

Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL HAS ENOUGH AGAINST BABSON

Behind Slonski and Ibsen, Warriors hold on for five-game victory over Beavers

WELLESLEY, Mass. - Sophomores **Kristiani Ibsen (Shelton)** and **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** combined for three kills and a block to allow the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to snap a tie late in the deciding game of a five-game non-conference victory over Babson College Saturday afternoon at the Webster Center.

After winning the first two games by a total of five points, Eastern (2-0) eventually prevailed in five games, taking a 15-11 decision in the fifth game. The Warriors led 6-1 in Game 5, but twice had to erase one-point deficits to remain perfect against Babson (0-2) in six matches in this series.

With the deciding game tied at 10-all, Ibsen had two consecutive kills, then teamed with Slonski on a key block that gave the Warriors a 13-10 lead. Slonski made it 14-11 with her team-leading 19th kill and an unforced error gave Eastern the final point.

In Game 5, Eastern did not commit a reception or service error and committed only two attack errors. Ibsen had four kills without an error in Game 5 to give her 15 kills in the match, sophomore **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** had five receptions without an error, and sophomore **Britt Carrier (Southington)** served five balls without an error, contributing a service ace in the team's early 6-1 opening run.

For the second straight match, Slonski paced Eastern both offensively and defensively. Last year's starting setter, Slonski topped all players with 19 kills and handled 47 receptions without an error. Her first 27 attacked balls resulted in 12 kills and no errors. Slonski followed Abelli's team-high dig total of 24 with 21. Carrier set 39 assists and totaled 14 digs and three service aces.

Eastern visits Clark University Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 3, Babson College 2

Eastern Conn. (2-0)	25	25	17	18	15
Babson (0-2)	23	22	25	25	11

Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL DUMPS CLARK IN FOUR
Behind Slonski and Moriarty, Warriors remain unbeaten in early season

WORCESTER, Mass. In the important second game, sophomore **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** had six kills and only one error and freshman **Claudia Radziszewski (East Haddam)** added five digs to help the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team gain momentum and dump Clark University in four games Tuesday night at the Kneller Center. Game scores were 20-25, 25-16, 25-15, 25-18.

After losing the first game by five points, Eastern took control in Game 2 behind Slonski and Radziszewski. Slonski contributed six kills with just one error in the second game and Radziszewski dug up five balls in the nine-point win, and the Warriors went on to two additional victories to post their sixth straight win over Clark (0-1) in the series.

Eastern earned 19 points in the match with service aces, with Slonski netting five and junior **Ashley Tuggle (South Windsor)** and **Britt Carrier (Southington)** four each.

In addition to team-highs in service aces and digs (16), Slonski had 11 kills and was successful on 21 of 23 reception attempts (.905). Sophomore **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** followed Slonski with 15 digs and handled 25 of 29 reception attempts (.862). Sophomore **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** led all Eastern players with 12 kills and a .320 attack percentage., while Carrier dug up 12 balls and recorded 38 assists, and 6-foot-1 inch freshman **Erin Moriarty (Higganum)** had ten kills and four blocks.

Eastern competes in the Endicott College Invitational this weekend, facing Emmanuel at 4 p.m., and Endicott at 6 p.m. Friday.

Eastern Conn. 3, Clark U. 1

Eastern (3-0)	20	25	25	25
Clark U. (0-1)	25	16	15	18

Friday, Sept. 11, 2009

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL SPLITS PAIR AT ENDICOTT INVITATIONAL

BEVERLY, Mass. The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team split an opening pair at the Endicott College Invitational Friday night at the Post Center on the Endicott College campus.

Eastern (4-1) swept Emmanuel College (0-2), 25-22, 27-25, 25-19 before falling in five games to host Endicott (4-1), 25-21, 21-25, 26-24, 22-25, 9-15.

Against Endicott, the three-time defending Commonwealth Coast Conference champion, the Warriors led twice in the match. .but the Gulls rallied for a three-point win in Game 4 and a six-point decision in the determining game.

Against Endicott, sophomore **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** led the Warriors with 17 kills, but had eight errors and attacked at only .196. Sophomore **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** followed with 12 kills but also committed eight errors for a .105 attack percentage.

Slonski and sophomore **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** shared defensive honors against Endicott. Slonski received at .938 on 48 chances and had 22 digs; Abelli .received at 853 on 34 tries and led all players in the match with 29 digs. Sophomore **Britt Carrier (Southington)** was one of five players with double-digit digs, collecting 19. Junior **Alyssa Ruta (Holbrook, NY)** chipped in 17 digs, senior **Ashley Tuggle (South Windsor)** 11. Carrier set for 36 assists.

Senior Beth Wiese led the Gulls with 21 kills with a .318 attack percentage. Junior Ally Murphy had 27 assists and was one of five Endicott players with double-digit digs, totaling 16.

Eastern attacked at .252 against Emmanuel and committed only two reception errors. Ibsen had a team-leading 13 kills and a .357 attack percentage; Abelli had a .931 reception percentage on 29 attempts and Slonski was perfect on 14 passes; Carrier had 14 digs and 32 assists and Slonski ten digs. Abelli and Tuggle both served four aces.

Saturday, Eastern faces Salve Regina University at 11 a.m. and Bowdoin College at 1 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 11, 2009

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL SPLITS PAIR AT ENDICOTT INVITATIONAL

BEVERLY, Mass. –The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team split an opening pair at the Endicott College Invitational Friday night at the Post Center on the Endicott College campus.

Eastern (4-1) swept Emmanuel College (0-2), 25-22, 27-25, 25-19 before falling in five games to host Endicott (4-1), 25-21, 21-25, 26-24, 22-25, 9-15.

Against Endicott, the three-time defending Commonwealth Coast Conference champion, the Warriors led twice in the match, but the Gulls rallied for a three-point win in Game 4 and a six-point decision in the determining game.

Against Endicott, sophomore **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** led the Warriors with 17 kills, but had eight errors and attacked at only .196. Sophomore **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** followed with 12 kills but also committed eight errors for a .105 attack percentage.

Slonski and sophomore **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** shared defensive honors against Endicott. Slonski received at .938 on 48 chances and had 22 digs; Abelli .received at 853 on 34 tries and led all players in the match with 29 digs. Sophomore **Britt Carrier (Southington)** was one of five players with double-digit digs, collecting 19. Junior **Alyssa Ruta (Holbrook, NY)** chipped in 17 digs, senior **Ashley Tuggle (South Windsor)** 11. Carrier set for 36 assists.

Senior Beth Wiese led the Gulls with 21 kills with a .318 attack percentage. Junior Ally Murphy had 27 assists and was one of five Endicott players with double-digit digs, totaling 16.

Eastern attacked at .252 against Emmanuel and committed only two reception errors. Ibsen had a team-leading 13 kills and a .357 attack percentage; Abelli had a .931 reception percentage on 29 attempts and Slonski was perfect on 14 passes; Carrier had 14 digs and 32 assists and Slonski ten digs. Abelli and Tuggle both served four aces.

Saturday, Eastern faces Salve Regina University at 11 a.m. and Bowdoin College at 1 p.m.

Saturday, September 12, 2009

Women's Volleyball
At Endicott College Invitational
At Beverly, Mass.

Note: **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** represented Eastern on the all-tournament team. In four matches (16 games), she had 41 kills, a .957 rec. pct. on 115 tries and 58 digs (3.6 digs per game).

Eastern Conn. 3, Salve Regina U. 0

Salve Regina (0-5)	23	19	22
Eastern Conn. (5-1)	25	25	25

Eastern Statistical Leaders

Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)	12 kills, .333 attack pct., 2 service aces, 4 blocks
Claudia Radziszewski (East Haddam)	8 kills, .438 attack pct.
Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)	25 rec. attempts, .920 rec. pct., 16 digs
Samantha Slonski (Griswold)	6 kills, 24 rec. attempts, 1.000 rec. pct., 8 digs
Ashley Tuggle (South Windsor)	2 service aces, 9 digs
Britt Carrier (Southington)	32 assists, 8 digs

Bowdoin College 3, Eastern Conn. 2

Bowdoin College (2-0)	22	25	25	22	15
Eastern Conn. (5-2)	25	20	10	25	9

Eastern Statistical Leaders

Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)	12 kills
Ali Facchini (Niantic)	9 kills
Claudia Radziszewski (East Haddam)	9 digs
Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)	38 rec. attempts, .895 rec. pct., 18 digs
Samantha Slonski (Griswold)	12 kills, 18 digs
Britt Carrier (Southington)	19 digs, 25 assists
Erin Moriarty (Higganum)	4 blocks
Danielle Bourne (Branford)	18 rec. attempts, .889 rec. pct., 8 digs

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL SWEPT IN HOME-OPENER BY TRINITY

Visiting Bantams prevail in three tight games, 25-21, 25-18, 25-22

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. - Sophomore **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** had 13 kills and a .393 attack percentage and sophomore **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** had 12 kills and dug up 16 balls but the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team was swept by Trinity College in its 2009 home-opener Tuesday night. Game scorers were 25-21, 25-18, 25-22.

It is the first time that Eastern (5-3) has been swept this season, the two previous losses coming in five games. Trinity (3-2) defeated the Warriors for the fifth time in the last six meetings. Last year, the Bantams won the first two games before Eastern rallied for the five-game victory.

Sophomore **Britt Carrier (Southington)** recorded 25 set assists and sophomore **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** had a .920 reception percentage on a team-high 25 attempts.

Trinity sophomore Alexandra Pell had 19 digs and four service aces, with Danielle Isaman collecting 13 kills and sophomore Jennifer Low 26 assists.

Eastern hosts Western New England College Thursday at 7 p.m.

Trinity College 3, Eastern Conn. 0

Trinity (3-2)	25	25	25
Eastern Conn. (5-3)	21	18	22

V-BALL SURVIVES BEAR ATTACK

By Bob Motta on September 17, 2009 10:48 PM

In late stages of fifth game against WNEC, Ibsen contributes four kills

Kristianna Ibsen (below)





WILLIMANTIC, Conn. - Sophomore **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** contributed four kills late in the decisive fifth game and sophomores **Britt Carrier (Southington)** and **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** combined for 11 digs in that final game to lead women's volleyball to a five-game win over Western New England College Thursday evening at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium. Eastern won by scores of 25-23, 25-21, 17-25, 17-25, 16-14.

After getting swept in its home-opener Tuesday, Eastern (6-3) had to re-group in Game 5 after Western New England (6-5) overcame losses in the first two games to capture the next two and force a final game. The Warriors evened their record in five games this year to 2-2. The Golden Bears lost their second straight after a five-match winning streak.

Eastern never trailed in Game 5 and was finally able to break the seventh tie of the game with a pair of kills. Ibsen recorded four of the team's final seven points with kills, contributing three in a row to help the Warriors to a 12-10 lead. Leading 14-12, Eastern was called for a net violation on an apparent match-ending kill, and senior Rachel Cervone tied the game with a kill down the line.

Defensively in the final game, sophomore **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** and Ibsen combined for a block to give the Warriors an early 3-1 lead, and freshmen **Erin Moriarty (Higganum)** and **Ali Facchini (Niantic)** teamed for another block that broke an 8-8 tie. Cervone kept the Golden Bears in contention with kills that tied the match at 9-9 and 10-10.

Ibsen led all players with 24 kills and a .353 attack percentage. She also added five blocks. Carrier set for 32 assists and added 16 digs and three service aces; Slonski had a game-high 27 digs and was also perfect defensively on 31 reception attempts and had eight kills; freshman **Danielle Bourne (Branford)** handled 22 receptions with only one error and added 12 digs; Abelli followed Slonski with 22 digs, and was 23 for 25 on reception attempts; senior **Ashley Tuggle (South Windsor)** chipped in 11 digs and Moriarty totaled three blocks.

As a team, Eastern had a .946 reception percentage, committing only five errors, none in the final game. The Warriors also had a season-high 13 blocks.

Cervone led the Golden Bears with ten kills and added 17 digs; junior setter Katharina Boes had 38 assists, 23 digs, 5 blocks, and two service aces; freshman Jennifer Mears contributed nine kills, sophomore Kristen Jordan five blocks, and senior Christina Longto four blocks.

Eastern improves to 18-3 all-time with Western New England in this series.

Eastern opens Little East Conference play Saturday at Providence, RI, facing Rhode Island College at noon and Plymouth State University at 2 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 3, Western New England College 2

Western NE (6-5)	23	21	25	25	14
Eastern Conn. (6-3)	25	25	17	17	16

Rhode Island College

SPORTS RELEASE

Sports Information Director: Scott Gibbons (401) 456-8516

Fax: (401) 456-8514 email: sgibbons@ric.edu

website: www.ric.edu/athletics

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2009

PANTHERS SWEEP LITTLE EAST OPENER

Providence, RI—Plymouth State University earned a pair of victories at a Little East Conference tri-match held at The Murray Center on the campus of Rhode Island College on Saturday afternoon.

The Panthers stay unbeaten with an 11-0 overall record and a 2-0 LEC mark. Rhode Island College (8-7, 1-1) split its matches, while Eastern Connecticut (6-5, 0-2) dropped both of its contests.

Rhode Island College overcame a 1-0 deficit after the first set in the day's first match to defeat the Warriors, 3-1 (13-25, 25-18, 25-19, 25-22). Freshman outside hitter **Breanna Boyer (West Greenwich, RI)** and junior opposite **April Oberhelman (Woonsocket, RI)** paced the host's attack with seven kills apiece. Freshman setter **Jessica Ho (Providence, RI)** handed out 21 assists, while freshman middle blocker **Kalyn Archer (Warwick, RI)** had five blocks.

Sophomore outside hitter **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton, CT)** registered a match-high 12 kills for Eastern Connecticut. Sophomore libero **Britt Carrier (Southington, CT)** posted 21 digs and 14 assists.

The Warriors once again opened a match with a first set win, but Plymouth State came roaring back to sweep the next three frames (23-25, 25-21, 25-17, 25-22) in the day's second match. PSU senior middle hitter **Eliza Badeau (Foster, RI)** led the way with 23 kills. Senior setter **Brianna Kleckner (Terryville, CT)** handed out 43 assists and made 14 digs. Sophomore libero **Alex Avery (Milton, NH)** led the way with 24 digs, while sophomore middle hitter **Elissa Morin (Nashua, NH)** swatted away four attempts. Ibsen posted 18 winners for ECSU, while Carrier handed out 33 assists and sophomore libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire, CT)** was credited with 35 digs.

PSU wrapped up a perfect afternoon with a decisive, 3-0 (25-13, 25-11, 25-23)

victory over RIC in the final match. Badeau posted 20 kills, Kleckner set up 38 winners and both Avery and senior defensive specialist **Kathy Frankowski (Farmington, CT)** each registered 14 digs. Oberhelman logged seven kills, Ho had 17 assists and Boyer had 10 digs for the Anchorwomen.

The win over Eastern Connecticut snapped a nine-match conference losing streak for Rhode Island College and equaled the program's win total for the entire 2008 season.

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will face Salem State and Rivier at a tri-match hosted by the Raiders on Saturday, Sept. 26.

-end-

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL BREAKS FAST BUT COMES UP EMPTY

In Little East Conference opening losses, Warriors drop three after opening win

PROVIDENCE, R.I. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team won its opening game in both matches but followed with three straight losses both times when it opened its Little East Conference season against Rhode Island College and Plymouth State University Saturday afternoon at the Murray Center.

A loser of five of its last seven since four opening wins, Eastern (6-5, 0-2 little east) dropped four-game decisions to host Rhode Island (25-13, 18-25, 19-25, 22-25) and Plymouth State University (25-23, 21-25, 17-25, 22-25). Plymouth improved to 11-0 after sweeping Rhode Island College (8-7) in Saturday's final match.

Three of Eastern's six losses Saturday were by a combined total of ten points, with the largest losing gap just eight points.

It marks the second time in three seasons that Eastern has been swept in its LEC openers against these two opponents. Last year, the Warriors won both matches at Plymouth, NH after dropping both matches in 2007 at Geissler Gym.

Eastern has been rated fifth in the LEC coaches' pre-season poll, while Plymouth was fourth and Rhode Island seventh.

Sophomore **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** and freshman **Danielle Bourne (Branford)** connected on a combined five kills without an error in the opening 12-point win over Rhode Island. In Game 2, however, Eastern attacked at .000 (6 kills and 6 errors) on the way to three straight wins.

In the two-point opening win over Plymouth, sophomore **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** and Ibsen each had four kills and just one error and Slonski and sophomore **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** led the defense with six digs each. Ibsen had six kills without an error in Game 2 and Abelli and Slonski combined for 17 digs in the four-point loss.

In eight games on the afternoon, Ibsen had 30 kills, Abelli 48 digs, Slonski 18 kills and 42 digs, sophomore setter **Britt Carrier (Southington)** 33 digs and 47 assists and freshman **Ali Facchini (Niantic)** 16 kills.

Saturday, Eastern hosts Massachusetts Boston at noon and Keene State College at 4 p.m. Keene defeated UMass in five games to win last year's LEC tournament title.

(more)

Rhode Island College 3, Eastern Conn. 1

Eastern Conn. (6-4, 0-1 little east)	25	18	19	22
R.I. College (8-6, 1-0 little east)	13	25	25	25

Eastern statistical leaders:

Kristianna Ibsen (<i>Shelton</i>)	12 kills, 17 serves with 1 error, 10 digs
Britt Carrier (<i>Southington</i>)	16 receptions with 1 error, 21 digs, 2 blocks, 14 assists
Taylor Abelli (<i>Cheshire</i>)	26 reception attempts with 2 errors, 15 digs, 2 service aces
Ali Facchini (<i>Niantic</i>)	6 kills with a .278 attack pct., 3 blocks
Erin Moriarty (<i>Higganum</i>)	6 kills with a .500 attack pct.
Samantha Slonski (<i>Griswold</i>)	6 kills, 14 reception attempts with 1 error, 8 digs, 13 assists
Claudia Radziszewski (<i>East Haddam</i>)	5 kills

Plymouth State U. 3, Eastern Conn. 1

Eastern Conn. (6-5, 0-2 little east)	25	21	17	22
Plymouth State (10-0, 1-0 little east)	23	25	25	25

Kristianna Ibsen (<i>Shelton</i>)	18 kills with a .311 attack pct.
Britt Carrier (<i>Southington</i>)	12 digs, 33 assists
Taylor Abelli (<i>Cheshire</i>)	18 serves with 3 aces and 1 error, 33 digs
Ali Facchini (<i>Niantic</i>)	10 kills with a .273 attack pct.
Samantha Slonski (<i>Griswold</i>)	12 kills, 17 serves with 1 error, 29 receptions with 2 errors; 34 digs
Alyssa Ruta (<i>Holbrook, NY</i>)	17 serves with 2 aces and 0 errors; 21 receptions with 1 error, 8 digs

Saturday, September 26, 2009

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

Massachusetts Boston 3, Eastern Conn. 0

UMass Boston (12-2, 1-0 little east)	25	25	25
Eastern Conn. (6-6, 0-3 little east)	18	11	23

Notes: UMass attacked at .411 and Eastern had 12 service errors. In Game 1, UMass broke from a 9-7 lead to score six of the next seven points and was never threatened thereafter. In Game 2, UMass never trailed, scoring seven straight points to move out to a 12-3 lead. In Game 3, Eastern erased an early 9-1 deficit, finally tying the game at 21-21 before UMass scored the next two points

Statistical leaders:

UMass Boston

Kate McWhorter and 6-foot-2 inch freshman Shannon Thompson each had 13 kills. McWhorter attacked at .550 and Thompson at .346. McWhorter also had four service aces, all coming in succession as UMass built its 12-3 lead, and added ten digs. Cassy Hanneman had 31 set assists and Bethany Rossoll a team-high 14 digs.

Eastern Conn.

Kristianna Ibsen 9 kills and a .250 attack pct. and Erin Moriarty six kills and no errors. Britt Carrier had 12 digs and 18 assists and Taylor Abelli nine digs

Massachusetts Boston 3, Keene State College 0

UMass Boston (13-2, 2-0 little east)	25	25	25
Keene State (6-8, 1-2 little east)	17	16	21

Notes: This match was a re-match of last year's LEC final, where Keene survived match point to prevail in five games to win its first LEC tournament title. UMass never trailed in winning the first two games. In Game 3, there were ten ties and five lead changes. UMass erased a two-point deficit and took the lead for good, 23-20.

Statistical leaders:

UMass Boston

Katie McWhorter recorded the 1,000th kill of her collegiate career (she played at Cal Bakersfield before transferring to UMass) with the seventh of her 11 kills in the match and also added 11 digs. Shannon Thompson led UMass with 14 kills and a .565 attack pct. Bethany Rossoll had 17 digs. Molly Rattigan and Alexa Sullivan combined for seven blocks.

Keene State

Bridget O'Bryant led Keene with nine kills, Tiffani Brooks and Ellyse Davis adding six each. Laurie Whalen was perfect on 11 reception attempts. Abby Rosen and Wahlen each had nine digs and Jordan Pokryfki had 25 set assists.

(more)

Keene State College 3, Eastern Conn. 0

Keene State (7-8, 2-2 little east)	25	26	27
Eastern Conn. (6-7, 0-4 little east)	21	24	25

Notes: In a re-match of the 2007 tournament finalists, Keene emerged with three close wins. In Game 1, Keene erased a three-point deficit by scoring five straight and taking a 17-15 lead and never trailing thereafter. In Game 2, Keene gave up the first six points and trailed 8-1 before chipping away and finally pulling even at 19-all. Kristianna Ibsen of Eastern had 7 kills and only two errors in the game. Eastern couldn't capitalize on a Keene attack error to record game point. With the score tied 24-all, Tiffani Brooks had a kill and another Keene kill closed out the win. In Game 3, Eastern led throughout the early to middle stages before Keene tied the match at 20-20.

Statistical leaders:

Keene State

Tiffani Brooks 17 kills, Abby Rosen 22 reception attempts with 0 errors and Bridget O'Bryant 12 reception attempts with 0 errors and 9 kills; Jordan Pokrylki 37 set assists; Ellyse Davis 7 blocks and 10 kills.

Eastern Conn.:

Kristianna Ibsen 20 kills; Alyssa Ruta 13 digs and Samantha Slonski 12 digs; Taylor Abelli handled 26 receptions without an error and had 21 digs; Britt Carrier 29 set assists.

Monday, Sept. 28, 2009

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL REGAINS WINNING EDGE WITH SWEEP
Warriors end four-match losing streak with victory over Mitchell College

WILLIMANTIC, CONN. –The Eastern Connecticut State university women’s volleyball team attacked at a season-high .280 and totaled 14 service aces in snapping a four-match losing streak with a 25-9, 25-9, 25-13 victory over Mitchell College Monday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

In the first meeting between the programs, Eastern (7-7) trailed early in each of the first two games, then scored six straight points late in the deciding game to pull away. The Warriors used runs of ten and nine points after trailing 4-1 in Game 1, and put together runs of eight and seven points in Game 2. Eastern held a slim lead throughout Game 3 before finally scoring six straight points to turn a six-point lead into a 24-12 advantage.

First-year sophomore **Britt Carrier (Southington)** and freshmen **Erin Moriarty (Higganum)** and **Danielle Bourne (Branford)** combined for 22 of Eastern’s 34 kills in the match. Carrier had a season-high eight kills and had a .300 attack percentage while Moriarty had seven kills and a season-high .700 attack percentage.

Moriarty, a 6-foot-1 inch middle hitter, added four of the team’s 14 service aces and had two blocks. Bourne tied her season high with 12 digs and sophomore **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** collected 25 set assists and had four service aces. Junior **Christina Schirone (Pelham, NY)** had a season-high five kills and attacked at .308

Senior Heather-Renae Powers and junior Jennifer Bordonaro each had 14 digs for Mitchell (1-3).

Eastern hosts Johnson & Wales University at 7 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 3, Mitchell College 0

Mitchell College (1-3)	9	9	13
Eastern Conn. (7-7)	25	25	25

Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL FALLS IN FOUR TO VISITING WILDCATS
Against Johnson & Wales, four-game match separated by 20 total points

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Eastern Connecticut State University and Johnson & Wales University have developed a hotly-contested women's volleyball rivalry in recent years, and Wednesday night's four-game match at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium was no exception.

In four games that were separated by 20 total points, Johnson & Wales (8-10) emerged with a 25-20, 22-25, 25-19, 25-19 victory over Eastern (7-8), which has dropped five of its last six and falls to 2-4 at home. The visitors have beaten Eastern three of the last four times and five of the last eight times the teams have met since the Warriors won the first seven matches in the series.

Last year, Eastern survived a tight four-game match which was decided by 11 total points to snap the Wildcats' ten-match winning streak in the championship of its own Crabtree Classic.

Wednesday, there were nine ties and four lead changes in Game 1 before the Wildcats took the lead for good, 18-17, and a run of three straight points in the final stages provided them with the opening win. In Game 2, Eastern erased an early five-point deficit and later snapped an 18-all tie with a 4-1 spurt that put them in command. In Game 3, the teams traded points through the middle portion of the game (there were eight ties) before the visitors outscored Eastern 9-3 to post the victory.

Hoping to force a deciding game, Eastern climbed out of an early seven-point hole to finally pull even at 18-all. An ace and a kill helped the Wildcats counter with four straight points at that point, however, in closing out the win.

Freshman **Ali Facchini (Niantic)** led Eastern offensively with a career-high 13 kills and a .650 attack percentage; sophomore **Britt Carrier (Southington)**, who spent last season at Johnson & Wales as its No. 1 setter, had 11 kills and handled 22 receptions with a .955 percentage; sophomore **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** received 20 serves with a .950 success rate to go along with nine digs; sophomore **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** handled the setting chores, totaling 25 assists and eight digs; and freshman middle hitter **Erin Moriarty (Higganum)** had three blocks.

For Johnson & Wales, seniors Ashley Constantino and Catherine Bravo and sophomore Audrey Warren combined for 40 kills and a .330 attack percentage. Constantino added ten digs and sophomore Katie Barrett a team-high 11 and freshman setter Kasey Higgins amassed 33 assists.

Sophomore middle hitter **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** missed her first match of the year after suffering a head injury in Monday's home sweep of Mitchell College. Ibsen, who is expected to return to action Friday, had 14 kills and six blocks in last year's victory over the Wildcats.

Eastern visits Wheaton College Friday at 6 p.m.

Johnson & Wales U. 3, Eastern Conn. 1

Johnson & Wales (8-10)	25	22	25	25
Eastern Conn. (7-8)	20	25	19	19

Friday, Oct. 2, 2009

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL CAN'T PUT WHEATON AWAY, FALLS IN FIVE
Needing one win, Warriors drop final three in falling in non-conference match

NORTON, Mass. – In a five-game match decided by a total of 22 points, the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team couldn't capitalize on a two-game advantage in dropping a non-conference decision to Wheaton College Friday night at Emerson Gymnasium.

Eastern (7-9) was within one a game of the victory after taking the first two games, but Wheaton (10-8) battled back to force a deciding game by taking games three and four. There were ten ties in the final game before the Lyons scored the final two points to emerge with the victory in the first match in this series played on Wheaton's home floor.

Eastern won the first two games by scores of 25-19 and 25-22 and Wheaton captured the next three, 25-20, 25-19, 16-14.

The final two-point win in Game 5 equalled Wheaton's largest lead in the entire game. Sophomore **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** gave the Warriors their last lead in the final game with a kill that made it 12-11. Trailing 14-13, Eastern momentarily avoided match point when junior **Rachael Joy's (Huntington Station, NY)** cross court attack caught the top of the net and landed just inside the right sideline. With Eastern serving Wheaton got a kill to tie the match, then won it with another off its own serve.

Eastern broke from the eighth tie of Game 1 to score six straight points and pull away for the win. Eastern jumped to an 8-1 lead in Game 2 behind the serving of senior **Ashley Tuggle (South Windsor)** before Wheaton battled back to assume its only lead at 21-20. Ibsen gave Eastern the lead for good with a kill and junior **Alyssa Ruta's (Holbrook, NY)** serving - which included an ace to make it a two-point advantage - carried the team to the win. Sophomore **Britt Carrier (Southington)** had nine kills on 12 tries with only two errors and added eight digs to key the Game 2 win, with Tuggle and sophomore **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** both digging seven balls in that game.

With Eastern eyeing a sweep, sophomore **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** served Eastern to a quick 3-0 lead in Game 3, but the hosts reeled off eight straight points soon after and never gave up the lead. In Game 4, Tuggle served the Warriors to a 4-0 lead, but Wheaton countered with the next six on the way to tying the match with a six-point victory.

Carrier was Eastern's top player in the match. She had 16 kills and 24 digs. Ibsen had 11 kills and five blocks, Abelli had 21 digs and Slonski 44 set assists, 15 digs, four aces and three blocks. Tuggle added 13 digs and Ruta ten and freshman **Ali Facchii (Niantic)** ten kills. Ruta served 24 balls with only one error, and Slonski 18 with only one. Abelli was perfect on 17 serves.

Offensively, Eastern struggled, attacking at only .092.

Eastern visits Newport, RI Saturday, facing the U.S. Coast Guard at 1 p.m. and host Salve Regina University at 3 p.m.

Wheaton College (MA) 3, Eastern Conn. 2

Eastern Conn. (7-9)	25	25	20	19	14
Wheaton College (10-8)	19	22	25	25	16

Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL REBOUNDS TO DUMP SALVE REGINA, 3-1
Warriors erase Game 1 loss to remain unbeaten in series against Seahawks

NEWPORT, R.I. — The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team put a string of seven straight game losses behind it, winning three straight games after an opening loss to down Salve Regina University Saturday afternoon at Rodgers Recreation Center.

In a four-game victory over Salve Regina (5-12), freshmen **Claudia Radziszewski (East Haddam)** and **Ali Facchini (Niantic)** totaled collegiate-highs in kills and sophomores **Britt Carrier (Southington)** and **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** and **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** combined for 39 digs in 23-25, 25-12, 25-17, 25-20 wins that kept Eastern (8-10) unbeaten in six matches in this series with the Seahawks.

The win over Salve in the second game of the match ended a string of seven straight game losses for the Warriors. Friday night, Eastern dropped the final three games in a five-game setback to Wheaton College in Norton, MA, then was swept by New England power U.S. Coast Guard Academy earlier Saturday in the tri-match. Game scores were 25-18, 25-12, 25-20.

Against Salve, Radziszewski and classmate **Erin Moriarty (Higganum)** combined to attack at .385. Radziszewski had 11 kills and attacked at .400 and Moriarty had six kills and attacked at .357. Facchini led all players in the match with 16 kills.

After submitting a sub-par .853 reception percentage Friday against Wheaton, Eastern responded with a season-high .985 reception percentage against the Seahawks, committing only one reception error on 67 tries. Abelli was perfect on 24 attempts and Carrier and senior **Ashley Tuggle (South Windsor)** were flawless on a combined 29 chances.

Moriarty also had six blocks and Slonski had three blocks and three service aces to go along with 41 assists.

Radziszewski sparked the Eastern comeback with five kills in the second game, and led by five kills from Carrier in the third game, the Warriors went on to record a .483 hitting percentage in game three. Facchini posted five of her 16 kills in the fourth game to seal the win.

Eastern looks for its first Little East Conference win after four losses Tuesday when it hosts Western Connecticut State University on Tuesday at 6 p.m.

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

Eastern Conn. (7-10)	18	12	20
Coast Guard (13-1)	25	25	25

Eastern Conn. 3, Salve Regina U. 1

Eastern Conn. (8-10)	23	25	25	25
Salve Regina (5-12)	25	12	17	20

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009

WESTERN W-VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS EASTERN IN LEC MATCH, 3-0
Colonials keep pace by keeping Warriors winless in Little East competition

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – First-team all-conference senior Rebecca Stein (Kingston, NY) had ten kills with a .529 attack percentage and collected six blocks to pace the Western Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a three-game sweep of Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Having lost four of the previous five matches against Eastern, Western (16-5, 4-1 little east) never trailed in the match, posting 25-17, 25-14, 25-16 victories over Eastern (8-11, 0-5 little east). Western has won ten of its last 12 and the Warriors have dropped eight of their last ten. The Colonials remain a half-game behind conference leader Plymouth State University, which needed only four games to defeat defending LEC regular-season and playoff champion Keene State College on its own court.

Rated second in the conference in blocks and attack percentage, the 6-foot-1 inch Stein committed only one error on 17 attack attempts in the match and added three block assists and three solo blocks. As a team, Western had five block solos and 13 assists.

Western scored six straight points to break from a 7-7 tie in Game 1, and scored six straight to pull away from a 3-3 tie in Game 2 to take an commanding lead in the match. Eastern trailed by four points early in Game 3 but pulled even at 14-all on a block by sophomore **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** and a kill by sophomore **Britt Carrier (Southington)**. At that point, the Colonials answered with four straight points on two kills, a service ace and a block and were never threatened the rest of the way.

Freshman Paxton Thornton (Sharon) matched Stein with ten kills, junior Sammie Hathaway (Milford) collected 33 assists, and sophomore Kelley Collins (Massapequa, NY) chipped in a game-high 18 digs.

Carrier and sophomore **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** combined for 13 kills for Eastern, with Carrier leading the Warriors with 13 digs. Slonski had four blocks and 18 assists and sophomore **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** had a .905 reepetion percentage on a team-high 21 attempts.

Eastern hosts its 29th Annual Crabtree Classic Friday and Saturday. The Warriors face the University of New England in their opener Friday night at 7 p.m.

Western Conn. 3, Eastern Conn. 0

Western Conn. (16-5, 4-1 little east)	25	25	25
Eastern Conn. (8-11, 0-5 little east)	17	14	16

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009

KANOFF LEADS AMHERST TO CRABTREE INVITE TITLE

Lord Jeffs win all three of their matches without dropping a game en route to title

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- In a battle of the two tournament unbeaten teams, sophomore Katherine Kanoff (Pacific Palisades, CA) had 16 kills without an error to help carry the Amherst College women's volleyball team to a three-game win over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday afternoon and claim the team championship of the 29th Annual Crabtree Classic women's volleyball invitational at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium. Game scores were 25-20, 25-13, 25-9.

Ranked No. 9 in New England Amherst (14-3) posted three three-game sweeps in the tournament. The Lord Jeffs defeated Emmanuel College Friday night and the University of New England Saturday afternoon before besting Eastern (10-12) in the final match of the tournament. Eastern was the defending champion and had won three of the previous seven titles.

Amherst gave up as many as 20 points in a game only twice, in Game two against New England and against Eastern in the first game. It was Amherst's eighth straight win over Eastern after the Warriors took the first three decisions in this series.

Voted the tournament's Most Outstanding Player, the 5-foot-9 inch Kanoff attacked at .471 against Eastern and at .423 earlier Saturday against New England. She collected 32 kills in the tournament with just one error.

Kanoff was joined on the all-tournament team by junior libero Rachel Yorke (Los Angeles), who had 20 of her tournament total of 45 digs against Eastern. In the tournament, Yorke posted a reception percentage of .962, making only two errors on 52 tries.

Against Eastern, junior Jackie Berkley (Fullerton, CA) and sophomore Cristy Meier (San Anselmo, CA) combined for 18 kills. Senior Bethany Belisle (Austin, TX) followed Yorke with 11 digs and freshman Callie Neilson (Escondido, CA) put up 30 set assists.

Earlier Saturday, Eastern emerged with a four-game win over Emmanuel College in a match which was decided by a total of ten points. Against Amherst, no Eastern player had more than six kills. Sophomore **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire, CT)** had 17 digs and committed only one reception error on 25 tries. Sophomore **Britt Carrier (Southington)**, who represented Eastern on the all-tournament team, had seven digs, three service aces and 13 set assists.

For New England Saturday in its win over Emmanuel and loss to Amherst, senior Claire Varner (Breckenridge, MI) had 22 kills and freshman Paige Curran (Chelmsford, MA) 13; junior Meghan Flynn (Stoneham, MA) totaled five blocks and all-tournament selection senior Ellen Choinski (Saunderstown, RI) 55 set assists. In the win over Emmanuel, Varner had 14 kills and freshman Lindsey Cashell (Merrimack, NH) 11 kills and 12 digs and junior Angie Gust (Manitowoc, WI) 11 digs. Gust also had a .947 reception percentage on 19 tries.

(more)

In Emmanuel's two tight losses Saturday, junior Megan Clary (Cumberland, RI) collected 63 assists and freshman Samantha Andazola (Queen Creek, AZ) 62. All-tournament pick sophomore Jenna Ross (Centerburg, OH) came up with 26 digs against Eastern. Offensively, senior Diana Grimaldi (Sandy Hook, CT) had 20 kills and attacked at .439, junior Megan Murray (Killingworth, CT) 19 kills and a .333 attack percentage, and senior Nicole McAllister (Hampden, ME) a team-high 21 kills. McAllister and Grimaldi also each added five blocks. . In addition to her digs, Andazola handled 54 repetitions with just one error and Ross 41 with just one miscue. Sophomore Kathryn Olsen (Fairhaven, MA) set for 70 assists.

Eastern, which had swept Emmanuel in September in the Saints' opening match of the year, had more difficulty this time around. After the teams traded two-point decisions in the first two games, there were ten ties in Game 3 before the Warriors scored four straight to go up 22-18 en route to the three-point win. In the final game, the Saints erased an early 7-1 deficit. The Saints led by five late in that game but couldn't finish off the Warriors on game point and Eastern scored the final three points to close out the victory.

Offensively against Emmanuel, sophomore **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton, CT)** had 16 kills and attacked at .389 and added four blocks. Freshman **Erin Moriarty (Higganum, CT)** ten kills without an error and a .714 attack percentage and sophomore **Samantha Slonski (Griswold, CT)** 13 kills, 15 digs, three blocks and three service aces. Carrier put up a career-high 48 assists and added nine digs. Abelli dug up 25 balls, junior **Alyssa Ruta (Holbrook, NY)** nine and senior **Ashley Tuggle (South Windsor, CT)** eight.

**29th Annual Crabtree Classic
Women's Volleyball Invitational
At Willimantic, Conn.**

FINAL STANDINGS

Institution (Overall Record)	Match		Game	
	W	L	W	L
Amherst College (14-3)	3	0	9	0
Eastern Conn. (10-12)	2	1	6	5
U. of New England (7-10)	1	2	4	8
Emmanuel College (13-7)	0	3	3	9

All-Tournament Team

6 KATHERINE KANOFF*	So.	Amherst College	Pacific Palisades, CA
3 Rachel Yorke	Jr.	Amherst College	Los Angeles
9 Britt Carrier	So.	Eastern Conn.	Southington, CT
4 Ellen Choinski	Sr.	U. New England	Saunderstown, RI
15 Jenna Ross	So.	Emmanuel College	Centerburg, OH

**-Most Outstanding Player*

(more)

Saturday's Results**U. of New England 3, Emmanuel College 2**

Emmanuel College (13-6)	25	22	25	22	8
U. New England (7-9)	17	25	18	25	15

Eastern Conn. 3, Emmanuel College 1

Emmanuel College (13-7)	27	23	22	25
Eastern Conn. (10-11)	25	25	25	27

Amherst College 3, U. of New England 0

U. New England (7-10)	17	24	11
Amherst College (13-3)	25	26	25

Amherst College 3, Eastern Conn. 0

Amherst College (14-3)	25	25	25
Eastern Conn. (10-12)	20	13	9

Friday's Results**Amherst College 3, Emmanuel College 0**

Amherst College (12-3)	25	25	25
Emmanuel College (13-5)	17	19	13

Eastern Conn. 3, U. of New England 1

U. New England (6-9)	26	22	21	17
Eastern Conn. (9-11)	24	25	25	25

Friday, Oct. 9, 2009

EASTERN, AMHERST WIN OPENERS IN CRABTREE CLASSIC
In women's volleyball, Lord Jeffs sweep Emmanuel, Warriors down UNE

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Cristy Meier (San Anselmo, CA) had 20 kills and Rachel Yorke (Los Angeles) 12 digs as the Amherst College women's volleyball team snapped the ten-match winning streak of Emmanuel College with a sweep in the opening match of the 29th Annual Crabtree Classic Friday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

In the second of two matches, host Eastern Connecticut State University rebounded from a two-point first-game loss to down the University of New England in four games.

Amherst (12-3) posted 25-17, 25-19, 25-13 wins over Emmanuel (13-5) and Eastern (9-11) came back from a 26-24 loss to claim 25-21, 25-17 victories over New England (6-9).

The first match featured Amherst's power against the digging ability of Emmanuel. Amherst never trailed in the first game and was behind only once by a point in Game 2 before bouncing back from an early 4-1 deficit in Game 3 to pull away for the win. With the score tied at 10 in Game 3, the Lord Jeffs outscored the Saints 10-2 to open up a 20-12 lead. Jackie Berkley (Fullerton, CA) had a kill and block assist and Meier had three kills.

Eastern's **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton, CT)** entered the match against New England in the second game, where she served and attacked the Warriors into an early lead. Ibsen was 6-for-8 without an attack error in that game. After losing the first game, Eastern trailed 21-20 in Game 2. At that point, Ibsen had three kills and **Ashley Tuggle (South Windsor, CT)** closed out the win with a service ace.

The Warriors scored the final four points of Game 3 en route to the four-point win. Ibsen broke the tie with successive kills, New England committed an attack error, and **Samantha Slonski (Griswold, CT)** collected her eighth kill of the game to give Eastern a 2-1 lead. The Warriors broke to a 12-2 lead in the final game behind Slonski (four kills in the game) and the Nor'easters never got closer than seven the rest of the way.

Eastern setter **Britt Carrier (Southington)** had 41 assists – her highest total since she recorded 44 in the opening match of the season.

New England scored the first four and last four points of the first game, with Kristen Edwards (Laconia, NH) and Claire Varner (Breckenridge, MI) contributing big kills in the final stages of that game.

Each team will play three matches in the four-team, round-robin tournament. Eastern is the defending champion. The Warriors won three of four matches in last year's five-team tournament, and New England split four.

(more)

**29th Annual Crabtree Classic
Women's Volleyball Invitational
At Willimantic, Conn.**

Friday's Results

Amherst College 3, Emmanuel College 0

Amherst College (12-3)	25	25	25
Emmanuel College (13-5)	17	19	13

Statistical leaders:

Amherst College

- Cristy Meier 20 kills
- Katherine Kanoff 5 kills
- Rachel Yorke 12 digs, 14 rec. attempts, 1 error
- Kristin Keeno 7 digs
- Callie Neilson 22 assists
- Laura Hyman 6 kills, 3 blocks
- Jackie Berkley 2 blocks

Emmanuel College

- Megan Clary 16 digs
- Jenna Ross 15 digs, 16 rec. attempts with 0 errors, 4 kills
- Samantha Andazola 20 rec. attempts with 1 error
- Kathryne Olsen 21 assists
- Nicole McAllister 5 kills
- Diana Grimaldi 5 kills

Eastern Conn. 3, U. of New England 1

U. New England (6-9)	26	22	21	17
Eastern Conn. (9-11)	24	25	25	25

Statistical leaders:

U. of New England

- Lindsey Cashell 9 kills with a .389 attack pct., 8 digs
- Kristen Edwards 7 kills with a .300 attack pct., 4 blocks
- Angie Gust 19 digs
- Ellen Choinski 17 assists
- Paige Curran 4 blocks

(more)

Eastern Conn.

Samantha Slonski 18 kills with a .245 attack pct., 11 digs, 2 blocks

Kristianna Ibsen 11 kills with a .563 attack pct., 2 blocks

Britt Carrier 41 assists, 5 kills, 2 blocks

Taylor Abelli 11 digs, 4 aces

Ashley Tuggle 9 digs, 2 aces

Saturday's Schedule

U. of New England vs. Emmanuel College, 10 a.m.

Eastern Conn. vs. Emmanuel College, noon

Amherst College vs. U. of New England, 2 p.m.

Amherst College vs. Eastern Conn., 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2009

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL BATTLES CONN IN THREE-GAME LOSS
Against No.5-ranked Camels, Warriors lose by combined a total of 13 points

NEW LONDON, Conn.— The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team battled Connecticut College, but was ultimately felled by a poor attack percentage for the second straight match in a three-game loss Tuesday evening at Luce Fieldhouse.

Playing its second match against a team ranked in the New England Top Ten in four days, Eastern (10-13) dropped tight 25-23, 25-18, 25-21 decisions as Conn College (15-4) won its sixth straight. The Camels are ranked No. 5 in New England.

Although sophomore **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** improved her team-leading attack percentage to .305 by collecting eight kills without an error, the Warriors attacked at only .039, well below their season percentage of .172. Eastern attacked at .108 in the two-point Game 1 loss, but managed only a -.074 mark in Game 2 and a .051 percentage in Game 3.

The Warriors took a quick 5-2 lead in Game 1 but had to later rally to pull to within 23-22 behind the serving of Ibsen. Conn attained the win with a pair of kills to take the first game. With Eastern railing by six points late in Game 2, senior **Ashley Tuggle (South Windsor)** served four straight point to cut the gap to two, but a service error and consecutive attack errors allowed the hosts to score the final five points. In Game 3, the Warriors crased an early six-point deficit, later scoring six in a row behind the serving of Ibsen to move out to a 14-11 lead. Leading by four, 20-16, Eastern was outscored 9-1 the rest of the way

Tuggle, the team's libero for the first two games, finished with seven digs and two service aces. First-year sophomore transfer **Britt Carrier (Southington)**, who went over 1,500 collegiate assists last week, had 17 assists and added seven digs. Sophomore **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** led all Eastern players with nine kills but was unable to put down her last ten attempts. Freshman **Erin Moriarty (Higganum)** tied her career-best with six blocks, three coming in succession early in Game 2. As a team, Eastern recorded 14 blocks, with Ibsen, Carrier and Slonski contributing two each.

Saturday at the Crabtree Classic, Eastern dropped a three-game match to Amherst College, ranked No. 9 in New England. After attacking above .200 in three of its previous four matches, Eastern managed just -.011 against the Lord Jeffs.

Rachel Schroff had eight kills and nine digs to lead Conon to its seventh win in the last eight contests — second straight against Eastern after the Warriors won seven in a row in this series. Schroff was last week's New England Small College Athletic Conference Player of the Week. Sophomore Amy Newman and Lauren Wise chipped in with eight kills each for the winning side in the victory. Junior setter Marissa DeMais dished out 31 assists.

Eastern visits MIT Saturday at 10:30 a.m. to meet the Engineers, ranked No. 6 in New England. The Warriors face St. Lawrence University at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Connecticut College 3, Eastern Conn. 0

Eastern Conn. (10-13)	23	18	21
Conn College (15-4)	25	25	25

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL DROPS TWO MATCHES AT MIT

At Quad Meet, two opponents record their 20th wins of season against Warriors

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Freshman all-tournament selection **Claudia Radziszewski (East Haddam)** had eight kills and a .353 attack percentage in a four-game loss to St. Lawrence University Saturday as the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team dropped a pair at the MIT Quad Saturday.

Playing its third straight opponent ranked in the New England region, Eastern (10-15) dropped 25-16, 25-15, 25-17 decisions to MIT before falling in four games to St. Lawrence University. St. Lawrence won by scores 25-13, 25-27, 25-16, 25-21.

Both MIT and St. Lawrence recorded their 20th wins of the season against four losses following their wins over Eastern. MIT is ranked fifth in New England. The Warriors were coming off three-game losses to regionally-ranked Amherst College at home last Saturday and against regionally-ranked Connecticut College this past Tuesday.

Against St. Lawrence, Radziszewski had eight kills in 17 attempts with a .353 attack percentage and in two matches totaled 11 kills on the day. She was joined on the all-tournament team by MVP Kate McWhorter and Kate White of UMass Boston, Jenny Li of MIT and Abigail Rose of St. Lawrence.

UMass Boston won the quad with wins over MIT and St. Lawrence, while MIT was 2-1 and St. Lawrence 1-2.

Eastern hosts Emerson College Thursday at 7 p.m. in its final regular-season home match of the year.

MIT 3, Eastern Conn.0

Eastern Conn. (10-14)	16	15	17
MIT (20-4)	25	25	25

St. Lawrence U. 3, Eastern Conn. 1

Eastern Conn. (10-15)	13	27	16	21
St. Lawrence (20-4)	25	25	25	25

(more)

22222222222222 of

Eastern statistical leaders

vs. MIT

Britt Carrier	5 kills, 14 digs, 10 assists
Ali Facchini	4 kills
Samantha Slonski	4 kills, 8 digs
Taylor Abelli	21 digs, 17 rec. attempts, 1.000 pct.
Alyssa Ruta	7 digs
Ashley Tuggle	7 digs

Note: MIT is ranked No. 5 in New England

vs. St. Lawrence

Kristianna Ibsen	13 kills, .357 attack pct.
Claudia Radziszewski	8 kills, .353 attack pct.
Ali Facchini	9 kills, .296 attack pct.
Samantha Slonski	8 kills, 15 digs
Ashley Tuggle	18 rec. attempts with a .944 pct., 13 digs
Alyssa Ruta	13 digs
Taylor Abelli	25 digs
Britt Carrier	11 digs, 34 assists

Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009

EMERSON COLLEGE OVERPOWERS EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL
In four games, Lions overcome early deficits to win eighth straight decision

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Lauren Zaniboni (San Diego) and Erin Connolly (Quincy, MA) each had 17 kills to lift the Emerson College women's volleyball team to a four-game victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Thursday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium. The Lions won by scores of 25-22, 22-25, 25-17, 25-17.

Eastern (10-16), which last lost five straight, led in the early stages of the first three games, but managed to win only one of them. In the final game, Emerson scored six straight points to break from a 14-14 tie on the way to its eighth straight victory. The match was the first ever between the programs.

The 5-foot-11 inch Connolly attacked at .368 and the lefty-swinging 6-foot-2 inch Zaniboni attacked at .292, with Maddie Brecland collecting nine kills and attacking at .300.

Five different Eastern players had double-figure digs. Sophomore **Britt Carrier (Southington)** led the Warriors with 16, sophomore **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** adding 15, sophomore **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** 13, senior **Ashley Tuggle (South Windsor)** and junior **Alyssa Ruta (Holbrook, NY)** 11 each.

The Lion used a 7-1 run to wipe out an early seven-point Eastern lead and scored the final three points to break a 22-22 tie in Game 1. Zaniboni had consecutive kills and Eastern committed a service error to account for Emerson's final three points.

In Game 2, sophomore **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** had a kill and ace to push the Warriors into the lead for good, 21-20. Slonski then scored a point when her dig landed on Emerson's side of the floor, and Carrier added a service ace to make it 24-21.

Tuggle served the first five points of the match to lift the Warriors into an early lead in Game 3, but Brecland and Connolly powered the Emerson offense, the Lions answering with ten of the next 11 points to and Emerson was never headed in taking the critical 2-games-to-1 lead.

Emerson's Sara Rutan (Santa Clarita) led all players in the match with 17 digs, setter Katie Bailey (Calabasas, CA) adding 14 digs and 26 assists. Rutan also had a .943 reception percentage on 35 tries.

In the match, Ibsen and Slonski each had nine kills. Ibsen and Tuggle had three service aces each, Carrier 37 assists, and freshman **Erin Moriarty (Higganum)** three blocks. Tuggle, Ruta, Abelli and Slonski combined on a .973 reception percentage. Abelli was perfect on 25 tries and Tuggle did not commit an error on 18.

The match was the final regular-season home one for Eastern, which recognized Tuggle as its only senior in a pre-game ceremony.

Eastern visits Wesleyan University Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Emerson College 3, Eastern Conn. 1

Emerson College (23-5)	25	22	25	25
Eastern Conn. (10-16)	22	25	17	17

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2009

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL CAN'T HANDLE WESLEYAN

Warriors battle in first two games in non-conference loss to Cardinals

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. -- The Wesleyan University women's volleyball team scored five straight points to wipe out a two-point deficit midway through Game 1 and went on to sweep Eastern Connecticut State University Wednesday night at Silloway Gymnasium. Wesleyan won by scores of 25-20, 25-17, 25-15.

The loss is the sixth straight for Eastern (10-17), which had won four of the previous six against Wesleyan (13-12) which included a sweep a year ago at Geissler Gymnasium. Suring Wesleyan has won five straight and closed out with a perfect 6-0 regular-season record at home.

Neither team was able to assert itself through the first half of the first two games. With the Warriors leading 17-15 in Game 2, Wesleyan put together a run of five straight points to open up a 20-17 advantage, and later scored the final four points in a row to close out the first-game win.

The Warriors never led in Game 2 after the third point of the game but pulled to within 9-8 on a kill by sophomore **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)**. The hosts answered with three straight, however, on a kill of their own and successive Eastern attack and ball-handling errors.

Junior **Rachael Joy (Huntington Station, NY)** had all three of her match kills in Game 2 and junior **Alyssa Ruta (Holbrook, NY)** collected all five of her digs. Ibsen had two kills in her first three tries in Game 2 but did not have a kill on her final 11 attempts of the game.

Four Eastern players combined for 39 of the team's 53 digs in the match. Sophomore **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** had a team-high 13, with senior **Ashley Tuggle (South Windsor)** and freshman **Danielle Bourne (Branford)** adding nine each and sophomore **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** eight. Abelli also handled 19 receptions with just one error. Sophomore **Britt Carrier (Southington)** totalled 14 assists for Eastern.

Eastern attacked at .000 in Game 1 and just .076 on the evening and committed seven service aces and eight reception errors in three games.

Eastern wraps up the regular season Saturday, travelling to Massachusetts Dartmouth to face the host team at noon and the University of Southern Maine at 2 p.m. If UMass Dartmouth wins both of its LEC matches, Eastern will fail to qualify for the six-team LEC playoffs.

Wesleyan U. 3, Eastern Conn. 0

Eastern Conn. (10-17)	20	17	15
Wesleyan U. (13-12)	25	25	25

Molta, Bob (Athletics)

From: Katten, Brian [bkatten@wesleyan.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2009 9:28 PM
To: sports@courant.com; jsmith1504@gmail.com; sports@globe.com; sports@bostonherald.com; localsports@nhregister.com; sports@rep-am.com; sports@wtnh.com; Molta, Bob (Athletics); sports@norwichbulletin.com
Subject: Women's volleyball match summary

Women's volleyball in Middletown, Conn., Wed., Oct. 28, 2009 --- Wesleyan (13-12) 3, Eastern Connecticut (10-17) 0 (25-20, 25-17, 25-15)

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. -- With senior setter Ellie Healy becoming just the second Wesleyan player in program history to go over the 4,000 mark for career assists, Wesleyan made short work of its final home match of the season, downing Eastern Connecticut, 3-0 (25-20, 25-17, 25-15). The win avenged a 3-0 loss by the Cardinals to the Warriors in Willimantic, Conn. last year. It gave Wesleyan just its 10th all-time victory against Eastern with 20 defeats since the teams first met in 1988, but after Eastern took 15 of the opening 16 matches, Wesleyan had now won nine of the last 14 since 1999.

Healy collected 30 assists in the match before departing late in the third set, improving her career assist figure to 4,011, ranking her second all-time at Wesleyan behind school leader Christina Fucci (4,452), who graduated in 2002. Leading the Cardinals' attack, which hit at a collective .327 efficiency (41 kills with nine errors in 101 attempts), was senior middle hitter Ashley Farrow with 13 kills. Next for the Cardinals with eight kills was sophomore outside hitter Alissa Santucci. Junior libero Ruby Hernandez amassed 17 digs while Healy also paced the team in aces with three. For Eastern, which dropped its sixth match in a row this season, sophomore middle hitter Kristianna Ibsen led the way with six kills as sophomore setter Britt Carrier collected 14 assists. In the digs department, sophomore libero Taylor Abelli had 13 digs while freshman outside hitter Danielle Bourne and senior outside hitter Ashley Tuttle each added nine and sophomore outside hitter Samantha Slonski chipped in with eight.

Wesleyan rolled to victory in the third set, pulling out to a 9-3 advantage and upping the margin to 18-9. The lead peaked at 20-10 before the teams split the final 10 points for the 25-15 score. Wesleyan trailed briefly in the opening set as Eastern held a 17-15 before the Cardinals rattled off five consecutive points for a 20-17 lead, en route to a 25-20 triumph. In the second set, the teams were tied 5-5 before an 11-6 Cardinal streak put the homestanders ahead 16-11. The margin never fell below three points as the final score of 25-17 represented the largest lead in the set.

Wesleyan puts its five-match win streak on the line in its final regular-season match Friday, Oct. 30 at Connecticut College in a NESCAC battle. Eastern Connecticut has a pair of important Little East matches coming up on Saturday at UMass Dartmouth, needing wins over the host and Southern Maine to improve its chances of a Little East tournament bid. Wesleyan has qualified for the upcoming NESCAC Tournament which starts Friday, Nov 6. Little East Tournament play starts Nov. 3.

Saturday, October 31, 2009

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL QUALIFIES FOR LEC ON FINAL DAY
With victories, Warriors emerge with final conference playoff invitation

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team qualified for the Little East Conference playoffs for the 15th consecutive season by winning its first conference matches of the season Saturday at the Tripp Athletic Center on the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth campus, snapping an overall six-game losing streak.

Eastern defeated UMass Dartmouth for the 33rd consecutive time in four games, and improved to 10-1 all-time against Southern Maine by sweeping the Huskies. The Warriors dropped Game 1 against UMass, 25-16, but bounced back with 25-16, 25-17, 25-23 triumphs. Game scores against Southern Maine were 25-17, 25-19, 25-19.

Eastern will visit No. 3 seed Western Connecticut State University Tuesday night for a 7 p.m. first-round match, hoping to rebound from a three-game sweep at the hands of the Colonials Oct. 6 at Geissler Gymnasium.

In other first-round match, No. 5 Rhode Island College visits No. 4 Keene State College at 7 p.m.

In the key Game 2 win over UMass Dartmouth Saturday that evened the match, sophomore **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** had six kills without an error and sophomore **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** had six (four straight) with only one error. After attacking at -.100 in Game 1, the Warriors responded with a .361 percentage in Game 2 and followed with a .256 mark in Game 3 and a .262 percentage in Game 4.

Ibsen and Slonski combined for 34 kills and 90 of the team's 147 attack attempts against UMass Dartmouth.

Defensively, the Warriors committed only three reception errors against UMass Dartmouth and Slonski, sophomore **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** and senior **Ashley Tuggle (South Windsor)** combined for 60 digs. Freshman **Ali Facchini (Niantic)** had five block solos and Ibsen and freshman **Claudia Radziszewski (East Haddam)** four block assists apiece.

Sophomore **Britt Carrier (Southington)** collected 45 assists and ten digs and had two of the team's seven service aces against Dartmouth.

In seven games on the afternoon, Ibsen had 21 kills and a .370 attack percentage, Slonski 16 kills and Facchini ten. Abelli, Radziszewski, Tuggle and Slonski all had at least 20 digs, with Abelli leading the way with 29. Junior **Alyssa Ruta (Holbrook, NY)** had five of the club's 20 service aces, four coming early in the first game against Southern Maine. Carrier had 52 assists in five games on the afternoon.

(more)

Freshman enjoyed strong performances against Southern Maine. **Kailyn Welling (Somers, NY)** recorded 15 assists, **Danielle Bourne (Branford)** seven kills and 14 digs and Radziszewski 18 digs.

Top-seeded Massachusetts Boston will host the LEC tournament semifinals and final this Friday and Saturday at the Clark Athletic Center. The Eastern-Western winner will face No. 2 seed Plymouth State University Friday at 4 p.m. in the first semifinal and the Rhode Island-Keene winner meets UMass Boston at 6 p.m. The final is scheduled for Saturday at noon.

Keene is the defending tournament champion, having beaten UMass Boston, 3-2, in the 2008 final for its first conference championship.

As the No. 5 seed in 2007, Eastern won its third straight playoff championship, defeating three higher seeds in the process and sweeping Western, 3-0, in the final at Keene, NH.

Eastern Conn. 3, Massachusetts Dartmouth 1

Eastern Conn. (11-17, 1-5 little east)	16	25	25	25
UMass Dartmouth (17-9, 0-6 little east)	25	16	17	23

Eastern Conn. 3, U. of Southern Maine 0

Southern Maine (4-17, 0-6 little east)	17	19	19
Eastern Conn. (12-17, 2-5 little east)	25	25	25

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2009

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL ELIMINATED FROM LITTLE EAST
Sixth-seeded Warriors swept out by third-seeded Western Connecticut

DANBURY, Conn. -- For only the second time ever, the end of the road for women's volleyball came in the opening round of the Little East Conference tournament Tuesday night in a three-game loss to Western Connecticut State University at Feldman Arena. Game scores were 25-16, 25-15, 25-22.

Eastern (12-18) had qualified for the six-team tournament as the final seed Saturday with wins over Massachusetts Dartmouth and the University of Southern Maine, but was unable to advance beyond the first round of the tournament for only the second time.

Third-seeded Western (26-7) advances to the conference semifinals Friday at 6 p.m. against No. 2 seed Plymouth State University at the Clark Athletic Center on the Massachusetts Boston campus.

Eastern led only twice in the match -- in early going of the first and third games -- but stayed within striking distance throughout all three games. Hoping to stave off elimination in Game 3, Eastern scored three straight points to tie the game at 18 on two Western attack errors and a kill by sophomore **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)**. At that point, the hosts responded with four straight points on two kills and two Eastern attack errors to re-gain the momentum and move on to clinch the victory, thus ending Eastern's season.

The teams were meeting in the LEC tournament for the second time in three years. In 2007, the fifth-seeded Warriors upended the second-seeded Colonials to claim their third straight LEC playoff title.

Tuesday, Eastern had a negative attack percentage in the match.

Sophomore **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** led the way with 11 digs, with Slonski adding nine and handling 19 receptions without an error. Sophomore **Britt Carrier (Southington)** had 16 assists. Slonski and sophomore **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** each had seven kills.

Ashley Tuggle (South Windsor), the only senior on the team, had five digs, received nine serves with only one error and served nine balls with only one error.

Western's Paxton Thornton, Becca Stein and Natalie Crosby combined for 23 kills. Setter Sammie Hathaway had 28 assists and nine digs, and Kelley Collins 15 digs. When Western had swept Eastern in the regular season Oct. 6 at Geissler Gym, Thornton and Stein each had ten kills.

Western Conn. 3, Eastern Conn. 0

Eastern Conn. (12-18)	16	15	22
Western Conn. (26-7)	25	25	25

Molta, Bob (Athletics)

From: Scott Russell [RussellS@wcsu.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2009 10:09 PM
To: Molta, Bob (Athletics); Jack Holleran; Scott Ames; aphartford@ap.org; bart800am@gmail.com; don.laviano@nbcuni.com; grogo@ctpost.com; jholt@wfsb.com; john.mengual@nbcuni.com; jsonski@newstimes.com; jzone@wfsb.com; localsports@nhregister.com; mark.fijalkowski@wfsb.com; rcoppola@fox61.com; Scott Russell; sports@acorn-online.com; sports@bostonherald.com; sports@courant.com; sports@globe.com; sports@newstimes.com; sports@rep-am.com; sports@wtnh.com; tammers@fox61.com
Subject: Match story for volleyball WCSU vs. ECSU 110309

WestConn advances to LEC semifinals with 3-0 win over Eastern Connecticut

Danbury, CT (Nov. 3) – The Western Connecticut State University volleyball team got a balanced front-line attack from senior **Becca Stein (Kingston, NY)**, junior **Natalie Crosby (East Haven, CT)**, and freshman **Paxton Thornton (Sharon, CT)** to defeat Eastern Connecticut 3-0 Tuesday night at Feldman Arena and advance to the semifinals of this year's Little East Conference tournament.

After Eastern Connecticut took an early 2-1 lead, Crosby stepped to the service line and led the Colonials on a five-point run, highlighted by two kills each from Stein and Thornton. WestConn extended the advantage to 13-5, prompting a timeout by Eastern Connecticut. The Warriors then went on a five-point run of their own to draw within 13-10, but a WestConn timeout changed the momentum making the lead 15-10. With the score 21-15, Thornton and junior **Daniel Spangler (Simi Valley, CA)** blocked an Eastern kill attempt for a side-out. Junior **Sammie Hathaway (Milford, CT)** served the Colonials to game-point at 24-15, before a side-out by the Warriors delayed the WestConn celebration. With a second chance at game-point, Thornton blasted a kill down the line to give WestConn game one, 25-16.

Game two followed a similar script to game one, with WestConn taking leads of 6-2 and 13-5 behind strong serving efforts from sophomore **Michelle Hearn (Bedford Hills, NY)** and sophomore **Kelley Collins (Massapequa, NY)**. After an ace by Hearn gave the Colonials a 19-9 lead, the outcome of game two was secured and the Colonials cruised to a 25-15 win.

In game three the Warriors fought back, refusing to let WestConn take the early leads it had enjoyed in games one and two. Serving an ace to draw within one at 8-7 and again to close the gap to two at 15-13, the Warriors drew even with the Colonials at 18-18. A block by Stein gave WestConn a side-out and a 19-18 advantage that quickly turned into a 22-18 lead after kills by Spangler and Thornton. Eastern Connecticut again fought back to pull within two at 23-21 and forced a side-out to save one match point and a 24-22 score, but when Michelle Hearn blasted a cross-court kill through the Eastern defense, WestConn moved into the tournament semifinals with a 25-22 victory in game three and a sweep of the three-game match.

With the win, WestConn's season record now stands at 26-7, while Eastern Connecticut concludes the 2009 season at 12-18. The semifinal and championship round of this year's LEC tournament will be hosted by #1 seed UMass Boston on Friday and Saturday, November 6th and 7th. The #3 seeded Colonials face #2 Plymouth State at 6:00pm Friday, while top seeded UMass Boston will face #5 seed Rhode Island College in the other semifinal. Friday's winners square off on Saturday for the tournament championship.

WestConn	-	25	25	25	-	3
Eastern Conn.	-	16	15	22	-	0

WCSU Highlights

Becca Stein – 6 kills, 3 blocks

Natalie Crosby – 12 kills

Paxton Thornton – 8 kills

Sammie Hathaway – 28 assists, 9 digs

Michelle Hearn – 4 aces