

# ECSU

## *Sports News*

Sports Information Office

*Bob Molta, Director*

Tel.: (860) 465-5172 \* FAX: (860) 465-4696

Hotline: (860) 465-5756

e-mail: [molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu](mailto:molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu)

Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Friday, November 13, 1998

### ECSU ELIMINATED FROM NCAA VOLLEYBALL REGIONAL *Top-seeded Wellesley wins 51st straight New England match*

WELLESLEY, Mass. -- Top-seeded Wellesley College won its 51st straight match against a New England opponent Friday, sweeping Eastern Connecticut State University 15-2, 15-6, 15-6 in the semifinal round of the NCAA Division III New England Regional Volleyball Tournament.

Wellesley (34-0) advances to defend its title Saturday at 7 p.m. against second-seeded Williams College (28-5), which eliminated third-seeded Amherst College earlier Friday in four games.

The fifth-seeded Warriors (34-8), the last New England team to defeat Wellesley, had upended fourth-seeded Middlebury in opening-round action Thursday in three games to advance to the semifinals. Against Wellesley, the Warriors attacked at just .010, managing just 16 kills and committing 15 errors on 97 attempts. ECSU also committed nine service aces.

No ECSU player had more than four kills. Junior outside hitter Sara Skribiski (SUNDERLAND, MA) led the team with 16 digs while senior middle hitter Michelle Brown (COLUMBUS, OH) and senior setter Michelle Cunningham (COOPERSTOWN, NY) had eight each. The season's top offensive players, Skribiski, Brown and junior right-side hitter Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA) combined to attack at just .014, committing 11 errors against 12 kills in 70 attempts.

*Mailing address:*

Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

# ECSU

## Sports News

Sports Information Office

*Bob Molta, Director*

Tel.: (860) 465-5172 \* FAX: (860) 465-4696

Hotline: (860) 465-5756

e-mail: molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu

Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Thursday, November 12, 1998

### ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL ADVANCES IN NCAA *Warriors avenge regular-season loss in sweeping Middlebury*

WELLESLEY, Mass. -- Eastern Connecticut State University advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division III New England Regional Volleyball Tournament Thursday, avenging a regular-season loss in sweeping Middlebury College 15-9, 15-11, 15-7.

The fifth-seeded Warriors (34-7) meet top-seeded Wellesley College (33-0) Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the second of the evening's two semifinal matches. In the other semifinal match, second-seeded Williams College (27-5) meets third-seeded Amherst College (28-5) at 5 p.m. Amherst advanced with a 14-16, 15-4, 15-7, 7-15, 15-13 win over MIT. Wellesley and Williams were awarded first-round byes. The regional final is scheduled for Saturday at 7.

In winning its first NCAA tournament game after first-round losses each of the last three years, Eastern ended the Panthers' nine-game winning streak and avenged a 3-1 loss to Middlebury in the final round of the ECSU Invitational Oct. 10.

Junior right-side hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** led ECSU with 11 kills and a .276 attack percentage while junior outside hitter **Sara Skribiski (SUNDERLAND, MA)** had ten kills and a team-high 12 digs. Senior setter **Michelle Cunningham (COOPERSTOWN, NY)** had 33 set assists and added six digs.

As a team, the Warriors attacked at just .153 but Middlebury, eliminated in its first NCAA tournament, managed to attack at just .138. Mia Korot, who brought a .256 attack percentage into play, attacked at .375 on 16 attempts but teammate Leslie Edwards, the team-leader in kills who was second with a .255 attack percentage, attacked at .000 on 25 attempts.

It marks the seventh time that ECSU has won its opening match in 13 NCAA tournament appearances. Eastern improved to 31-4 this year against New England competition but it was the Warriors' first win after four regular-season losses to teams which had qualified for this regional. Wellesley, the defending regional champion, has lost only twice the last two seasons, its only New England loss in that span coming at the hands of Eastern Oct. 3, 1997 at the Bates College Invitational.

*Mailing address:*

Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

# ECSU

## Sports News

Sports Information Office

*Bob Molta, Director*

Tel.: (860) 465-5172 \* FAX: (860) 465-4696

Hotline: (860) 465-5756

e-mail: [molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu](mailto:molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu)

Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Tuesday, November 3, 1998

### ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL WINS EIGHTH STRAIGHT

*Warriors rally for three straight wins after opening loss to Smith College*

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. -- Junior right-side hitter **Jen Butts** (NEW BEDFORD, MA) had 22 kills and attacked at .474 and junior outside hitter **Sara Skribiski** (SUNDERLAND, MA) collected 38 digs to lead the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to an 8-15, 15-13, 16-14, 15-5 victory over Smith College Tuesday.

The win is the eighth straight for Eastern (33-5), ranked fourth in New England, while Smith College, last year's ECAC Division III North Tournament champion, falls to 15-13. ECSU has won seven of eight this year on its opponent's home floor.

The Warriors struggled until rolling in Game 4, rallying to win their first match this year in four tries after losing the opening game. After dropping the opener, Eastern trailed 13-11 in Game 2 before scoring the final four points. In Game 3, Eastern squandered a 9-1 lead and trailed 14-13 with Smith serving game point. Senior middle hitter **Sloane Pagani's** (BRISTOL) kill gave the ball back to Eastern and the Warriors scored the next three points on a block and kill by Skribiski and block assists from Pagani and Butts.

Butts was 9-for-9 in kills in Game 2 and added 13 digs and three blocks in the four-game set while Skribiski had 16 kills and averaged 9.5 digs in the four games, an average of six digs higher than her team-leading average. Senior setter **Michelle Cunningham** (COOPERSTOWN, NY) picked up 50 assists, moving her to within 26 of breaking the season total of 1,150 which she set as a junior and improving her New England Division III record to 4,111. She also had 14 digs, as did senior back row player **Anne DiFranco** (MERIDEN).

Eastern closes out its regular season Saturday, hosting nationally-ranked Cortland State (noon) and Ithaca College (2:30) Saturday in the 5th Annual Inter-Region Classic at Geissler Gym.

*Mailing address:*

Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

# ECSU

## *Sports News*

Sports Information Office

*Bob Molta, Director*

Tel.: (860) 465-5172 \* FAX: (860) 465-4696

Hotline: (860) 465-5756

e-mail: [molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu](mailto:molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu)

Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Saturday, October 24, 1998

### ECSU LITTLE EAST VOLLEYBALL TOURNEY CHAMPION

#### *Michelle Cunningham named Most Outstanding Player*

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. -- Senior setter **Michelle Cunningham** (COOPERSTOWN, NY) collected 72 assists in leading the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to its fourth straight Little East Conference tournament title Saturday.

Top-seeded Eastern (28-5) defeated fifth-seeded Keene State College (10-13) 15-7, 15-1, 15-8 in Saturday's semifinals and swept second-seeded Western Connecticut State University (17-12) 15-4, 15-12, 15-8 in the final for the second straight year. The Warriors, ranked third in New England, opened play Friday with a 15-4, 15-12, 15-9 win over eighth-seeded Massachusetts Boston.

The all-tournament honor is the sixth this season and 21st in the four-year career of Cunningham, who had 38 assists against Keene State and 34 against Western to move to within 109 of 4,000 assists in her career. Cunningham becomes the program's fourth different Most Outstanding Player selection in this tournament.

Saturday, junior right-side hitter **Jen Butts** (NORTH DARTMOUTH, MA), last year's tournament Most Outstanding Player, had 23 kills and attacked at .475 and added 17 digs while junior outside hitter **Sara Skribiski** (SUNDERLAND, MA) had 19 kills and attacked at .471.

Neither Cunningham nor Butts had seen action in Friday's match.

As a team, Eastern attacked at .331 and added 17 service aces in Saturday's two wins.

Eastern, which had won all seven of its regular-season conference matches en route to winning the first-ever regular-season title this year, stands 18-0 in four years of conference play, 11-0 in the conference tournament. ECSU has won 54 of 57 conference games in that period.

Eastern competes in the Western Connecticut State University Colonials Invitational Friday and Saturday at Danbury.

*Mailing address:*

Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

# ECSU

## *Sports News*

Sports Information Office

*Bob Molta, Director*

Tel.: (860) 465-5172 \* FAX: (860) 465-4696

Hotline: (860) 465-5756

e-mail: molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu

Eastern Connecticut State University

**little east conference**

Thursday, October 22, 1998

### **ECSU VOLLEYBALL OPENS DEFENSE OF LITTLE EAST TOURNAMENT CROWNS**

Eastern Connecticut State University, the only champion in the three-year history of the Little East Conference volleyball championship tournament, opens defense of its titles **Friday** night in opening-round play of the eight-team, 1998 event, hosted by the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth at North Dartmouth, MA.

Eastern (25-5), which won all seven of its matches and 21 of 22 games en route to the first LEC regular-season title this fall, is seeded first in the tournament and meets eighth-seeded Massachusetts Boston at 8 p.m. The tournament semifinals are scheduled for Saturday at 11:30 a.m. and the final for Saturday at 3:30 p.m. In its regular-season win over UMass Boston Sept. 11 at Geissler Gym, Eastern allowed just ten points in three games.

Ranked third in New England, Eastern has won all 15 of its conference matches and 45 of 48 games in conference play in the four in which the conference has sponsored the sport.

*Mailing address:*

Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

# ECSU

## Sports News

Sports Information Office

*Bob Molta, Director*

Tel.: (860) 465-5172 \* FAX: (860) 465-4696

Hotline: (860) 465-5756

e-mail: molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu

Web site: <http://nutmeg.ctstateu.edu>

**Eastern Connecticut State University**

little east conference

Saturday, October 10, 1998

**HOST ECSU SECOND IN WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL INVITATIONAL**  
*Middlebury College defeats Warriors in tournament's championship match*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Middlebury College volleyball team, competing in the 18th Annual Eastern Connecticut State University Invitational for the first time, knocked off three regionally-ranked opponents, including the host Warriors in a four-game final, to capture the tournament title Saturday.

Unranked entering play primarily due to the limited number of matches (11) it had played, Middlebury improved to 12-3 by winning all four of its matches in the eight-team tournament. The Panthers defeated MIT, New England's fourth-ranked team, in five games and swept sixth-ranked Wheaton and Wesleyan University to win their pool to set up a championship match against Eastern, which won nine of ten games in capturing its pool.

Against the third-ranked Warriors, Middlebury won the first two games 15-11, 15-8, then rebounded from ECSU's hard-fought 17-15 win to nail down the title with a 15-10 victory in the fourth game.

Junior Dawn Trowbridge, the tournament's Most Outstanding Player, had 28 digs and 12 kills in the final for Middlebury, while Leslie Edwards had 17 kills and 15 digs.

The loss prevented ECSU from equalling the program's best record of 26-4 after 30 matches but the current 25-5 mark is the best since that record-setting 1986 season. The loss is also the first against an unranked team this year for Eastern and prevents the Warriors from winning this tournament title for the second time.

Junior rightside hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** and senior setter **Michelle Cunningham (COOPERSTOWN, NY)** represented ECSU on the ten-player all-tournament team. The all-tournament honor was the fifth this season and 20th of Cunningham's four-year career. Butts was named all-tournament for the second time, following last year's selection as the Little East Conference Tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

Against Middlebury, Butts led ECSU with 21 kills, four service aces and a .283 attack percentage but ECSU attacked at just .126 as a team and committed 13 service errors. Cunningham had 52 assists and junior outside hitter **Sara Skribiski (SUNDERLAND, MA)** added a team-high 23 digs and committed just two errors on 50 reception attempts.

(more)

Mailing address:

Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

In the tournament, Butts led the Warriors with 14 service aces, 49 kills and a .330 attack percentage and was second with 12 blocks. Cunningham had 160 assists. Skribiski totalled a team-leading 58 digs to go along with 11 blocks. She handed 97 receptions with just four errors. Senior middle hitter **Michelle Brown (COLUMBUS, OH)** followed with 34 kills, 44 digs and eight service aces in the four matches.

Eastern is idle until competing in the Little East Conference Tournament Oct. 23-24 at North Dartmouth, MA. ECSU, which won this year's inaugural round-robin regular-season title, has won all three conference tournament championships and has won all 15 matches it has played in conference regular-season and tournament history.

# ECSU

## *Sports News*

Sports Information Office

*Bob Molta, Director*

Tel.: (860) 465-5172 \* FAX: (860) 465-4696

Hotline: (860) 465-5756

e-mail: [molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu](mailto:molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu)

Web site: <http://nutmeg.ctstateu.edu>

---

**Eastern Connecticut State University**

little east conference

---

Friday, Oct. 9, 1998

**ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL DEFEATS COAST GUARD IN INVITE OPENER**  
*Warriors scheduled to meet Bates and Colby in completion of pool play Saturday*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Junior rightside hitter **Jen Butts (NORTH DARTMOUTH, MA)** had 15 kills and five service aces to lift the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team over the U.S. Coast Guard Academy 15-12, 15-7, 9-15, 15-9 Friday in the opening round of the 18th Annual ECSU Invitational.

The win is the 23rd against just four losses this season for Eastern, ranked third in New England. Coast Guard, which defeated ECSU 3-2 in the first round of last year's NCAA Division III New England Tournament, falls to 7-13.

Joining Butts among the ECSU leaders was junior outside hitter **Sara Skribiski (SUNDERLAND, MA)** 12 kills, 18 digs and five blocks. Senior middle hitter **Michelle Brown (COLUMBUS, OH)** had eight kills, 15 digs and five blocks.

ECSU continues in pool play Saturday, facing Bates, ranked fifth in New England at 9:30 a.m. and Colby at 1:30 p.m. The tournament final is scheduled for 5:30.

*Mailing address:*

Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

# ECSU

## *Sports News*

Sports Information Office

*Bob Molta, Director*

Tel.: (860) 465-5172 \* FAX: (860) 465-4696

Hotline: (860) 465-5756

e-mail: [molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu](mailto:molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu)

Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 1998

### ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL CLINCHES LITTLE EAST TITLE

*Warriors complete perfect conference season with two wins*

PLYMOUTH, NH -- Eastern Connecticut State University captured the first-ever Little East Conference women's volleyball regular-season title, defeating the University of Southern Maine and Plymouth State College Tuesday to complete an undefeated conference season.

Eastern (22-4), ranked third in New England, defeated Southern Maine 15-3, 15-7, 15-1 and Plymouth State 15-5, 15-10, 3-15, 15-8 to complete an unbeaten (7-0) season in conference play. This season is the first in which the conference sponsored regular-season, round-robin play. In each of the first three seasons, a one-day conference tournament only had been staged, ECSU winning all three titles.

Eastern, which has won all 15 of its matches in conference play the past four years, got 19 kills, 11 digs and six blocks from senior middle hitter **Michelle Brown** (COLUMBUS, OH), last week's LEC Player-of-the-Week. Brown led the team in kills and blocks, as well as with a .655 attack percentage.

Other top players on the evening were junior right-side hitter **Jen Butts** (NEW BEDFORD, MA) with 11 kills and seven digs; freshman Jessica Redding (ANDOVER, MA) with team-leading totals of seven service aces and 59 set assists, recording the 200th assist of her career; and senior back row player **Anne DiFranco** (MERIDEN) with a team-high 14 digs and five service aces. Junior outside hitter **Sara Skribiski** (SUNDERLAND, MA) handled 27 service receptions without an error while DiFranco was perfect on 21. Freshman setter **Bree Maxwell** (MANSFIELD) collected six service aces in two games.

All 12 healthy ECSU players saw exception. Eastern played without three-time all-New England setter **Michelle Cunningham** (COOPERSTOWN, NY), who was resting bruised ribs.

The third-game loss to Plymouth State snapped a streak of 37 consecutive game victories in Little East Conference play for Eastern. In four years of LEC competition, ECSU has won 45 of 48 games within its 15 matches.

The Warriors host the 18th Annual ECSU Invitational this weekend, meeting U.S. Coast Guard Academy in their opener Friday at 5:30 p.m.

*Mailing address:*

Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

# ECSU

## *Sports News*

Sports Information Office

*Bob Molta, Director*

Tel.: (860) 465-5172 \* FAX: (860) 465-4696

Hotline: (860) 465-5756

e-mail: [molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu](mailto:molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu)

Web site: <http://nutmeg.ctstateu.edu>

---

**Eastern Connecticut State University**

little east conference

---

Saturday, October 3, 1998

### ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL THIRD AT BATES COLLEGE INVITATIONAL

*Third-ranked Warriors win two of three against teams ranked in New England*

LEWISTON, ME -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team defeated two of three opponents ranked in New England -- extending top-ranked Wellesley College to five games before losing -- in placing third at the 16-team Bates College Invitational Friday and Saturday.

Ranked third in New England, Eastern (20-4) won three of four matches in the tournament, winning its pool Friday with wins over previously-unbeaten Bowdoin College (8-1) 15-2, 15-9, 15-11 and No. 6 ranked Wheaton College (12-8) 15-12, 15-4, 15-11. Saturday, the Warriors moved out to a 2-1 lead over unbeaten (13-0) Wellesley College before dropping a 4-15, 15-13, 15-11, 11-15, 11-15 decision in the semifinal round of the championship bracket. However, ECSU salvaged third place with a 15-11, 16-18, 15-4, 15-12 win over host Bates College (12-5), ranked eighth in New England.

Senior middle hitter **Michelle Brown (COLUMBUS, OH)** led a balanced attack in the tournament with 53 kills, a .267 attack percentage, 56 digs, 14 blocks and five service aces. Junior outside hitters **Sara Skribiski (SUNDERLAND, MA)** had 37 kills and attacked at .321 while adding a team-high 72 digs, eight blocks and six service aces. Junior right-side hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** led the Warriors with a .357 attack percentage to go along with 44 kills, 55 digs, 12 blocks and nine service aces.

Senior setter **Michelle Cunningham (COOPERSTOWN, NY)** collected 142 set assists to improve her ECSU career mark to 3,659. Cunningham was one of six players named to the all-tournament, her fourth such selection in as many tournaments this year and 19th of her four-year career. In addition to her assists, Cunningham had seven service aces, 35 digs and six blocks.

Wellesley defeated Williams College, ranked second in New England in the champion bracket final 15-5, 15-1, 5-15, 15-4.

Eastern returns to Little East Conference action Tuesday, travelling to Plymouth, NH to meet Plymouth State College and the University of Southern Maine.

*Mailing address:*

Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

# ECSU

## *Sports News*

Sports Information Office

*Bob Molta, Director*

Tel.: (860) 465-5172 \* FAX: (860) 465-4696

Hotline: (860) 465-5756

e-mail: [molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu](mailto:molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu)

Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Saturday, Sept. 26, 1998

**ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL ELIMINATED IN SEMIFINALS AT MIT**  
*No.-1 Warriors beaten by 7th-ranked Williams College in five games*

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team was eliminated in the semifinal round of the MIT Invitational Saturday following a five-game loss to Williams College.

Eastern (17-3), ranked first in New England, dropped a 15-9, 12-15, 13-15, 15-12, 9-15 decision to Williams (9-0), ranked seventh in New England. The Ephs were scheduled to face defending New England champion Wellesley College in the tournament final later Saturday.

The Warriors had advanced to the semifinals with a 15-7, 16-14, 15-13 victory earlier Saturday over Wheaton College (MA), ranked fourth in New England. It was ECSU's second win this year over the Lyons.

In Saturday's two matches, junior outside hitter **Sara Skribiski** (SUNDERLAND, MA) had 37 digs, junior right-side hitter **Jen Butts** (NEW BEDFORD, MA) 28 kills and senior setter **Michelle Cunningham** (COOPERSTOWN, NY) 95 set assists. Against Williams, senior middle hitter **Michelle Brown** (COLUMBUS, OH) had 21 kills and five block assists.

Eastern, ranked 15th nationally, had won its first 16 matches this season against New England competition before losing to host MIT Friday and Williams Saturday. The loss to MIT snapped a program-record 15-game winning streak.

Eastern competes in the Bates College Invitational next Friday and Saturday at Lewiston, ME.

*Mailing address:*

Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

# ECSU

## *Sports News*

Sports Information Office

*Bob Molta, Director*

Tel.: (860) 465-5172 \* FAX: (860) 465-4696

Hotline: (860) 465-5756

e-mail: [molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu](mailto:molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu)

Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Friday, Sept. 25, 1998

### ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SETS RECORD FOR CONSECUTIVE WINS *Warriors break 16-year-old record of 14 straight with opening win at MIT*

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. -- Eastern Connecticut State University set a women's volleyball program record for consecutive wins Friday, breaking the old mark of 14 in its first match at the 16-team MIT Invitational.

Eastern (16-2) broke the 16-year-old mark, set in 1982, with a 15-10, 15-5, 15-10 win over Eastern Nazarene College (2-4) for its 15th straight win before having its streak ended with a 15-10, 14-16, 15-17, 14-16 loss to host MIT (8-3), ranked sixth in New England, later Friday.

In two matches, junior outside hitter **Sara Skribiski (SUNDERLAND, MA)** had 41 digs, junior right-side hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** 23 kills and eight blocks and senior middle hitter **Michelle Brown (COLUMBUS, OH)** 22 kills, 21 digs, six service aces and six blocks.

The Warriors collected 64 digs, 19 block assists and two block solos against MIT but committed 12 service errors.

Eastern returns to action Saturday morning at 11 a.m.

-----  
In ECSU action Saturday, the men's and women's soccer teams and field hockey teams open Little East Conference action.

The women (3-3) look to snap a two-game losing streak when they host Western Connecticut State University (5-1-2) at 1 p.m. ECSU is ranked ninth in the Metro Region, Western fourth.

The field hockey team (0-3) looks for its first-ever win when it hosts University of Southern Maine (3-3) at the ECSU field hockey field at 1 p.m. This season is the first that the conference is sponsoring field hockey.

The men's soccer team (1-4) looks for its second straight win when it travels to face Western Connecticut State University (6-1), ranked fifth in the Metro Region (it is the top-ranked *New England* team in the Metro) at **1 p.m.**

The ECSU cross-country teams compete at the Ray Dwyer Invitational at Goddard State Park in Warwick, RI.

*Mailing address:*

Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

# ECSU

## *Sports News*

Sports Information Office

*Bob Molta, Director*

Tel.: (860) 465-5172 \* FAX: (860) 465-4696

Hotline: (860) 465-5756

e-mail: [molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu](mailto:molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu)

Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Friday, Sept. 25, 1998

**ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SETS RECORD FOR CONSECUTIVE WINS**  
*Warriors break 16-year-old record of 14 straight with opening win at MIT*

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. -- Eastern Connecticut State University set a women's volleyball program record for consecutive wins Friday, breaking the old mark of 14 in its first match at the 16-team MIT Invitational.

Eastern (16-2) broke the 16-year-old mark, set in 1982, with a 15-10, 15-5, 15-10 win over Eastern Nazarene College (2-4) for its 15th straight win before having its streak ended with a 15-10, 14-16, 15-17, 14-16 loss to host MIT (8-3), ranked sixth in New England, later Friday.

In two matches, junior outside hitter **Sara Skribiski (SUNDERLAND, MA)** had 41 digs, junior right-side hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** 23 kills and eight blocks and senior middle hitter **Michelle Brown (COLUMBUS, OH)** 22 kills, 21 digs, six service aces and six blocks.

The Warriors collected 64 digs, 19 block assists and two block solos against MIT but committed 12 service errors.

Eastern returns to action Saturday morning at 11 a.m.

*Mailing address:*

Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

# ECSU

## Sports News

Sports Information Office

*Bob Molta, Director*

Tel.: (860) 465-5172 \* FAX: (860) 465-4696

Hotline: (860) 465-5756

e-mail: [molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu](mailto:molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu)

Eastern Connecticut State University  
little east conference

Wednesday, Sept. 23, 1998

### ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL STREAK REACHES 14 STRAIGHT *Warriors tie longest streak ever with two conference victories*

PROVIDENCE, RI -- Junior right-side hitter **Jen Butts** (NEW BEDFORD, MA) attacked at .741 -- collecting 21 kills in 27 attempts with just one error -- as the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team tied the program record of 14 consecutive wins Wednesday with a pair of Little East Conference victories.

Ranked 15th in the second NCAA Division III national poll, released Wednesday, Eastern rolled past Keene State College 15-3, 15-2, 15-8 and stayed perfect all-time in 23 outings with Western Connecticut State University with 16-14, 15-4, 15-0 wins in conference round-robin action at Rhode Island College. The win over Western (7-3, 4-1) gave ECSU (15-1, 5-0) sole possession of first place in the conference and allowed the Warriors to remain perfect in 13 conference matches since the institution of play in 1995.

The current streak of 14 straight wins ties the mark set in 1982 when the Warriors won 40 of 54 matches under former head coach Floretta Crabtree. ECSU also remains perfect in 14 matches this year against New England opponents. The team's only loss to date has come against No. 18 nationally-ranked Rochester Tech on the first day of the season.

Butts, last week's conference Player-of-the-Week, improved her team-leading attack percentage to .343 last night. Freshman outside hitter **Christine Belanger** (ASHFORD) attacked at .343 with 13 kills while senior middle hitter **Michelle Brown** (COLUMBUS, OH) followed Butts with 14 kills and added four block solos and four block assists. As a team, the Warriors attacked at .316, had nine block solos and 16 block assists and got 24 points on service aces. Senior back row player **Anne DiFranco** (MERIDEN) led the way with 22 digs while senior setter **Michelle Cunningham** (COOPERSTOWN, NY) had 45 set assists.

Eastern opens play in the 16-team MIT Invitational Friday, facing Eastern Nazarene at 4 p.m. and either MIT or Skidmore at 8 p.m.

*Mailing address:*

Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

# ECSU

## *Sports News*

Sports Information Office

*Bob Molta, Director*

Tel.: (860) 465-5172 \* FAX: (860) 465-4696

Hotline: (860) 465-5756

e-mail: [molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu](mailto:molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu)

Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Saturday, Sept. 19, 1998

### ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL WINS TUFTS UNIVERSITY INVITE *Warriors equal best start after 14 matches in program history by going 5-0*

MEDFORD, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team won three matches Saturday -- defeating host Tufts University for the second time in the tournament in the championship match -- to win the Jumbo Invitational.

The five tournament wins help ECSU (13-1) equal its best start in program history after 14 matches and extend its winning streak to 12 -- just two shy of the program record set 16 years ago. The tournament title is Eastern's fourth in two seasons under head coach Tom York.

The Warriors, ranked first in New England and 16th nationally, defeated Maine-Farmington (2-5) twice, Tufts (7-2) twice and Suffolk University (3-6) once to win the title of the four-team tournament. Tufts had entered action undefeated and ranked fifth in New England.

Senior setter **Michelle Cunningham** (COOPERSTOWN, NY) and freshman outside hitter **Christine Belanger** (ASHFORD) represented ECSU on the all-tournament team. A 17-time all-tournament choice in her career, Cunningham had 114 set assists and nine service aces while Belanger had 34 kills, 32 digs and six service aces.

Others contributing to a balanced effort were junior right-side hitter **Jen Butts** (NORTH DARTMOUTH, MA) and senior back row player **Anne DiFranco** (MERIDEN). Butts led the team with 57 kills, ten block assists and a .320 attack percentage while DiFranco had a team-high 37 digs and 11 service aces while serving 80 balls without an error.

Eastern travels to Providence, RI Wednesday for Little East Conference matches against Keene State College and Western Connecticut State University at 5 p.m. The Warriors, 3-0 this year in conference play, have won all 11 of their matches and 33 of 35 games since the beginning of LEC play in 1995.

*Mailing address:*

Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

# ECSU

## *Sports News*

Sports Information Office  
*Bob Molta, Director*  
Tel.: (860) 465-5172 \* FAX: (860) 465-4696  
Hotline: (860) 465-5756  
e-mail: [molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu](mailto:molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu)  
Eastern Connecticut State University  
little east conference

---

Friday, Sept. 18, 1998

**ECSU VOLLEYBALL WINS TWO AT TUFTS INVITATIONAL**  
*New England's No. 1 ranked team sweeps fifth-ranked hosts*

MEDFORD, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team posted its ninth and tenth wins of the season, sweeping University of Maine-Farmington and host Tufts University Friday at the Jumbo Invitational.

A winner of nine straight, Eastern (10-1) rolled past Farmington 15-4, 15-6, 15-3 and outlasted Tufts 15-12, 15-13, 15-10 in the four-team, two-day tournament. ECSU is ranked first in New England, 16th nationally. Tufts is rated fifth in New England.

The Warriors are scheduled to face Suffolk University Saturday at 10 a.m. The tournament semifinals are scheduled for 1 p.m., with the championship and consolation matches to follow.

Against Tufts, junior **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** had 12 kills, senior setter **Michelle Cunningham (COOPERSTOWN, NY)** 32 assists, junior **Sara Skribiski (SUNDERLAND, MA)** 11 digs, sophomore **Rachel Cresman (WALLINGFORD)** nine digs and senior Anne DiFranco (**MERIDEN**) eight digs.

*Mailing address:*

Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

# ECSU

## *Sports News*

Sports Information Office

*Bob Molta, Director*

Tel.: (860) 465-5172 \* FAX: (860) 465-4696

Hotline: (860) 465-5756

e-mail: [molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu](mailto:molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu)

Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Tuesday, September 15, 1998

### ECSU VOLLEYBALL ROLLS OVER TWO OPPONENTS TO IMPROVE TO 8-1 *Warriors celebrate New England's top ranking by running win streak to seven*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team celebrated its position atop the New England rankings by rolling past Johnson & Wales University and Trinity College Tuesday at Geissler Gym.

Eastern (8-1), a winner of seven straight, was voted the top team in the first NCAA Division III New England Region poll yesterday afternoon. Last night, its quickly disposed of Johnson & Wales 15-6, 15-1, 15-5 and Trinity 15-8, 15-6, 13-15, 15-2. The third-game loss to Trinity snapped a streak of 15 straight game victories.

Junior **Jen Butts** (NEW BEDFORD, MA) led the way with 25 kills, a .391 attack percentage and nine blocks. Against Johnson & Wales, Butts had 14 kills in 19 attempts without an error, putting down her final eight balls.

Junior **Sara Skribiski** (SUNDERLAND, MA) had 18 kills and ten digs and attacked at .342 while freshman **Christine Belanger** (ASHFORD) had 17 kills and attacked at .333. Senior **Michelle Cunningham** (COOPERSTOWN, NY) and freshman **Jessica Redding** (ANDOVER, MA) split setting chores, Cunningham collecting 45 and Redding 27 assists.

Eastern competes in the Jumbo Invitational this weekend, facing Maine-Farmington at 5 p.m. and fifth-ranked Tufts at 7:30 Friday and playing three times Saturday.

*Mailing address:*

Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

Saturday, Sept. 12, 1998

**ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS IN LITTLE EAST PLAY**  
*Warriors allow only 35 points in winning nine straight games*

Junior right-side hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** had 21 kills and the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team completed a three-match Little East Conference weekend sweep Saturday with three-game victories over Massachusetts Dartmouth and Rhode Island College at Geissler Gym.

Eastern (6-1) defeated UMass Dartmouth 15-5, 15-3, 15-1 and Rhode Island College (2-5) 15-5, 15-4, 15-7 to remain unbeaten in four years of conference play. The conference sponsored a Little East Conference Championship Tournament the past three years before adding regular-season round-robin play this year. UMass Dartmouth will host this year's LEC tournament Oct. 23-24 at North Dartmouth, MA.

Friday, the Warriors opened their conference season with a 15-1, 15-4, 15-5 rout of Massachusetts Boston and concluded the weekend by allowing only 35 points in nine games.

Saturday, Butts led the way in each match in kills, totalling 13 against UMass Dartmouth and eight against Rhode Island College. Freshman outside hitter **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** added 12 kills in two matches while freshman outside hitter **Jessica Redding (ANDOVER, MA)** added 11. Junior outside hitter **Sara Skribiski (SUNDERLAND, MA)** totalled 17 digs and nine kills while senior setter **Michelle Cunningham (COOPERSTOWN, NY)** had 41 set assists, Redding adding 14.

Against UMass Boston Friday, sophomore outside hitter **Rachel Cresman (WALLINGFORD)** and senior back row player **Anne DiFranco (MERIDEN)** led a balanced attack with five kills each. Seventeen of the team's points in the match came on service aces, led by DiFranco and Cunningham (four each), Skribiski (3) and DiFranco (3). Redding led the way with 14 set assists.

In three weekend matches, DiFranco had eight service aces and handled all 39 serves and all 20 serve receptions without an error. She was also second on the team with 15 digs. As a team, the Warriors attacked at .251, led by Butts, Redding (each at .370) and Skribiski (.348). Butts finished with a team-high 23 kills while Belanger had 16.

In four years of conference play, ECSU has won all 11 of its matches and 33 of 35 games.

Eastern hosts Johnson & Wales (5 p.m.) and Trinity College (8 p.m.) Tuesday.

**Little East Conference  
Women's Volleyball  
at Willimantic, Conn.**

**Saturday's Results**

Eastern Conn. 3 (15-15-15), Massachusetts Dartmouth 0 (5-3-1)  
Eastern Conn. 3 (15-15-15), Rhode Island College 0 (5-4-7)  
Massachusetts Dartmouth 3 (16-15-15), Massachusetts Boston 0 (14-2-5)

Rhode Island College 3 (15-8-17-15), Massachusetts Boston 1 (7-15-15-10)

### Friday's Results

Eastern Conn. 3 (15-15-15) , Massachusetts Boston 0 (1-4-5)

Rhode Island College 3 (13-15-1-15-15) Massachusetts Dartmouth 2 (15-8-15-8-8)

*Team records: Eastern Conn. (6-1/3-0), Massachusetts Boston (0-3/0-3),  
Massachusetts Dartmouth (1-2/1-2), Rhode Island College (2-5/2-1)*

Saturday, Sept. 12, 1998

### FRESHMEN LEAD TRINITY COLLEGE OVER ECSU WOMEN'S SOCCER

*Warriors put only two shots on goal in losing 1-0 at home to Bantams*

Freshmen Martina O'Sullivan and Sarah Kaminski combined for the only goal of the match and freshman Sarah Bradley posted a shutout in her first collegiate match in Trinity College's 1-0 victory over the Eastern Connecticut State University women's soccer team Saturday.

The match was the first of the season for Trinity while ECSU is 1-1. The Warriors had opened their season Saturday, Sept. 5 with a +6-0 home win over Kean University.

O'Sullivan snapped a scoreless tie with her first collegiate goal off a pass from Kaminski four minutes before the end of the first half and the lead stood up for Trinity, which needed only two saves from Bradley.

ECSU senior **Kim Bridge (ENFIELD)** came up with six saves for ECSU over the first 88 minutes. A leg injury with two minutes remaining sidelined Bridge, who was replaced by sophomore back **Amy Gray (SPRAGUE)**. Senior goalkeeper **Stacey Guertin (PUTNAM)** was not in uniform due to a personal commitment.

Eastern, ranked eighth in the NCAA Division III Metro Region, plays its third straight home match Tuesday, hosting Bridgewater State College at 3:30 p.m.

### Women's Soccer Saturday's Result at Willimantic, Conn.

**Trinity College 1, Eastern Conn. 0**

Trinity (1-0)	1	0	--	1
Eastern Conn. (1-1)	0	0	--	0

Martina O'Sullivan (Sarah Kaminski) 41:11.

Shots: T-16, E-11; Saves: T-Sarah Bradley 2, E-Kim Bridge 6, Amy Gray 0.

# ECSU

## *Sports News*

Sports Information Office

*Bob Molta, Director*

Tel.: (860) 465-5172 \* FAX: (860) 465-4696

Hotline: (860) 465-5756

e-mail: molta@ecsuc.ctstateu.edu

Eastern Connecticut State University

little east conference

Saturday, Sept. 5, 1998

### ECSU VOLLEYBALL THIRD AT SPRINGFIELD INVITATIONAL *Warriors upend Wheaton and Springfield College Saturday*

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team defeated two teams ranked ahead of it in last year's final NCAA Division III New England regional poll in placing third at the eight-team Springfield College Invitational Saturday.

The Warriors won three of four matches in the two-day tournament, losing only to tournament champion Rochester Tech in their second match Friday and winning both of Saturday's matches by two points in fifth and deciding games.

Saturday, Eastern knocked off nemesis Wheaton (MA) College 15-10, 10-15, 15-5, 8-15, 16-14 to secure second place in its four-team pool, then stopped host Springfield College 15-13, 8-15, 15-10, 10-15, 15-13 in the third-place match. Wheaton had beaten ECSU all three times the teams had met last year and was ranked fourth in last year's final poll, one notch ahead of ECSU. The Pride was ranked second in last year's final poll.

Junior right-side hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD)** and seniors **Michelle Brown (COLUMBUS, OH)** and **Michelle Cunningham (COOPERSTOWN, NY)** led the way Saturday. Butts, who had just eight kills and attacked at only .059 Friday, had 29 kills and attacked at .318 Saturday. Brown had 22 kills and led the team in both matches Saturday with 24 digs while Cunningham had 79 set assists Saturday. Cunningham, who was named to the all-tournament team for the 16th time in her four-year career, had recorded her 3,000th career assist Friday.

Against Wheaton, freshman **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** added nine kills and freshman **Jessica Redding (ANDOVER, MA)** five service aces.

In four matches in the tournament, Cunningham had 123 assists, Brown 38 kills and 43 digs, Butts 37 kills, junior **Sara Skribiski (SUNDERLAND, MA)** 23 kills and 30 digs and senior **Anne DiFranco (MERIDEN)** 25 digs and nine service aces.

Eastern hosts UMass Boston Friday and UMass Dartmouth and Rhode Island College Saturday in Little East Conference action.

*Mailing address:*

Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226