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little east conference

Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2008

**EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL DROPS SEASON-OPENER IN FOUR**

*Roger Williams rebounds from first-game loss to win three in a row*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Rebekah Dion had 12 kills without an error and added seven blocks as the Roger Williams University women’s volleyball team snapped a three-match losing streak at the hands of Eastern Connecticut State University with a four-game victory in the Warriors’ season-opener Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

In its debut under first-year head coach **Peter Viteritti**, Eastern emerged with an opening 25-21 victory before Roger Williams (5-1) reeled off three straight, 25-17, 25-17, 25-18 to post a rare win over the Warriors. Eastern had won 17 of 19 in this series against the Hawks.

The 5-foot-11 inch Dion attacked at .667 (12-for-18 without an error) and also led her team with two block solos and five block assists.

Senior **Sandra Jaques (Milford)** and freshman **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** combined for 23 of the Warriors’ 40 kills, but Eastern committed 31 attack errors and attacked at just .050. Jaques, a second-team All-Little East Conference pick last year, totaled a team-high 12 kills and Ibsen 11. Jaques also served 11 balls without an error, made just one error on 27 reception attempts, and collected a team-high 23 digs. Freshman libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)**, one of three freshmen in Eastern’s starting lineup, served 19 balls with just one error, cleanly handled 27 of 30 receptions, and followed Jaques with 22 digs. Senior setter **Jen Braswell (Wilton)** had 29 set assists and 13 digs and freshman **Molly Rathbun (Hebron)** 11 digs.

Setter Kirsten Bosworth set 28 assists for Roger Williams, Kristina Dolan following Dion with nine kills. Jill Hurd led the Hawks with 21 digs, Brittney Sullivan digging 17.

Eastern competes in the Endicott College Invitational Friday and Saturday.

**Roger Williams U. 3, Eastern Conn. 1**

Roger Williams (5-1)	21	25	25	25
Eastern Conn. (0-1)	25	17	17	18

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Friday, Sept. 5, 2008

**VITERITTI WINS FIRST VOLLEYBALL MATCH AT EASTERN**  
*Warriors sweep Bridgewater State in opening round of Endicott Invite*

BEVERLY, Mass. -- Freshmen **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** and **Molly Rathbun (Hebron)** and senior **Sandra Jaques (Millord)** combined for 46 digs to pace the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a 25-18, 25-20, 25-18 sweep of Bridgewater State College in the opening round of the Endicott College Invitational Friday night at the Post Center.

The win is the first at Eastern for new head coach **Peter Viteritti**, who has now won matches as an NCAA head coach at the Division I, II and III levels. Viteritti formerly coached at Division I Holy Cross College and Division II East Stroudsburg University.

Rathbun led Eastern (1-1) with ten kills and added 14 digs, with Abelli leading the team with 19 digs and Jaques digging 13 balls. Abelli (19) and Jaques (15) also combined for 34 serve receptions without an error. Freshman **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** added nine kills for the Warriors.

The match was the season-opener for Bridgewater, coming off its first losing season since 1998. The Bears had a streak of 12 straight Mass. State College Athletic Conference titles snapped last year.

Eastern faces host Endicott College Saturday at noon. The Gulls eliminated the Warriors in the first round of the 2006 NCAA Division III tournament.

**Eastern Conn. 3, Bridgewater State College 0**

Bridgewater State (0-1)	18	20	18
Eastern Conn. (1-1)	25	25	25

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little east conference

Saturday, September 6, 2008

**EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL THIRD AT ENDICOTT INVITE**

*Warriors win two of three; freshman Ibsen all-tournament selection*

BEVERLY, Mass. – Senior **Sandra Jaques (Milford)** had 11 kills, 20 digs and handled 27 serves without an error to power the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a 3-1 win over Salve Regina University that guaranteed the Warriors third place in a field of eight teams at the Endicott College Invitational at the Post Center Saturday.

Eastern (2-2) put themselves in the winners' bracket with a three-game sweep of Bridgewater State College Friday night before losing in three games (25-13, 25-18, 25-17) to eventual tournament champion Endicott (5-1) in its first match Saturday. Eastern defeated Salve (1-3) 25-18, 19-25, 25-12, 25-13. After splitting the first two games with Salve, Eastern pulled away in the critical third game by scoring the final six points.

A returning second-team All-Little East Conference outside hitter, Jaques had 19 kills and 43 digs in the tournament and committed only two errors on 60 reception attempts (.967 percent).

One of three freshmen starters in the lineup, 5-foot-10 inch **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** represented the Warriors on the all-tournament team. Ibsen led Eastern with 26 kills in the tournament and also served nine aces. Freshman **Molly Rathbun (Hebron)**, who joined classmates Ibsen and **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** in the lineup, followed Ibsen with 21 tournament kills and also chipped in with 25 digs. Abelli, the team's designed defensive player, topped all Eastern players with 50 digs and 66 reception attempts and also had a .974 success rate on 38 serves.

Senior setter **Jen Braswell (Wilton)** collected 65 assists in the tournament, and also recorded 17 digs and served four aces.

Against Salve, Ibsen (13) and Jaques (11) combined for 24 kills and Abelli (21) and Jaques (20) teamed for 41 digs and were perfect on a combined total of 46 reception attempts.

Jaques and Abelli each had ten digs against Endicott, which featured six players standing at least 5-foot-10 inches after reaching last year's NCAA Division III regional title match. The Warriors attacked at -.010 against the Gulls, who went on to defeat Bowdoin in four games in the tournament championship game.

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Eastern competes in the Wellesley College Quad this weekend, facing the host team in its Friday opener at 5 p.m.

**Eastern Conn. 3, Bridgewater State College 0**

Bridgewater State (0-1)	18	20	18	
Eastern Conn. (1-1)		25	25	25

**Endicott College 3, Eastern Conn. 0**

Eastern Conn. (1-2)	13	18	17	
Endicott College (5-1)		25	25	25

**Eastern Conn. 3, Salve Regina U. 1**

Salve Regina (1-3)	18	25	12	13
Eastern Conn. (2-2)		25	19	25

## ***Gulls down ECU and Bowdoin to win Invitational***

***Women's Volleyball***  
***September 6, 2008***

**BEVERLY, Mass.** The Endicott College women's volleyball team defeated Eastern Connecticut State University, 3-0, and Bowdoin College, 3-1, to capture the 2008 Endicott Invitational Tournament Championship on Saturday afternoon in Beverly, Mass. The Gulls are now 5-1 overall on the season.

Endicott advanced to the invitational final with an easy, 3-0, win over Eastern Connecticut in the Gulls' first match of the day. Endicott got nine kills from Steph Weise (Higganum, Conn.) in the win. Hayley Janelle (Madbury, N.H.) had a well-rounded contest against the Warriors, notching seven kills, four aces and four blocks. Beth Dow (Pocasset, Mass.) had six kills while classmate Casey Ward (Monroe, Conn.) handed out 17 assists.

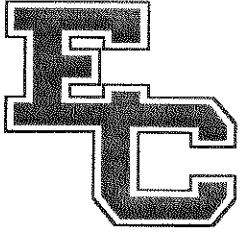
The championship match came to be after Bowdoin made short work of Salve Regina, 3-0, posting set scores of 25-14, 25-19, and 25-17 over the Seagulls. In the finals, it was Endicott's Steph Weise that helped lead the Gulls to victory. Weise earned Tournament MVP honors as she capped off her stellar weekend with eight kills and three aces. Senior Hayley Janelle was named to the All-Tournament Team as she had a monster match upfront, notching 11 kills and five blocks against the Polar Bears. Brittany Phillips (Sudbury, Mass.) had 10 kills while freshman Elyse Barbour (Greenville, R.I.) had six blocks in the win.

Bowdoin was paced by All-Tournament Team member Kristin Hanczor's (Redding, Conn.) 14 kills. Teammate Jenna Diggs (La Jolla, Calif.), also an All-Tournament recipient, had 32 assists and 16 digs in the losing effort. Stephanie Drumright (San Francisco, Calif.) notched two blocks in the finals.

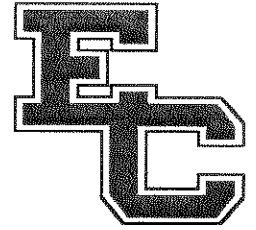
Eastern Connecticut earned third-place honors as the Warriors edged Salve Regina University, 3-1, in the runners up match. East Conn. freshman Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton, Conn.) had 13 kills while Sandra Jaques (Milford, Conn.) posted 11 kills and 20 digs in the win. Jen Braswell (Wilton, Conn.) notched 33 assists while Taylor Abelli (Cheshire, Conn.) had a team-high 21 digs.

Fifth-place honors went to Keene State, followed by sixth-place finisher Emmanuel. New Jersey City University and Bridgewater State rounded out the field at 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, respectfully.

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# **ENDICOTT PRESS RELEASE**



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## ***Gulls advance to semifinals, sweep Emmanuel***

**Women's Volleyball**  
**September 5, 2008**

**BEVERLY, Mass.** – The Endicott College women's volleyball team made short work of Emmanuel, downing the Saints, 3-0, in the opening match of the Endicott Invitational Tournament in Beverly, Mass. The Gulls posted set scores of 25-13, 25-15, and 25-22 in the victory.

The Gulls got a standout performance from outside hitter Steph Wiese (Higganum, Conn.), as the junior notched 10 kills and two aces in the three-set sweep. Brittany Phillips (Sudbury, Mass.) was also strong on the outside, as she accounted for nine kills. Senior middle Hayley Janelle (Madbury, N.H.) weighed in with nine kills of her own in the win.

The victory marks the third in four tries for the Gulls thus far in 2008, as Endicott is now 3-1 overall. The win advances the Blue and Green into Saturday's semifinal where they will meet Eastern Connecticut State at 12:00 p.m. The Warriors swept their way past Bridgewater State to earn a spot in Saturday's winner pool.

Eastern Connecticut was led by freshman outside Molly Rathbun's (Hebron, Conn.) 10 kills and 14 digs. Classmate Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton, Conn.) notched nine kills in the Warrior's win. Senior setter Jen Braswell (Wilton, Conn.) dished out 26 assists.

In other tournament action, Salve Regina University defeated New Jersey City University, 3-0, to move into the right side of the bracket. The Seahawks fought hard to get by the Gothic Knights, posting set scores of 25-23, 26-24, and 25-20 in the win. Deanna Salter (Westwood, Mass.) paced the winner's effort with seven kills, while senior Rachel Cirella (Jamestown, R.I.) notched 24 assists. Amanda Harmon (Dennis, Mass.) had 22 digs and freshman Julianne Barry (Randolph, Mass.) had five blocks upfront.

In the fourth match of the evening, Bowdoin College edged Little East contender Keene State, 3-1, to advance on to meet Salve Regina. The Polar Bears posted scores of 25-14, 25-20, 22-25, and 25-23 to earn the victory. Bowdoin freshman Kristin Hanczor (Redding, Conn.) led the kill effort with nine, while junior Jenna Diggs (La Jolla, Calif.) had 31 assists and 21 digs. Kelsey Howe (Sandy, Utah) and Stephanie Drumright (San Francisco, Calif.) had six blocks apiece in the win.

Tournament action continues on Saturday with game times scheduled for 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., and finishing at 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008  
CORRECTED

**EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL POSTS COMEBACK WIN OVER TRINITY**  
*Warriors win final two games to snap four-game losing streak against Bantams*

HARTFORD, Conn. – Freshmen **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** and **Molly Rathbun (Hebron)** each had 16 kills to help pace the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a five-game comeback victory over Trinity College Tuesday night at the Ferris Athletic Center.

After dropping the first two games by a total of seven points (25-23, 25-20), Eastern (3-5) got one back by taking Game 3, 25-18, evening the match with a 25-20 win in Game 4, and erasing an early 3-0 deficit by scoring five of seven points to break a 10-10 and go on to a 15-12 win in the decisive game that snapped a four-year losing streak at the hands of Trinity (4-3).

The team leader this year in kills and attack percentage, Ibsen attacked at a team-leading .214 against Trinity, with Rathbun collecting 11 digs to go along with her kills. Ranked sixth all-time at Eastern in digs, senior **Sandra Jaques (Milford)** combined with freshman **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** and Rathbun for 77 digs and was the third Eastern player in double figures with 12 kills. Abelli led all players with 31 digs, with Jaques adding 25 and Rathburn 21.

Freshman **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** came off the bench for 26 set assists. Junior **Courtney Sims (Manchester)** had five blocks, senior **Jen Braswell (Wilton)** adding four and Ibsen and Rathbun two each.

Eastern visits Mass College of Liberal Arts Thursday at 7 p.m.

**Eastern Conn. 3, Trinity College 2**

Eastern Conn. (3-5)	23	20	25	25	15
Trinity (4-3)	25	25	18	20	12

Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008

## EASTERN VOLLEYBALL DISPATCHES MASS COLLEGE, 3-0

*In first meeting between programs, Warriors ease past Trailblazers, 25-4, 25-23, 25-12*

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. - Sophomore **Katie Dinihanian (Stratford)** served 11 consecutive points to spark a first-game rout and the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team breezed past Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts by winning three games in 56 minutes Thursday night at the MCLA Campus Center. Game scores were 25-4, 25-23, 25-12.

In the first meeting between the programs, Eastern (4-5) attacked at .400 in the first game and finished with a season-best mark of .355. Behind Dinihanian and senior middle hitter **Alexandra Silvestros (North Branford)**, Eastern also added a season-high 14 service aces. Dinihanian and Silvestros had four apiece.

The Warriors raced to a 13-0 lead in Game 1, with Dinihanian serving the final 11 straight. Behind the serving of freshman **Nicki Anderson (East Lyme)** Eastern broke a 10-10 tie in Game 2 by scoring four straight points. Consecutive reception errors allowed the Trailblazers to pull to within a point late in the match before junior outside hitter **Ashley Tuggle (South Windsor)** collected one of her season-high nine kills to end the match.

Silvestros served all four of her match aces in Game 3, three coming in a span of four serves that gave the Warriors a quick 11-5 lead. The hosts pulled to within three points midway through the match, but Anderson recorded both of her aces in the game later as the Warriors pulled away. Eastern was credited with eight aces in that final game.

Behind Tuggle, sophomore middle hitter **Christina Schirone (Pelham, NH)** had six kills on as many attack attempts, and senior setter **Jen Braswell (Wilton)** was 5-for-7 without an error. She also amassed 21 set assists. Sophomore right side **Rachael Joy (Huntington Station, NY)** had five kills without an error. Freshman libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** led the way with nine digs despite playing only the first game. Dinihanian followed with six digs, Braswell, Tuggle and Anderson adding five each.

Four of Eastern's regular players saw limited or no playing time, as the Warriors set their sights on the 2008 Little East Conference openers Saturday at Plymouth, NH.; Eastern faces Rhode Island College at 2 p.m. and Plymouth State at 4. The Warriors were rated sixth in the pre-season coaches poll after winning last year's LEC playoff title.

### Eastern Conn. 3, Mass College 0

Eastern Conn. (4-5)	25	25	25
Mass College (3-4)	4	23	12

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Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008

**EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL OPENS LEC WITH TWO WINS**

*Picked to finish sixth in pre-season, Warriors down No. 3 and No. 4*

PLYMOUTH, NH – Selected to finish sixth in the 2008 pre-season coaches' poll, defending Little East Conference playoff champion Eastern Connecticut State University opened conference play by defeating Rhode Island College in four games and sweeping Plymouth State University Saturday afternoon at Foley Gymnasium.

Paced by a strong freshman class, Eastern (6-5, 2-0 little east) won six straight games on the afternoon after dropping its opener. The Warriors downed Rhode Island College (3-9, 0-1 little east) 17-25, 25-21, 25-17, 25-14 and swept host Plymouth State (7-3, 1-1 little east) 25-21, 26-24, 25-17). Rhode Island was picked to finish fourth in the pre-season poll and 2007 ECAC tournament participant Plymouth third.

Although Eastern attacked at only .124 on the afternoon, it scored 20 points on service aces and committed only seven reception errors for a .935 success rate. The Warriors now have a four-match winning streak that has lifted them over the .500 mark.

On the afternoon, freshman middle hitter **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** led all Eastern players with 27 kills and added five service aces; freshman outside hitter **Molly Rathbun (Hebron)** had 18 kills, 24 digs and four service aces; senior outside hitter **Sandra Jaques (Milford)** ten kills and 37 digs and handled 45 of 48 serve receptions (.938); freshman **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** topped all Eastern players with 54 digs and was successful on 41 of 43 serve receptions (.953); and freshman setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** collected 53 assists.

The win for Eastern over Plymouth avenges a sweep a year ago at Geissler Gym and is the Warriors' fifth in the last six meetings with the Panthers.

Eastern visits Western New England College Thursday at 5 p.m.

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Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008

## **EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS WESTERN NE COLLEGE, 3-0**

*Freshman Ibsen leads streaking Warriors to second-best hitting percentage of season*

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. – Freshman middle hitter **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** had 14 kills and attacked at .520 in leading the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to its fifth straight victory -- a three-game sweep of Western New England College Thursday night at the Alumni Healthful Living Center.

The 5-foot-10 inch Ibsen helped Eastern (7-5) to its second-best hitting percentage of the season (.306) in 25-13, 25-19, 25-15 victories. Since bouncing back from a 2-0 deficit to defeat Trinity College nine days ago, the Warriors have won 14 of their last 15 games in winning five straight matches.

Freshman libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** set the tone by serving the first six points of the first game and later served the first four points of the final game. Ibsen and freshman right-side hitter **Rachael Joy (Huntington Station, NY)** each had two kills in staking the Warriors to a quick 8-1 lead in Game 1. In Game 2, Western New England (5-5) committed four service errors to keep the first half of the game close, and the Warriors scored six of the final seven points in the six-point win. After Abelli's serving gave the Warriors a quick 4-0 lead in Game 3, the Warriors were never seriously challenged.

Ibsen was successful on nine of 11 kills at one point in the match, amassing six in a row. She also had three service aces. Classmates Abelli, outside hitter **Molly Rathbun (Hebron)** and setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** also played key roles in the victory. Abelli led the Warriors with 17 digs, and Rathbun seven kills and 12 digs. Slonski recorded her fourth straight match of more than 25 set assists, posting a career-high 29. Senior outside hitter **Sandra Jaques (Milford)** followed Abelli with 15 digs and added six kills and two service aces. Jaques and Abelli combined to receive 32 serves without an error and to serve 35 balls without a miscue.

Eastern returns to Little East Conference action Saturday at Boston, Mass., facing UMass Boston at noon and Keene State College at 2 p.m. As the No. 5 seed, Eastern eliminated top-seeded Keene in the semifinals of last year's LEC tournament.

### **Eastern Conn. 3, Western New England College 0**

Eastern Conn. (7-5)	25	25	25
Western NE (5-5)	13	19	15

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Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008

**EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL SWEPT IN LITTLE EAST COMPETITION**

*In closely contested games, Warriors beaten by UMass Boston and Keene State*

BOSTON -- In closely-contested Little East Conference play, the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team lost all six games in falling to the University of Massachusetts Boston and Keene State College Saturday afternoon at the Clark Athletic Center on the UMB campus.

Selected to finish sixth in the seven-team conference in the coaches' pre-season poll, Eastern (7-7, 2-2 little east) had a five-match winning streak stopped by UMass Boston (9-6, 1-0 little east), 25-21, 25-16, 25-17, then lost three tight games to Keene State (13-4, 3-0 little east), 25-21, 25-23, 25-21. UMass was picked fifth in the pre-season poll while Keene was the No. 1 selection after winning last year's LEC regular-season title. Eastern won its third straight LEC playoff title last year as the No. 5 seed, downing Keene in five games in the semifinals on the Owls' home court.

Although the Warriors attacked under .100 in all six games, managing just .091 against vastly-improved UMass and .083 against Keene State, they did not commit a reception error on 61 attempts against UMass. The loss was the first ever for Eastern against the Beacons after 12 victories.

Freshman middle hitter **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** had more than one-third of Eastern's total of 58 kills on the afternoon. Ibsen totaled 20 kills, with freshman outside hitter **Molly Rathbun (Hebron)** the only other Eastern player in double figures, with ten. Ibsen also collected four service aces and five blocks on the day. All of the aces and four of the blocks came against Keene.

Senior **Sandra Jaques (Milford)** and freshman **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** combined for 68 digs and handled 99 serve receives with only four errors on the day and served 44 balls with only three errors. Jaques had 40 digs (30 against Keene), Abelli 28. Freshman setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** was credited with 41 set assists.

In the first game against UMass, Eastern scored five straight points behind the serving of sophomore **Katie Dinihanian (Stratford)** to move in front, 14-13, but the Beacons

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scored the final four points of the match on three straight kills and an Eastern attack error. The Warriors never strung together more than three straight points in Game 2, and played catchup throughout Game 3.

Junior outside hitters Kate McWhorter and Kate White helped the Beacons attack at over .300 in each of the first two games. McWhorter had ten kills and a .348 attack percentage in the match and White nine kills.

Senior middle hitter Brittany O'Bryant amassed nearly half of Keene's kills against Eastern, finishing with 17 kills and a .271 percentage.

Behind the serving of Ibsen against Keene, the Warriors ran off seven straight points to erect a 20-15 lead, but immediately gave the points back as the Owls closed out the win with five straight points. Trailing 24-20 in Game 2, the Warriors closed the gap to one. Keene called a timeout after Eastern pulled to within 24-23, and posted the victory on the ensuing exchange. Down four late in Game 3, Eastern again made a run to get to within one, but a pair of kills and an Eastern error helped Keene score the final three points.

Eastern competes in the FDU-Florham Devils' Classic this weekend at Madison, NJ.

**Massachusetts Boston 3, Eastern Conn.0**

Eastern Conn. (7-6, 2-1 little east)	21	16	17
UMass Boston (9-6, 1-0 little east)	25	25	25

**Eastern statistical leaders:**

Kristianna Ibsen	10 kills
Taylor Abelli	9 digs, 25 reception attempts with 0 errors
Sandra Jaques	10 digs, 26 reception attempts with 0 errors
Samantha Slonski	18 set assists

**Keene State College 3, Eastern Conn. 0**

Keene State (13-4), 3-0 little east)	25	25	25
Eastern Conn. (7-7, 2-2 little east)	21	23	21

**Eastern statistical leaders:**

Kristianna Ibsen	10 kills, 4 blocks, 4 service aces
Sandra Jaques	30 digs, 33 reception attempts with 3 errors
Taylor Abelli	19 digs
Samantha Slonski	23 set assists
Katie Dinihanian	10 digs

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Friday, Oct. 3, 2008

**EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL SPLITS INVITE OPENERS**

*At FDU Florham Devils' Classic, Warriors sweep St. Joseph's, lose to LVC*

MADISON, NJ – Freshman middle hitter **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** had 21 kills and freshman libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** contributed **36 digs** and nine service aces as the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team split an opening night pair at the FDU Florham Devils' Classic Friday.

Eastern (8-8) swept St. Joseph's College, L.I. (9-4), 25-15, 25-19, 25-17 in its first match, then lost in four games to Lebanon Valley College (18-2), 22-25, 15-25, 25-23, 12-25, as the Dutch rolled to their ninth straight victory. The meeting was the first between the programs since 1993.

By finishing second in its pool, Eastern advances to play two matches in the Silver Bracket Saturday against the second-place finishers in each of the other two polls. The Warriors will play two consecutive matches beginning at 10 a.m.

Against St. Joseph's, Ibsen had 12 kills and senior outside hitter **Sandra Jaques (Milford)** ten. Ibsen attacked at .400 in that match, Jaques at .286. Defensively, Abelli collected 21 of the team's 55 digs against the Golden Eagles. Sophomore defensive specialist **Katie Dinihanian (Stratford)** served 25 times against St. Joseph's with four aces and no errors.

Freshman setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** set for 28 assists against St. Joseph's and finished the evening with 51 assists. On the evening, Slonski followed Abelli with 20 digs and also contributed seven blocks. Ibsen added three blocks and Jaques had 15 digs. Abelli recorded nine service aces, six coming in the loss to Lebanon Valley. Senior setter **Jen Braswell (Wilton)** and Jaques each had 14 kills on the night. Jaques also committed just one error on 45 reception attempts.

Eastern attacked at just .054 against Lebanon Valley and was guilty of eight reception errors.

**Eastern Conn. 3, St. Joseph's (LI) 0**

Eastern Conn. (8-7)	25	25	25
St. Joseph's (9-4)	15	19	17

**Lebanon Valley College 3, Eastern Conn. 1**

Eastern Conn. (8-8)	22	15	25	12
Lebanon Valley (18-2)	25	25	23	25

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Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008

**EASTERN VOLLEYBALL FINDS SILVER LINING AT FDU**  
*At Devils' Classic, Warriors capture three of four matches to win Silver Bracket*

MADISON, NJ – Freshman **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** had a team-high 41 kills and classmate **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** dug a team-high 82 balls to help power the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to three wins in four matches and the Silver Bracket championship at the FDU Florham Devils' Classic over the weekend.

The only New England team in the nine-team tournament, Eastern (10-8) won both of its matches Saturday after opening Friday with a three-game sweep of St. Joseph's College, of Long Island (25-15, 25-19, 25-17) and a four-game loss to eventual tournament champion Lebanon Valley College (22-25, 15-25, 25-23, 12-25).

In Silver Bracket play Saturday, the Warriors bounced back from a first-game loss to outlast SUNY Plattsburgh (23-25, 26-24, 25-17, 25-19), then swept Baptist Bible College (25-15, 25-15, 25-23) to win the bracket.

Ibsen, a 5-foot-10 inch middle hitter, represented Eastern on the all-tournament team. In addition to leading the team in kills, she also led the Warriors in attack percentage (.348) and blocks (9). Abelli, a libero, averaged 5.9 digs – just above her season average – in 14 games to lead all Eastern players. Against Plattsburgh, Ibsen had a season-high 19 kills and committed only one error for a .514 percentage.

As a team, the Warriors amassed 48 points on aces, led by Abelli, senior outside hitter **Sandra Jaques (Milford)** and sophomore defensive specialist **Katie Dinihanian (Stratford)**. Abelli led the way with 13 aces, six coming in the loss to Lebanon Valley, with Jaques adding ten and Dinihanian seven. Dinihanian also chipped in 32 digs in the tournament.

In addition to ten aces and 45 digs, Jaques added 28 kills and successfully passed 89 of 94 serves for a .957 percentage.

After struggling offensively Friday night, freshman outside hitter **Molly Rathbun (Hebron)** had 15 kills and attacked at .452 Saturday, committing only one attack error on 31 attempts on the day. She also finished the tournament with 21 digs.

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Freshman setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** collected 119 assists (8.5 per game) in the tournament and added 31 digs, seven blocks and six service aces.

Jaques' final dig of the tournament was the 1,484th of her career moved her into sole possession of sixth place on the all-time chart, one ahead of Karen Ann Sweet (1994-97). Marcella Davis (1990-93) is fifth with 1,642.

Eastern returns to Little East Conference competition Tuesday at Western Connecticut State University at 6 p.m. in a re-match of Eastern's three-game sweep in the last year's conference tournament title game.

**Saturday's Results**

**Eastern Conn. 3, SUNY Plattsburgh 1**

Eastern Conn. (9-8)	23	26	25	25
Plattsburgh (6-200)	25	24	17	19

**Eastern Conn. 3, Baptist Bible College 0**

Eastern Conn. (10-8)	25	25	25
Baptist Bible (7-14)	15	15	23

little east conference

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2008

**TEAM EFFORT CARRIES EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL TO LEC WIN**

*In rematch of last year's title LEC match, Warriors down Western Conn. in four games*

DANBURY, Conn. – In a rematch of last year's Little East Conference tournament championship match, the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team got key contributions from a number of players in a four-game victory over Western Connecticut State University Tuesday night at the O'Neill Center.

In the first meeting between the programs since fifth-seeded Eastern (11-8, 3-2 little east) swept second-seeded Western (10-5, 2-2 little east) in last year's championship match, senior **Jen Braswell (Wilton)** and freshman **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** each had 13 kills and sophomore **Alyssa Ruta (Holbrook, NY)** provided a lift off the bench as the Warriors survived with a 25-21, 25-22, 21-25, 26-24 victory.

The victory was the fourth in the last five meetings for the Warriors over the Colonials after Western had reeled off 11 straight win in the series. Western was picked to finish second in the pre-season coaches poll while the defending playoff champion Warriors were selected to place six in the seven-team conference. With its fourth win in the last five matches, Eastern equaled its win total of 2007.

Trailing 2-0 in games, Western built an early lead on the way to the Game 3 win, and appeared headed to tying the match with a 23-21 lead in Game 4. Ibsen helped carry Eastern back in that game, however, with three kills and a block, closing out the win with two consecutive kills.

The Warriors attacked under .100 in each of the first three games, but responded in Game 4 by attacking at .333. Ibsen put down four of her last five attacks and Braswell four of her final six tries to key the decisive victory. Ruta, a defensive specialist, came off the bench to make important contributions in the back row. In the match, she served 16 balls with just one error (putting her first 14 in play), dug up nine balls, and was successful on five of six reception attempts.

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Behind the serving of Ibsen, Eastern never trailed after taking a 17-16 lead in Game 1, and Braswell came through with a critical kill that made it 23-20. With the help of a number of Western attack errors, the Warriors moved out to a 24-17 lead in Game 2 before surviving a late Western bid. A Western kill and an Eastern reception error drew the Colonials to within 24-22 but another Western attack error close out the Eastern win. The Warriors trailed 11-3 in Game 3 but later rallied to tie the game before the Colonials avoided the sweep in a four-point win.

Defensively, senior **Sandra Jaques (Milford)** and freshman **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** combined for 40 digs and handled 56 receptions with only three errors. Abelli dug up 21 balls while Jaques had 19 digs and was perfect on 34 serve receives. Abelli leads the LEC this year with 354 digs (5.71 per game), with Jaques next on the team with 275 (4.37).

On the right side, Braswell attacked at a team-leading .364 and had two blocks. She teamed with Ibsen on one of her blocks that gave Eastern a 24-23 lead in Game 3. Ibsen attacked at only .150 but came up big in Game 4 with a mark of .385.

Setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)**, one of four freshman starters for the Warriors, produced another strong all-around game with 32 assists, eight digs and four blocks. She also committed only one error on 24 serves.

Becca Stein, the LEC leader in attack percentage, led Western with 17 kills, six coming on as many attacks in Game 3. Kara Masciangioli had five service aces and six digs, freshman Kelly Collins 22 digs, and Samantha Hathaway had 44 set assists. The Colonials entered play as the LEC leader with a .227 team attack percentage.

Defending regular-season champion Keene State moved to within a win of a second straight unbeaten conference season and secured the top playoff seed and hosting rights, surviving a scare in a 3-2 win over host Plymouth State Tuesday to improve its LEC mark to 5-0. Eastern closes out regular-season LEC play Nov. 1 by hosting UMass Dartmouth. With a 1-1 conference record, only UMass Boston can catch Keene for a share of the regular-season title.

Eastern returns home for the first time since the season-opener this weekend by hosting the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Crabtree Classic.

**Eastern Conn. 3, Western Conn. 1**

Eastern Conn. (11-8, 3-2 little east)	25	25	21	26
Western Conn. (10-5, 2-2 little east)	21	22	25	24

Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008

**EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS NO. 6 WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY**  
***Warriors stop Cardinals' eight-match winning streak, hand them first sweep of year***

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. - Freshman middle hitter **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** had 13 kills and six blocks as the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team snapped the eight-match winning streak of Wesleyan University with 25-22, 25-20, 25-11 wins Wednesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern (15-9) has won seven of eight since splitting its first 16 matches. Ranked No. 6 in New England, Wesleyan (15-5) had not lost since dropping a five-game decision to Smith College Sept. 26. The Cardinals lost for the first time on their opponents' home court after wins and were swept for the first time this year. Eastern is 4-2 at home.

The 5-foot-10 inch Ibsen led all players on both teams in kills and attacked at .440, committing only two errors on 25 attempts. Three of her blocks came in the final game.

Senior outside hitter **Sandra Jaques (Milford)** and freshman outside hitter **Molly Rathbun (Hebron)** each chipped in six kills. Rathbun was 4-for-7 in kills in Game 3 without committing an error. Jaques and freshman libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** shared the team lead with 11 digs each. Freshman defensive specialist **Nicki Anderson (East Lyme)** dug up eight balls and freshman setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** had 27 assists. Jaques committed only one reception error on 29 attempts.

With the score tied 19-all in Game 1, Eastern scored three straight points to take the lead for good. The Warriors trailed 18-17 in Game 2 but rallied for four straight points and ever trailed. Jaques had a kill and Ibsen and senior right-side hitter **Jen Braswell (Wilton)** combined for a block in that stretch. Eastern raced to a 10-3 advantage in Game 3 and was never threatened. Wesleyan committed two serve errors and two attack errors in that span, while Rathbun had two kills and Ibsen a kill and two blocks and Abelli a service ace.

Senior outsider hiter Lisa Drennan (Ann Arbor, MI), ranked second nationally in kills per game (4.8), had ten kills for Wesleyan but attacked at only .115. Junior middle hitter Ashley Farrow (Evanston, IL) added nine kills, sophomore libero Ruby Hernandez (West Palm Beach, FL) 17 digs and handled 29 receptions with only one error. Junior setter Ellie Healy (Manhattan Beach, CA) had 30 assists.

Eastern hosts the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (10 a.m.) and Colby-Sawyer College (2 p.m.) Saturday.

**Eastern Conn. 3, Wesleyan U. 0**

Wesleyan U. (15-5)	22	20	11
Eastern Conn. (15-9)	25	25	25

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little east conference

Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008

**EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL CAPTURES OWN CRABTREE TITLE**

*Warriors overcome Friday loss, hand Johnson & Wales first loss in 11 matches, 3-1*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Freshmen **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** and **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** keyed the offense and defense, respectively, that lifted the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a four-game win over Johnson & Wales University Saturday and the championship of the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Crabtree Classic at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

The Crabtree Classic title is the third in the last seven years and fourth overall for Eastern (14-9), which overcame a five-game loss to Bates College in its second tournament match Friday night. Johnson & Wales (16-10) had stretched its winning streak to ten by winning its first three matches of the tournament, losing only one game in the process.

Against the Wildcats, the 5-foot-10 inch Ibsen had 14 kills, attacked at .262, and added six blocks, and Abelli had a season-high 38 of the team's season-high 120 digs and also handled 22 of 24 receptions. Senior **Sandra Jaques (Milford)** had nine digs, 29 digs and handled 32 of 34 receptions. Junior **Courtney Sims (Manchester)** provided a spark off the bench by adding eight kills on a .304 attack percentage. Abelli and Jaques combined to make just one error on 32 serves.

After losing to Johnson & Wales in each of the last two seasons in the Crabtree Classic, the Warriors emerged Saturday from a tight match where every game was decided by four or less points. Game scores were 25-23, 26-28, 25-21, 25-22. With the match knotted at 1-1, the Warriors scored ten of the final 13 points in Game 3 after trailing by three points, 18-15. Senior right-side hitter **Jen Braswell (Wilton)** pulled Eastern into a 20-20 tie, and consecutive Wildcat attack errors gave the Warriors the lead for good.

In the decisive fourth game against Johnson & Wales, Ibsen was nearly unstoppable offensively. She had six kills on ten attempts and Abelli dug up eight balls. Eastern scored five straight points to move in front, 15-10 and led by four until the Wildcats made a run to get back to within one, 22-21. After a timeout, Johnson & Wales threw away a chance to tie the game by committing a key service error to give the Warriors a 23-21 lead. Ibsen and freshman **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** then teamed for a crucial block that brought the Warriors to within a point of the win, and Ibsen's tournament-ending kill settled the issue.

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The team's 5-foot-7 inch setter, Slonski was named tournament Most Outstanding Player. She was joined on the all-tournament team by Jaques, who won the second Crabtree title in her four-year career.

In the tournament, Slonski amassed 138 assists (8.62 per game), served 63 balls with just one error, matched Ibsen with 11 blocks and added 37 digs. Offensively, Ibsen led Eastern with 42 kills, Jaques adding 41, Sims 28, Braswell 27, and freshman Molly Rathbun (Hebron) 26. Sims attacked at .292, Jaques at .266 and Ibsen .246. Defensively, Abelli collected 100 digs (6.25 per game), and Jaques 74 (4.62 per game). Sophomore **Katie Dinihanian (Stratford)** picked up eight service aces, Jaques six and Slonski and Abelli five each.

In a three-game sweep of the University of New England earlier Saturday, Jaques and Braswell each had ten kills, Slonski 31 assists, Abelli 17 digs and Jaques 11. Braswell, who had a strong all-around tournament, attacked at .600 against the Nor-easters and Jaques .444.

Friday, Eastern opened the tournament with a four-game win over Bridgewater -- beating the Bears for the second time this year -- that gave them one more win than all of last year. Jaques had 11 kills and Ibsen nine against UNE, Abelli 24 digs and Jaques 18 and Slonski 38 assists.

In their second match Friday, the Warriors were upset by Bates College in five games. Eastern won two of the first three games in convincing fashion before the Bobcats remained alive with a 25-14 in Game 4. Bates carried its fourth-game win into Game 5 (played to 15 points) by racing to an 8-0 lead. Eastern bounced back, however, with Ibsen and Jaques combining for five kills to make it 8-7. Leading 9-8, Bates responded with four straight points, three coming on Eastern errors, to post the 15-10 victory. Four Eastern players recorded double figures in kills against the Bobcats: Ibsen (13), Rathbun (12), Jaques (11) and Sims (11). Slonski (41) reached 40 assists for the first time this year. Abelli led the defense with 21 digs and had four of the team's 13 aces.

Eastern hosts Wesleyan University Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008

**Women's Volleyball  
At Willimantic, Conn.**

**Notes:** Colby-Sawyer ranked No. 10 in New England; U.S. Coast Guard ranked No. 13; Eastern unranked. Colby-Sawyer has won seven straight, Eastern eight of ten.

**Eastern Conn. 3, U.S. Coast Guard Academy 0**

Coast Guard (10-11)	23	16	19
Eastern Conn. (16-9)	25	25	25

**Stat leaders:**

**CGA:** Jessica Anderson 10 digs; Nicole Gurr 9 kills, 8 digs; Courtney Wolf 6 kills, 5 blocks; Ashley Bullard 13 assists.

**ECSU:** Kristianna Ibsen 8 kills; Molly Rathbun 6 kills; Jen Braswell 5 kills; Sandra Jaques 25 digs; Taylor Abelli 19 digs; Katie Dinihanian 10 digs; Samantha Slonski 24 assists.

**Colby-Sawyer College 3, U.S. Coast Guard Academy 0**

Colby-Sawyer (18-8)	25	25	25
Coast Guard (10-12)	18	22	16

**Stat leaders:**

**CSC:** Michelle Doody 10 kills, .280 attack pct.; Meg White 9 kills, 5 digs, .400 attack pct; Kristen Romanko 7 kills, .462 attack pct., 2 blocks; Genny Moore 30 assists; Nicole Duarte 3 blocks; Jackie Burnett 6 digs.

**CGA:** Nicole Gurr 10 kills, 5 blocks; Mary Bitzer 6 kills; Courtney Wolf 5 kills, 2 blocks; Ashley Bullard 19 assists; Jessica Anderson 11 digs.

**Colby-Sawyer College 3, Eastern Conn. 2**

Colby-Sawyer (19-8)	25	21	16	25	15
Eastern Conn. (16-10)	19	25	25	15	12

**Stat leaders:**

**CSC:** Genny Moore 34 assists, 3 aces; Michelle Doody 16 kills, .304 attack pct.; 3.5 blocks; Nicole Duarte 12 kills, 3.5 blocks; Meg White 9 kills; Taylor Forsberg 13 digs, Mickey Lapan 9 digs.

**ECSU:** Kristianna Ibsen 15 kills; Molly Rathbun 15 kills; Sandra Jaques 33 digs, 8 kills; Taylor Abelli 35 digs, 3 aces; Nicki Anderson 3 aces; Samantha Slonski 37 assists.

Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2008

**SUNY NEW PALTZ POWERS PAST EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL, 3-1**  
*Veterans win out over youth as Hawks stop Warriors, 25-8, 25-17, 22-25, 25-14*

NEW PALTZ, N.Y. – A veteran SUNY New Paltz team – a winner of its first 17 matches this season – got 15 kills from junior Brittany Coyle and 14 from senior Samantha Prudente in rolling to a four-game win over the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team Wednesday night at the Health and Fitness Center.

After dropping the first two games (25-8, 25-17), Eastern (16-11) responded by scoring six late points to overcome a four-point deficit and win Game 3 (25-22). SUNY New Paltz (22-6), which recently wrapped up the East Division championship of the competitive State University of New York Athletic Conference, raced to a 13-3 lead in Game 4 and posted a 25-14 decision to defeat Eastern for the second time in as many years.

Four of Eastern's six starters were freshmen in the match, while New Paltz countered with two seniors and three juniors among its starters.

Senior right side **Jen Braswell (Wilton)** had two kills, and senior middle hitter **Alexandra Silvestros (North Branford)** and junior outside hitter **Ashley Tuggle (South Windsor)** one in the late stages of Game 3 that wiped out a 201-6 deficit and carried the Warriors into a 22-20 lead. Freshman setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** led the Warriors defensively in the Game 3 win with eight digs, senior outside hitter **Sandra Jaques (Milford)** contributing seven and sophomore libero **Alyssa Ruta (Holbrook, NY)** six. Slonski also had nine assists in that victory.

Slonski concluded the evening with 17 digs and 19 assists, with freshman middle hitter **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** leading the way with nine kills, four service aces and two blocks. Braswell added six kills and seven assists and Jaques six kills and 16 digs. Ruta had 14 digs, freshman defensive specialist **Nicki Anderson (East Lyme)** eight. Jaques also received 27 serves with only two errors.

In addition to her kills, Coyle served seven of the Hawks' 15 aces and Prudente complemented her kills with 11 digs. Senior Nicole Mercadante led New Paltz with 12 digs and junior setter Stephanie Bova finished with 36 assists.

The loss drops Eastern to 3-2 this year against opponents located outside New England. Despite the loss, the Warriors have won eight of their last 11 since splitting its first 14 matches of the year.

Eastern is idle for five days until hosting Salve Regina University Tuesday at 7 p.m.

**SUNY New Paltz 3, Eastern Conn. 1**

Eastern Conn. (16-11)		8	17	25	22
New Paltz (22-6)	25	25	22	25	

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little east conference

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008

**EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS SALVE REGINA, 3-0**

*Winners of nine of their last 12, Warriors post 26-24, 25-19, 25-21 wins*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. Freshman middle hitter **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** had 14 kills and freshman libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** had 18 digs to lead the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a sweep of Salve Regina University Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium. Game scores were 26-24, 25-19, 25-21.

It was the second win this year for Eastern (17-11) over Salve Regina (11-13) and gives the Warriors nine wins in their last 12 outings. Eastern ended a brief two-match losing streak with its fifth win without a loss in this series with Salve.

As they did in the four-game win over Salve Sept. 6, Ibsen led Eastern offensively and Abelli defensively. Ibsen had 13 kills and attacked at .346 in the earlier victory and Abelli picked up a a team-high 21 digs when the teams met on the first weekend of the season at the Endicott College Invitational. Ibsen attacked at .458 Tuesday and also added three service aces. Abelli was perfect on 18 serve receptions to go along with her digs and senior outside hitter **Sandra Jaques (Milford)** committed only one error on 16 receptions.

Freshman outside hitter **Molly Rathbun (Hebron)** followed Ibsen with eight kills and a .400 attack percentage. Freshman setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** collected 28 assists.

Six-foot one inch freshman middle hitter Julianne Barry (Randolph, MA) led Salve with 11 kills, a .421 attack percentage, and two blocks. Junior middle hitter Natalie Rubenoff (New Hartford, CT) had eight kills, junior outside hitter Deanna Salter (Westwood, MA) ten digs and two blocks, and freshman setter Jessica Meyer (Seymour, CT) 23 assists.

Ranked No. 14 in New England, Eastern led throughout Game 1 until the Seahawks took their first lead, 22-21 on an Eastern error. With the score tied 24-24, Ibsen put the ball

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down for her fourth kill of the game and junior outside hitter **Ashley Tuggle (South Windsor)** served her only ace to give the Warriors the two-point win.

The Warriors led throughout Game 2 after jumping to a 5-1 lead. Leading 16-12, Eastern ran off six straight points behind two kills from Rathbun, one from Slonski and an ace from Ibsen.

The Seahawks owned the first half of Game 3, moving out to a 17-10 lead before the Warriors again reeled off six straight to gain the momentum. Ibsen accounted for three of those points with kills, Jaques one with an ace and Slonski one with a block. Eastern scored the final eight points of the game to top off a final 15-4 scoring run. Ibsen had five kills in the final game, Jaques and Slonski contributing three each and sophomore defensive specialist **Alyssa Ruta (Holbrook, NY)** coming off the bench to serve three aces.

Eastern hosts Smith College Thursday at 7 p.m.

**Eastern Conn. 3, Salve Regina U. 0**

Salve Regina (11-13)	24	19	21
Eastern Conn. (17-11)	26	25	25

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little east conference

Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008

**EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL NOW 10-3 IN LAST 13 MATCHES**

*Ibsen, Jaques power Warriors past Smith in four games, 25-14, 23-25, 25-17, 25-14*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Freshman middle hitter **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** had 17 kills and senior outside hitter **Sandra Jaques (Milford)** 29 digs to lead the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to its tenth win in its last 13 matches with a four-game victory over Smith College Thursday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium. Game scores were 25-14, 23-25, 25-17, 25-14.

After attacking over .300 in just one of its first 27 matches, Eastern (18-11) recorded its second straight match above that mark. The Warriors attacked at .351 in gaining their seven home win in ten outings.

Ibsen recorded her 18<sup>th</sup> match of double-digit kills, leading both clubs and also topping the Warriors with three blocks. Jaques led Eastern with 29 digs, chipped in seven kills and a .353 attack percentage, and was also successful on 26 of 28 reception attempts. Freshman libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** followed Jaques with 19 digs. Freshman setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** set 34 assists and had two blocks, and junior middle hitter **Courtney Sims (Manchester)** and freshman outsider **Molly Rathbun (Hebron)** each added six kills. Sims attacked at .294.

Ranked No. 14 in New England, Eastern scored the first three points of Game 1 and held the lead the rest of the way. Jaques had four of her match total of seven kills in that game.

Smith (12-81) led by five points in the late stages of Game 2 and withstood a mild Eastern threat over the final points to hold on for a tow-point win. Ibsen had nine of her game-high total of kills in Game 2, including three straight and a block that helped pull Eastern to within 24-23. Sophomore outside hitter Alexandra Rissi's kill ended the game in Smith's favor.

The Warriors had the upper hand throughout most of Game 3. The teams traded five-point runs midway through the game that left the Warriors with an 18-15 lead. With Eastern down 15-13, Jaques and Braswell came through with kills and Abelli served an ace to make it 18-15.

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Eastern clinched the win with the Game 4 victory. A six-point burst extended a three-point lead to nine, 18-9 and the Warriors were never threatened thereafter. Abelli had her third ace of the match and Jaques and Slonski each contributed kills in the run.

Junior libero Brienne Connizzo handled 34 receptions with one error for Smith. Junior outside hitter Mikal Minarich added eight kills and sophomore setter Laura Martinez had 14 assists.

Eastern closes out the regular season Saturday at noon when it hosts Massachusetts Dartmouth in a Little East Conference match.

**Eastern Conn. 3, Smith College 1**

Smith College (12-18)	14	25	17	14
Eastern Conn. (18-11)	25	23	25	25

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little east conference

Saturday, November 1, 2008

**EASTERN VOLLEYBALL WINS FINALE, WILL HOST LEC FIRST ROUND**  
*Warriors down UMass Dartmouth in four games, will be No. 3 in conference playoffs*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Freshmen **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** and **Molly Rathbun (Hebron)** combined for 30 kills to lead the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a four-game Little East Conference win over the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Saturday afternoon in the regular-season finale for both teams at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium. Game scores were 25-10, 19-25, 25-14, 25-16.

A winner of 11 of its final 14 regular-season matches, third-seeded and three-time defending tournament champion Eastern (19-11, 4-2 little east) will host sixth-seeded UMass Dartmouth (12-13, 1-5 little east) in one of three first-round matches Tuesday night at Geissler Gym.

All seven teams qualify for the playoffs, with top-seeded and regular-season champion Keene State College being awarded a first-round bye. The three first-round winners advance to the semifinals, hosted by Keene Friday. Keene will host Saturday's final.

Ibsen led all players with 19 kills, Rathbun adding 11 kills and nine digs. Senior **Sandra Jaques (Milford)** had 20 digs, freshman **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** 13, senior **Jen Braswell (Wilton)** 11 and freshman setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** 35 assists. Rathbun attacked at .286.

UMass, which has lost its last 31 straight to Eastern, was led by freshman Allie Mastrocola (Swansea, MA), who had 11 kills and eight digs and was successful on 27 of 29 reception attempts. Senior Hilary Teichert (Pocasset, MA) added 10 kills and eight blocks. Senior setter Mellanie Staiger (Bourne, MA) had 23 assists.

Since an 8-8 start, Eastern has won 11 of its last 14 and stand 8-3 at home.

**Eastern Conn. 3, UMass Dartmouth 1**

UMass Dartmouth (12-13, 1-5 little east)	10	25	14	16
Eastern Conn. (19-11, 4-2 little east)	25	19	25	25

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Tuesday, November 4, 2008

**EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL ADVANCES TO LEC SEMIS**

*Warriors get 28 kills and a .329 attack percentage from top three players*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Senior **Sandra Jaques (Milford)** and freshmen **Molly Rathbun (Hebron)** and **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** combined for 28 kills and a .329 attack percentage in leading the third-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a sweep of sixth-seeded University of Massachusetts Dartmouth in the first round of the 2008 Little East Conference Women's Volleyball Tournament Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

A winner of 12 of its last 15, Eastern (20-11) meets second-seeded University of Massachusetts Boston in the first of two tournament semifinal-round matches Friday at 4 p.m. In the second semifinals, top-seeded Keene State College hosts fourth-seeded Western Connecticut State University at 6 p.m. The tournament championship match is scheduled for Saturday at noon. All three matches will be hosted by regular-season champion Keene State.

Keene received a first-round bye while UMass Boston and Western Connecticut eliminated Rhode Island College and Plymouth State University by 3-1 scores, respectively, Tuesday night.

A winner of seven of 13 LEC tournament titles, including the last three, Eastern improved to 6-0 all-time in conference tournament play against UMass Dartmouth (12-14), which doubled its win total from last year's 6-20 showing.

Each team started four freshmen in the match, which was completed in 67 minutes.

Ibsen had 11 kills and attacked at .400, while Jaques added ten kills and a .321 attack percentage and Rathbun seven kills and a .250 attack percentage. Ibsen also contributed four blocks and two service aces, and Jaques ten digs. Jaques and freshman libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** combined to handle 43 of 44 receptions. Abelli, the conference leader in digs, led the Warriors with 12 digs.

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As a team, Eastern attacked at .259, and committed only one reception error in downing UMass for the second time in four days.

Freshman setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** doled out 29 assists, freshman **Nicki Anderson (East Lyme)** adding nine digs off the bench and serving 12 balls with just one error.

For UMass, senior middle blocker Hilary Teichert (Pocasset, MA) had eight kills and attacked at .200; freshman outside hitter Allie Mastrocola (Swansea, MA) added seven kills and handled 20 receptions with two errors; freshman outside hitter Cami Ascher (Natick, MA) chipping in six kills, senior setter Mellanie Staiger (Bournedale, MA) 23 assists and, nine digs, and freshman libero Shannon Brodie (Chelmsford, MA) 11 digs.

Eastern raced to an 11-3 lead in Game 1 before the Corsairs countered with a 13-6 run that pulled them to within a point, 17-16. Ibsen and senior right side **Jen Braswell (Wilton)** then teamed for a block and a UMD attack error gave the Warriors a 19-16 lead. UMass did not get closer than two points thereafter.

Eastern scored the first four points of Game 2 but later needed a 7-2 burst to pull away from a one-point lead. Ibsen had two kills, a block and a service aces in that decisive run. Rathbun got untracked in that game. After failing to record a kill in her first eight attempts, she collected four kills in her last six swings of the game, and chipped in three more in the final game. Jaques had kills on her final four attempts of Game 3.

The win gives Eastern its 20<sup>th</sup> victory in a season for the fourth time in five years and sixth time in eight seasons. Last year's team won only eight matches in the regular season before winning three straight to capture its third straight LEC title.

**Eastern Conn. 3, UMass Dartmouth 0**

UMass Dartmouth (12-14)	21	19	12
Eastern Conn. (20-11)	25	25	25

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little east conference

Friday, Nov. 7, 2008

**UMASS BOSTON CLOSES OUT EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL SEASON**  
*Second-seeded Beacons sweep three-time defending LEC playoff champions*

KEENE, N.H. -- Third-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University was eliminated in the semifinal round of the 2008 Little East Conference Women's Volleyball Tournament with 25-19, 25-14, 25-15 losses to second-seeded University of Massachusetts Boston Friday night at Spaulding Gymnasium on the Keene State College campus.

A winner of 15 of its last 16 and 17 of its last 19, UMass (25-8) moves into its first final Saturday at 1 p.m. against top-seeded Keene State College (28-8). The Owls won their 11<sup>th</sup> straight match earlier Friday with a four-game victory over fourth-seeded Western Connecticut State University. The championship will be the first for either UMass Boston or Keene State.

Eastern (20-12), which won its third straight title last year despite only winning eight matches in the regular season, had a four-match winning streak snapped in being swept by UMass for the second time this year. The Warriors had won 12 of their last 15 entering play.

Against the Beacons, Eastern led only once in the match when it scored the first point of the first game on a UMass service error. UMass scored three straight points on two kills and an ace to open up a four-point, 11-7 lead in Game 1. The Beacons scored five straight points in Game 2 on three kills and two Eastern attack errors to move out to a 16-9 lead. In the final game, the Beacons scored four of the first five points and the Warriors never got closer than one point after the early stages of the game.

With three starters standing 5-feet-11 inches or taller, UMass was credited with blocks on nearly one-third of Eastern's 26 attack errors. The Warriors attacked at only .019 in the match, as freshman middle hitter Molly Rattigan and junior outside hitter Kate McWhorter combined for 14 blocks. McWhorter, the top offensive player in the conference, also collected 16 kills and junior libero Megan MacAuley came up with 18 digs.

Eastern middle hitter **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)**, the team's top offensive player and blocks leader and one of four freshman starters, had six kills and two blocks but committed ten attack errors. Senior outside hitter **Sandra Jaques (Milford)**, one of three Eastern players who closed out careers with the loss, led the Warriors with seven kills without committing an attack error on 21 tries. Jaques also recorded 31 receptions with only two errors. Freshman libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** was successful on 24 of 26 receptions and matched Jaques with seven digs. Senior right-side hitter **Jen Braswell (Wilton)** led all Eastern players with 11 digs, with freshman setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** digging nine balls and setting for 22 assists.

**Massachusetts Boston 3, Eastern Conn. 0**

Eastern Conn. (20-12)	19	14	15
UMass Boston (25-8)	25	25	25

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**Cc:** amess@wcsu.edu; russells@wcsu.edu; Alan Wickstrom; MOLTA, Bob (Athletics); sid@littleeast.com  
**Subject:** LEC W. Volleyball Tournament Semifinals: Keene State and UMass-Boston Advance to finals

**LITTLE EAST CONFERENCE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT****KEENE STATE AND UMASS-BOSTON ADVANCE TO FINALS**

Match #1	1	2	3	4	F
#4 Western Conn. (19-9)	22	22	25	20	1
#1 Keene State (28-8)	25	25	23	25	3
Match #2	1	2	3	F	
#3 Eastern Conn. (20-12)	19	14	15	0	
#2 UMass-Boston (25-8)	25	25	25	3	

**Championship:** Keene State vs. UMass-Boston, Sat. Nov. 8, 1 p.m. at Spaulding Gym

KEENE, N.H. 11/7/08 – Top seed Keene State College and second seed UMass-Boston will play for the 2008 Little East Conference championship and an automatic berth to the NCAA Division III tournament on Saturday after posting semifinal wins in the tournament on Friday night at Spaulding Gymnasium.

In the opening match, Keene State (28-8) defeated #4 seed Western Conn. (19-9) in four highly-contested games 3-1 (25-22, 25-22, 23-25, and 25-20). Second seed UMass-Boston (25-8) defeated #3 seed Eastern Conn.(20-12) in the second match 3-0 (25-19, 25-14, and 25-15).

All four games in the Keene State-Western Conn. match were decided on late points. In the first game, the Owls took its first lead (22-21) on an attempted kills by the Colonials that went wide of the court. Freshman Ellyse Davis (Londonderry, N.H.) got the deciding point with a kill to give KSC a 25-22 win.

A key block by junior Jordan Pokryfki (Wasilla, Alaska) put the Owls up 23-20 as the Owls went on to win the second game 25-22.

Trailing early, the Warriors reeled off seven straight points to go up 15-14 in the third game. With the scored knotted at 23-all, sophomore Natalie Crosby (East haven, Conn.) had a kill and junior Chrissy Bell (Prospect, Conn.) served up an ace as WCSU took game three 25-23.

KSC, which went up 22-15 on an ace by freshman Bridget O'Bryant (Merrimack, N.H.), never trailed in the fourth and final game. Senior Brittany O'Bryant (Merrimack) put the match away (25-20) with a kill.

"The first ones out of the way, but I don't think it's our best volleyball," said KSC Coach Bob Weiner. "Our best match is going to be ahead of us. But I'm so happy to have the opportunity to have that match."

"It took awhile for us to get rid of our jitters," said junior libero Sarah Peterson (Danville, N.H.), who finished with 28 digs. "We have to go out tomorrow and play like we have nothing to lose."

"I think we were a little bit nervous coming into the match. Everyone single player, especially the upperclassmen wants this championship so bad," said Pokryfki, who had 43 assists in the match. "Tomorrow is going to be a tough match, so we need to work as team and hopefully we can get it done."

Bridget and Brittany O'Bryant led the Owl offense with 14 and 13 kills respectively. Brittany also had four blocks.

Crosby led the Warriors with 15 kills, junior Rebecca Stein (Kingston, N.Y.) had 14 kills and five blocks and freshman libero Kelly Collins finished with 27 digs for the Colonials.

UMass-Boston led from start to finish in its three game match against the Warriors. The Beacons pulled away in the late stages to take the first game 25-19. A service ace by junior Kate McWhorter (Bakersfield, Ca.) put UMB up 20-13 on the way to a 25-14 second game win. The Beacons built up an 18-10 lead, taking the third game 25-15.

McWhorter topped UMB with 16 kills and six blocks. Junior Megan MacAuley (Upland, Ca.) added 18 digs, freshman Cassy Hanneman (Denver, Co.) contributed 28 assists and two aces and freshman Molly Rattigan (Dorchester, Mass.) finished with eight blocks and two aces.

Senior hitter Sandra Jacques and freshman Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton, Conn.) had seven and six kills respectively to lead the Warriors. Senior setter Jen Braswell (Wilton, Conn.) added 11 digs.

Keene State, which extended its winning streak to 11 matches, will be making its

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