

# ECSU

## SPORTS NEWS

Sports Information Office  
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Eastern Connecticut State University  
Little East Conference

November 14, 1997

ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL EDGED BY COAST GUARD IN NE REGIONALS  
Warriors lose 13-12 lead in deciding game in falling 15-13

WELLESLEY, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team was two points from its first NCAA tournament win since 1994 but dropped a 15-9, 0-15, 14-16, 15-6, 13-15 decision to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Friday in the opening round of the 1997 NCAA Division III New England Regional Tournament at Wellesley College.

The loss ends ECSU's season at 24-12 while the Bears advance to regional semifinal-round action Saturday night against top-seeded and host Wellesley College.

Seeded fifth in the six-team regional, Eastern erased a 2-1 deficit in game by winning Game 4 and led 13-12 in the deciding game but couldn't put Coast Guard away.

Although the fourth-seeded Bears (23-9) and the Warriors had not met this season, Coast Guard had beaten ECSU 3-1 when the teams met in the first round of the 1995 regional at Springfield, MA.

All-New England setter Michelle Cunningham (MARSTON MILLS, MA) led ECSU with 47 assists while all-New England hitter Karen Sweet (EAST HADDAM) and sophomore right-side hitter Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)

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each had 18 kills. Senior hitter Courtney Davidson (DRACUT, MA) had 29 digs while Butts, Sweet and Cunningham each added three service aces.

Eastern, under the direction of head coach Tom York, ends its season on a four-match losing streak.

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## REVISED

Saturday, November 8, 1997

### ECSU VOLLEYBALL FINISHES 0-3 AT INTER-REGION CLASSIC New England institutions swept by New York in two-day tournament

CORTLAND, NY -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team suffered its first three-match losing streak of the year, dropping both of its matches Saturday at the Fourth Annual Inter-Region Classic, hosted by SUNY College at Cortland.

The Warriors (24-11), were beaten by Ithaca College (31-5) 13-15, 16-14, 9-15, 8-15 and SUNY Cortland (39-5) 5-15, 8-15, 10-15 Saturday after losing to Rochester Tech (32-9) 11-15, 4-15, 4-15 in Friday's opener.

In a tournament pitting the top teams in the NCAA Division III New England region against those from New York, New England dropped all nine matches. Ithaca is ranked first in New York, tenth nationally; Cortland second in New England, 15th nationally and Rochester Tech third in New York. Eastern entered play rated fifth in New England.

In Saturday's two matches, seniors **Courtney Davidson (DRACUT, MA)** and **Karen Ann Sweet (EAST HADDAM)** led the way with 35 digs and 36 kills, respectively. Sweet, who already holds the program career record for service aces, established a season record for service aces. Sweet had eight Saturday, breaking by one the previous mark of 107, set by Jody Rogers in 1991. Against Ithaca, sophomore **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** had 13 of her tournament total of 20 kills and three of her tournament total of seven service aces.

All-New England junior setter **Michelle Cunningham (MARSTON MILLS, MA)** represented ECSU on the all-tournament team, earning her sixth selection in eight tournaments this year (15th career). In the tournament, Cunningham had 83 set assists, 23 digs and five service aces.

Eastern expects its 12th bid (fifth straight) to the NCAA Division III tournament when invitations to the 48-team field are released Monday.

### Saturday's Results

SUNY Cortland 3, U.S. Coast Guard 0 (15-9, 15-11, 15-3)  
Rochester Tech 3, Springfield College 0 (15-11, 15-8, 15-7)  
Ithaca College 3, Eastern Conn. 1 (15-13, 14-16, 15-9, 15-8)  
SUNY Cortland 3, Eastern Conn. 0 (15-5, 15-8, 15-10)  
Ithaca College 3, Springfield College 0 (15-9, 15-7, 15-7)  
Rochester Tech 3, U.S. Coast Guard 1 (15-1, 15-3, 13-15, 15-9)

### All-Tournament Team

Heidi Nichols (Ithaca), Heather McRae (Springfield), Anne Blandford (U.S. Coast Guard), **Michelle Cunningham (Eastern Conn.)**, Missy Burke (SUNY Cortland), Erica Nissen (Rochester Tech).

Friday, November 7, 1997

**ECSU VOLLEYBALL BEATEN BY RIT AT INTER-REGION CLASSIC**  
**New England institutions swept by New York on first day of tournament**

CORTLAND, NY -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team had a six-match winning streak snapped Friday night at the Inter-Region Classic, the Warriors falling to Rochester Tech 3-0.

In a six-team tournament pitting top-ranked teams from the NCAA Division III New York region against those from New England, New York made a clean sweep on the tournament's first day. In addition to RIT (30-9) sweeping ECSU (24-9) 15-11, 15-4, 15-4, host SUNY College at Cortland swept two-time defending New England champion Springfield College 15-3, 15-5, 15-10 and Ithaca College swept the U.S. Coast Guard Academy 15-4, 15-10, 15-2.

Ithaca, Cortland and RIT are ranked 1-2-3 in New York. Ithaca is rated tenth nationally and Cortland 15th. RIT received votes in the most recent poll. Springfield is rated second in New England, Coast Guard third and ECSU fifth. None are ranked nationally.

Senior outside hitter **Courtney Davidson (DRACUT, MA)** led ECSU with eight kills and 20 digs while all-New England junior setter **Michelle Cunningham (MARSTON MILLS, MA)** had 22 assists and nine digs.

Eastern meets Ithaca Saturday at 11 a.m. and Cortland at 2 p.m.

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Tuesday, November 4, 1997

### FIFTH-RANKED ECSU VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS SIXTH-RANKED SMITH Cunningham sets record as Warriors defeat Pioneers for 19th straight time

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- All-New England junior setter **Michelle Cunningham** (MARSTON MILLS, MA) established a season record for assists as the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team rolled over Smith College 15-12, 15-3, 15-0 Tuesday in a battle of regionally-ranked teams.

The win is the sixth straight for Eastern (24-8), which entered play ranked fifth in New England. The loss for Smith (20-11), ranked sixth in New England, is its fourth straight this year and 19th consecutive at the hands of Eastern.

Trailing 7-2 in Game 1, Eastern scored six straight to take its first lead and later scored the final four points to close out the win. Eastern scored 14 of the first 15 points to ease to the win in Game 2 before recording its second shutout of the season in the final game.

Cunningham, who already holds the ECSU career record for assists, broke the season record of 1,009 late in Game 2. Cunningham finished with 33 in the match, giving her 1,020 this year.

All-New England senior outside hitter **Karen Sweet** (EAST HADDAM) had 16 kills and five service aces for Eastern, with sophomore **Jen Butts** (NEW BEDFORD, MA) attacking at .471 (nine kills) with four service aces and senior **Courtney Davidson** (DRACUT, MA) adding 16 digs.

Eastern closes out the regular season this weekend at the Inter-Region Classic at Cortland, NY.

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## SPORTS NEWS

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Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

October 28, 1997

### **ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL DEFEATS SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE 3-1** *Warriors defeat New England's second-ranked team 4-15, 15-13, 15-7, 15-7*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team bounced back from a first-game loss to defeat Springfield College 4-15, 15-13, 15-7, 15-7 Tuesday in a battle of two of New England's top-ranked teams.

The win is the fifth straight for Eastern (23-8), ranked seventh in New England, and second in four contests this season against Springfield. The Pride (23-9), the two-time defending New England champion, lost for the second straight match after 13 straight wins.

All-New England senior outside hitter **Karen Sweet (EAST HADDAM)** led ECSU with 16 kills, 20 digs and five service aces while sophomore right-side hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** and freshman middle hitter **Kerry Lane (TEWKSBURY, MA)** had eight and seven blocks, respectively. Butts also contributed four service aces.

Senior outside hitter **Courtney Davidson (DRACUT, MA)** added 18 digs and all-New England junior setter **Michelle Cunningham (MARSTON MILLS, MA)** had 27 set assists and five service aces.

Following the first-game loss, Eastern moved out to a 6-2 lead in Game 2 before the Pride moved ahead, taking a 10-7 advantage. Eastern scored six straight at that point, Cunningham serving for the first five. With the game tied 13-13, Eastern broke serve and Cunningham served the final two points.

The Warriors host fourth-ranked Smith College Tuesday at 7 p.m.

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October 28, 1997

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WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The ##### Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team bounced back from a first-game loss to defeat Springfield College 4-15, 15-13, 15-7, 15-7 Tuesday in a battle of two of New England's top-ranked teams.

The win is the fifth straight for Eastern (23-8), ranked seventh in New England, and second in four contests this season against Springfield. The Pride (23-9), the two-time defending New England champion, lost for the second straight match after 13 straight wins.

All-New England senior outside hitter Karen Sweet (EAST HADDAM) led ECS with 16 kills, 20 digs and five service aces while sophomore right-side hitter Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA) and freshman middle hitter Kerry Lane (TEWKSBURY, MA) had eight and seven blocks, respectively. Butts also contributed four service aces.

Senior outside hitter Courtney Davidson (DRACUT, MA) added 18 digs and all-New England junior setter Michelle Cunningham (MARSTON MILLS, MA) had 27 set assists and five service aces.

After the first-game loss, Eastern trailed 10-7 in Game 2 but scored six straight points, Cunningham serving the first five.  
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October 25, 1997

### **ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL WINS THIRD STRAIGHT LITTLE EAST CONFERENCE TITLE**

**Warriors sweep Western Conn. in championship match 15-9, 15-6, 15-6**

PLYMOUTH, NH -- Tournament Most Outstanding Player Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA) had ten kills, five digs, five service aces and four blocks in the championship match as Eastern Connecticut State University swept Western Connecticut State University 15-9, 15-6, 15-6 to remain the only champion of the Little East Conference Women's Volleyball Championship Saturday at Plymouth State College.

The Warriors (22-8) won the event for the third straight year after also winning the inaugural four-team Little East Conference Invitational in 1994. Eastern has won all eight of its matches in the official three-year championship.

Top-seeded Eastern had opened with a 15-3, 15-13, 15-3 win over eight-seeded Massachusetts Boston Friday before sweeping fourth-seeded Massachusetts Dartmouth (11-13) 15-4, 15-3, 15-4 Saturday morning to move into the tournament final against third-seeded Western Connecticut (15-13).

Butts, a sophomore right-side hitter, finished the tournament with 23 kills, a .283 attack percentage, 12 digs, ten service aces, five blocks and three assists. Nine of her service aces came in Saturday's two matches.

Against Western Connecticut, senior outside hitter Courtney Davidson (DRACUT, MA) established a program record for career digs. Davidson finished the tournament with a career total of 1,652 digs, eclipsing the previous mark of 1,644 set by Tawnia Pacheco (1991-1994).

Senior all-New England outside hitter Karen Sweet (EAST HADDAM), who joined Butts as ECSU's representatives on the all-tournament team, had 24 kills, 14 digs and five service aces in the tournament while Davidson had 39 digs and ten kills, junior back row player Anne DiFranco (MERIDEN) 28 digs and all-New England junior setter Michelle Cunningham 81 set assists and 15 service aces.

Eastern hosts two-time defending New England champion Springfield College, ranked second in New England, Tuesday at 7 p.m.

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ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL MOVES INTO LITTLE EAST CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS  
Warriors sweep Massachusetts Boston 15-3, 15-13, 15-3

PLYMOUTH, NH -- All-New England junior setter Michelle Cunningham (MARSTON MILLS, MA) collected ten of the team's 18 service aces as the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team swept Massachusetts Boston 15-3, 15-13, 15-3 Friday in the opening round of the Third Annual Little East Conference Championship Tournament at Plymouth State College.

With the win, Eastern (20-8) posted its 18th straight 20-win season and moved into the tournament semifinal round Saturday at 11:30 a.m. against Massachusetts Dartmouth. Fourth-seeded UMass Dartmouth came from behind to defeat fifth-seeded Rhode Island College 15-8, 4-15, 11-15, 15-9, 15-7 earlier Friday.

For top-seeded Eastern Connecticut against <sup>EIGHTH-SEEDED</sup> UMass Boston, Cunningham had 31 set assists to go along with her ten service aces. Freshman middle hitter Kerry Lane (TEWKSBURY, MA) had eight kills, freshman right-side hitter Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA) six and junior middle hitter Sloane Pagani (BRISTOL) five. All-New England outside hitter Karen Sweet (EAST HADDAM) had eight kills. Junior outside hitter Courtney Davidson (DRACUT, MA) had seven digs, junior back row player Anne DiFranco (MERIDEN) 11. Davidson moved to within 25 digs of a career program record.

In other first-round play, third-seeded Western Connecticut defeated sixth-seeded Keene State College 15-1, 15-9, 15-12 while second-seeded Plymouth State College swept the University of Southern Maine 15-1, 15-2, 15-2. Western Conn. meets Plymouth State in Saturday's other semifinal-round game at 11:30 a.m.

UMass Boston is 2-11.

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Saturday, October 11, 1997

### ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL FIFTH IN OWN INVITATIONAL *Sixth-ranked Warriors split four matches in two-day tournament*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Eastern Connecticut State University defeated Goucher College Saturday afternoon to place fifth in an eight-team field in its own 17th Annual ECSU Women's Volleyball Invitational at Geissler Gym.

Webster (MO) University, a first-team tournament participant rated seventh in the NCAA Division III South Region, captured the tournament title by defeating the U.S. Coast Guard Academy 3-2 in the championship match. Coast Guard is ranked second in New England.

Eastern (19-8), ranked sixth in New England, lost two of three matches in pool play before defeating first-time tournament entrant Goucher (MD) College 15-12, 15-1, 14-16, 15-9).

All-New England junior setter **Michelle Cunningham (MARSTON MILLS, MA)** represented ECSU on the all-tournament team. Cunningham had 160 set assists and 24 digs in four games. All-New England senior outside hitter **Karen Sweet (EAST HADDAM)** led ECSU with 78 kills and 18 service aces, with senior outside hitter **Courtney Davidson (DRACUT, MA)** had a team-high 90 digs and sophomore right-side hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** 39 kills, 42 digs and 13 blocks. Davidson needs 32 digs to establish an ECSU program career record.

Eastern is idle until travelling to compete in the Little East Conference Championships Oct. 25 at Plymouth, NH.

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Friday, Oct. 10, 1997

### ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL DROPS INVITATIONAL OPENER

*Sixth-ranked Warriors lose to fifth-ranked Wheaton for third time*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Wheaton (MA) College broke from a 4-4 tie in the deciding game to defeat Eastern Connecticut State University 15-8, 14-16, 11-15, 16-14, 15-8 for the third time this season in the opening match of the 17th Annual ECSU Volleyball Invitational Friday at Francis E. Geissler Gym.

The Lyons (13-7), ranked fifth in New England, bounced back from a 2-1 deficit with a 16-14 win in Game 4 to force a deciding game, utilizing rally-point scoring. Eastern (17-7) led 4-2 in the final game but Wheaton scored the next six points to take control.

With a chance to wrap up the match in Game 4, Eastern wiped out a 13-10 deficit by scoring four straight points but Wheaton broke serve and answered with the final three points to force a deciding game.

All-New England senior outside hitter **Karen Sweet (EAST HADDAM)** led ECSU with 24 kills and added 19 digs and a team-high five service aces. Senior outside hitter **Courtney Davidson (DRACUT, MA)** had a team-best 21 digs with ten kills and three service aces, sophomore right-side hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** 19 digs, ten kills and four blocks and junior all-New England setter **Michelle Cunningham (MARSTON MILLS, MA)** 42 assists and five service aces.

In pool play Saturday, Eastern faces Wesleyan University at 9:30 a.m. and Webster University at noon before entering championship round play.

### Friday's Results

#### Pool Play

Webster U. 3, Wesleyan U. 1 (15-13, 13-15, 15-9, 15-8)  
Wheaton, MA 3, Eastern Conn. 2 (15-8, 14-16, 11-15, 16-14, 15-8)  
Goucher 3, Bates 1 (15-7, 15-9, 8-15, 15-7)  
U.S. Coast Guard 3, MIT 1 (15-13, 11-15, 15-6, 15-13)

**Records:** Bates (9-12), Eastern Conn. (17-7), Goucher (13-10), MIT (9-6), U.S. Coast Guard 15-1, Webster U. (16-6), Wesleyan U. (6-9), Wheaton (13-7).

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Tuesday, Oct. 7, 1997

### ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS UMASS DARTMOUTH

*Karen Sweet establishes career record for service aces*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Senior outside hitter **Karen Sweet (EAST HADDAM)** set an Eastern Connecticut State University career volleyball record for service aces as the Warriors swept Massachusetts Dartmouth 15-0, 15-2, 15-10 Tuesday.

Eastern, ranked sixth in New England, snaps a two-match losing streak in improving to 17-6. The Corsairs fall to 4-9.

Sweet, a second-team all-New England performer, recorded her 230th career service ace in the first game in serving for the team's first six points. Sweet, who collected four service aces in the match, broke the record the ten-year old mark held by Andrea Costa.

In addition, Sweet led the team with six kills, with senior **Courtney Davidson (DRACUT, MA)** adding five kills and five assists and junior **Sloane Pagani (BRISTOL)** five kills and two blocks. Junior setter **Michelle Cunningham (MARSTON MILLS, MA)** totalled 23 assists and four service aces.

Eastern hosts the 17th Annual ECSU Invitational this weekend at Geissler Gym.

Saturday, Oct. 4, 1997

**ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL FOURTH AT BATES INVITE**  
*Warriors drop both matches Saturday after 2-0 start*

LEWISTON, Maine -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team -- which upended New England's top-ranked team Friday in pool play -- dropped both of its Saturday matches in the championship bracket and placed fourth in the 15-team Bates College Invitational.

Eastern (16-6), ranked fourth in New England, won its four-team pool by defeating St. Joseph's, ME and Wellesley College Friday night but fell to eight-ranked MIT 5-15, 6-15, 6-15 in the semifinal round of the championship bracket Saturday and finished fourth with a consolation loss to unranked Wheaton College, MA 9-15, 12-15, 15-7, 12-15. Wellesley is ranked first in New England and 15th nationally and had swept ECSU Sept. 26 at the MIT Invitational at Cambridge, MA.

Junior setter **Michelle Cunningham (MARSTON MILLS, MA)** was named to the all-tournament team for the fourth time this season and 13th time in her career. Cunningham had 140 set assists and 15 service aces in 14 games. Eleven of her aces came against St. Joseph's.

Senior outside hitter **Karen Sweet (EAST HADDAM)** led ECSU with 64 kills and 68 digs and was second with 11 service aces. Sweet needs one service ace to establish an ECSU career record. Senior outside hitter Courtney Davidson (DRACUT, MA) had 61 digs and was perfect on 61 service attempts.

Eastern hosts Massachusetts Dartmouth Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 27, 1997

**ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SPLITS FOUR MATCHES AT MIT INVITE**  
*Junior setter Michelle Cunningham establishes program record for set assists*

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team split four matches at the 16-team MIT Invitational over the weekend.

The Warriors (14-4), who had split two matches Friday evening, were beaten in five games Saturday by two-time defending New England champion and fourth-ranked Springfield College (10-5) 15-9, 13-15, 11-15, 15-6, 11-15 before defeating host MIT (4-4) 18-16, 15-13, 7-15, 15-3. Friday, the Warriors swept unranked Colby College 15-8, 15-7, 15-6 before Wellesley College stopped the team's seven-match winning streak. Wellesley, ranked fifth in New England, posted 15-5, 15-7, 15-10 triumphs.

Eastern qualified for play in the Gold Bracket by placing second in its four-team pool after Friday's play but the loss to Springfield eliminated it from championship contention.

In four tournament matches, all-New England senior outside hitter Karen Sweet (EAST HADDAM) led ECSU with 61 kills and ten service aces -- moving her to within 12 of a career record in the latter category -- and was second with 54 digs while senior outside hitter Courtney Davidson (DRACUT, MA) had 34 kills and a team-leading 60 digs.

Two-time all-New England junior setter Michelle Cunningham (MARSTON MILLS, MA) -- who was named to her 12th all-tournament team -- established a program record for career set assists, breaking the six-year old record of 2,328 set by Katie Nichols (1988-1991). Cunningham's tournament total of 124 assists gives her 556 on the season and 2,392 in her 287-game career. In the tournament, Cunningham also amassed 36 digs and nine service aces.

Wellesley (9-0) captured the tournament title, defeating U.S. Coast Guard Academy in the process. The Cadets were the defending tournament champion and New England's No. 1 ranked team.

Eastern competes in the Bates College Invitational next weekend at Lewiston, ME.

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Saturday, Sept. 27, 1997

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Saturday, Sept. 20, 1997

### ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL WINS BRIDGEWATER INVITATIONAL

Third-ranked Warriors upend second-ranked Springfield en route to title

**BRIDGEWATER, Mass. -- Seniors Karen Sweet (EAST HADDAM) and Courtney Davidson (DRACUT, MA) and sophomore Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA) combined for 49 kills and 53 digs to lift the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a 3-1 victory over Springfield College en route to the championship of the Bridgewater State College Invitational Saturday.**

Eastern (12-2), won all four of its matches in the five-team, round-robin tournament in capturing its second invitational championship in the past two weekends.

The triumph over Springfield (6-5), ranked second in New England, is the first after eight straight losses for third-ranked Eastern at the hands of the Maroons, who had beaten the Warriors earlier this season in their own invitational.

Eastern, off to its best start since taking 13 of its first 14 matches in 1991, defeated Colby-Sawyer and Maine-Farmington Friday before besting Springfield 15-6, 10-15, 15-9, 15-10 and host Bridgewater State 15-4, 15-1, 15-2 Saturday.

As a team, Eastern collected 59 kills, attacked at .311 and amassed 86 digs against Springfield. Sweet had 18 kills, attacked at .302 and added 21 digs in the win over the Maroons while Butts added 16 kills, 15 digs and five blocks and Davidson 15 kills, attacked at .333 and added 17 digs.

Senior Anne DiFranco (MERIDEN) contributed 11 digs against Springfield and all-New England setter Michelle Cunningham (MARSTON MILLS, MA) had a season-high 51 set assists, completing the four-match tournament with 136 assists and 17 service aces.

Sweet amassed 70 kills in the tournament -- 20 in the win over Bridgewater State -- while Davidson had 50 digs.

Eastern is idle until competing in the MIT Invitational Friday and Saturday.

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 1997

### ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL WINS HOME-OPENER OVER ST. JOSEPH

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- All-New England senior hitter Karen Sweet (EAST HADDAM) had 19 kills and 15 digs to lead the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a 15-6, 15-2, 15-8 sweep of St. Joseph (CT) College Tuesday in its home-opener.

Eastern (8-2), ranked third in New England, won for the 14th straight time over the Blue Jays, who were playing their season-opener.

Sweet, ranked 19th nationally in kills per game, attacked at .361 and added three service aces. Senior outside hitter Courtney Davidson (DRACUT, MA) shared team-high honors with 15 digs. All-New England junior center Michelle Cunningham (MARSTON MILLS, MA) COLLECTED 32 set assists.

Eastern competes in the Bridgewater State College Invitational this weekend.

Saturday, Sept. 13, 1997

**ECSU VOLLEYBALL WINS GORDON COLLEGE INVITATIONAL**  
*Warriors win four of five matches to win tournament for third time*

WENHAM, Mass. - Senior outside hitter Karen Sweet (EAST HADDAM) led the way with 81 kills, 66 digs and 26 service aces as the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team won the Gordon College Holiday Inn Volleyball Invitational for the third time in seven years Saturday.

Eastern (7-2), ranked third in New England, wrapped up the title in the six-team, round-robin invitational by crushing host Gordon 15-4, 15-12, 15-2 in its final match. The Warriors had won their first three matches before dropping an 8-15, 15-13, 13-15, 5-15 decision to Wheaton (MA) prior to the match against Gordon.

It is the 23rd tournament title in program history but first for ECSU under interim head coach Tom York. York stepped in for the retired Pinky Crabtree this past season.

In the win over Gordon (3-4), Sweet had 16 kills and just one error to go along with six service aces and eight digs.

The Warriors opened the tournament with wins Friday over Messiah College 14-16, 13-15, 15-7, 15-7, 15-9 and the University of Rochester 15-9, 12-15, 15-9, 14-16, 15-8 before beginning play Saturday morning by defeating Bates College 15-5, 15-7, 15-3.

Other top tournament contributors included senior outside hitter Courtney Davidson (DRACUT) with a team-high 111 digs and 32 kills; sophomore middle hitter Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA) with 46 kills, 28 digs, 12 blocks and 11 service aces; and junior setter Michelle Cunningham (MARSTON MILLS, MA) with 158 set assists, 42 digs and seven service aces. Cunningham, who represented ECSU on the all-tournament team (her 11th such selection in three years), committed just one ball-handling error on 588 touches. Sweet also led the team with a .261 attack percentage. As a team, Eastern collected 65 service aces in five tournament matches.

Eastern hosts Saint Joseph (CT) College Tuesday at 7 p.m.

# ECSU

## SPORTS NEWS

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Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Wednesday, Sept. 10, 1997

ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE 15-0, 15-5, 15-3

PROVIDENCE, RI -- Junior setter Michelle Cunningham (MARSTON MILLS, MA) served the first 12 points of game one and finished the match with 21 <sup>set</sup> assists to lift the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a 15-0, 15-5, 15-3 sweep of Rhode Island College Wednesday.

The win over Rhode Island (0-4) is the second in <sup>which</sup> six days for Eastern (3-1), opened the season with a three-game sweep last Friday in the first round of the Springfield College Invitational.

Cunningham, a two-time all-New England Region selection, served the first 12 points and ECSU went on to the first game shutout. Cunningham collected 21 assists on 40 attempts in the match, amassing ten assists on her first 12 attempts. She also led the Warriors with six service aces and added two kills in two attempts.

All-New England hitter Karen Ann Sweet (EAST HADDAM), a senior, led the way with nine kills in 13 attempts and added three service aces. Junior setter Anne DiFranco (MERIDEN) topped all ECSU players with seven digs.

ECSU travels to Wenham, MA Friday to compete in the two-day Gordon College Invitational.

Sports Center ≈ 83 Windham Street ≈ Willimantic, Connecticut 06226-2295

ecsus women's volleyball places third at six-team springfield college invitational

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. -- Senior outside hitter Karen Sweet (EAST HADDAM) collected 45 kills and ~~attacked at~~ 321 to lead the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a third-place finish at the six-team Springfield College Invitational Saturday.

Eastern (2-1) won two of three matches in the tournament, securing third place with an 11-15, 15-11, 15-11, 15-4 triumph over SUNY College at Brockport in Saturday's third-place match. The Warriors had split their first two matches in pool play, opening the season with a 15-7, 15-4, 15-13 sweep of Rhode Island College Friday before losing to two-time defending New England champion and host Springfield College 7-15, 9-15, 15-4, 11-15 Saturday morning to place second in the three-team pool.

Sweet led the Warriors in kills while adding 24 digs and six service aces. Senior Courtney Davidson (DRACUT, MA) led ECSU with 46 digs while sophomore Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA) had 19 kills, 17 digs, 12 blocks and three service aces. Freshman Kerry Lane (TEWKSBURY, MA) led Eastern with 13 blocks.

Two-time all-New England setter Michelle Cunningham (MARSTON MILLS, MA) <sup>named to the All-tournament team,</sup> amassed 85 assists and added ten digs and five kills for Eastern, which travels to Rhode Island College Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Women's Volleyball  
Springfield College Invitational

Friday's Results

Springfield def. R.I. College 15-3, 15-4, 15-11  
U.S. Coast Guard def. ~~Brockport State~~ 15-9, 15-12, 15-5 <sup>BRIDGEWATER STATE</sup>  
Eastern Conn. def. R.I. College 15-7, 15-4, 15-13  
U.S. Coast Guard def. Brockport State 15-12, 15-5, 15-9

Saturday's Results

Springfield def. Eastern Conn. 15-7, 15-9, 4-15, 15-11  
Brockport State def. Bridgewater State 15-13, 15-2, 15-7  
Eastern Conn. def. Brockport State 11-15, 15-11, 15-11, 15-4 -- Third place  
Bridgewater State def. R.I. College 15-8, 13-15, 15-11, 15-5 -- Fifth place  
U.S. Coast Guard def. Springfield 15-1, 15-12, 11-15, 15-17, 15-6 -- CHAMPIONSHIP

Sept. 5, 1997

ECSU SWEEPS RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE IN SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE INVITATIONAL

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. -- Junior setter Michelle Cunningham (MARSTON MILLS, MA) had 24 set assists and the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team rallied in Game 3 to sweep Rhode Island College 15-7, 15-4, 15-13 in the opening round of the Springfield College Invitational Friday.

The win for Eastern (1-0) in its season-opener is the first for head coach Tom York, who replaced veteran head coach Floretta ~~Crabtree~~ Crabtree on an interim basis this year. The Anchorwomen are 0-2.

Senior outside hitters Karen Ann Sweet (EAST HADDAM) led the Warriors with nine kills, while senior outside hitter Courtney Davidson (DRACUT, MA) added seven kills and a team-high eight digs. Sweet added six digs.

Cunningham, an all-New England setter, collected ten assists when ECSU rallied from a ten-point deficit in Game 3.

Eastern meets defending New England and host Springfield College Saturday in its second match of the tournament at 10 a.m. Springfield also defeated Rhode Island College Friday.

The tournament final is scheduled for 3 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE Sports Information  
Friday, Sept. 5, 1997

**WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL**

Springfield Invitational  
Blake Arena  
Springfield, Massachusetts

Results from Friday, Sept. 5

Springfield 3, Rhode Island College 0	15-3, 15-4, 15-11
Eastern Connecticut State University 3, Rhode Island College 0	15-7, 15-4, 15-13
Coast Guard 3, Bridgewater 0	15-9, 15-12, 15-5
Coast Guard 3, Brockport 0	15-12, 15-5, 15-9

Schedule for Saturday, Sept. 6

Springfield vs. Eastern Connecticut, 10 a.m.  
Bridgewater State vs. Brockport, 10 a.m.  
3rd and 5th place matches, 12:30 p.m.  
Championship match, 3 p.m.