

Saturday, Nov. 5, 2011

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL SEASON ENDS IN LEC SEMIFINALS

Top-seeded Plymouth State University attacks at .405 in sweep of Warriors, who finish 20-10

PLYMOUTH, NH – The fifth-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team attacked 55 percent points higher than its season average Saturday afternoon against top-seeded Plymouth State University in the semifinal-round of the 2011 Little East Conference tournament at Foley Gymnasium.

The problem was that the host Panthers attacked over 150 percent points better than their average and eliminated the Warriors in straight sets, 25-21, 25-17, 25-18.

A winner of six straight and 11 of 12, Plymouth (23-9) moves into the tournament championship match for the fourth time, looking for its second title. The Panthers meet No. 2 seed and two-time defending champion Massachusetts Boston Sunday at noon. The Beacons bounced back from a first-set loss to edge No. 3 seed Keene State College later Saturday.

Led by senior **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)**, Eastern (20-10) attacked at .235 Saturday but Plymouth checked in at .405, committing only four attack errors all afternoon long in snapping Eastern's four-match winning streak.

Junior Casey Stoodley and sophomore Allie Jones combined for 28 kills with just one hitting error for Plymouth, which swept Eastern for the second time in two weeks, with none of those sets being decided by more than eight points. Stoodley had 16 kills with no errors while Jones contributed 12 kills and just one error.

Senior setter Sarah Cady had 40 assists for Plymouth, which also got seven kills from senior Meghan Sullivan, six from sophomore Kaitlyn Tedeschi and five from junior Elissa Morin. Senior Danielle Stoodley recorded a team-high 16 digs.

Slonski had 12 kills and a .296 attack percentage while collecting nine digs and 11 assists. Junior **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** chipped in with nine kills and senior **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** added five kills and three service aces. Senior **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** and sophomore **Erynn Miller (Stratford)** paced the back row defenders with 13 and 11 digs, respectively.

Plymouth jumped out to a quick five-point lead in the first set, and maintained the lead the whole way. Eastern rallied midway through the set to pull within a point at 18-17, but Plymouth won five of the next six points to pull away. Slonski added a pair of kills to keep Eastern close, but a Tedeschi kill and Jones block closed out the set, 25-21.

The second set was another tight battle. The Panthers never trailed, but didn't lead by more than four points until the end. With Eastern within two points at 14-12, Plymouth went on a 6-2 run to open up a 20-14 margin. Morin added a pair of kills and Tedeschi and Cady added a block to finish off the set, 25-17.

The Panthers opened up a five-point early in the third set. Eastern played tough, rallying to cut the deficit to 11-9, but the hosts took over at that point with eight of the next 10 points to make it 18-11.

Plymouth, which shocked heavily-favored UMass Boston in straight sets 11 days ago in Boston, will meet UMass in the final for the second time in three years. The Panthers won their only LEC title in 2004, over Eastern. The Panthers were second to Western Connecticut in 2003 and second to UMass Boston in 2009. UMass Boston is making its fourth (straight) LEC final appearance. The Beacons lost to Keene State in 2008, beat Plymouth in 2009 and downed Keene State in last year's final.

Eastern returned to the LEC tournament this season after a one-year's absence, stopping fourth-seeded Western Connecticut Tuesday in the first round in five sets.

Under first-year head coach **Pete Maneggia**, Eastern turned around last year's 13-15 campaign to post its second 20-win season in four years and record its best winning percentage in five years.

Abelli concluded her career ranked second all-time with 1,869 digs and Slonski was seventh with 1,826 assists. Ibsen ranks fifth in kills (1,151) and total attacks (2,846) and seventh in attack percentage (.271).

Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2011

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL UPENDS WESTERN IN LEC OPENER

Fifth-seeded Warriors move on to Saturday's semifinals against top-seeded Plymouth State

DANBURY, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team did what it has done best the last few weeks: erase a 2-1 deficit and win in five sets.

Returning to the Little East Conference playoffs Tuesday night after a year's absence, fifth-seeded Eastern (20-9) bounced back after losing two of the first three sets to eliminate fourth-seeded Western Connecticut State University (24-9) in five at the O'Neill Center and advance to the Final Four this weekend at Plymouth, NH. Game scores were 31-29, 17-25, 14-25, 25-21 and 15-9.

The Warriors face top-seeded host Plymouth State University in the first semifinal Saturday at Foley Gymnasium at 2 p.m., and second-seeded and two-time defending champion Massachusetts Boston meets third-seeded Keene State College. Keene advanced past sixth-seeded Rhode Island College in four sets Tuesday night. The tournament final is scheduled for noon Sunday at Plymouth. During the regular season, Eastern was swept by the three other remaining teams.

Western came into Tuesday night's match hot, riding a five-match winning streak and having won eight of its last ten.

Eastern, however, came in with even more momentum and also looking to avenge a three-set loss at Western Oct. 4 in a match decided by 11 total points. Since losing that tight three-set match, the Warriors had won 11 of their last 14 (and three of their final LEC contests) entering the tournament. Of its last three victories, two had come in five sets after the Warriors had dropped two of the first three games. The first had come over UMass Dartmouth in a home match which lifted Eastern into the playoffs, and the second came a night later on the road at Wesleyan University – a locale which has always created problems for Eastern.

Against Western, 6-foot-2 inch junior **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** had 17 kills, six blocks and three service aces and was 4-for-4 in kills with two blocks and an ace in the deciding set. As a team, Eastern collected 13 blocks and did not commit a reception error until late in the second set.

Senior outside hitter/setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** and senior middle hitter **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** followed Wilson with 16 and ten kills each, with Slonski adding ten digs and 19 assists.

(more)

Defensively, sophomore **Erynn Miller (Stratford)** and senior libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** combined for 41 digs, Miller leading all players with 22. Abelli committed only one reception error on 33 attempts and Miller only two on 31. Senior setter **Gianna Trombino (East Moriches, NY)** came off the bench for 23 assists and two service aces.

Eastern set the tempo with a spirited 31-29 victory in the opener – Ibsen and junior **Shannon Burke (Manchester)** providing a late spark with a block solo each -- but faced the end of their season after losing the second and third sets. Eastern forced the hosts to play catch-up throughout the fourth set and the Colonials finally did at 19-all. But two kills by Slonski and one by Ibsen and two Western attack errors accounted for perhaps the five biggest points of the season as Eastern pulled away to force an elimination game.

Having reached the decisive fifth set, the Warriors won for the fifth time in six tries this season. A kill by Wilson gave the Warriors the lead for good at 8-7, and after the teams traded benches, Western was guilty of an attack error, and Wilson and first-year sophomore **Nicki Gasch (New Milford)** blocked Western's top offensive player, Paxton Thornton, as the Warriors surged to a 10-7. Wilson then all but decided things with consecutive kills and a service ace as Eastern ran off the final four points to seal the victory.

One of the top offensive players in the conference, the six-foot Thornton of Western led all players with 28 kills, 5-foot-5 inch freshman Nina Wojtkiewicz adding 17. Freshman setter Jennifer Hogan set for 52 assists and Kelley Collins had 21 digs and four service aces.

The victory ended a four-match losing streak for Eastern at the hands of Western, which had eliminated the Warriors in straight sets when the teams had met in the first round of the LEC tournament two years ago on the same floor.

In 2007, Eastern defeated Western in three sets in the LEC tournament championship match at Keene, NH. Also as the No. 5 seed that year, the Warriors won three road decisions to capture their seventh and most recent title. Before sweeping Western that season, Eastern had eliminated fourth-seeded Rhode Island College and top-seeded Keene State on its home floor. Both of those victories were decided in five sets.

Saturday, October 29, 2011

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL BREEZES IN LITTLE EAST FINALE

A winner of 11 of their final 13, Warriors visit Western in LEC opener Tuesday

GORHAM, Maine – After six emotional Little East Conference matches this season, the Eastern Connecticut State University women’s volleyball team enjoyed a respite Saturday morning – before jumping back into the fray in three days.

In the Little East Conference regular-season finale, Eastern (19-9, 3-4 Little East) breezed past under-manned University of Southern Maine, 25-9, 25-10 Saturday at the Warren Hill Gymnasium and ended its regular season with wins in 11 of its final 13 matches, including three of its final four LEC contests after an 0-3 start.

With Eastern having assured itself a spot in the LEC tournament after a one-year hiatus earlier in the week with a 3-2 win over visiting UMass Dartmouth, all 11 eligible players saw action Saturday as the Warriors defeated Southern Maine (0-22, 0-7 Little East) for the 12th time in 13 meetings in this series.

The fifth-seeded Warriors will visit fourth-seeded Western Connecticut State University (24-8, 5-2 Little East) in a first-round match at Feldman Arena in search of their 26th 20-win season in the program’s 37-year history. The winner will advance to the LEC Final Four Saturday and Sunday at Foley Gymnasium on the Plymouth State University campus and will play the host Panthers in the semifinals at 6 p.m. Sunday’s title game is set for noon.

Western swept the regular-season meeting between the teams at Danbury on Oct. 4, winning by 25-19, 25-22, 27-25. Eastern was also swept by UMass Boston, Plymouth State and Keene and swept Rhode Island College.

Eastern and Western, which have combined for nine of the 13 LEC championships, will square off in the tournament for the third time in five years. Western swept a first-round match in 2009 after the Warriors swept the Colonials in the 2007 championship tilt at Keene, NH.

Plymouth gained a surprising No. 1 seed after sweeping two-time defending regular-season and tournament champion UMass Boston last week. The teams shared the regular-season title with 6-1 records, while Western and Keene tied for third, two games ahead of Eastern.

Against Southern Maine, 6-foot-2 inch junior **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** had five kills and a .556 attack percentage, seven service aces and eight digs; senior **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** seven kills and a .583 attack percentage and six service aces; senior **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** six kills and 11 assists; and senior **Gianna Trombino (East Moriches, NY)** 14 assists.

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2011

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL A FIVE-SET WINNER AGAIN

For the second time in two nights, Warriors erase 2-1 deficit to record victory

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. – For the second time in as many nights, the Eastern Connecticut State University women’s volleyball team rallied from a 2-1 deficit to record a five-set victory.

18.9
Wednesday night, the Warriors won the final two sets by scores of 25-17 and 15-13 for a come-from-behind victory over Wesleyan University in a non-conference match. Tuesday night at Geissler Gym, Eastern (~~17-9~~) rallied from a set down for 25-19, 15-5 victories over Massachusetts Dartmouth that carried it into the Little East Conference tournament.

The five-set match was the fifth this year for Eastern, which has won four times. The Warriors had played – and won – only two five-set contests through their first 26 matches but has now played three in a row. Last Saturday, they dropped a five-set decision to the University of New England at Plymouth, NH.

In winning for the 23rd time in this 34-match series with Wesleyan (8-17), Eastern never trailed in the fifth set. With the score tied at 12, senior **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** put the Warriors ahead for good with a kill and Eastern moved to within a point of match point on a Wesleyan attack error. Freshman **Allie Henry’s (Middletown)** only kill of the match sealed the victory and evened Eastern’s record on its opponent’s court this season at 4-4.

With Eastern facing elimination in the fourth set, **junior Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** had four kills in five attempts and Ibsen four in nine tries to lead the Warriors to an eight-point win. Up by a point, Eastern ran off six of the next seven to move out to a 16-10 lead. Henry and Wilson each had five digs in that set.

Wilson and Ibsen carried Eastern back from a sixpoint deficit in the first set, combing for seven kills on their last seven attempts, and senior libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** came up with five digs.

Wilson led Eastern with 17 kills and a .385 attack percentage. Ibsen followed with 14 kills and junior **Shannon Burke (Manchester)** and **sophomore Erynn Miller (Stratford)** chipped in five each. Abelli handled 25 receptions without an error and Wilson 21 with only two. Wilson and Abelli led the way with 15 digs each, Henry adding ten and senior **Gianna Trombino (East Moriches, NY)** with nine. Ibsen collected a team-high five blocks, and Wilson three service aces. Trombino led the Warriors with 19 assists, Henry adding 15.

Eastern closes out the regular season Saturday with a Little East Conference match the University of Southern Maine.

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2011

EASTERN W-SOCCER ROUTS VALIANTS IN NON-CONFERENCE MATCH

In tuneup for Saturday's Little East match, Warriors post 7-0 victory over Manhattanville

PURCHASE, N.Y. – The Eastern Connecticut State University women's soccer tuned up for its Little East Conference regular-season finale in three days with a 7-0 victory over undermanned Manhattanville College Wednesday night in a non-conference match at GoValiants.com Field.

The victory moves Eastern (9-8-0) over the .500 mark for the second time this season following a 3-3 start and gives it four road wins against three losses. Manhattanville (2-16) has lost six straight and finishes its home season at 1-10.

Six different players contributed a goal or assist, with sophomore **Kaitlyn Kennedy (Burlington)** scoring the first two goals of her career and adding an assist. Sophomores **Nicole Leonard (Rutherford, NJ)** and **Tamar Merheb (Bethel)** each had a goal and assists and freshman **Maggie Slivinski (Wallingford)** chipped in two assists. Senior **Laura Violette (Wallingford)** scored her first career goal, and junior Daniela Marchitto (Orange) scored her team-leading 12th goal of the year – giving her at least one point in the last five matches and in 12 of 17 contests this season – and moved into a tie for fifth all-time with her 30th career goal.

With only two substitutes available, Manhattanville was outshot 21-2 in the second half and allowed five Eastern goals.

Junior **Mackenzie MacLeod (Northfield)** and senior **Theresa Pagnozzi (Waterford)** split time in goal, each making two save.

An Eastern win Saturday over visiting Massachusetts Dartmouth (7-8-2, 2-3-1 Little East) and a Keene State loss Saturday at Western Connecticut unofficially gives the Warriors a share of the regular-season title with Keene and Western. In the event of a two-way tie in the final standings, Keene holds the tie-breaker over Eastern due to its regular-season triumph and Eastern holds the tie-breaker over Western by virtue of its regular-season victory over the Colonials. If Western and Keene tie and Eastern wins Saturday, the Warriors would unofficially finish in sole possession of second place behind Keene.

The top two teams in the final standings are awarded first-round tournament byes. Eastern can finish no worse than third in the final conference standings. A third-place finish would provide Eastern with a first-round home match in the LEC tournament Tuesday.

A win Saturday all but assures Eastern of its 11th straight winning season and 21st in the program's 26-year history.

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2011

Women's Volleyball
Eastern Conn. 3, UMass Dartmouth 2

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The women's volleyball rivalry between Eastern Connecticut State University and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth has been decidedly one-sided in the Warriors' favor over the past 25 years, but that does not mean that it has not been a hotly-contested one.

Tuesday was no exception.

In a match which all but decided the Little East Conference post-season fate of both institutions, Eastern won the final two sets after losing the first and third sets to gain a five-set decision and guarantee itself a return to the LEC post-season tournament after a one-year hiatus.

Eastern (17-9, 2-4 Little East) won the match by 22-25, 25-10, 23-25, 25-19 and 15-5 and breaks a two-way tie for sixth place with UMass Dartmouth (13-15, 1-5 Little East) in the conference standings.

The Corsairs are eliminated from LEC playoff contention while Eastern moves into a two-way tie for fifth place with Rhode Island College. Holding the tie-breaker over RIC by virtue of their regular-season win over the Anchorwomen, the Warriors are unofficially guaranteed the No. 5 seed in the tournament if they finish tied with RIC in the final standings. Saturday, Eastern visits the University of Southern Maine (0-20, 0-6 Little East) in the regular-season finale at Gorham, ME, and Rhode Island visits Plymouth State University.

With one regular-season LEC match remaining for all teams, defending champion University of Massachusetts Boston, Plymouth State and Keene State College all share first place with 5-1 records. Western Connecticut is fourth. Plymouth forced the three-way logjam atop the standings Tuesday after handing UMass Boston its first LEC loss in three years with a three-set sweep in Boston. .

Against UMass Dartmouth, Eastern never trailed in the deciding set. The Warriors had had nine kills and only one attack error in the set. Eastern scored five straight points to take a 7-2 lead in the set. Sophomore **Erynn Miller (Stratford)** had four digs and senior **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)**, and juniors **Shannon Burke (Manchester)** and **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** two kills each. In the 5-0 run that gave Eastern the momentum or good, Miller, Wilson and Burke all had kills and senior **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** had consecutive service aces to make it 7-2.

Eastern lost its two sets by a total of five points. Down 1-0, the Warriors never trailed in the second set, scoring five straight points to move out to an early 9-4 lead on the way to the 15-point win.

(more)

Facing elimination and possibly post-season extinction after losing the third set, the Warriors seized the momentum by outscoring the visitors 6-1 to take a 20-15 lead on the way to the six-point win in the fourth set. Slonski had four kills and seven digs in the set, senior libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** six digs, Wilson five and Miller four. After a UMD service error and an ace by Miller gave Eastern a 16-14 lead, Eastern won perhaps the biggest point of the night following an extended rally, the Warriors finally receiving the point on a Corsair error. A kill by junior **Danielle Bourne (Branford)**, an illegal UMD back row attack and a block by Wilson and Bourne made it 20-15.

After winning 33 straight matches in this series, Eastern sustained a four-set loss at UMass Dartmouth a year ago en route to a 1-6 conference record.

Tuesday, Wilson had 11 kills, 16 digs and six blocks, Ibsen 11 kills and Slonski nine kills, 23 digs, and 16 assists. Miller added 23 digs, Abelli 20 digs; Bourne chipped in three blocks, seven kills, nine digs and five assists and senior **Gianna Trombino (East Moriches, NY)** 12 assists and eight digs. As a team, Eastern averaged 20 digs in the first four sets and added nine more in the 15-point finale.

For UMD, Cami Ascher had 14 kills and Allie Mastrocola six, Shannon Brodie 15 digs, Amanda Micco seven and Jessica Goncalves 25 assists

Eastern visits Wesleyan University Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011

EASTERN WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL DROPS PAIR AT PLYMOUTH

PLYMOUTH, N.H. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team continues to be competitive against the top teams in the Little East Conference this year, but has little to show for it.

Saturday, with an opportunity to take a giant step toward regaining a spot in next month's conference tournament after a year's absence, the Warriors faltered down the stretch in the first two sets and were swept by Plymouth State University at Foley Gymnasium.

Now 1-4 in the conference with two winnable matches remaining, Eastern (16-9) hosts Massachusetts Dartmouth Tuesday at Geissler Gymnasium before closing out the season at the University of Southern Maine Saturday. UMass and Eastern share sixth place in the conference—the final post-season tournament spot – while Southern Maine has lost all five of its conference matches.

Saturday against Plymouth (18-9, 4-1 Little East), Eastern couldn't hold an early lead in the first set but rebounded from a six-point deficit midway through the second before eventually losing both by a total of five points, 25-22 and 26-24. With the Warriors trailing by three points in the third set, Plymouth ripped off four straight points and nine of the last 13 to record a 25-17 victory.

Forty-eight minutes after the loss, Eastern returned to the court and eventually dropped a five-set non-conference decision to the University of New England in games which were decided by a total of 18 points. Eastern lost 24-26, 28-26, 19-25, 25-21 and 11-15.

While three of Plymouth's top offensive players attacked at least .200 against the Warriors, Eastern attacked in negative numbers in the first two sets and finished the match with a .029 attack percentage. However, 12 service errors by Plymouth helped the Warriors stay close.

Junior middle hitter **Katie Wilson's (Pittsburg, CA)** kill pushed the Warriors into a 22-21 lead in the first set but Plymouth closed out the win with the final four points. A kill by Plymouth's top offensive player – Casey Stoodley – tied the second set and Eastern's only reception error of the set gave the hosts a 23-22 lead. The Warriors momentarily survived set point on Wilson's kill that tied it at 24, but a Plymouth kill off an Eastern block and a kill by Elissa Morin gave Plymouth the two-point win.

(more)

New England 3, Eastern Conn. 2

Eastern had won both of its previous matches this year that were extended to five sets.

Against UNE (14-11), Eastern scored the final five points of the fourth set – the final three coming on a kill by junior **Danielle Bourne (Branford)** and two service aces by senior **Gianna Trombino (East Moriches, NY)** – to force a final 15-point fifth set. The Warriors scored three of the first four points of the decisive set but fell behind for good when UNE scored three straight points on a kill, block and Eastern attack error Wilson had four kills in the fifth set and the Warriors did not have a reception error and only one service error.

On the way to winning the Crabtree Classic two weeks ago, Eastern had swept New England.

In 18 sets Saturday, Eastern attacked at .105 and totaled 20 service errors. Senior middle hitter **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)**, senior outside/setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** and Wilson combined for 54 kills. Sophomore **Erynn Miller (Stratford)** had 37 digs, senior **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** 27 and Wilson 20. The second of three digs by Abelli in the first set against Plymouth moved her into third place all-time at Eastern ahead of Courtney Davidson (1994-97).

Miller was perfect on 26 receptions on the day and Bourne handled 19 of 20, Abelli 35 of 38 and Wilson 39 of 42. In the fourth set against UNE that forced a finale, Trombino had six digs, two service aces and three assists.

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2011

Women's Volleyball

Eastern Conn. (16-7) 3, Framingham State U. (16-9) 0

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- In the first meeting between the programs in 25 years, sophomore **Erynn Miller (Stratford)** had a career-high 16 digs and three players combined for 25 kills to carry the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to its ninth win in its last 11 matches, 3-0, over Framingham State University Wednesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium. Game scores were 25-18, 25-21, 25-11.

Seniors **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** and **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)**, and junior **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** combined for 25 of Eastern's 37 kills and combined on a .409 attack percentage as Eastern (16-7) surged to its eighth straight home victory after three opening losses.

Framingham (16-9) had won its last three, six of seven and ten of 13 heading into the match. The teams were meeting for the first time since 1986. The Warriors have won ten straight sets in four victories in as many tries in the series.

Slonski had 12 kills and a .450 attack percentage, Ibsen seven kills and a .400 attack percentage and Wilson six kills and a .357 attack percentage. Slonski also had three service aces, eight assists and seven digs and Wilson nine digs. Senior **Gianna Trombino (East Moriches, NY)** added 11 assists and five digs.

Framingham got 11 digs and four kills from Ashley Nee and nine digs from Michelle DeJesus. Morgan Drew had 13 assists.

A winner of its first Little East Conference match Oct. 11 against Rhode Island College after three opening losses, the Warriors return to conference play Saturday against Plymouth State University at Foley Gymnasium at noon, and will also face the University of New England in a non-conference match at 1:30 p.m.

Eastern shares fifth place in the conference with Rhode Island College. Plymouth (17-9, 3-1 LEC) is tied for second place with Keene State College. The top six teams in the eight-team conference qualify for the LEC playoffs, which get underway Nov. 1.

Eastern Conn. 3, Framingham State U. 0

Framingham State (16-9)	18	21	11
Eastern Conn. (16-7)	25	25	25

Monday, Oct. 17, 2011

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL EASES PAST MITCHELL COLLEGE

Warriors attack at .306 and commit only one reception error in three-set sweep of Mariners

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team won for the seventh time in the last eight matches by scores of 25-12, 25-18, 25-12 over Mitchell College Monday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

In a 57-minute match, Eastern (15-7) attacked at .306, committed only two reception errors and had nine service aces in winning for the third time in as many contests in this series with Mitchell (6-7).

Senior **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** had 13 kills and attacked at .360 and junior **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** had eight kills and a .500 attack percentage with two service aces and three blocks. Slonski also had six digs and 11 assists and senior **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** seven digs. Senior **Gianna Trombino (East Moriches, NY)** added 14 assists and two service aces. Senior **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** joined Wilson with three blocks, with five different players combining on the team's two block solos and eight block assists.

Eastern never trailed in the first two sets and shook free in the third to outscore the visitors 10-3 and move out to a 13-7 lead. Slonski had six kills in nine tries with only one error in the first set and junior **Danielle Bourne (Branford)** and freshman **Haley Roberts (Windham)** combined for five kills in the second set. Trombino had two service aces in the second set and nine of her 14 assists in the third set.

As a team, the Warriors cleanly handled 31 of 33 receptions. Wilson was perfect on 11 tries and Abelli on ten.

Eastern hosts Framingham State University Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL'S WINNING STREAK ENDS AT SIX
Ranked sixth in New England, U.S. Coast Guard Academy tops Warriors in four sets

NEW LONDON, Conn. -- Junior middle hitter **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** had 13 kills and a .684 attack percentage when the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team sustained a four-set loss to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Saturday morning. Coast Guard won by 25-15, 22-25, 25-14, 25-21.

The loss is Eastern's (14-7) first after it won six straight (at home) in 18 consecutive sets. Coast Guard (17-5), ranked No. 6 in New England, defeated Eastern for the third straight time and seventh time in the last eight tries.

Wilson, and sophomore **Erynn Miller (Stratford)** combined for 20 kills and a .606 attack percentage. Miller had seven kills and a .500 attack percentage.

Wilson, Miller, senior **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** and senior **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** all had at least ten digs. Abelli picked up 19, Wilson 17, Slonski 11 and Miller ten. Slonski had 24 assists and **senior Gianna Trombino (East Moriches, NY)** seven.

Eastern hosts Mitchell College Monday at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 13, 2011

STREAKING EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL WINS SIXTH STRAIGHT *Warriors defeat Johnson & Wales in three; have won 18 consecutive sets during streak*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The streaking Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team shook free from two close sets to post a decisive win in the third on the way to 25-23, 25-18, 25-12 victories over Johnson & Wales University Thursday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

With its sixth straight win -- its longest winning streak since late October of 2006 -- Eastern (14-6) exceeds its entire win total of 2010 and its final win total in three of the last four years. Since losing three tight Little East Conference sets at Western Connecticut nine days ago, the Warriors have won all 18 sets in their six straight wins. They have won six straight matches at Geissler Gymnasium since dropping their first three home decisions last month.

Having lost five starters to graduation from last year's conference champion and NCAA qualifier and its best defensive player earlier this year, Johnson & Wales (3-21) dropped its fourth straight and seventh in the last eight outings. The Wildcats have lost six matches this year to teams ranked in the New England Top 10 and to another team which is rated No. 14, and fall to 0-7 this season against teams from the Little East Conference.

After prevailing in two fairly tight sets, the Warriors broke from a 5-all tie in the third set to score eight of the next ten points and move out to a 13-7 lead on a Wildcat attack error. Senior **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** had two kills, sophomore **Nicki Gasch (New Fairfield)** one and senior **Gianna Trombino (East Moriches, NY)** a service ace to spark that 8-2 run that gave the hosts the momentum for good. Junior **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** contributed four kills in five attempts and three blocks in the third set and senior **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** added six digs.

In the match, Slonski had 11 kills, two blocks, ten assists and 14 digs; Wilson 11 kills, five blocks, and ten digs; Ibsen seven kills with a .238 attack percentage, three service aces, and two blocks; senior libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** 15 digs and 23 reception attempts with only one error; sophomore **Erynn Miller (Stratford)** 12 digs and 12 reception attempts with no errors; and freshman **Allie Henry (Middletown)** ten assists.

Eastern attacked at only .190 but committed only four reception errors and four service errors. Johnson & Wales, which started three freshmen and featured 13 freshmen and sophomores on its 16-player roster, attacked at a miserable .016 and had six service errors. Senior Audrey Warren led the Wildcats with six kills and two service aces and freshman Alyssa Drapeau had four kills and nine assists; sophomore Courtney Wright 11 digs and junior Karlie Haack nine.

Eastern snaps a two-year losing streak at the hands of the Wildcats and improves its all-time record against the visitors to 11-6.

Eastern visits the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Saturday at 11 a.m. The Bears are ranked No. 6 in New England.

Thursday, Oct. 13, 2011

STREAKING EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL WINS SIXTH STRAIGHT

Warriors defeat Johnson & Wales in three; have won 18 consecutive sets during streak

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The streaking Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team shook free from two close sets to post a decisive win in the third on the way to 25-23, 25-18, 25-12 victories over Johnson & Wales University Thursday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

With its sixth straight win -- its longest winning streak since late October of 2006 -- Eastern (14-6) exceeds its entire win total of 2010 and its final win total in three of the last four years. Since losing three tight Little East Conference sets at Western Connecticut nine days ago, the Warriors have won all 18 sets in their six straight wins. They have won six straight matches at Geissler Gymnasium since dropping their first three home decisions last month.

Having lost five starters to graduation from last year's conference champion and NCAA qualifier and its best defensive player earlier this year, Johnson & Wales (3-21) dropped its fourth straight and seventh in the last eight outings. The Wildcats have lost six matches this year to teams ranked in the New England Top 10 and to another team which is rated No. 14, and fall to 0-7 this season against teams from the Little East Conference.

After prevailing in two fairly tight sets, the Warriors broke from a 5-all tie in the third set to score eight of the next ten points and move out to a 13-7 lead on a Wildcat attack error. Senior **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** had two kills, sophomore **Nicki Gasch (New Fairfield)** one and senior **Gianna Trombino (East Moriches, NY)** a service ace to spark that 8-2 run that gave the hosts the momentum for good. Junior **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** contributed four kills in five attempts and three blocks in the third set and senior **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** added six digs.

In the match, Slonski had 11 kills, two blocks, ten assists and 14 digs; Wilson 11 kills, five blocks, and ten digs; Ibsen seven kills with a .238 attack percentage, three service aces, and two blocks; senior libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** 15 digs and 23 reception attempts with only one error; sophomore **Erynn Miller (Stratford)** 12 digs and 12 reception attempts with no errors; and freshman **Allie Henry (Middletown)** ten assists.

Eastern attacked at only .190 but committed only four reception errors and four service errors. Johnson & Wales, which started three freshmen and featured 13 freshmen and sophomores on its 16-player roster, attacked at a miserable .016 and had six service errors. Senior Audrey Warren led the Wildcats with six kills and two service aces and freshman Alyssa Drapeau had four kills and nine assists; sophomore Courtney Wright 11 digs and junior Karlie Haack nine.

Eastern snaps a two-year losing streak at the hands of the Wildcats and improves its all-time record against the visitors to 11-6.

Eastern visits the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Saturday at 11 a.m. The Bears are ranked No. 6 in New England.

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2011

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS RIC FOR FIRST LEC VICTORY

Streaking Warriors prevail in three tight sets to win fifth straight home decision by sweep

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team produced when it mattered most – down the stretch – in sweeping to its fifth straight home victory Tuesday night in a Little East Conference decision over Rhode Island College at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium. Game scores were 25-23, 25-23, 25-22.

Eastern's (13-6, 1-3 Little East) second sweep of Rhode Island (12-9, 1-3) this year (the first does not count in the LEC standings) moves the Warriors from a tie for seventh place in the conference into a tie for fifth with Rhode Island and Massachusetts Dartmouth. UMass Dartmouth was swept at conference-leader Massachusetts Boston (4-0).

The win also equals the team's win total of a year ago and provides it with a season-high five-match win streak.

Senior **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** had 12 kills, two service aces, 16 digs, and 15 assists to lead the Warriors. Senior **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** added ten kills, two service aces and five blocks and junior **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** eight kills, ten digs and two blocks. Sophomore **Erynn Miller (Stratford)** handled 28 receptions without an error and chipped in six digs. Senior libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** had 14 digs.

For Rhode Island, which had won ten of its last 12 after a dropping six of its first eight, Breanna Boyer had 11 kills with a .500 attack pct., and 11 dig.

Marina Stoermer contributed eight kills with a .267 attack pct., eight digs and six blocks, and Jessica Ho 20 assists

Eastern hosts Johnson & Wales University Thursday at 7 p.m. The Wildcats were swept by Rhode Island on Sunday.

Set 1:

Eastern gave up the first four points of the match on attack and reception errors but battled back in a game which featured eight ties. The Warriors broke the final tie (20-20) by scoring four of the next five points. Kills from Miller and Wilson gave the Warriors the lead for good and senior Gianna Trombino came off the bench to deliver a service ace which made it 24-21. Wilson and Slonski each had four kills in the set for Eastern.

(more)

Set 2:

Rhode Island again jumped quickly with the first three points. Trailing by five, Eastern went on a 6-1 run to tie the match at 17-all and later snapped a 20-20 tie with the next two points, in similar fashion to the first set. Wilson put down a left-handed kill and Slonski followed with a kill to give Eastern the 22-20 lead. Ibsen's solo block ended the set. In the 6-1 run that tied the match, Ibsen had a kill and solo block, Slonski and Miller added kills and the Warriors tied the match on a Rhode Island service error and attack error. Ibsen contributed five kills in the set, Abelli five digs and Slonski four digs. Miller handled ten receptions without an error.

Set 3:

Eastern scored four of the final five points of the set on two kills from Ibsen, and a kill and match-ending ace from Slonski. After Eastern scored two early points to tie the match at 5-all, neither team led by more than two points until Slonski's decisive ace. Ibsen, Slonski and Wilson combined for ten of Eastern's 11 kills in the game. Slonski added seven digs and Ibsen two solo blocks.

Eastern Conn. 3, Rhode Island College 0

Rhode Island College (12-9, 1-3 Little East)	23	23	22
Eastern Conn. (13-6, 1-3 Little East)	25	25	25

-

Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL SWEEP BY WESTERN CONNECTICUT *Warriors contend for wins in all three sets but drop to 0-3 in Little East Conference*

DANBURY, Conn. -- In a match where the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team never trailed by more than six points in any set, the Warriors could not avoid a third straight Little East Conference loss Tuesday night, losing in three sets to Western Connecticut State University at the O'Neill Center on the Westside campus.

After losing the first two sets, Eastern led by three points late in the third set but could not capitalize despite serving for set point.

Ranked No. 11 in New England, Western (15-4, 3-0 Little East) defeated Eastern (8-6, 0-3 Little East) for the fourth straight time, this time by scores of 25-19, 25-22 and 27-25. Eastern's three conference losses to date have come against teams ranked among the top half of the 2011 LEC pre-season coaches' poll.

Junior middle hitter **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** had five of her team-high 11 kills on her final six attempts of the third set to spark the Warriors to a 22-19 lead. The Warriors later broke a tie on a kill by senior hitter/setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** to move to within a point of set point, but Western broke serve and prevailed with successive kills to sweep Eastern for the third time in four years.

Eastern led briefly in all three sets but never led by more than three points. However, the Warriors never trailed by more than six points in the match. Leading by two early in the first set, Eastern surrendered four straight points before calling a timeout and never recovered. The Warriors attacked at .038 in the first set but improved to .143 in the second and .200 in the third.

In the second set, Eastern recovered from an early five-point deficit to pull even at 19-all and a kill by Wilson later pulled the visitors to within one, 22-21. At that point, Western freshman Heather Williams and All-LEC middle hitter Paxton Thornton followed with kills as the Colonials prevailed.

As a team, Eastern committed only two reception errors on 63 chances.

In addition to 11 kills, Wilson was perfect on 17 reception attempts and on 12 serves, while Slonski had eight kills, a team-high 16 digs and 17 assists.

Senior middle hitter **Kristiana Ibsen (Shelton)**, who became the seventh player in program history to record as many as 1,000 kills last week against Gordon College, added four kills. The LEC leader in attack percentage attacked at only .067, however, on only 15 attempts.

Sophomore outside hitter **Erynn Miller (Stratford)** had nine digs, served seven balls without an error and committed only one reception error on 17 attempts, while senior libero Taylor Abelli (Cheshire) handled 19 receptions without an error and followed Slonski with 12 digs.

Paxton of Western led all players with 12 kills, Kelly Collins, this past week's LEC Defensive Player-of-the-Week, had 25 digs and freshman Jennifer Hogan amassed 31 assists.

Eastern hosts the 31st Crabtree Classic this weekend at Geissler Gymnasium, hosting Worcester State University at 4 p.m. and Bridgewater State University at 8 p.m. Friday.

Molta, Bob (Athletics)

From: Scott Russell [RussellS@wcsu.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2011 8:54 PM
To: Molta, Bob (Athletics); Scott Ames; Jack Holleran; aphartford@ap.org; bart800am@gmail.com; Danny Shwayder; don.laviano@nbcuni.com; grogo@ctpost.com; jholt@wfsb.com; john.mengual@nbcuni.com; jsonski@newstimes.com; jzone@wfsb.com; kevin.thesportsdept@gmail.com; localsports@nhregister.com; mark.fijalkowski@wfsb.com; rcoppola@fox61.com; s.e.thesportscapital@gmail.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; llammers@fox61.com
Subject: Game story for VB WCSU vs. ECSU 100411
Attachments: volleyball final ECSU 100411.DOC

WestConn volleyball claims 3-0 victory over rival Eastern Connecticut

DANBURY, CT (Oct. 4) – The Western Connecticut State University volleyball team remained unbeaten in Little East conference play with a 3-0 win over in-state rival Eastern Connecticut Tuesday evening at Feldman Arena.

The scoring remained even early in game one, until WestConn turned a 9-9 tie into a 14-10 advantage. Eastern narrowed the margin to 14-12, but kills by junior **Paxton Thornton (Sharon, CT)** and senior **Michelle Hearn (Bedford Hills, NY)**, and a block by freshman **Heather Williams (Kingston, NY)** pushed the lead back to 17-12. The Warriors pulled within three at 22-19, but a kill and a block by Thornton closed out the game for the Colonials, 25-19.

In game two, WestConn again took an early tie and turned it into a 14-10 advantage. This time however, Eastern fought back to draw even at 15-15 after back to back kills by Samantha Slonski (Griswold, CT) and Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton, CT). Another kill and an ace by Slonski kept the game tied at 19-19, but kills by sophomore **Melanie Lombardi (Danbury, CT)**, Williams, and Thornton down the stretch gave WestConn a 25-22 game-two win.

The game three scoring saw numerous lead changes with neither team managing to establish consistent momentum until Eastern turned a 17-17 tie into a 21-18 edge. Kills by freshman **Nina Wojtkiewicz (Griswold, CT)**, Thornton, and Williams kept WestConn in the game, but the big blow came when Hearn powered a cross-court kill with the Colonials staring at game-point, to even the score at 24-24. Another kill by Williams pushed the advantage in favor of WestConn, and when the Warriors committed a hitting error on the next point, WestConn escaped with a 27-25 win, and a 3-0 victory for the match.

For the match, Thornton led WestConn with 12 kills, while also adding six digs. Freshman **Jennifer Hogan (Franklin Square, NY)** handed out 31 assists, and senior **Kelley Collins (Massapequa, NY)** anchored the defense with 25 digs. For Eastern Connecticut, Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA) led with 11 kills, Slonski had 17 assists and also led in digs with 16.

With the win, WestConn moves to 15-4 on the season, and 3-0 in the Little East Conference. Eastern Connecticut falls to 8-6, and 0-3 in the LEC. The Colonials return to action on Saturday, October 8th, when they travel to Boston for a pair of non-conference matches against RIT and Coast Guard.

WestConn	-	25	25	27	-	3
Eastern Conn.	-	19	22	25	-	0

Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL ENDS THREE-MATCH SLIDE, 3-1
Warriors improve to 8-2 away from home with four-set victory over Gordon College

WENHAM, Mass. – The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team left home to end a three-match losing streak and post a four-set victory over Gordon College Tuesday night.

A winner of seven of its first nine matches away from Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium, Eastern (8-5) snapped a season-high three-match losing streak with its eighth road victory in 25-15, 25-15, 23-25, 25-12 wins over Gordon (9-5). The win is the fourth straight for the Warriors over the Scots and 21st in 28 meetings all-time in the series.

Senior **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** had 12 kills and 19 digs for Eastern, junior **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** nine kills, ten digs and four service aces and senior **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** 17 digs.

Eastern is idle until visiting Western Connecticut State University Tuesday in a 6 p.m. Little East Conference match. Eastern has already faced Massachusetts Boston and Keene State in its two previous LEC contests, losing both. Western (2-0 in the conference to date) was rated fourth in the pre-season coaches poll, two-time defending LEC tournament champion UMass Boston (2-0) first (unanimously) and Keene (2-0) second.

Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL CHALLENGES KEENE IN LEC LOSS
Warriors give Owls run but can't avoid being swept in Little East Conference match

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- All-Little East Conference performers Bridget O'Bryant, Ellyse Davis and Kristen Girard combined for 27 kills to lift the Keene State College women's volleyball team to a sweep of Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium. Game scores were 25-17, 25-15, 25-22.

Since being upset by Eastern in five sets in the semifinals of the 2007 Little East Conference tournament Keene State (8-4, 2-0 little east) has swept Eastern (7-5, 0-2 little east) the last four times the teams have met.

A first-team all-conference outside hitter as a junior last year, the 5-foot-10 inch O'Bryant led all players on both teams with 17 digs and shared team-high honors with Davis with 11 kills.

Keene rattled off eight straight points midway through the first set to set the tempo for the match and post its fifth straight win. The Owls trailed by one before moving out to a 21-14 advantage. A 10-4 run in the second set sent the Owls to a comfortable 17-8 lead. In the final set, Keene raced to a quick lead but Eastern chipped away, pulling as close as two points in the final stages before the visitors gained the tight decision.

Senior setter Laurie Whalen collected 34 assists for Keene, which returned nine letterwinners from its first ECAC New England championship a year ago. Whalen also chipped in three assists and first-year junior transfer Alex Lehocky totaled a game-high four.

Eastern has lost its last three -- all at home against top competition. Senior **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** enjoyed her finest offensive outing the year with 12 kills and a .556 attack percentage. She also totaled a team-high nine digs and ten assists. Junior **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** followed with seven kills, four digs, six assists and a block. Seeting her first action of the year after recovering from a pre-season injury, senior **Gianna Trombino (East Moriches, NY)** came off the bench to give the Warriors a lift in the second set. She served nine balls with an ace and no errors and recorded eight digs.

As a team, the Warriors passed slightly better than their season average. Senior **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** handled 24 serves with a single error and Wilson was perfect on 15 tries.

Eastern visits Gordon College Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Keene State College 3, Eastern Conn. 0

Keene State (8-4, 2-0 little east)		25	25	25
Eastern Conn. (7-5, 0-2 little east)	17	15	22	

Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011

UMASS HAS TOO MUCH FOR EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL

In Little East opener, Warriors beaten by No. 19 Beacons in three sets

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Since the University of Massachusetts Boston began tapping the West Coast for volleyball talent several years ago, opponents in the Little East Conference have had to be content with moral victories against the Beacons.

For Eastern Connecticut State University, one of those moral victories may have occurred Saturday afternoon at Geissler Gymnasium as the Warriors battled the Beacons in a three-set loss – the 19th consecutive regular-season LEC victory for UMass since 2008. UMass won by 25-10, 25-20, 25-14.

Against a UMass Boston team ranked first in New England and No. 19 nationally, Eastern (7-4, 0-1 little east) rebounded from a 15-point first-set loss to keep pace in the second set until UMass (5-2, 1-0 little east) scored the final four points to break from a one-point contest.

Eastern entered the match with ten Connecticut players on its 12-person roster against a UMass team featuring only two Massachusetts natives. The Beacons have six Californians and additional players from Florida, Alaska, Colorado and Nevada.

Having reached last year's Elite Eight, UMass has captured the last two LEC post-season tournament and was the unanimous No. 1 pick to repeat as the regular-season titlist for the third straight year.

In Saturday's second set, Eastern led 6-5 and later rallied from a six-point deficit in the late-going with four straight points that pulled it to within one, 21-20. With senior middle hitter **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** serving, junior middle hitter **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** had a block assist and block solo and UMB committed an attack error to fuel Eastern's comeback.

After pulling away for the second-set victory, UMass scored six of the first seven points of the third set with the help of a couple of kills, two Eastern attack errors and an Eastern service error. The Warriors never recovered from the early 6-1 hole as UMass solidified the victory with a 9-1 run that ballooned the margin to 12.

Six-foot-two-inch junior Shannon Thompson, a Division III All-America selection in each of her first two seasons, had 16 kills and attacked at .636 for UMass. She also had four block assists and two service aces. Sophomore Corrine Porter added 13 kills and a .385 attack percentage to go along with, ten digs, a block solo and two block assists. Six-foot senior Molly Rattigan chipped in nine kills and four block assists, and senior setter Cassy Hanneman had 35 assists and nine digs.

(more)

22222222222222 of 2

Eastern, which attacked at .058 thanks in large measure to 14 blocks by UMass, got three kills, four digs, a block solo and block assists from Wilson. Ibsen totaled five kills and two service aces, senior libero **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** 11 digs and senior setter/hitter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** eight assists.

As a team, Eastern had nine reception errors, its most in three sets since a season-opening loss to Roger Williams but had six service aces against just three errors.

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

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2011

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL BATTLES TRINITY IN THREE-SET LOSS

Despite late leads, Warriors can't nail down victories in second and third sets and are swept

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – In a match decided by nine total points, the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team couldn't nail down wins despite holding slim leads in the second and third sets as it was swept by Trinity College in its 2011 home-opener at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium. Trinity won, 25-20, 27-25, 25-23.

Ranked No. 13 in New England, Trinity (4-0) defeated Eastern for the seventh time in the last eight seasons, sixth by shutout. Eastern (7-3) was ranked 15th in the first New England poll after winning three of four matches last weekend at the Brandeis University Invitational.

Trinity never trailed in the first set after a 5-1 start and later used a 9-3 run to move out to a 15-6 lead. Eastern got as close as 20-17. In the second set, Trinity scored the first four points but the Warriors rallied to take its first lead at 11-10 and led by four, 18-14. Eastern couldn't convert set point with a 25-24 lead. In the third set, the Warriors couldn't hold a slim late lead again as Trinity scored six of the final seven points after trailing by three, 22-19.

Six-foot-2 inch junior **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** had 13 kills and a 370 attack percentage and handled 24 reception attempts without an error; senior **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** added seven kills with a .385 attack percentage; senior **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** had 19 digs and 18 set assists; sophomore **Eryn Miller (Stratford)** nine digs and 20 reception attempts with a .950 percentage; and senior **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** nine digs and a .933 reception percentage on 15 tries.

Trinity, which starts five seniors, was led by senior Sarah Blagden with 19 digs, sophomore Hannah Brickley with 19 kills and 15 digs, junior Danielle Isaman with 13 kills, and senior setter Jennifer Low with 35 set assists.

Eastern opens Little East Conference play Saturday, hosting nationally-ranked University of Massachusetts Boston at 1 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL WINS PAIR AT BRANDEIS INVITE

Warriors win three of four matches in tournament; improve to 7-2 overall on season

WALTHAM, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team continued its encouraging start this weekend at the Brandeis University Invitational, winning both of its matches Saturday afternoon and three of four in the tournament.

Saturday, senior middle hitters **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** and **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** combined for 46 kills and a .337 attack percentage in wins over Babson College (3-1) and Bates College (3-2). Eastern (7-2) downed Babson by scores of 25-17, 16-25, 25-12, and 25-12. Against Bates, Eastern rebounded from consecutive two-point losses for a 25-20, 23-25, 24-26, 25-18, 15-10 victory.

Host Brandeis University, Trinity College and Tufts University each won all three of their matches in the tournament, with Eastern at 3-1, Wellesley College 2-1, Haverford College 2-2, Babson College 1-3, Emmanuel College 1-3, Bates College 0-4 and Rhode Island College 0-4.

On Friday, Eastern lost a four-game decision to Wellesley before sweeping Little East Conference foe Rhode Island College.

Against Babson (4-3), Ibsen attacked at .571 with eight kills and Wilson had 11 kills and a .310 attack percentage. Senior setter **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** set 18 assists and freshman **Allie Henry (Middletown)** ten.

Against Bates (0-4), Ibsen had a team-high 15 kills and .407 attack percentage and four service aces and Wilson collected 12 kills and four aces and Slonski ten kills and 19 assists. Henry chipped in 15 assists.

Under first-year head coach **Pete Maneggia**, the Warriors are off to their best start after nine matches in ten years -- since an identical record in 2001 under Wayne Sombrie.

Eastern opens its home season Wednesday, hosting Trinity College at 7 p.m. In their season-openers at Brandeis, Trinity swept Rhode Island College Friday and Saturday swept Haverford and dumped Babson in four games. The Warriors open Little East Conference completion against defending champion Massachusetts Boston next Saturday at 1 p.m. The Beacons are ranked No. 22 nationally.

Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2011

Women's Volleyball
EASTERN Conn. 3, CLARK U. 1

WORCESTER, Mass. – Senior middle hitter **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** contributed seven consecutive kills in the second and third games on the way to a career-high 23 kills and .611 attack percentage as the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team downed Clark University, 3-1, for its fourth straight victory Tuesday night at the Kneller Center.

Eastern (4-1) defeated Clark (0-2) for the seventh straight time and 25th time in 31 meetings in the series, posting a 25-27, 25-17, 25-22, 25-16 decision.

Ibsen had five kills in the first-game loss, eight in Game 2, seven in Game 3 and three in Game 4 and committed only one error on 36 attempts.

As a team, the Warriors committed only three reception errors, with Wilson, Bourne and senior Taylor Abelli (Cheshire) committing only two errors on 64 attempts.

After the Cougars scored six of the final seven points to steal Game 1, Ibsen, Wilson and Bourne all connected on kills to move the Warriors to within one point of game point, in Game 2, and Wilson and Wilson and sophomore outside hitter sealed the win with block assists. Ibsen had three consecutive kills for the Warriors to snap a 20-20 tie in Game 3, and sophomore Erynn Miller (Stratford) chipped in a game-ending kill. Eastern wrapped up the match in Game 4, where it never trailed. Eastern scored five straight points to expand a two-point margin for a 20-13 lead before the hosts called time out. Wilson served Eastern into that lead and added an ace and a kill in that stretch.

Eastern competes in the Brandeis University Invitational Friday and Saturday.

Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2011

Women's Volleyball
EASTERN Conn. 3, CLARK U. 1

WORCESTER, Mass. – Senior middle hitter **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** contributed seven consecutive kills in the second and third games on the way to a career-high 23 kills and .611 attack percentage as the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team downed Clark University, 3-1, for its fourth straight victory Tuesday night at the Kneller Center.

Eastern (4-1) defeated Clark (0-2) for the seventh straight time and 25th time in 31 meetings in the series, posting a 25-27, 25-17, 25-22, 25-16 decision.

Ibsen had five kills in the first-game loss, eight in Game 2, seven in Game 3 and three in Game 4 and committed only one error on 36 attempts.

As a team, the Warriors committed only three reception errors, with Wilson, Bourne and senior Taylor Abelli (Cheshire) committing only two errors on 64 attempts.

After the Cougars scored six of the final seven points to steal Game 1, Ibsen, Wilson and Bourne all connected on kills to move the Warriors to within one point of game point, in Game 2, and Wilson and Wilson and sophomore outside hitter sealed the win with block assists. Ibsen had three consecutive kills for the Warriors to snap a 20-20 tie in Game 3, and sophomore Erynn Miller (Stratford) chipped in a game-ending kill. Eastern wrapped up the match in Game 4, where it never trailed. Eastern scored five straight points to expand a two-point margin for a 20-13 lead before the hosts called time out. Wilson served Eastern into that lead and added an ace and a kill in that stretch.

Eastern competes in the Brandeis University Invitational Friday and Saturday.

Saturday, Sept. 3, 2011

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS THROUGH WHEATON INVITE

Warriors win all three of their matches; against WNEU, Maneggia records first victory

NORTON, Mass. – Being swept by Roger Williams University Thursday in the 2011 season opener was disappointing for first-year head coach **Pete Maneggia** and the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team.

Saturday, a sweep of three opponents at the Wheaton College Invitational at the Haas Athletic Center was exhilarating for the rookie coach and the Warriors.

In the toughest test of the afternoon, Eastern emerged with a five-game win over Emerson College in the second of its two matches. The Warriors won by scores of 19-25, 25-18, 25-18, 22-25 and 15-6. Eastern opened the day with a four-game win over Western New England University (25-14, 25-21, 18-25, 30-28) and closed action with a tight sweep (25-23, 25-20, 25-23) of host Wheaton College.

While several teammates struggled against Emerson, seniors **Kristianna Ibsen (Shelton)** and **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** and junior **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** combined for 36 of the team's 42 kills and a .400 attack percentage. Wilson also had four service aces and combined with Slonski and senior **Taylor Abelli (Cheshire)** for 53 digs. Abelli's 22 digs led all players.

In the opening four-game victory over Western New England, Slonski and Wilson combined for 22 kills and Wilson, Abelli and junior **Danielle Bourne (Branford)** amassed 48 digs.

Against Wheaton, Ibsen and Wilson combined for 24 kills and Abelli, freshman **Allie Henry (Middletown)** and Slonski for 31 digs.

In three wins, Ibsen and Wilson were decidedly the team's best attacking players. Ibsen had 28 kills and a .355 attack percentage and Wilson 36 kills and a .255 attack percentage. Slonski had 31 kills. Bourne committed only two errors on 52 serves (96.2 percent) and Wilson, Henry and Slonski combined for 18 service aces. Wilson was also successful on 95.5 percent of her 44 reception attempts while Abelli led all players with 53 digs, Wilson adding 34 and Slonski and Bourne 31 each. Slonski and Henry shared setting duties in the tournament, Slonski collected 51 assists and Henry 36.

Slonski and Henry shared setting duties in the tournament, Slonski collected 51 and Henry 36.

Eastern visits Clark University Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Molta, Bob (Athletics)

From: Peter DiVito [divito_peter@wheatoncollege.edu]
Sent: Saturday, September 03, 2011 9:24 PM
To: bose@ap.org; news@nortonreporter.com; jquatru@cnc.com; jimgang3@aol.com; jsullivan@unionleader.com; jtsullivan@globe.com; mszostak@projo.com; p.harber@comcast.net; marvin.pave@rcn.com; pgobis@thesunchronicle.com; pjsports@projo.com; results@ecac.org; rthompson@bostonherald.com; s.e.thesportscapital@gmail.com; sports@bostonherald.com; sports@enterpriseneews.com; sports@globe.com; sports@tauntongazette.com; sports@thesunchronicle.com; vsylvia@unionleader.com; wassersug@aol.com; ncaa-content@turner.com; Molta, Bob (Athletics); mpettini@wne.edu; kcerino@wne.edu; Kerry Howe
Subject: Wheaton College falls to Emerson, ECSU, WNE at Wheaton Invitational

NORTON, MA – The Wheaton College women’s volleyball team hosted the second annual Wheaton Invitational on Saturday, where the Lyons suffered losses to Emerson (3-2), Western New England (3-0), and Eastern Connecticut State (3-0).

The Lyons rallied from a two-sets-to-one deficit to defeat the Lyons, 23-25, 25-12, 25-23, 25-20, and 22-20. The Golden Bears knocked off the Lyons in three sets (25-15, 25-20, 25-18), as did the Warriors (25-23, 25-20, 25-23).

The Lyons began the day with a five-set loss to Emerson and were led offensively by junior **Christina Cannon (Milford, NH/Milford)**, who recorded a double-double with 12 kills and 15 digs. Sophomore **Lindsay Tebbetts (Gilmanton, NH/Gilford)** chipped in with nine kills for Wheaton. Senior Megan Kaplon (Yellow Springs, OH/Yellow Springs) paced Emerson with 12 kills and 12 digs.

Following a five-hour break between matches, the Lyons returned to the court to face the Golden Bears of Western New England University. Tebbetts once again paced the Lyons attack with eight kills while Cannon tallied seven and senior **Emily Davisson (Carpinteria, CA/Laguna Blanca School)** recorded a match-high 15 digs. Sophomore Ashley McMullen (South Bethelhem, NY/Ravena-Coeymaus) and freshman Kasey Cameron (Reading, MA/Reading Memorial) each recorded 10 kills to lead WNE.

Freshman **Leigh Hunt (Milford, CT/Jonathan Law)** sparked the Wheaton offense against Eastern Connecticut State as she notched a team-high six kills. Cannon finished with five while junior **Olanna Nissim (Greenwich, CT/Greenwich)** recorded 16 assists, bringing her three-match total to 57. Junior Katie Wilson (Pittsburgh, CA/Norwich Free Academy) led the Warriors with 15 kills.

“Overall, our play was a huge improvement from the Rhode Island College match,” said first-year Wheaton head coach Craig Letourneau. “We moved a lot better today. We had a lull against Western New England, but you sort of expect that having to play at 10 a.m. and then at 5 p.m. We didn’t get a great warm-up, and as a result, they weren’t moving very well. That said, I thought we had a solid block up there all night long. We’re still struggling with moving our feet, but we improved with regards to our approach to hitting.

“There are a lot of kids out there who didn’t receive a lot of playing time the past few years, and we’re trying to work in a number of new kids who seemed to move well today. I was really happy with how the freshman played.”

In other matches, Eastern Connecticut State knocked off Western New England 3-1 behind 13 kills from senior Samantha Slonski (Griswold, CT/Griswold) and 12 from Wilson. McMullen joined sophomores Tyler Singh (Dumont, NJ/Dumont) and Maureen Pollet (Dix Hills, NY/Half Hollows Hills East) with 11 kills apiece for the Golden Bears. Later, the Warriors knocked off Emerson 3-2 behind seven kills from both senior Madeleine Breeland (Fairfax, VA/W.T. Woodson) and junior Alexa Krakowiak (Westport, CT/Staples). Slonski led all WNE student-athletes with 15 kills.

The Lyons return to action on Sept. 9 when they compete at the JWU Invitational. They open with a match against Connecticut College at 6 p.m. The Lions compete at the Western New England Tournament next Friday and Saturday, the Golden Bears host Smith on Sept. 6 at 7 p.m., and the Warriors travel to Worcester, Massachusetts to face Clark on Sept. 6 at 7 p.m.

--

Pete DiVito

Interim Sports Information Director

Wheaton College

(O): 508-286-3768

(C): 978-500-8121

<http://athletics.wheatoncollege.edu>

<http://www.facebook.com/wheatonlyons>

<http://www.twitter.com/wheatonlyons>

Thursday, Sept. 1, 2011

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL SWEEP IN 2011 OPENER

Warriors attack at .000 in 25-11, 25-18, 25-20 loss at Roger Williams

BRISTOL, R.I. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team attacked at .000 in dropping its 2011 season-opener to Roger Williams University by scores of 25-11, 25-18, 25-20 Thursday night at the Campus Recreation Center on the RWU campus.

The loss is the second in as many years for Eastern against Roger Williams (1-0) after winning five straight in the series. The Hawks were last year's Commonwealth Coast Conference champion. Eastern was playing its first match under first-year head coach **Pete Maneggia**.

The Warriors never led in the first two games but led by a pair early in Game 3 and clung to a slim one-point lead midway through that game before the hosts reeled off six straight behind the serving of Marybeth Torpey, four Eastern errors and a Hawk service ace to move out to a 19-15 advantage.

Eastern attacked at .000 in the match, with 23 attack errors against 23 kills and also recorded 14 reception errors for a .791 percentage.

Senior **Samantha Slonski (Griswold)** led the way for Eastern with nine kills, nine assists and 13 digs, while sophomore **Danielle Bourne (Branford)** handled 14 receptions with only one error. Freshman setter **Allie Henry (Middletown)** followed Slonski with eight assists and junior **Katie Wilson (Pittsburg, CA)** added seven kills and served 15 balls without an error.

Krystie Luczynski led the hosts with nine kills and a .238 attack percentage and Emily Lebowitz totaled 22 assists.

Eastern competes at Wheaton College (MA) Saturday, facing Western New England U. at noon, Emerson College at 2:30 p.m. and Wheaton at 7 p.m.