the Warriors made it 6-0 in the fourth on RBI hits from Livingston and sophomore centerfielder **Ashley Sullivan (Trumbull)**.

In the opener, the Warriors scored four times in the first, but needed to rally for five runs in the sixth to pull out the win and hand Plymouth sophomore righty Kat Roland her first loss after six wins. After Rachel Denny broke the Eastern season record with her seventh home run in the sixth inning – extending her program career HR record to 15 -- an outfield error allowed Krystle Denny to reach third base, and she scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch.

(more)

Freshman righty **Caitlin Cravens (Ellsworth, ME)** pitched 5 1/3 innings of relief to earn credit for her fourth win out of the bullpen this year. Cravens (6-1), who has pitched in 12 of the team's 18 games this year, neutralized Plymouth on six hits and two runs to win her sixth game against a loss.

On the day, Livingston had five hits, scored five runs and drove in two; Rachel Denny reached safely with three hits and two walks, drove in three runs and scored two; Krystle Denny added three hits, scored twice and had an RBI, and sophomore shortstop Kim Church scored three runs and drove in three with a home run and two walks.

Eastern hosts Wheaton College (MA) Tuesday at 5 p.m.

Game 1
Eastern Conn. 9, Plymouth State U. 8

Plymouth State (14-3, 2-1 little east)	060	010	0	--	8	10	2
Eastern Conn. (13-4, 3-0 little east)	400	005	x	--	9	8	1

Kat Roland (6-1) and Laura Kaplan; Lisa Cody, Caitlin Cravens (2) and Krystle Denny. WP-Cravens (6-1); 2B-Kay LaBrie (P), Kate Livingston 2, Courtney Caswell, K. Denny (E); HR-LaBrie (2), Andrea Pydynkowski (1) (P), R. Denny (7), Kim Church (1) (E).

Game 2
Eastern Conn. 7, Plymouth State U. 3

Plymouth State (14-4, 2-2 little east)	000	021	0	--	3	9	2
Eastern Conn. (14-4, 4-0 little east)	103	210	x	--	7	7	3

Courtney MacFarland (6-2), Beth Moretti (4), and Laura Kaplan. Katie Pensiero (6-1), Caitlin Cravens (5), Brittany Soucy (6) and Krystle Denny. 2B-Danielle Normand 2, Kaplan (P), Ashley Sullivan, K. Denny, Rachel Soychak (E).

Thursday, April 3, 2008

EASTERN SOFTBALL SLAMS TRINITY, SETTLES FOR SPLIT

Dennys combine for ten hits, 27 total bases and five home runs and drive in 12 runs

HARTFORD, Conn. Junior first baseman **Rachel Denny (East Haddam)** and senior catcher **Krystle Denny (West Haven)** combined for ten hits, 27 total bases and five home runs and drove in 12 runs when the Eastern Connecticut State University softball team split a non-conference doubleheader with Trinity College Thursday afternoon.

Rachel Denny hit two home runs, drove in four runs and scored three in a 14-hit attack that lifted Eastern (12-4) to a 13-6 victory in the opener; in the nightcap, Krystle Denny drove in three runs with a double and home run to fuel a 16-hit onslaught and Rachel Denny tied the season record that she shares with her sixth home run of the year, but the Warriors let the lead slip away twice in the final three innings in an 8-7, 8 inning loss.

In the doubleheader, five Eastern players combined for seven home runs as the Warriors pounded out 15 extra-base hits. In addition to the seven home runs, Eastern collected seven doubles and a triple and compiled a total of 60 total bases. The team batted .422 in the twinbill with an .845 slugging percentage that raised its season batting average 12 percentage points to .360 and its slugging percentage 56 percentage points to .566.

On the day, Rachel Denny was 6-for-9 with five runs, five RBI, three home runs, a double, and a walk; Krystle Denny was 4-for-10 with seven RBI, two runs, two home runs and a double; and senior outfielder **Ashley Marchitto (Canton)** was 4-for-7 with four RBI, three runs, two doubles and a home run. The hits moved Rachel Denny to within seven of 100 in her career.

Utilizing the international tie-breaker rule in the eighth inning of the second game, Eastern scored three runs, but Trinity (8-5) countered with four in the bottom of the inning to gain the comeback win. The outcome was decided on a two-out, two-run bases loaded single up the middle by Trinity second baseman Katherine Stoltenberg that was just beyond the dive of Eastern sophomore shortstop **Kim Church (Farmington)**.

Eastern had scored three runs in the top of the inning on senior outfielder **Kate Livingston's (West Hartford)** second home run of the year – a two-run shot with one out – and back-to-back two-out doubles by Rachel and Krystle Denny. Eastern carried a 4-2 lead into the sixth inning, but Trinity tied the game on a two-out, two-run single by leftfielder Stacy Hathcox.

In the first game, Rachel Denny hit two home runs, drove in four runs and scored three; Krystle Denny hit one home run and drove in four runs, and Marchitto had two doubles, her first home run of the season (second of her career), three RBI and two runs scored. Junior righty **Katie Pensiero (Stamford)** earned her fifth win of the season against a loss by pitching into the fifth inning. Pensiero allowed five hits and four runs (three earned) before giving way to freshman

(more)

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rightly **Caitlin Cravens (Ellsworth, ME)**, who subdued a fifth-inning threat and closed out the win to earn her second save of the year.

In the second game, Eastern staked junior righty **Lisa Cody (Webster, MA)** to a 4-1 lead on home runs by Krystle and Rachel Denny, and a two-out RBI single by Marchitto. The Bantams got one back on a leadoff home run by Patricia Cipicchio in the fifth, however, and scored the tying runs against Cravens in the sixth on Hatheox' two-out single.

The Warriors broke the tie by scoring three runs in the top of the eighth, but for the second time this year, Eastern was left on the field in the bottom of the eighth. Livingston, the team's leadoff hitter, belted a two-run home run with one out in the eighth to give the Warriors a 6-4 lead, and the Dennys followed with two-out, back-to-back doubles to make it 7-4.

With a runner starting at second base in accordance with the international tie-breaker rule in the bottom of the eighth, Trinity third baseman Nicole Nardella launched a titanic two-run home run to cut Eastern's lead to 7-6. Successive singles off freshman reliever **Brittany Soucy (Terryville)** with one out put the tying and winning runs aboard. A ground ball moved the runners into scoring position and an intentional walk with two out loaded the bases to set up a force. Stoltenberg, however, foiled the strategy by collecting her fourth hit of the game (sixth of the doubleheader) when she bounced a 3-2 pitch up the middle that eluded the dive of Church. The throw to the plate from centerfielder **Ashley Sullivan (Trumbull)** was high as Taylor LaRese slide safely home to end the game.

In her first career start, Trinity freshman righty Kristen Anderson (1-0) pocketed her first career win with the complete-game 16-hitter.

Eastern returns to Little East Conference action Saturday at 1 p.m. when it hosts Plymouth State University.

Game 1
Eastern Conn. 13, Trinity College 6

Eastern Conn. (12-3)	110	062	3	--	13	14	2
Trinity College (7-5)	003	102	0	--	6	8	3

Katie Pensiero (5-1), Caitlin Cravens (5) and Krystle Denny. Gabrielle Sergi (5-3), Abigail Cecchinato (5), Kristen Anderson (7) and Ariana Mullin. Save-Cravens (2). 2B-Ashley Marchitto 2, Katie Dinihanian, Kim Church (E), Stacy Hatheox (T); 3B-Kate Livingston (E); HR-Rachel Denny 2 (5), K. Denny (4), Marchitto (1) (E), Jessica Tait (5), Mullin (2) (T).

Game 2
Trinity College 8, Eastern Conn. 7 (8 inn.)

Eastern Conn. (12-4)	001	120	03	--	7	16	0
Trinity College (8-5)	100	012	04	--	8	12	0

Two out when winning run scored.

Lisa Cody, Caitlin Cravens (5), Brittany Soucy (8) and Krystle Denny. Kristen Anderson (1-1) and Ariana Mullin. LP-Soucy (0-1). 2B-Katie Dinihanian, Rachel Denny, K. Denny (E), Katherine Stoltenberg, Mullin (T); HR-R. Denny (6), K. Denny (5), Kate Livingston (2) (E), Nicole Nardella (1), Patricia Cipicchio (4) (T).

Saturday, March 29, 2008

EASTERN SOFTBALL SWEEPS HOME-OPENING TWINBILL
Warriors kick off Little East Conference season with two wins over UMass Boston

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University fastpitch softball team turned 29 walks and 27 wild pitches into an easy 23-1, 11-3 doubleheader sweep of the University of Massachusetts Boston in the Warriors' home and Little East Conference openers Saturday at Howard Spector Field.

A winner of three straight and nine of its last ten, Eastern (11-3, 2-0 little east) opened its 31st and final season at Howard Spector Field by remaining unbeaten in 24 career meetings with UMass Boston (1-11, 0-2 little east). The doubleheader was moved to Willimantic due to wet grounds at UMass Boston.

Both games were stopped due to the eight-run rule, the first game after five innings and the second after six.

The Warriors were ranked sixth in New England Division III after returning from Tucson with eight wins in ten decisions. Eastern split a pair of one-run decisions at Springfield College Wednesday in its norther-openers.

Against UMass Boston, senior outfielder **Ashley Marchitto (Canton)** and freshman outfielder **Katie Dinihanian (Stratford)** each walked five times, while sophomore utility player **Katie O'Toole (Waterbury)** reached six times with two hits, three walks and a hit-by-pitch and scored four runs. Dinihanian, sophomore shortstop **Kim Church (Farmington)** and senior rightfielder **Kate Livingston (West Hartford)** all scored five runs. Senior catcher **Krystal Denny (West Haven)** drove in five runs with the help of two two-run doubles, and scored four runs.

Junior righty **Katie Pensiero (Stamford)** won her fourth game in five decisions with a complete-game one-hitter in the opener. She fanned five and walked one. Freshman righty **Caitlin Cravens (Ellsworth, ME)** upped her record to 5-1 in the nightcap by pitching the first five innings. She allowed five hits and two earned runs while striking out four without a walk. In 30 1/3 innings this year, Cravens has struck out 20 and walked only five.

Eastern visits Trinity College Tuesday for a 3:30 p.m. doubleheader.

Game 1

Eastern Conn. 23, Massachusetts Boston 1 (5 inn./8-run rule)

Eastern Conn. (10-3, 1-0 little east)	3(16)1	30	--	23	8	0
UMass Boston (1-10, 0-1 little east)	001	00	--	1	1	2

Katie Pensiero (4-1) and Krystle Denny, Katie O'Toole (3). Courtney Haroules (0-5) and Amanda Cianciulli. 2B-Kim Church (E).

Game 2

Eastern Conn. 11, Massachusetts Boston 3 (6 inn./8-run rule)

Eastern Conn. (11-3, 2-0 little east)	424	001	--	11	6	2
UMass Boston (1-11, 0-2 little east)	000	030	--	3	5	1

Caitlin Cravens (5-1), Lisa Cody (6) and Krystle Denny, Katie O'Toole (3), K. Denny (6). Courtney Haroules (0-6) and Amanda Cianciulli. 2B-K. Denny 2 (E), Jenn Widener, Leanne Meninger (M).

Note: UMass Boston was designated as the home team in both games.

Wednesday, March 26, 2008

KRYSTLE DENNY'S HOME RUN POWERS EASTERN SOFTBALL
Her leadoff HR in seventh gives Warriors split at Springfield College

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. Senior catcher **Krystle Denny (West Haven)** ripped a leadoff solo home run in the top of the seventh inning to snap a tie and provide the Eastern Connecticut State University softball team with a doubleheader split against Springfield College in its northern-openers Wednesday at Potter Field.

Krystle Denny's third home run of the season leading off the top of the seventh inning of the second game snapped a tie and gave Eastern (9-3) a 3-2 victory. The blast made a winner of freshman righty **Caitlin Cravens (Ellsworth, ME)**, who recorded a complete game in her first career start (seventh appearance). Cravens was touched for nine hits while fanning four and walking three in gaining her staff-leading fourth win of the year in five decisions.

In the first game, Springfield (6-6) scored the only in the bottom of the fourth inning on a two-out single by senior second baseman Denise Fumicello that made a complete-game loser of Eastern junior righty **Katie Pensiero (Stamford)**. Pensiero had left two runners in scoring position in both the second and third innings before sophomore shortstop Jaimie Moran led of the fourth with a walk and later scored from second on Fumicello's two-out single.

Eastern, which played without an error in the doubleheader, knocked out Springfield freshman righty Katie Anderson in the first inning of the first game by scoring two runs, but the Pride got one back in the bottom of the inning and tied the game in the fifth on a leadoff double and sacrifice fly by junior DP Danielle Spiro.

Krystle Denny led off the top of the seventh inning of the second game with her eighth career home run to break a 2-2 tie and give her four hits in a game for the first time in her career. Cravens stranded the tying and winning runs in the bottom of the seventh. A leadoff single and sacrifice bunt pushed the tying run into scoring position in the seventh, but Cravens induced a pop to second base for the second out and a fly ball to left to end the game.

(more)

Singles by senior rightfielder **Kate Livingston (West Hartford)**, Krystle Denny and sophomore second baseman **Katie O'Toole (Waterbury)** and a bases-loaded walk to sophomore shortstop **Kim Church (Farmington)** gave the Warriors a quick 2-0 lead in the first inning of the second game. Krystle Denny drove in Livingston with the first run.

Livingston (three hits) and Krystle Denny combined for seven of the team's ten hits in the nightcap. After singling and scoring in the first inning, Livingston doubled with two out in the second but was left stranded and had a two-out single in the sixth. Krystle Denny singled in her first three at-bats and was stranded in scoring position each time.

It marked the fifth time in six years that the teams have split a doubleheader.

Eastern opens its Little East Conference season Saturday at the University of Massachusetts Boston with a 1 p.m. doubleheader.

Game 1
Springfield College 1, Eastern Conn. 0

Eastern Conn. (8-3)	000	000	0	--	0	5	0
Springfield College (6-5)	000	100	x	--	1	5	1

Katie Pensiero (3-1) and Krystle Denny. Samantha Rhodes (4-2) and Michelle Wlosek, Laura Riccio (4). 2B-K. Denny, Ashley Marchitto (E), Angela Atkins (S).

Game 2
Eastern Conn. 3, Springfield College 2

Eastern Conn. (9-3)	200	000	1	--	3	10	0
Springfield College (6-6)	100	010	0	--	2	9	1

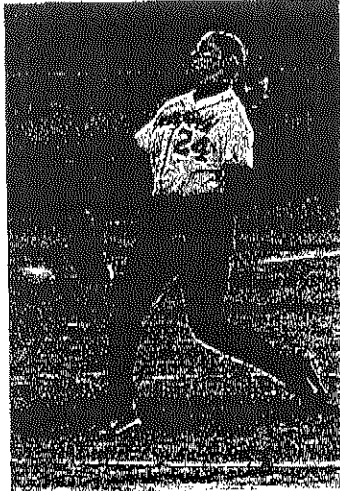
Caitlin Cravens (4-1) and Krystle Denny. Katie Anderson, Sarah Pongratz (1) and Michelle Wlosek. LP-Pongratz (1-1). 2B-Kate Livingston, Courtney Caswell (E), Denise Fumicello, Angela Atkins (S); HR-K. Denny (3).

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE

03.26.08

home/athletics/softball

Softball Splits With Eastern Connecticut State In Home Opening Doubleheader



Samantha Rhodes

Game One Box Score

Game Two Box Score

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. – March 26, 2008 – Denise Fumicello knocked in the game's only run in the fourth inning as the Springfield College softball team defeated Eastern Connecticut State University, 1-0, in game #1 of a doubleheader Wednesday afternoon at Potter Field.

The Warriors then turned the tables as Krystle Denny went 4-for-4, including a solo home run in the top of the seventh inning to lead ECSU to a 3-2 victory in the nightcap.

With the split, Springfield finishes the day at 6-6. The Pride had a four-game win streak snapped in game #2. Eastern Connecticut is now 9-3.

The first game featured an old-fashioned pitchers' dual between SC junior lefthander **Samantha Rhodes (Mendon, Mass.)** and ECSU junior righthander **Katie Pensiero (Stamford, Conn.)**. The game was scoreless through 3 1/2 innings. In the bottom of the fourth, sophomore shortstop **Jaimie Moran (Manchester, Conn.)** led off with a walk, and advanced to second base on a ground out. Fumicello, a senior second baseman from **Brockton, Mass.**, then lined a single to left center. There may have been a close play at the plate, but the ball was cut off. And that turned out to be the game's only run.

Hits were at a premium in this game. Each team had five. No player had more than one. Rhodes struck out six and walked only one in seven innings. Pensiero struck out two and walked three in six innings of work.

In game #2, most of the action took place in the top of the first when ECSU scored two runs. Springfield starter, freshman righthander **Katie Anderson (Andover, Mass.)**, was not able to record an out. She allowed the two runs and left the bases loaded for her successor, freshman righthander **Sarah Pongratz (Winchester, Mass.)** who got out of the jam with no further damage. For ECSU, senior catcher **Krystle Denny (West Haven, Conn.)** and sophomore shortstop **Kim Church (Farmington, Conn.)** knocked in those two runs.

Springfield struck right back with one in the bottom of the first. Fumicello led off with a double, and two outs later sophomore catcher **Michelle Wlosok (Nutley, N.J.)** singled her home.

In the bottom of the fifth, SC tied it at 2-all when junior centerfielder **Angele Atkins (East Haddam, Conn.)** doubled with one out. Later, with the bases loaded, Atkins scored on a sacrifice fly by junior DP **Danielle Spiro (South Windsor, Conn.)**.

That left it up to Denny, who pounded the second pitch of the inning beyond the left field fence, producing the go-ahead and eventual winning run. Pongratz deserved a better fate. She struck out five and walked only one in the seven innings she pitched, giving up only the one run. For the Warriors, freshman righthander **Caitlin Cravens (Ellsworth, Maine)** weaved her way in and out of trouble throughout. She allowed nine hits, walked three and struck out four in giving up two runs.

For SC in game #2, sophomore rightfielder **Bryn Worrflow (North Babylon, N.Y.)** went 2-for-4. For ECSU, Denny went 4-for-4, while senior rightfielder **Kate Livingston (West Hartford, Conn.)** went 3-for-4, with a double and a stolen base.

Up next, Springfield will play its NEWMAC conference openers with a doubleheader Friday at Coast Guard at 2:30 pm.

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Thursday, March 20, 2008

EASTERN SOFTBALL WINS FINAL SIX GAMES IN TUCSON

On final day, Warriors end UW-La Crosse's 11-game win streak, edge Nichols

TUCSON -- The Eastern Connecticut State University fastpitch softball team concluded its most successful spring trip Thursday by scoring early and hanging on for a pair of wins at the Tucson Invitational Games at Lincoln Park.

In the first game Thursday, Eastern (8-2) burst to a 10-0 lead and held off the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (11-2) in a 12-8 victory that severed the UW-L's 11-game winning streak. In the second game, the Warriors amassed a 6-0 lead after three innings and survived a late Nichols College (3-4) rally over the final two innings to post a 6-4 victory.

After winning seven of ten games here last year, the Warriors improved that by winning eight of ten this year. After losing on a three-run, walk-off home run Sunday night against nationally-ranked University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Eastern concluded the trip by winning its final six games, scoring 49 runs in the process.

Junior righty **Katie Pensiero (Stamford)** and freshman righty **Caitlin Cravens (Ellsworth, ME)** each gained a win and a save Thursday. Pensiero (2-0) took a 10-0 lead into the fourth inning against La Crosse and left on the long end of a 10-4 verdict. Cravens allowed four hits and three runs the rest of the way to record a three-inning save. Against Nichols, Cravens (3-1) was summoned in place of junior right-handed starter **Lisa Cody (Webster, MA)** in the fourth inning with Eastern leading 6-1. She gave way to Pensiero with Eastern leading 6-3, no one out and two runners aboard in the seventh. An infield error allowed one run to score, but Pensiero sandwiched two strikeouts around a comebacker to end the game.

La Crosse, coming off an extra-inning win just prior to the game against a rested Eastern team, committed five errors against the Warriors that paved the way for six unearned runs. Sophomore shortstop **Kim Church (Farmington)** and sophomore centerfielder **Ashley Sullivan (Trumbull)** each had three hits in Eastern's 15-hit attack, and junior first baseman **Rachel Denny (East Haddam)**, junior third baseman **Courtney Caswell (Wakefield, RI)**, and No. 9 hitter senior second baseman **Casey Mahoney (Willimantic)** each drove in two runs. Senior catcher **Krystal Denny (West Haven)**, Church, Sullivan and Mahoney all scored two runs in the game. Senior rightfielder **Kate Livingston (West Hartford)** led off the game with a double on the first pitch and scored from third on Rachel Denny's ground ball to short. Mahoney's two-run double keyed a four-run second inning, and sophomore DP **Katie O'Toole (Waterbury)** and Caswell drove in runs in a two-run third that quickly gave the Warriors a 7-0 lead.

Against Nichols, Rachel Denny put Eastern up 2-0 in the bottom of the first with a two-run double, freshman leftfielder **Katie Dinihanian (Stratford)** tripled and scored to make it 4-0 in the second, and O'Toole's suicide squeeze and Mahoney's ground ball plate two more to push the lead to 6-0 after three innings.

Livingston, Dinihanian and Rachel Denny – the top three hitters in the lineup – each had two hits against Nichols. Livingston and Dinihanian both scored twice and Rachel Denny drove in three runs to give her a team-high 17 RBI in ten games in Tucson.

Sullivan was helped from the field with an injured left ankle sustained while being thrown out stealing second base in the fifth inning.

Eastern opens its northern schedule Wednesday at Springfield College for a 2:30 p.m. doubleheader.

Eastern Conn. 12, UW-Lacrosse 8

Eastern Conn. (7-2)	142	301	1	--	12	15	2
UW-La Crosse (11-2)	000	320	3	--	8	10	5

Katie Pensiero (2-0), Caitlin Cravens (5) and Krystle Denny. Shelly Monahan (3-1), Cassie Huettl (5) and Emily Eggers. Save-Cravens (1). 2B-Kate Livingston, Ashley Sullivan (E), Cara Salm 2 (W); HR-Sarah Pfeifer (W).

Eastern Conn. 6, Nichols College 4

Nichols (3-4)	000	101	2	--	4	11	2
Eastern Conn. (8-2)	222	000	x	--	6	9	2

Lindsay Hassett (1-2) and Lauren Lombardo. Lisa Cody, Caitlin Cravens (4), Katie Pensiero (7) and Krystal Denny, Rachel Denny (5), Krystal Denny (7). WP-Cravens (3-1). Save-Pensiero (1). 2B-Valeri Calcagni, Christine Palmerino (N), R. Denny (E); 3B-Katie Dinihanian (E).

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

EASTERN SOFTBALL EXTENDS WINNING STREAK TO FOUR

Rachel Denny hits a home runs in each game in 8-5, 11-2 victories

TUCSON -- Eastern Connecticut State University career home run softball leader **Rachel Denny (East Haddam)** hit home runs in each game and two freshman pitchers gained wins in relief as the Warriors won two games at the Tucson Invitational Games at Lincoln Park Wednesday morning.

In the first game, Rachel Denny hit a game-tying two-run home run in the fifth inning and the Warriors scored three runs in the sixth in an 8-5 victory over Marian College (WI). In the nightcap, Eastern (6-2) scored five runs on four hits and three errors in the first inning en route to an 11-2 victory over Manchester College in a game stopped after five innings in compliance with the eight-run rule.

A winner of four straight, Eastern got pitching victories in relief from freshmen righties **Caitlin Cravens (Ellsworth, ME)** and **Brittany Soucy (Terryville)**. It marked the fourth time in Tucson that the Warriors have won via the eight-run rule.

Against Marian (5-5), Cravens (2-1) took over for junior righty **Lisa Cody (Webster, MA)** to start the sixth with the game tied 5-5, and was credited with the victory when the Warriors scored three times in the sixth on three hits, an error, a sacrifice fly, and sacrifice bunt. Cravens gave up one hit over the final two innings without walking or striking out a batter.

In her first collegiate appearance, Soucy wrapped up the win over Manchester (2-5) after taking over for junior righty **Katie Pensiero (Stamford)** with two runners on in the fourth and the Warriors in a command of a 6-0 lead. Manchester managed only one hit against Pensiero and Soucy – a bad-hop single off the glove of Eastern sophomore shortstop **Kim Church (Farmington)** that drove in its second run of the fourth inning. Soucy was not charged with a run in her debut, fanning one without walking a batter.

Marian wiped out a 3-1 Eastern led by scoring four runs in the fifth on four hits, three of the runs coming on a two-out, three-run home run by cleanup batter Maria Archie. Freshman leftfielder **Katie Dinihanian (Stratford)** had one of her three hits to open the fifth inning, and Rachel Denny homered on the first pitch that she saw from sophomore righty Kristin Rose to tie the game at five. In the sixth, Dinihanian drove in the go-ahead run with a single to shallow right that scored pinch runner **Courtney Caswell (South Kingstown, RI)** from third, Rachel Denny made it 7-5 with a sacrifice fly to right that scored senior rightfielder **Katie Livingston (West Hartford)**, and a passed ball plated Dinihanian with the third run of the inning.

Denny set a program record with her ninth career home run in the season-opening 9-1 win over Augsburg College Saturday and now has 11 in her three-year career.

In Wednesday's games, Dinihanian had five hits, scored four runs, drove in two and stole a base; Rachel Denny drove in three runs in each game and scored four total runs. In addition to her tying home run and sacrifice fly against Marian, Rachel Denny walked and scored in the first inning and doubled and scored on sophomore centerfielder **Ashley Sullivan's (Trumbull)** two-out, two-run double that gave the Warriors a 3-1 lead in the third inning.

In an 11-hit attack against Manchester, Church had two hits, scored two runs and drove in one and senior catcher **Krystle Denny (West Haven)** had two doubles, scored once and drove in one. First-year junior outfielder **Stephanie Buchanan (Moosup)** had her first hit in her second at-bat, singling in a five-run fourth inning and later scoring her first run.

Eastern closes out play in the Tucson Invitational Games Thursday, facing Wisconsin-La Crosse at 1:15 p.m. ET and Nichols College at 5:30 p.m. ET.

Eastern Conn 8, Marian College, WI 5

Marian College (5-5)	001	040	0	--	5	8	1
Eastern Conn. (5-2)	102	023	x	--	8	10	3

Kristin Rose, Laura Holzbauer (5) and Julie Crofts. Lisa Cody, Caitlin Cravens (6) and Krystle Denny. WP-Cravens (2-1). LP-Holzbauer (2-3). 2B-Emily Wiesman (M), R. Denny, Krystle Denny, Ashley Sullivan (E). HR-Maria Archie (M), Rachel Denny (E).

Eastern Conn. 11, Manchester College 2, 5 inn./8-run rule

Manchester College (2-5)	000	20	--	2	1	4
Eastern Conn. (6-2)	501	5x	--	11	11	2

Erica Bush (0-3), Kristi Brown (4) and Lisa Heaton. Katie Pensiero, Brittany Soucy (4) and Krystle Denny, Rachel Denny (5). WP-Soucy (1-0). 2B-K Denny 2 (E); HR-R. Denny (E).

Monday, March 17, 2008

EASTERN SOFTBALL PUTS IT ALL TOGETHER TO RECORD TWO WINS
Strong pitching and fielding and timely hitting lift Warriors past Babson, Nazareth

TUCSON – The Eastern Connecticut State University fastpitch softball team rode strong pitching and fielding and timely hitting to a pair of victories Monday at the Tucson Invitational Games at Lincoln Park.

In a 4-1 in-region victory over Babson College (3-3), freshman right-handed pitcher **Caitlin Cravens (Ellsworth, ME)** pitched four scoreless innings in relief to gain her first collegiate win, and freshman **Rachel Soychak (Mahopac, NY)** scored the game-winning run from third base on a wild pitch.

Later in the day, junior righty **Lisa Cody (Webster, MA)** pitched her second complete-game shutout in three starts this year, and senior leadoff hitter **Kate Livingston (West Hartford)** had three hits and three RBI as Eastern (4-2) won its third game via the eight-run rule in three days with an 8-1 victory over Nazareth College (1-3).

On the afternoon, Eastern compiled 17 hits and committed only one error, and three pitchers stopped two opponents on 11 hits and issued only three walks while striking out nine batters.

Cody (2-1), who had stopped Lakeland on four hits without a walk in an 8-0, five-inning victory Saturday, allowed four baserunners Monday against Nazareth on three hits and walk while fanning four. Cody escaped her only jam in the third by stranding two runners in scoring position by getting two infield pops and an inning-ending strikeout. Against Nazareth – a second-year program -- Eastern's runs were scored by eight different players, with five different players also driving in at least one. Behind Livingston, senior cleanup hitter **Krystle Denny (West Haven)** had two hits, including her second home run of the year – a two-out solo blast in the fourth that made it 6-0.

Against Babson, Cravens (1-1) took over for junior righty **Katie Pensiero (Stamford)** with the score tied 1-1 after three innings and Eastern broke the tie by scoring three runs on four hits in the fourth. Cravens faced only two batters over the 12-batter minimum over the final four innings. She allowed three hits, fanned one, and walked none.

Against ^{Babson} Nazareth, Soychak scored the game-winning run from third base on a wild pitch, and sophomore **Kim Church (Farmington)** scored from second on the same play when the ball got loose on the play trying to nail Soychak at home. With two outs in the inning, freshman **Katie Dinihanian (Stratford)** tripled and scored the team's fourth run on an RBI single by senior Livingston.

Eastern returns to action Wednesday, facing Marian College (WI) at 11:15 a.m. ET and Manchester College at 1:15 p.m. ET.

Eastern Conn. 4, Babson College 1

Babson College (3-3)	100	000	0	--	1	8	1
Eastern Conn. (3-2)	010	300	x	--	4	8	1

Danielle Liska (1-2) and Jess Cohen. Katie Pensiero, Caitlin Cravens (4) and Krystle Denny. WP-Cravens (1-1). 2B-Kaitlyn Clarke (B), Kim Church, Katie O'Toole (E); 3B-Katie Dinihanian (E).

Eastern Conn. 8, Nazareth College 0, 5 inn./8-run rule

Eastern Conn. (4-2)	230	12	--	8	9	0
Nazareth College (1-3)	000	00	--	0	3	4

Lisa Cody (2-1) and Krystle Denny. Lisa Nazarenka (0-2), Jessica Mangicaro (5) and Courtney Stanton. 2B-Nazarenko, Stanton (N), Kate Livingston, Rachel Denny, Courtney Caswell (E); HR-K. Denny (2) (E).

Sunday, March 16, 2008

EASTERN SOFTBALL DROPS PAIR AT TUCSON GAMES

Walk-off home run spoils Warriors' upset bid of No. 7 UW-Eau Claire

TUCSON – Freshman Kaity Acker hit a two-out, two-run walk-off home run in the bottom of the eighth inning as No. 7 nationally-ranked University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire fastpitch softball team avoided an upset loss at the hands of Eastern Connecticut State University with a 6-5 victory at the Tucson Invitational Games Sunday night at Lincoln Park.

Eastern (2-2) had scored twice in the top of the eighth inning to take a 5-3 lead and was within an out of upsetting last year's national tournament qualifier before Acker deposited a 2-0 offering from Eastern freshman righty **Caitlin Cravens (Ellsworth, ME)** over the right-center field fence to end the game.

Earlier Sunday, leadoff hitter Laura Van Abel and cleanup hitter Korryn Brooks each had three hits and combined to score four runs and drive in two as No. 18 nationally-ranked University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (6-0) remained unbeaten with a 6-1 win over Eastern. Junior righty **Lisa Cody (Webster, MA)** was driven from the mound in the fourth inning in losing her first game of the year after an opening win. Brooks hit a two-run home run in the first and Elyse Nelson smacked a leadoff home run in the third for Stevens Point. Stevens Point sophomore righty Kayla Kastenmeier (3-0) limited the Warriors to three hits and retired the final ten batters she faced after allowing a two-out fourth-inning double by Eastern freshman DP **Rachel Soychak (Mahopac, NY)**.

Against Eau Claire (6-3), senior catcher **Krystle Denny (West Haven)** hit a two-run home run in the first inning and Soychak had an RBI single in the third to stake the Warriors to a 3-0 lead. The Blu Golds got one back in the third on Bekki Kidnie's two-out RBI single and tied the game in the sixth on two hits, an infield error and a wild pitch.

Eau Claire sophomore lefty Jenny Ross retired 15 batters in a row after Soychak's RBI single in the third, but Eastern finally broke through for two runs in the eighth to take a 5-3 lead. Starting the inning with a runner on second base – in accordance with international tie-breaker rules – the Warriors scored the go-ahead run when junior DP **Rachel Denny (East Haddam)** plated senior first baseman **Casey Mahoney (Willimantic)** from third with a ground ball to the right side. Krystle Denny added an insurance run when she knocked a two-out single to center to drive in senior rightfielder **Kate Livingston (West Hartford)** from third.

Cravens (0-1), who got two strikeouts to end the fifth after replacing junior righty **Katie Pensiero (Stamford)**, recorded the first two outs of the eighth on a ground ball and strikeout to pull the Warriors to within an out of the win. Casey Leisgang kept the inning alive, however, with an RBI single to center that made it 5-4 and Acker ended the game with her first career home run.

Eastern had forced extra innings by escaping a jam in the seventh that had put Eau Claire runners on first and third and none out with the game tied at three. With the infield playing in to cut down the potential winning run, sophomore shortstop **Kim Church (Farmington)** made a game-saving stab of a line drive that was headed into left field. Cravens then bore down to retire Tamara Zeman on a medium-deep fly ball to Livingston in right and end the inning by retiring Jackie Chien on a fly ball to senior **Ashley Marchitto (Canton)** in left.

Pensiero and Cravens combined to strike out 11 Eau Claire batters. Pensiero fanned five and walked five and Cravens struck out six and walked one. Pensiero walked the 3-4 batters in the Eau Claire lineup a total of five times, none of which resulted in a run.

Monday, Eastern meets Babson College at 4 p.m. ET and Nazareth College at 6 p.m. ET.

UW-Stevens Point 6, Eastern Conn. 1

Stevens Point (6-0)	111	102	0	--	6	10	0
Eastern Conn. (2-1)	010	000	0	--	1	3	3

Kayla Kastenmeir (3-0) and Korryn Brooks. Lisa Cody (1-1), Caitlin Cravens (4) and Krystle Denny. 2B-Rachel Soychak (E), 3B-Laura Van Abel (W); HR-Elyse Nelson, Brooks (W).

UW-Eau Claire 6, Eastern Conn. 5, 8 inn./tie-breaker

Eastern Conn. (2-2)	201	000	02	--	5	7	2
Eau Claire (6-3)	001	002	03	--	6	10	1

Two out when winning run scored.

Katie Pensiero, Caitlin Cravens (5) and Krystle Denny. Kristi Doucette, Jenny Ross (3) and Bekki Kidnic. WP-Ross (3-0). LP-Cravens (0-1). 2B-Jill Janke, Tamara Zeman, Sara Baumgartner (W); HR-K. Denny (E), Kaity Acker (W).