

Molta, Bob (Athletics)

From: Napolitano, John [jnapolitano@keene.edu]
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2010 7:10 PM
To: Undisclosed recipients
Subject: Owls Top East Conn. 3-0; Comeback to Drop Saint Michael's 3-2 in Trimatch

KEENE, N.H. 9/25/10 – The Keene State College women's volleyball defeated LEC rival Eastern Conn. State 3-0, then came back after being down 2-0, to top Division II Saint Michael's College 3-2 on Saturday afternoon at Spaulding Gymnasium.

The Owls improved to 9-6 overall on the year (2-0 in LEC play) and have won five straight matches dating back to September 18th's win over Rhode Island College.

Against Eastern Conn. the Owls were led by junior **Kristen Girard's (Tivoli, N.Y.)** 17 kills in 21 attempts to hit a blistering .714 on the match. Junior setter **Laurie Whalen (Niantic, Conn.)** put up 35 assists for the Owls, while senior libero **Jamie Levine (Medfield, Mass.)** had a game-high 11 digs for the Owls in the win.

For Eastern Conn. State, **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton, Conn.)** had a team-high 11 kills, while junior setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold, Conn.)** had 23 assists in the losing effort.

In the match against Saint Michael's College, the Owls fell behind 2-0 (23-25, 26-28) in two hard fought games before battling back to win the last three (25-12, 25-19, 15-3).

In the final game, the Purple Knight's jumped out to a 7-0 lead behind sophomore **Katie Walsh's (N. Kingstown, R.I.)** six straight service points, and two kills from sophomore **Tracy Peterka (Newport Beach, Calif.)**. After the Owls finally got on the board in the fifth, SMC extended their lead to 12-6 on a kill from senior middle-hitter **Lindsey Frazier (Ballston Lake, N.Y.)**.

KSC then started their run, with nine straight service points from Whalen's service and two kills apiece from Girard and junior middle-hitter **Ellyse Davis (Londonderry, N.H.)**. After Frazier ended KSC's rally to make it 14-13, Davis threw down her 18th kill of the match for the 3-2 comeback win.

Junior captain **Bridget O'Bryant (Merrimack, N.H.)** finished the match with 23 kills, which ties her career-high set last year against Rhode Island College in the Little East Conference Quarterfinals. Davis totaled 18 kills on 26 attempts to hit .577 on the match, while Levine, Girard and senior captain **Sammy Datti (Durham, N.H.)** each finished with double digit digs with 19, 14, and 13 respectively. Whalen finished with a career-high 51 assists, five service aces and nine digs in the win.

"It's good to see us getting out of trouble," said KSC head coach Bob Weiner. "We came out flat in the first two games, but battled back against Saint Michael's and I am really very proud of them."

Breaking a school record was sophomore right-side hitter **Ali Facchini (Niantic, Conn.)** with eight block assists on the match, as the Owls got up to the net for 13 total blocks as a team.

For SMC, Walsh, Peterka, and senior **Sara Reney (Sunapee, N.H.)** each had double-digit kills with 12, 10 and 10 respectively. Freshman setter **Jessica McLeod (Medfield, Mass.)** finished with 39 assists, while sophomore libero **Courtney Dunne (Hopkinton, Mass.)** had 12 digs in the losing effort.

The will hit the road for the Oneonta State Tournament next weekend and will face Hartwick, SUNYIT, R.I.T. and Oneonta State on the weekend.

Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2010

EASTERN BEATEN IN WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL DEBUT UNDER VANDERMEER
Warriors win opening set but Roger Williams answers with three straight in season opener

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team fell behind early in every match in dropping a four-game decision to Roger Williams University in its season opener and debut under first-year head coach **Fran Vandermeer** Wednesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

After rallying from an early deficit in the first set, Eastern was not as fortunate thereafter in dropping a 25-22, 17-25, 17-25, 15-25 decision to the Hawks, who were also playing their season opener.

The Warriors broke a tie with three straight points in the first set to take the lead for good, chalking up the win behind a pair of kills from junior outside hitter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** and a set-ending RWU service errors. The Warriors used a run of five straight points to climb out of an early hole in the second set, but immediately gave those five points back as the visitors tied the match with a 10-4 set-ending run. In the third set, the Hawks broke from a 16-all tie to pull away with a 9-1 run. Roger Williams wrapped up its fourth win all-time over Eastern in 22 decisions in the fourth set. That match was tied three times in the early going before the Hawks opened up a ten-point lead.

Senior all-conference middle hitter Rebekah Dion (Old Saybrook) had 12 kills and a .400 attack percentage for Roger Williams, with sophomore outside hitter Kelsey Twarog (Barkhamsted) and freshman middle Krystie Luczynski (Kensington) adding ten kills each. Sophomore setter Emily Lebowitz, (Coventry) last year's Commonwealth Coast Conference Rookie-of-the-Year, handed out 39 set assists and senior libero Jill Hurd (Sunapee, NH) dug up 20 balls.

Eastern collected seven blocks and averaged 15 digs per set, but attacked at just .007 (27-for-148 with 26 errors).

Middle hitters **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)**, a junior, and sophomore **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** combined for 14 kills, with Ibsen attacking at .278 and Wilson recording four blocks and collecting three service aces. Junior libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** led the way with 15 digs, junior outside hitter **Britt Carrier (Southington)** digging ten, senior outside hitter **Rachael Joy (Huntington Station, NY)** and Slonski nine each and junior setter **Ashley Markley (Preston)** eight. Markley also registered 18 assists, Carrier two aces. Wilson and Markley combined to serve 37 balls with just two errors.

Saturday, Eastern hosts Salve Regina University at 11 a.m. and Babson College at 3 p.m.

Roger Williams University 3, Eastern Conn. 1

Roger Williams (1-0)	22	25	25	25
Eastern Conn. (0-1)	25	17	17	15

Saturday, Sept. 4, 2010

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS TRI-MATCH FOR FIRST 2010 WINS
First-year player Katie Wilson collects ten blocks and attacks at .388 for Warriors

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Six-foot-two inch first-year sophomore middle blocker **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** recorded ten blocks and attacked at .388 with a team-high 23 kills to pace the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to two victories Saturday at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern (2-1) posted 25-17, 25-12, 21-25, 25-15 triumphs over Salve Regina University (0-2) and 25-18, 25-17, 25-22 wins over Babson College (1-2) as first-year head coach **Fran Vandermeer** was credited with her first coaching victories at Eastern. Vandermeer had won 318 matches in 13 years at Trinity College and Williams College.

Babson gained a split on the day with a 25-22, 25-15, 25-15 win over Salve.

A first-year transfer from Southern Connecticut State University, Wilson had double-digit kills in each match. Against Salve, she had 11 kills and a .276 attack percentage and six blocks; against Babson, she had 12 kills, a .550 attack percentage and four blocks.

For Eastern on the afternoon, junior outside hitter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** followed Wilson with 20 kills and a .310 attack percentage and contributed 22 digs, five service aces and two blocks; Senior outside hitter **Rachael Joy (Huntington Station, NY)** was also in double figures on the day with 11 kills while totaling 19 digs and three aces; junior libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** topped the Warriors with 29 digs and handled 37 serve receptions with just one error; and first-year junior setter **Ashley Markley (Preston)** collected 51 assists and chipped in 12 digs.

As a team, the Warriors were guilty of only three reception errors against Salve. After the Seahawks cut Eastern's lead in half with the third-set victory, Eastern broke from a tie by scoring seven straight points to move out to a 19-12 lead on the way to Vandermeer's first triumph at Eastern.

After taking the first two sets against Babson, the Warriors completed the sweep with a tight win in the final set. Babson scored twice in a row to pull even at 22-22 before Eastern closed out the triumph with the final three points.

In Babson's split, junior outside hitter Meg Flaherty (Hollis, NH) totaled 25 kills and junior right-side Alexa Untermann (Honolulu, HI) ten kills, senior outside Katy Alea (Southborough, MA) 17 digs and sophomore setter Kathleen Lynch (Quincy, MA) 51 assists. In the sweep of Salve, Flaherty attacked at .484 and had team-highs of 16 kills and 11 digs, Untermann seven kills, and Lynch 30 assists.

For Salve, freshman outside hitter Clare Adams (New Concord, OH) totaled a team-high 19 kills in two losses, sophomore libero Kathleen Sweeney (Milford, CT) 23 digs and senior setter Lisa Zabel (Madison, CT) 38 assists. Adams had 13 kills and ten digs and Sweeney ten digs in the four-set loss to Eastern. Freshmen Jill Diffendaffer (Centennial, CO), Jackie Cinquemani (East Islip, NY) junior Julianne Barry (Randolph, MA) and Zabel combined for 29 blocks on the day. Against Eastern, Diffendaffer recorded five assists and four solos and Cinquemani five assists and a solo. Against Babson, Barry had five solos and three assists and Zabel four assists and two solos.

Eastern remained unbeaten in the all-time series with Salve (8-0) and Babson (7-0).

Eastern hosts Clark University Tuesday at 7 p.m.

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Eastern remained unbeaten in the all-time series with Salve (8-0) and Babson (7-0).

Eastern hosts Clark University Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2010

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS CLARK FOR THIRD STRAIGHT WIN

Warriors pick up 12 service aces to claim sixth straight victory over Cougars

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team erased an early nine-point deficit in the second set on the way to a 25-22, 25-21, 26-24 victory over Clark University Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

The win is the third straight for Eastern (3-1) following a season-opening loss and is the sixth straight for the Warriors over Clark (1-1) in this series which dates back to 1977.

After outscoring Clark 9-2 down the stretch to take the first set, the Warriors pulled out of a 10-1 hole to open the second set, outscoring the Cougars 21-6 to move out to a five-point lead late in the match. There were seven ties in the third set before Eastern closed out the match by scoring five of the final seven points.

As a team, the Warriors scored 12 points on service aces and seven more on blocks. Junior outside hitter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** led Eastern with ten kills and a .333 attack percentage, while junior middle blocker **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** had seven kills.

Junior libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** four service aces and ten digs, junior setter **Ashley Markley (Preston)** ten digs, four blocks and 27 set assists, junior outside hitter **Britt Carrier (Southington)** eight digs and junior setter **Gianna Trombino (East Moriches, NY)** three service aces. Trombino served a total of ten points in the match. Junior middle blocker **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** had five kills and three blocks before leaving the match in the second set with a sprained ankle.

Coming off a season-opening sweep against Mount Ida College, Clark got 11 kills from senior outside hitter **Maritza Fair (Bronx, NY)**, 12 digs from junior libero **Kortney Kelley (Barnstable, MA)** and 30 set assists, nine digs and three blocks from freshman setter **Rachel Spera (North Hollywood, CA)**. Freshman outside hitter **Katie Byrnes (Southington)** added nine kills.

Eastern opens play in the Endicott College Invitational Friday against Middlebury College at 5 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 3, Clark U. 0

Clark (1-1)	22	21	24
Eastern Conn. (3-1)	25	25	26

Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL FIFTH AT ENDICOTT COLLEGE INVITATIONAL
In 2-2 weekend, freshman Miller honorable mention selection to all-tournament team

BEVERLY, Mass. -- Erynn Miller (Stratford) and Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton) combined for 24 kills, and Britt Carrier (Southington), Taylor Abelli (Cheshire) and Rachael Joy (Huntington Station, NY) teamed for 62 digs as the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team prevailed in five sets over Emmanuel College Friday night to gain a split in the opening night of the Endicott College Invitational at the Post Center.

In the first match Friday night, Eastern (5-3) was swept by Middlebury College (1-0). Ibsen had ten kills in that match and Danielle Bourne (Branford) seven, while Miller and Abelli each had ten digs. Ashley Markley (Preston) and Carrier combined for 18 assists. After losing the first two games, Eastern bounced back from a six-point deficit late in the third set before the Panthers broke a tie by scoring the first two points.

In the first of two matches Saturday morning, the Warriors battled perennial New England Top 10 opponent Endicott College (6-1) before losing in four sets: 22-25, 23-25, 25-21, 18-25. Eastern bounced back in its fourth and final match of the tournament Saturday afternoon with a 25-20, 25-22, 27-25 sweep of Salve Regina, a team it downed in four sets in its season-opener last week.

Miller, the only true freshman on the 15-player roster, represented Eastern as any honorable mention selection to the all-tournament team. Tournament champion Endicott and runner-up Plymouth State each had two of the six all-tournament picks, with Middlebury and Bowdoin players commanding the final two spots. Miller was one of four picks to the honorable mention listing. Appearing in all 15 sets, Miller had 37 kills, 39 digs and an .883 reception percentage on 60 attempts.

In five sets against Emmanuel in a match decided by a total of 20 points, Emmanuel evened the match twice before the Warriors finally prevailed in the fifth set. The Warriors scored five of the first six points in the decisive set but the Saints erased a four-point deficit to finally pull even at 12-12. Miller, Carrier and Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA) responded with kills down the stretch.

The four sets with Endicott were decided by a total of 16 points. Miller collected a team-high 15 kills and attacked at .33, with Ibsen adding ten kills and Wilson eight. Miller spearheaded the third-set victory with six kills and only one error, with Abelli contributing six digs and Markley ten assists. The Warriors pushed an early lead in that set to six points and withstood Endicott rallies which cut the margin to one. Up by two points, 18-16, Eastern took hold of the momentum for good on a kill by Ibsen, and blocks by Samantha Slonski (Griswold) and Carrier.

In the second set loss, Eastern led early but remained within a pair through the late stages. A kill by Ibsen tied the set at 23-23 before the Gulls gained the important win to go up 2-0 when they attacked through an Eastern block, then clinched it with a service ace.

The Warriors moved to an early lead behind the serving of Ibsen in the first-set win over Salve Regina Saturday afternoon, took the lead for good behind Ibsen's serving in the later stages of the second set, and erased a six-point deficit in the final set, later breaking a 25-25 tie on the strength of a Salve attack error and a match-ending kill by sophomore Shannon Burke (Manchester). (more)

In addition to Miller, other top performers for Eastern in the tournament: Abelli totalled 54 digs and six aces and handled 97 of the team's 315 reception attempts; Ibsen totalled a team-high 44 kills and had five service aces with three blocks; Wilson 25 kills and four blocks; Markley 102 assists and 29 digs; Carrier a team-high 67 digs, three aces, three blocks and 28 assists, and Joy 30 digs.

Middlebury College 3, Eastern Conn. 0

Middlebury (1-0)	25	25	27
Eastern Conn. (3-2)	13	11	25

Eastern stat leaders:

Kristianna Ibsen 10 kills
 Danielle Bourne 7 kills
 Erynn Miller 10 digs
 Taylor Abelli 10 digs
 Ashley Markley 10 assists
 Britt Carrier 8 assists

Eastern Conn. 3, Emmanuel College 2

Eastern Conn. (4-2)	26	16	27	20	15
Emmanuel (0-3)	24	25	25	25	13

Eastern stat leaders

Erynn Miller 13 kills
 Kristianna Ibsen 11 kills
 Britt Carrier 29 digs, 16 assists
 Taylor Abelli 19 digs
 Rachael Joy 14 digs
 Ashley Markley 23 assists

Endicott College 3, Eastern Conn. 1

Eastern Conn. (4-3)	22	23	25	18
Endicott (6-1)	25	25	21	25

Eastern stat leaders

Erynn Miller 15 kills, .333 attack pct.
 Katie Wilson 8 kills
 Kristianna Ibsen 10 kills
 Britt Carrier 16 digs
 Taylor Abelli 15 digs
 Ashley Markley 39 assists

Eastern Conn. 3, Salve Regina 0

Eastern Conn. (5-3)	25	25	27
Salve Regina (1-6)	20	22	25

Eastern stat leaders

Kristianna Ibsen 13 kills, .267 attack pct., 3 aces
 Katie Wilson 10 kills, .250 attack pct.
 Britt Carrier 17 digs, 2 blocks
 Rachael Joy 9 digs
 Ashley Markley 30 assists
 Gianna Trombino 8 assists

Saturday, Sept. 18, 2010

DEFENDING LEC VOLLEYBALL CHAMP UMB HAS TOO MUCH FOR EASTERN
Warriors give No. 3 Beacons a run in first two sets before dropping their conference opener

BOSTON – Sophomore middle hitter Shannon Thompson put down a match-high 15 kills and added nine digs, while sophomore setter Frana Burtness-Adams closed out all three sets on her service to lead the University of Massachusetts Boston women’s volleyball team over visiting Eastern Connecticut State University, 25-15, 25-16, 25-13, in the Little East Conference opener for both schools at the Clark Athletic Center.

The Beacons (10-1, 1-0 little east), who received votes in the most recent AVCA Division III national poll and are ranked No. 3 in New England, are off to their best start since an 11-1 stretch to begin the 1999 campaign. Eastern (5-5, 0-1 little east) dropped to 2-4 on a current run of six straight road matches after opening the season with three wins in four home contests.

The teams were knotted at 15-15, before UMass Boston reeled off 10 straight points behind the service of Burtness-Adams to take the first set, 25-15. The Beacons scored the first five points of the second set to make it 15 straight and took an 8-1 advantage, before Eastern climbed to within 16-14 later in the set. With Burtness-Adams behind the service line, UMass Boston ripped off nine straight points to take set number two, 25-16. The Warriors owned a 7-4 lead early in the third set and were up 9-8, before the Beacons went on another run of nine straight points with junior setter Cassy Hanneman serving, to take a 17-9 margin.

Burtness-Adams registered 18 assists in the match. Freshman outside hitter Amber Clemons contributed with seven kills and a robust .429 hitting mark to go with a pair of aces and four digs. Sophomore libero Bethany Rossoll anchored the defense with 12 digs, while Hanneman directed the offense with a match-best 20 assists in addition to 11 digs.

Junior libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** collected 25 of the team’s 44 digs and cleanly handled 20 of 21 serve receptions. As a team, the Warriors made only three reception errors and two serve errors but attacked at only .021. Junior outside hitter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** led the Warriors with eight kills, junior middle hitter **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** chipping in six. Junior setter **Britt Carrier (Southington)** set up the offense with 12 assists.

Eastern visits Keene State College Saturday in a Little East Conference match at noon. The Warriors will also face Division II Saint Michael’s College at 2 p.m. in a non-conference contest.

UMass Boston Sports Information contributed to this game account

UMass Boston 3, Eastern Conn. 0

Eastern Conn. (5-5, 0-1 little east)	15	14 ¹⁶	13
UMass Boston (10-1, 1-0 little east)	25	25	25

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2010

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL STUMBLES AGAINST TRINITY
Ranked fourth in New England, Bantams sweep Warriors 25-13, 25-15, 25-21

HARTFORD, Conn. – Following two wins and two well-played losses last weekend, the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team sustained a three-set loss to Trinity College Wednesday night at Oosting Gymnasium. Trinity won by 25-13, 25-15, 25-21.

It marked only the second time this year that Eastern (5-4) was swept in a match. Playing its home-opener, Trinity (4-1) got 14 kills and 13 digs from sophomore Danielle Isamana, eight kills, and 14 digs and four service aces from senior Kristen Anderson to down the Warriors for the sixth time in the last seven meetings between the programs.

Trailing by a point early in the opening set, Trinity rattled off 13 unanswered points to take a 16-4 lead on the way to the 12-point victory. Trinity opened the second set with a 9-3 run and was never seriously challenged in moving out to a 2-0 lead. The Bantams never trailed in the third set, but Eastern kept the score close the entire way.

For Eastern, junior **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** and freshman **Erynn Miller (Stratford)** combined to successfully handle 36 of 38 service receptions. Abelli led the Warriors with 17 digs, Miller and first-year junior setter **Ashley Markley (Preston)** adding ten digs each and Markley 16 assists. Miller and junior **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** each recorded five kills but the Warriors managed just a .089 attack percentage as a team.

Eastern opens its Little East Conference season Saturday at 2009 LEC champion Massachusetts Boston at 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2010

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL DUMPS STUBBORN GORDON, 3-1
Abelli serves 16 straight points in final game to lift Warriors past Scots

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Junior libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** served 16 consecutive points – five of them aces – early in the fourth set to help the Eastern Connecticut State University women’s volleyball team fend off Gordon College, 25-17, 17-25, 25-21, 25-14 in a non-conference match Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

With Eastern (6-7) down by a point early in the fourth set, Abelli served the Warriors into an insurmountable 17-3 advantage, with five of her 16 points coming on aces.

Playing their first home match in three weeks, the Warriors snapped a four-match losing streak with their fourth win at Geissler Gymnasium in five decisions this year. Gordon (2-14) was coming off its first two wins of the season this past weekend. The meeting was the first between the programs in five years.

In the pivotal third set – after the teams had traded eight-point wins -- Eastern erased a three-point deficit at the halfway point of the set, scoring seven points in a row to break a tie and move out to a six-point, 22-16 advantage. Junior middle hitter **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** contributed two service aces in that set and freshman outside hitter **Erynn Miller (Stratford)** had three of the team’s nine kills in a balanced attack.

Junior setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** led Eastern in the match with 13 digs, 30 set assists, six kills, and two block assists and served 12 balls without an error.

Ibsen topped the Warriors with 11 kills and added two service aces, and two block assists. Miller had eight kills and 11 digs and handled 28 receptions with just two errors; Abelli’s 19 digs and six service aces led all Eastern players.

Sophomore Keri Hustus (Eastford) and junior Claudia Amado (Glastonbury) combined on 35 digs for the Scots, with Hustus leading all players in the match with 20. Hustus was also successful on 30 of 34 receptions and served two aces, and Claudia Amado totaled five kills. Freshman Lauren Kranyak (Locust Grove, VA) recorded a team-high eight kills, sophomore Alex Nawoichik (South Hamilton, MA) adding six and Claudia Amado and senior Megan Spurgin (Irvine, CA) chipping in five each. Sophomore Jessica Taber (Detroit, MI) had 15 assists.

Eastern visits Johnson & Wales University Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 3, Gordon College 1

Gordon College (2-14)	17	25	21	14
Eastern Conn. (6-7)	25	17	25	25

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2010

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL FALLS SHORT IN COMEBACK BID
Warriors erase two-game deficit before Johnson & Wales uses late spurt to survive, 3-2

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Eastern Connecticut State University and Johnson & Wales University continued its hotly-contested rivalry Wednesday night at the Harborside RAC.

In a match where three of the first four sets were decided by a total of seven points, Eastern (6-8) nearly dug itself out of two-game hole before Johnson & Wales scored the final five points of the deciding game emerge from a 10-10 tie and survive in five games.

Johnson & Wales won the match, 25-18, 28-26, 22-25, 24-26, 15-10.

In the last nine meetings between the programs, only two have been decided in straight sets, with four of the last nine going the full five sets, the Wildcats winning each time.

In the five-set tussle, five Eastern players collected ten or more digs: sophomore **Danielle Bourne (Branford)** and junior **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** with 17 each, junior **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** and freshman Erynn Miller (Stratford) 16 each and junior **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** with ten. Ibsen served 27 balls with only one error and Bourne 16 with none. Ibsen also led the Warriors offensively with 13 kills, sophomore **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** adding 11. Miller made only one error on 31 receptions, and Slonski recorded 30 set assists.

Wildcat senior Catherine Bravo notched her fifth triple double of the season with 18 kills, 24 assists and 15 digs for the winners, while sophomore Michelle Johnson recorded 12 kills and 17 digs.

Eastern hosts Wheaton College (MA) Friday at 6 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 1, 2010

WITH SWEEP, EASTERN VOLLEYBALL WINS FIFTH STRAIGHT AT HOME
Warriors in control throughout with victory over Wheaton College, 25-18, 25-19, 25-21

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University women’s volleyball team attacked at a season-high .255 and collected at least ten service aces for the fourth straight match in a three-set sweep of Wheaton College (MA) Friday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium. Scorers were 25-18, 25-19, 25-21.

A winner of five straight home matches after a season-opening setback at Geissler Gym, Eastern (7-8) held the upper hand throughout the entire match, trailing on only a couple of occasions and using substantial scoring runs in the second and third sets to pull away.

Wheaton (8-10) has now lost four straight overall this year and falls to Eastern for the fifth time in the last six meetings between the programs. The Warriors blew a 2-0 lead a year ago against the Lyons at Norton, Mass., eventually dropping the decisive fifth set, 16-14. This year, Eastern wrapped up the match with a four-point victory in the third set. In that final set, Eastern scored eight straight points to wipe out an early one-point deficit to move out to a 22-15 lead. Junior right-side hitter **Kristianna Ibsen (Sheton)** and freshman outside hitter **Erynn Miller (Stratford)** both had three kills and Miller and sophomore middle hitter **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** combined for five blocks.

Eastern scored 12 points on service aces – junior libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)**, junior setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** and Ibsen combining for ten -- and attacked at a season-high .255. With a season-tying 13 kills, Ibsen recorded at least ten kills for the ninth time in the last ten matches, attacking at a season-high .500. Wilson added six kills and also attacked at .500 – her second-best hitting percentage of the season.

En route to its fourth sweep this year, Eastern led 5-1 and later scored the final five points to extend a two-point lead. Ibsen was 4-for-7 on kills without an error in the set and Samantha Slonski had three service aces.

In the second set, Eastern scored eighth straight points to move out to a 9-3 lead and never trailed the rest of the way. Ibsen was 5-for-9 on kills with one error and Abelli had two service aces

In the match, team blocking leader Wilson contributed four. Junior **Britt Carrier (Southington)** led the Warriors with nine digs and handled 13 serves with just one error; Abelli had eight digs, Slonski 29 set assists, and freshman outside hitter **Erynn Miller (Stratford)** 13 service receptions with just one error and two blocks.

Saturday, Eastern hosts Emerson College at 11 a.m. and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy at 3 p.m. Emerson is ranked No. 13 in New England, Coast Guard No. 8.

Eastern Conn. 3, Wheaton, MA 0

Wheaton (8-10)	18	19	21
Eastern Conn. (7-8)	25	25	25

Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL UPENDS EMERSON, BATTLES USCGA IN LOSS
In home split, Warriors show their worth against two of New England's ranked teams

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- While the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team had a five-match home winning streak ended Saturday afternoon, it did earn a large measure of respect from two of New England's top-ranked teams.

Coming off last year's 12-win season, Eastern (8-9) reversed the result of a year ago with Emerson College (13-5), then extended the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (15-4) to the full five sets before finally losing by four points in the decisive game.

Beaten in four games last year by Emerson, Eastern won three straight sets after an opening loss on the way to a 14-25, 25-23, 25-17, 26-24 decision this time. None of the five sets against Coast Guard were decided by more than four points, with the Bears surviving by 21-25, 25-23, 26-24, 21-25, 15-11.

Ranked 13th in New England, Emerson was coming off last year's 30-win season, Great Northeast Athletic Conference championship and NCAA berth, while eighth-ranked Coast Guard was 28 matches last year en route to the ECAC Division III championship.

In the final set against Emerson, Eastern led 23-17 before Emerson rallied to tie the match at 24-all, but junior **Gianna Trombino (East Moriches, NY)** won it with an ace. In the important third set that gave the Warriors a 2-1 edge, junior **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** and sophomore **Danielle Bourne (Branford)** combined for seven kills, and Slonski and junior **Britt Carrier (Southington)** each had seven digs.

Eastern tied the match against Coast Guard with the win in the fourth set, snapping a 17-all tie to take the lead for good. In the deciding set, the Bears scored three points in a row to break the fourth and final tie and move out to an 8-5 lead. In that fourth set, Slonski and junior **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** combined for seven kills, Ibsen, Carrier and junior libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** combined for 14 digs.

On the afternoon, Ibsen attacked at a team-high .314 with a team-high 20 kills and also 22 digs; Slonski had 18 kills, 68 assists, 31 digs and five blocks; Abelli a team-high 54 digs; Carrier 41 digs, Trombino 13 kills and and four service aces, Wilson 16 kills, 22 serves without an error, and five blocks and Miller 21 digs.

Eastern hosts Western Connecticut State University in a Little East Conference match Tuesday at 6 p.m.

(more)

Eastern Conn. 3, Emerson College 1

Emerson (13-4)	25	23	17	24
Eastern Conn. (8-8)	14	25	25	26

Statistical Leaders

Eastern Conn.

Kristianna Ibsen 9 kills, .250 attack pct., 10 digs
 Daniella Bourne 9 kills, .250 attack pct.
 Samantha Slonski 8 kills, .200 attack pct., 18 digs, 30 assists
 Erynn Miller 29 rec. attempts., 3 errors, 15 digs
 Taylor Abelli 19 digs
 Britt Carrier 16 digs

Emerson

Megan Kaplon 20 digs
 Sara Rutan 22 digs
 Jamie Morgan 17 rec. attempts, 0 errors
 Kelsey Scanlon 18 rec. attempts, 1 error, 10 kills
 Katie Bailey and Jessica Drumright 40 combined assists
 Maddie Brecland 8 kills, .286 attack pct.

U.S. Coast Guard 3, Eastern Conn. 2

Coast Guard (15-4)	21	25	26	21	15
Eastern Conn. (8-9)	25	23	24	25	11

Statistical Leaders

Coast Guard

Jessica Anderson 39 digs
 Catherine Walker 34 digs, 8 kills
 Lauren Bloch 17 kills
 Karen Matic 28 digs, 48 assists
 Kelsey DePorto 4 blocks, 14 kills

Eastern Conn.

Kristianna Ibsen 11 kills, .370 attack pct.; 20 serves, 2 errors; 12 digs
 Taylor Abelli 21 serves, 2 errors; 26 rec. attempts., 0 errors; 35 digs
 Katie Wilson 12 kills, .296 attack pct., 4 blocks
 Britt Carrier 25 digs
 Samantha Slonski 10 kills, 4 blocks, 41 assists
 Gianna Trombino 9 kills, .273 attack pct., 3 service aces

(more)

U.S. Coast Guard Academy 3, Emerson College 1

Emerson (13-5)	25	34	22	23
Coast Guard (14-4)	23	36	25	25

Notes

In the pivotal second set, there were 22 ties before Coast Guard broke the final one at 34-all. In the last set, Coast Guard scored the first five points but Emerson later scored three points in a row to tie it at 18-all. The Bears broke from the final tie, 21-all to take the lead for good.

Statistical Leaders

Coast Guard

- Lauren Bloch 24 digs, 14 kills
- Sam Marmolejo 22 digs
- Karen Matic 22 digs, 50 assists
- Nicole Johnson 15 kills
- Kelsey DePorto 5 blocks, 15 kills
- Rachel Cuthrell 5 blocks

Emerson

- Lauren Zaniboni 18 digs, 30 rec. attempts., 2 errors; 14 kills.239 attack pct.
- Sara Rutan 17 digs
- Katie Bailey and Jessica Drumright 46 combined assists
- Maddie Breeland 11 kills .216 attack pct.

Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010

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Eastern hosts Western Connecticut State University in a Little East Conference match Tuesday at 6 p.m.

(more)

Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010

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Emerson was coming off last year's 30-win season, Great Northeast Athletic Conference championship and NCAA berth, while Coast Guard was 28 matches last year en route to the ECAC Division III championship.

Women's Volleyball At Willimantic, Conn.

Eastern Conn. 3, Emerson College 1

Emerson (13-4)	25	23	17	24
Eastern Conn. (8-8)	14	25	25	26

Notes

In the fourth set, Eastern led 23-17 before Emerson rallied to tie the match at 24-all. Gianna Trombino won it with an ace. Emerson is ranked No. 13 in New England and defeated Eastern in four sets in 2009.

Statistical Leaders

Eastern Conn.

Kristianna Ibsen 9 kills, .250 attack pct., 10 digs

Daniella Bourne 9 kills, .250 attack pct.

Samantha Slonski 8 kills, .200 attack pct., 18 digs, 30 assists

Erynn Miller 29 rec. attempts., 3 errors, 15 digs

Britt Carrier 16 digs

Emerson

Megan Kaplon 20 digs

Sara Rutan 22 digs

Jamie Morgan 17 rec. attempts, 0 errors

Kelsey Scanlon 18 rec. attempts, 1 error, 10 kills

Katie Bailey and Jessica Drumright 40 combined assists

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U.S. Coast Guard Academy 3, Emerson College 1

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Coast Guard (14-4)	23	36	25	25

Notes

In the pivotal second set, there were 22 ties before Coast Guard broke the final one at 34-all. In the last set, Coast Guard scored the first five points but Emerson later scored three points in a row to tie it at 18-all. The Bears broke from the final tie, 21-all to take the lead for good.

Statistical Leaders

Coast Guard

Lauren Bloch 24 digs, 14 kills

Sam Marmolejo 22 digs

Karen Matic 22 digs, 50 assists

Nicole Johnson 15 kills

Kelsey DePorto 5 blocks, 15 kills

Rachel Cuthrell 5 blocks

Emerson

Lauren Zaniboni 18 digs, 30 rec. attempts., 2 errors; 14 kills.239 attack pct.

Sara Rutan 17 digs

Katie Bailey and Jessica Drumright 46 combined assists

Maddie Breeland 11 kills .216 attack pct.

U.S. Coast Guard 3, Eastern Conn. 2

Coast Guard (15-4)	21	25	26	21	15
Eastern Conn. (8-9)	25	23	24	25	11

Notes

Coast Guard is ranked No. 8 in New England. Eastern tied the match with the win in the fourth set, snapping a 17-all tie to take the lead for good. In the deciding set, the Bears scored three points in a row to break the fourth and final tie and move out to an 8-5 lead.

Statistical Leaders

Coast Guard

Jessica Anderson 39 digs

Catherine Walker 34 digs, 8 kills

Lauren Bloch 17 kills

Karen Matic 28 digs, 48 assists

Kelsey DePorto 4 blocks, 14 kills

Eastern Conn.

Kristianna Ibsen 11 kills, .370 attack pct.; 20 serves, 2 errors; 12 digs

Taylor Abelli 21 serves, 2 errors; 26 rec. attempts., 0 errors; 35 digs

Katie Wilson 12 kills, .296 attack pct., 4 blocks

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2010

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL DROPS THIRD LITTLE EAST MATCH

Western Connecticut breaks 1-1 tie by winning final two sets on way to 3-1 victory

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Coming off three well-played matches at home over the weekend -- two of them wins -- the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team attacked at just .065 in losing a 3-1 Little East Conference decision to Western Connecticut State University Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Western (18-5, 2-1 little east) outscored Eastern (8-10, 0-3 little east) 8-1 early in the important third set on the way to a 25-21 that gave the Colonials their third win over the Warriors in the last three meetings between the programs. Leading 2-games-to-1, Western wrapped up the victory by scoring the final five points of the fourth set.

Junior **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** led Eastern with ten kills, three aces and three blocks, while 6-foot-2 inch sophomore **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** added eight kills, and two aces, junior libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** 19 digs, and senior **Rachel Joy (Huntington Station, NY)** 16 digs and 21 reception attempts with only one error (.952). Junior **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** recorded 29 assists.

Junior libero Kelley Collins paced Western with 25 digs, senior Natalie Crosby adding 17 digs and ten kills, senior setter Samantha Hathaway 45 assists, sophomore Paxton Thornton 18 kills and three blocks, and freshman Melanie Lombardi four blocks.

Western has won seven of its last nine and improves to 7-1 on its opponent's home court this year. Playing the fourth of seven straight home matches, Eastern is 6-3 at Geissler Gym this season. This past weekend, the Warriors swept Wheaton College (MA) downed regionally-ranked Emerson College in four sets, and battled No. 8 regionally-ranked U.S. Coast Guard Academy in a five-set loss

Western was ranked No. 2 in the LEC pre-season poll, Eastern No. 6 after the Colonials eliminated the Warriors in the opening round of last year's LEC tournament.

Eastern hosts the 30th Annual Crabtree Classic Friday and Saturday, facing University of New England Friday at 8 p.m.

Western Conn. 3, Eastern Conn. 1

Western Conn. (18-5, 2-1 little east)	25	22	25	25
Eastern Conn. (8-10, 0-3 little east)	14	25	21	14

Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2010

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL BATTLES AMHERST (18-1) IN THREE-SET LOSS

Warriors stay close in late stages of all three sets in 25-13, 25-20, 25-20 setback

AMHERST, Mass. -- Returning to action after a week layoff, the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team battled Amherst College before falling in straight sets Tuesday night at LeFrak Gymnasium. Amherst won, 25-13, 25-20, 25-20.

The second-ranked New England team in the AVCA Division III national poll, Amherst (18-1) won its 15th straight match, with only an early-season loss separating it from a perfect season. Amherst has beaten Eastern (11-12) the last nine times the teams have met after the Warriors won the first three matches in this series.

Eastern, which has lost two straight after a three-match winning streak, was tied with Amherst as late as 17-17 in the second set and 16-16 in the third set. Trailing 22-20 in the second set, Eastern committed two attack errors and Amherst converted an attack attempt. A kill by sophomore middle **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** pulled Eastern to within 19-18 in the third set before Amherst scored four straight to take command. In the first set, Amherst scored 14 of the final 16 points – including the final nine – to break open a tight set which was tied 11-11.

There were ten ties in the second set before the hosts broke that final 17-all deadlock with two points in a row on a kill and an Eastern attack error. Down 12-9, Eastern pulled even on Amherst service error, a kill by freshman outside **Erynn Miller (Stratford)** and a re-directed kill by junior setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)**.

Eastern scrapped back from an early three-point deficit in the third set, scoring six of the next seven points to take a two-point advantage. Junior outside **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** had a kill and ace in that run and sophomore outside **Danielle Bourne (Branford)** an acc. The Warriors held a slim edge through the middle of the match, pushing the lead to four, 15-11, on the strength of kills by Slonski, Miller and Ibsen. Amherst finally pulled even and took the lead for good, 17-16 on a kill.

Amherst, which featured five players standing six-feet or better, and five starters from the West Coast, concluded its regular season unbeaten at home (9-0). Six-foot-one inch junior Cristy Meier led her team with 12 kills and sophomore Katherine Kanoff added ten. Sophomore setter Callie Neilson totalled 37 assists and senior libero Rachel Yorke dug up 25 balls.

Miller led Eastern with nine kills to go along with 12 digs. Ibsen had eight kills, a .333 attack percentage, and two blocks and junior libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** 13 digs, Slonski chipped in six kills, a .417 attack percentage, and led the way with 17 assists. Junior **Britt Carrier (Southington)** came off the bench to add eight digs.

Eastern visits Mitchell College Wednesday at 7 p.m

.Amherst College 3, Eastern Conn. 0

Eastern Conn. (11-12)	13	20	20
Amherst College (18-1)	25	25	25

Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL EASES PAST MITCHELL IN THREE SETS

Warriors have won four of their last six following 25-6, 25-12, 25-16 victory

NEW LONDON, Conn. -- Sophomore middle **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** had a game-high 11 kills without an error as the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team won for the fourth time in the last six matches with a 25-6, 25-20, 25-16 non-conference victory over Mitchell College Wednesday night at the Yarnall Center.

In the second meeting between the programs in as many years, Eastern (12-12) produced its second-highest attack percentage (.352) of the season to snap a two-match losing streak. Half of Eastern's wins this year have come via the sweep.

The 6-foot-2 inch Wilson, a first-year transfer from Southern Connecticut, had at least ten kills for the fourth time in the last five matches, attacking at a season-high .647 -- her third match at .500 or better in the last five.

Junior setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** followed Wilson with seven kills, freshman outside **Erynn Miller (Stratford)** adding five kills without an error and senior outside **Rachael Joy (Huntington Station, NY)** had four kills and attacked at .250. Wilson, junior outside **Gianna Trombino (East Moriches, NY)** and junior right side **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** each had two of Eastern's nine service aces. Slonski also led Eastern with 14 digs, junior libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** adding 12 and Wilson seven digs and two blocks. Slonski matched her dig total with 14 assists, junior **Britt Carrier (Southington)** totalling 13.

Eastern hosts Plymouth State University Saturday at 4 p.m. in a Little East Conference match.

Eastern Conn. 3, Mitchell College 0

Eastern Conn. (12-12)	25	25	25
Mitchell (4-14)	6	20	16

Molta, Bob (Athletics)

From: David Longolucco [longolucco_d@mitchell.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2010 9:15 PM
To: Molta, Bob (Athletics)
Subject: RE: ecsu vb

For Immediate Release
October 20, 2010
Contact: David Longolucco
P: (860) 701-5078

ECSU blanks Mitchell 3-0 in women's volleyball

NEW LONDON, Conn. – The Mitchell College women's volleyball team dropped a 3-0 decision to Eastern Connecticut State University on Wednesday night at the Yarnall Athletic Center.

Eastern Connecticut State won by final scores of 25-6, 25-20 and 25-16 to even its record at 12-12 overall on the season. ECSU's **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, Calif.)** led all players with 13 kills while **Samantha Slonski (Griswold, Conn.)** chipped in with seven kills and added team highs of 17 assists and 10 digs.

Senior **Stephanie McKeon (Ledyard, Conn.)** led Mitchell (4-14 overall) with five kills while junior **Bianca Young (Bridgeport, Conn.)** and sophomore **Shayna Diggs (Gales Ferry, Conn.)** added three apiece. Senior **Jen Bordonaro (Winsted, Conn.)** finished with eight assists and a match-high 13 digs.

The Warriors cruised to an easy win in the first set, with Wilson delivering five kills to set the pace. **Britt Carrier (Southington, Conn.)**, who finished with 12 assists on the night, set up Wilson on back-to-back points to close out the set.

ECSU never trailed in the second set and jumped out to an early lead behind three straight kills from **Rachael Joy (Huntington Station, N.Y.)**, who recorded all five of her kills in the stanza. Mitchell got as close as 17-16 following a kill from senior **Kelly Ryan (Groton, Conn.)**, but the Warriors won the next three points to pull away for good and take a 2-0 lead.

The Mariners started the third set by siding out to gain serve and rallying behind sophomore **Samantha Alevras-Tarbell (Livingston, N.J.)** to take the first four points. The Warriors responded by siding out and winning seven straight points to take the lead and never trailed again. Wilson recorded three kills during the stretch while **Gianna Trombino (East Moriches, N.Y.)** added an ace from the service stripe. ECSU closed out the match by winning five of the final six points to claim the victory.

ECSU held a 10-1 advantage in service aces for the match and finished with 43 kills to only 13 errors. Mitchell recorded 17 kills against 12 errors.

Mitchell will next host Elms College on Saturday, October 23 at noon. Eastern Connecticut State will next host Plymouth State University on the same day at 4 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 23, 2010

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL CAN'T FINISH OFF PLYMOUTH

In LEC play, Panthers come out on top in three sets that are all decided by two points

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Plymouth State University remained one game behind Little East Conference co-leaders UMass Boston and Keene State College Saturday afternoon after topping Eastern Connecticut State University in three sets that were all decided by two points at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Plymouth (16-11, 4-1 little east), which reached last year's LEC tournament final, survived set point in the first set, scoring the final three points after trailing 28-27. There were 16 ties in the first set. Eastern (12-13, 0-5 little east) led by four points, 20-16, before the Panthers used a 5-1 run to surge in front, 22-21.

Eastern also led late in the second set, taking a 23-21 lead before Plymouth scored the final four points. Plymouth never led in the second set until 24-23. The Warriors led by as many as six, 18-12.

Plymouth closed out the win by scoring the final two points to snap a 25-all tie. The Warriors led, 12-8, and needed only one point to take the set with a 24-23 lead.

Casey Stoodley and Elissa Morin combined for 23 kills, Stoodley leading players on both teams with 12. Danielle Stoodley totaled 21 digs and Casey Stoodley 15. Sarah Cody collected 37 assists and Morin and Kaitlyn Tedeschi combined for seven blocks.

Junior setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** led Eastern with 11 kills, and a .217 attack percentage, and added ten digs and 17 assists, sophomore middle **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** adding eight kills and three blocks, freshman outside **Erynn Miller (Stratford)** seven kills and 14 digs, and junior outside **Gianna Trombino (East Moriches, NY)** five. Junior libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** led the Warriors with 21 digs, junior outside/setter **Britt Carrier (Southington)** adding 14 assists and 13 digs.

Tuesday, Eastern visits UMass Dartmouth in a Little East Conference match at 7 p.m. and Plymouth hosts UMass Boston at 6 p.m. in a re-match of last year's LEC title game.

Plymouth State U. 3, Eastern Conn. 0

Plymouth State (16-11, 4-1 little east)	30	25	27
Eastern Conn. (12-13, 0-5 little east)	28	23	25

Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2010

SLUGGISH START COSTLY FOR EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL IN LEC LOSS

Warriors beaten by UMass Dartmouth for first time in 22 years, 11-25, 13-25, 25-20, 22-25

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. -The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team fell into an early hole after two sets and could not climb out in an 11-25, 13-25, 25-20, 22-25 Little East Conference contest Tuesday night at the Tripp Athletic Center.

The win is the first for UMass (22-8, 3-3 little east) after 33 consecutive losses at the hands of Eastern (12-14, 0-6 little east) dating back 22 years, and eliminates the Warriors from conference tournament contention for the first time.

After losing the first two sets in convincing fashion, Eastern gained its rhythm in the third set, collecting 17 kills and attacking at .295 in a five-point victory. In the fourth set, the Warriors stayed close throughout, until the Corsairs scored four straight points that snapped a 20-20 tie.

In the third-set victory, Eastern scored five straight points to snap a 10-10 tie and never trailed thereafter. Sophomore **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** had two kills in that decisive 5-0 run, with sophomore **Danielle Bourne (Branford)** and freshman **Erynn Miller (Stratford)** adding one each. Miller -- named last week's Little East Conference Rookie-of-the-Week -- Bourne and Wilson combined for 12 kills in that third set, with Miller, junior **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** and junior **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** each digging up five balls.

The Warriors never recovered after UMass scored seven of the first eight points in the first set and the Corsairs scored five straight points in the second set to build an insurmountable 15-8 lead.

Defensively, the Warriors committed only three reception errors in the match and recorded 11 blocks.

Wilson had seven kills, and Miller six . Abelli led all Eastern players with 18 digs, moving into seventh place all-time with 1,498 career digs. Slonski had 12 digs and Miller ten. Wilson totalled five block assists and one solo and Abelli and Miller combined to handle 52 receptions with only three errors.

Eastern hosts Wesleyan University Wednesday at 7 p.m/. and closes out the season Saturday at 1 p.m. when it hosts the University of Southern Maine.



UMass

Dartmouth

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VOLLEYBALL DOWNS EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE, 3-1

NORTH DARTMOUTH, MA-The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's volleyball team defeated visiting Eastern Connecticut State, 3-1 (25-11, 25-13, 20-25, 25-22), in a Little East Conference match at the Tripp Athletic Center Tuesday evening.

Junior middle blocker Cami Ascher (Natick, MA/Natick HS) led the Corsairs with 11 kills during the contest, while senior outside hitter Eleni Tsaparakis (Norwalk, CT/Norwalk HS) and junior middle blocker Suzanne Landry (Tiverton, RI/Tiverton HS/CCRI) added 10 kills each. All three players also tallied four blocks. Sophomore setter Jessica Goncalves (New Bedford, MA/New Bedford HS) had 32 assists in the match. Junior outside hitter Allie Mastrocola (Swansea, MA/ Case HS) had a team-high 11 digs and senior Lauren Safioleas (New Bedford, MA/New Bedford HS) notched 10 digs in the win.

"Ascher played a monstrous match, not only leading us in kills and blocks, but it was the nature and timing of the kills and blocks that helped turn momentum around," said Corsairs Head Coach Steve DeRossi. "It was a solid win, we played similar to the game against UMass-Boston, we gritted out some tough points and Eastern Connecticut is better than their record shows," continued DeRossi. "This win put us in control of our destiny, if we can win against Western Connecticut that will guarantee us a home playoff match."

The Corsairs improved to 21-8 and 3-3 in the Little East Conference with the victory, while the Warriors dropped to 12-14 and 0-6 in LEC play with the defeat. The Corsairs will return to action when they visit Western Connecticut State Saturday. The Warriors will host Wesleyan Wednesday.

UMASS DARTMOUTH VOLLEYBALL

Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL FALLS IN FOUR TO WESLEYAN
Heading into season-finale Saturday, Warriors have lost five of last six

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. –The Eastern Connecticut State University women’s volleyball team attacked at just .083 in losing its fifth match in the last six with 15-25, 28-26, 15-25, 23-25 verdicts against Wesleyan University Wednesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Coming off a four-set Little East Conference loss Tuesday night at UMass Dartmouth, Eastern (12-15) shook off a decisive first-set loss to even the match with Wesleyan (12-18) before the Cardinals captured the final two sets.

In the first set, Wesleyan scored the first seven points and Eastern never got closer than six points thereafter. In the second set, Eastern led 17-10 but Wesleyan bounced back. There were six ties thereafter before the Warriors scored the final two points. In the decisive third set, Wesleyan outscored Eastern 9-1 after the Warriors had pulled to within 16-14. Attempting to force a final 15-point fifth set, Eastern trailed by five, 23-18 in the fourth set but recovered to tie the set at 23-23 before the Cardinals scored the final two points.

In the second-set victory, sophomore middle **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** had four kills without an error, two blocks, and two service aces and junior **Britt Carrier (Southington)** added three kills without an error and five digs, junior libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** 11 digs and sophomore **Shannon Burke (Manchester)** and freshman **Erynn Miller (Stratford)** five digs each. Burke also recorded two blocks. In the match, senior **Julie Forler (Hartland)** had a season-high seven kills.

Abelli recorded her 1,500th career dig in the match with two digs in the first set. She is ranked seventh all-time.

Wesleyan has won three in a row and four of five, while Eastern has lost three straight and five of six.

Eastern closes out the season Saturday when it hosts the University of Southern Maine at 1 p.m. in a Little East Conference match.

Wesleyan U. 3, Eastern Conn. 1

Wesleyan (8-12)	25	26	25	25
Eastern (12-15)	15	28	15	23

(more)

Saturday, Oct. 30, 2010

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL CLOSES OUT WITH FIRST LEC WIN

Following conference victory, Warriors finish with 10-5 home record in 2010

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team outscored the University of Southern Maine 19-2 close out the first-set win and went on to a 25-7, 25-15, 25-22 Little East Conference sweep in the season-finale for both teams Saturday at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern (13-15, 1-6 little east) and Southern Maine (6-23, 0-7 little east) were the two teams failing to qualify for the six-team LEC tournament, which gets underway Tuesday with first-round matches. The Warriors missed out for the first time ever.

After winning the first two sets, Eastern struggled in the third set, finally shaking free from a 19-all tie with the help of two kills from **Christina Schirone (Pelham, NY)**, one of three Eastern seniors playing the final matches of their careers. Eastern closes out its home season with ten wins in 15 matches.

Senior **Rachael Joy (Huntington Station, NY)** and junior **Julie Forler (Hartland)** led a balanced Eastern effort with six kills each, Schirone totaling five kills and five service aces. Junior **Gianna Trombino (East Moriches, NY)** had 22 assists, a team-high 12 digs and contributed four of the team's season-high total of 18 aces. Joy had ten digs, senior libero **Alyssa Ruta (Holbrook, NY)** and sophomore **Danielle Bourne (Branford)** adding seven each.

Senior Shannon Shuttle paced the Huskies with seven kills and five digs, senior Danielle Netland collecting 12 assists. Junior Kayla Cotsis and freshman Meghan Rumore each added five digs.

Eastern Conn. 3, U. of Southern Maine 0

Southern Maine (6-23, 0-7 little east)	7	15	22
Eastern Conn. (13-15, 1-6 little east)	25	25	25