

Saturday, November 6, 1999

**ECSU FALLS IN LITTLE EAST CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH**  
**Western Connecticut sweeps Warriors, gains NCAA tournament bid**

DANBURY, Conn. -- The Western Connecticut State University women's volleyball team erased Eastern Connecticut State University leads late in all three games in sweeping the Warriors 15-11, 15-11, 15-13 in the championship match of the Little East Conference Tournament Saturday.

With the win, Western (20-9) earns the automatic berth accorded the conference's tournament champion. The NCAA bid is the first-ever for the Colonials, seeded first in the LEC tournament after winning the regular season crown. Eastern, seeded second after losing to the Colonials in the regular season, finishes 16-19 and had a string of six straight NCAA tournament berths snapped. The conference tournament loss is the first for Eastern after 13 straight wins in five tournaments. The Warriors are 26-2 in five years of conference regular season and tournament play, both losses coming this season to Western.

For Eastern, it is the first time in 20 years -- since 1979 -- that it will not compete in a post-season tournament.

Trailing 11-10, Western scored the final four points of Game 1, the final six points of Game 2 after trailing 11-9 and the final three points of Game 3 after trailing 13-12. In the deciding game, Eastern wiped out an 11-3 deficit by outscoring Western 10-1. Leading 13-12, Eastern gave the ball back to Western after a net violation, and freshman outside hitter Amanda Kephart served the final three points for Western. Sophomore outside hitter Cynthia Socoloskie tied the match 13-all with a kill and Kephart followed with a service ace to make it 14-13.

Junior middle hitter Taylor Kulpanowski of Western was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player. In the final, she had 13 kills and attacked at .444 while adding five blocks. Kephart led the Colonials with 14 kills and added ten digs.

(more)

# ECSU

## *Sports News*

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Monday, November 1, 1999

### ECSU VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS SMITH COLLEGE IN REGULAR-SEASON FINALE

*Butts ties season block assist record in final regular-season home match of career*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Senior middle hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** tied the Eastern Connecticut State University season block assist record in the final regular-season home match of her career as the Warriors swept Smith College 15-7, 15-12, 15-12 Monday.

The win over Smith (15-13) is the 21st consecutive one for Eastern (14-18) over the Pioneers and is the ninth sweep of this season for the Warriors.

Butts, the team's only senior, had three block assists to tie the season record of 86, set by Sloane Pagani in 1997. Butts already holds the ECSU career record with 270 block assists, 85 more than the previous record-holder.

Junior outside hitter **Sheryl Arrich (ROCKLEDGE, FL)** compiled a season-high 13 kills, with Butts and junior outside hitter **Rachel Cresman (WALLINGFORD)** adding 11 each and sophomore outside hitter **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** adding ten. Arrich attacked at .357 in helping ECSU attain its second-highest attack percentage (.311) this season.

Belanger added ten digs, junior back row player **Ellie Belcher (BROCKTON, MA)** adding nine. Sophomore setter **Jessica Redding (ANDOVER, MA)** totalled 40 assists -- the second-most in a match in her career and most in a three-game set.

Tanna Engebretsen led Smith with nine kills while Michelle Wong had seven kills and 21 digs. Kathleen Malloy matched Wong with 21 digs and added two block assists. Nancy Vander Veer led the Pioneers with 18 assists.

Eastern meets Keene State College Friday at 5:30 p.m. in the opening round of the Little East Conference tournament at the William A. O'Neill Athletic and Convocation Center on the campus of Western Connecticut State University.

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Saturday, October 30, 1999

### ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SIXTH AT ELIZABETHTOWN INVITE

*Warriors lose two of three, fall to 13-18 heading into regular-season finale*

ELIZABETHTOWN, PA -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team committed 22 reception errors, 13 service errors and attacked at just .138 in its two losses this past weekend at the Elizabethtown College Halloween Classic.

After being swept Friday by Franklin & Marshall College (27-5) -- ranked second in the Mid-Atlantic Region -- Eastern swept host Elizabethtown College (4-26) 15-1, 15-6, 15-5 but was swept by Allegheny College (14-16) 13-15, 13-15, 3-15 Saturday.

In placing sixth among eight teams in the final regular-season invitational of the season, Eastern (13-18) has failed to win at least one in-season tournament for the first time since 1990 and only the second time in the last 14 seasons. The Warriors did not win more than one match in any of their five regular-season tournaments.

In the win over Elizabethtown, the Warriors attacked at .235 and totalled a season-high 20 service aces. Sophomore outside hitter **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** and sophomore setter **Jessica Redding (ANDOVER, MA)** each had five service aces in the match, with Belanger adding a team-high nine digs.

Sophomore middle hitter **Vickie Rondeau (PUTNAM)**, senior middle hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** and Belanger combined for 51 of the team's 77 kills in the tournament, with Rondeau attacking at team-high .289. Belanger led ECSU with 35 digs and seven service aces in the tournament while junior outside hitter **Sheryl Arrich (ROCKLEDGE, FL)** had 27 digs and handled 74 service receptions with just seven errors.

Butts totalled five block assists to move her to within four of establishing a season record of 87. Earlier this season, Butts broke the career record of 185 in that category and improved that record to 267 this weekend.

Moravian College, ranked third in the Mid-Atlantic Region, swept Franklin & Marshall in the tournament finale.

Eastern closes out its regular season Monday when it hosts Smith College at 7 p.m. The second-seeded Warriors open play in the Little East Conference tournament Friday at 5:30 p.m. against seventh-seeded Keene State College at Western Connecticut State University. The tournament final is scheduled for Saturday at 3:30 p.m., with the winner earning a spot in the NCAA Division III tournament.

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Saturday, October 23, 1999

### ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL WINS TWO CONFERENCE MATCHES

*Warriors nail down second seed in tournament with wins over Plymouth, So. Maine*

GORHAM, Maine -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team defeated Plymouth State College and the University of Southern Maine Saturday in Little East Conference Round Robin play to nail down the second seed in next month's conference championship tournament.

The Warriors (12-16, 6-1) dropped an opening decision to Plymouth State (20-7,4-3) before bouncing back for an 8-15, 15-4, 15-12, 15-10 win, then swept Southern Maine (12-18, 2-5) 15-1, 15-8, 15-7. Western Connecticut State University (15-9, 7-0) claimed the regular-season title and No. 1 tournament seed by sweeping UMass Dartmouth and UMass Boston in round robin play yesterday at North Dartmouth, MA. Western will host the eight-team championship Nov. 5-6, with the winner earning a spot in the NCAA Division III tournament.

Against Plymouth State, senior middle hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** had 12 kills and nine blocks, sophomore outside hitter **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** 12 kills and six blocks, junior outside hitter **Sheryl Arrich (ROCKLEDGE, FL)** 17 digs, junior back row player **Ellie Belcher (BROCKTON, MA)** 11 digs, junior outside hitter **Rachel Cresman (WALLINGFORD)** ten kills and sophomore setter **Jessica Redding (ANDOVER, MA)** 34 set assists and 13 digs.

Against Southern Maine, Belanger had nine kills, Butts seven kills and three aces, freshman **Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA)** seven digs, four kills and three service aces, Redding 15 assists and nine digs in two games and freshman setter **Christy Hay (WEYMOUTH, MA)** seven assists in one game. Sophomore middle hitter **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** was 5-for-5 in kills without an error in one game. As a team, ECSU collected ten service aces.

Eastern opens play in the Elizabethtown Classic Friday at 6 p.m. against Franklin & Marshall College.

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Saturday, October 16, 1999

### ECSU VOLLEYBALL SECOND AT SPIKE IT UP! CLASSIC

*Warriors fall in finals to No. 15 nationally-ranked Colorado College*

COLORADO SPRINGS -- Junior back row player **Ellie Belcher (BROCKTON, MA)** and sophomore outside hitter **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** combined to collect 32 of the team's 79 digs in leading the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a 15-13, 15-11, 15-12 victory over the University of Dallas Saturday at the Spike It Up! Classic, hosted by Colorado College.

It was the team's first win in the tournament after two Friday night losses but was enough to vault the Warriors into the championship match of the four-team tournament, where they were swept by No. 15-nationally-ranked Colorado 5-15, 8-15, 5-15 later Saturday.

Eastern (10-16), Dallas (16-12) and Maryville College, TN (13-10) all finished preliminary play with one win and two losses while the host Tigers (17-4) won all three of their matches in three-game sweeps. Eastern advanced to the championship match based on a tie-breaking procedure involving won-loss game percentage. Maryville swept Dallas in the third-place match. Colorado College, ranked second in the West Region, won its four matches in 12 straight games, never allowing an opponent to reach double digits in a game.

In the championship match, Eastern lost to Colorado College for the second time in the tournament. In the final, the Warriors improved their service and attack percentage and had more digs than in the Friday loss. After losing the first game, ECSU took a 7-2 lead in Game 2 but managed just one point the rest of the way.

The Warriors had managed to win just one game in losing both of their matches Friday night -- scoring more than nine points in only the win -- but bounced back Saturday against Dallas to snap an overall five-match losing streak. Belcher picked up 17 digs while Belanger had 15 digs, seven kills and a service ace. Junior outside hitter **Sheryl Arrich (ROCKLEDGE, FL)** had a season-high 12 kills, added seven digs and committed only two errors on 25 reception attempts. Senior middle hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** had nine kills and seven blocks, sophomore middle hitter **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** seven kills and two blocks. As a team, ECSU had 11 blocks (12 assists, five solos). Sophomore setter **Jessica Redding (ANDOVER, MA)** had 35 set assists and four service aces.

Arrich and Belanger represented ECSU on the seven-player all-tournament team. Arrich led the Warriors with 128 pass attempts and 39 digs and shared the team lead with a .980 serve percentage. Belanger had a team-high 32 kills in the tournament and passed at .884. She was second to Arrich with 36 digs. Butts totalled 20 of the team's 46 blocks in the tournament.

Eastern closes out Little East Conference regular-season play Saturday, facing the University of Southern Maine and Plymouth State College at Gorham, ME, beginning at 1 p.m.

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Sunday, October 17, 1999

### **PLAYER-OF-THE-WEEK NOMINATION**

### **EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Sheryl Arrich Jr. OH 5-7 Rockledge, FL**

Named to the seven-player all-tournament team when ECSU finished second at the four-team Spike It Up! Classic at Colorado Springs (Colorado College host)... first-year transfer from South Florida CC led ECSU with 128 service reception attempts and 39 digs and shared the team lead with a .980 serve percentage... had a season-high 12 kills (attacked at .235) in a win over the University of Dallas and equalled her season high with 14 digs in the tournament opener against Maryville College (TN)...

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**Eastern Connecticut State University**

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Friday, October 8, 1999

**ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL DROPS OPENER AT OWN INVITE**  
*Warriors lose five-game decision to Wesleyan University*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Ten days after defeating Wesleyan University for the 15th time in 16 tries, the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team was dumped by the Cardinals in five games Friday in the opening night of the 19th Annual ECSU Women's Volleyball Invitational at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern (9-11) won two of the first three games but dropped the final two in a 15-10, 13-15, 15-12, 12-15, 9-15 decision -- the team's first five-game loss this year after one win. Wesleyan is 11-6.

Eastern committed only three reception errors and nine service errors in the four-game win over Wesleyan Sept. 28 but committed 15 reception errors and 18 service errors this time. Friday, Eastern's top two outside hitters combined to attack at .000, committing 14 attack errors with 14 kills on 80 attempts.

Junior outside hitter **Sheryl Arrich (ROCKLEDGE, FL)** attacked at .259 to lead ECSU, coming up with eight kills while committing only one error. Arrich also handled 58 of the team's 108 service receptions and contributed 14 digs. ECSU averaged 18.8 digs per game in the match, with sophomore setter **Jessica Redding (ANDOVER, MA)** coming up with 21, sophomore outside hitter **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** adding 16. Sophomore middle hitter **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** had six block assists and a block solo. Senior middle hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** led ECSU with 13 kills and had ten digs. Redding had 36 set assists.

Saturday, ECSU meets Bates College, ranked second in New England, at 9:30 a.m. and Wheaton College (MA) at 11:45 a.m. in pool play. The tournament final is scheduled for 4:15 p.m.

**Trinity College 3, U.S. Coast Guard 2 (15-10, 6-15, 8-15, 15-10, 15-7)**  
**Wesleyan U. 3, Eastern Conn. 2 (10-15, 15-13, 12-15, 15-12, 15-9)**  
**Bates College 3, Wheaton College (MA) 0 (15-4, 15-11, 15-5)**  
**Franklin & Marshall vs. Middlebury College, late**

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Saturday, October 9, 1999

**19th Annual  
Eastern Connecticut State University  
Women's Volleyball Invitational  
at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium  
Willimantic, CT**

**Friday, October 8, 1999  
POOL PLAY**

Trinity College 3, U.S. Coast Guard 2 (15-10, 6-15, 8-15, 15-10, 15-7)  
Wesleyan U. 3, Eastern Conn. 2 (10-15, 15-13, 12-15, 15-12, 15-9)  
Bates College 3, Wheaton College (MA) 0 (15-4, 15-11, 15-5)  
Franklin & Marshall 3, Middlebury College 2 (15-9, 11-15, 8-15, 15-11, 15-9)

**Saturday, October 9, 1999  
POOL PLAY**

Franklin & Marshall 3, Trinity College 1 (15-11, 15-4, 11-15, 15-8)  
Bates College 3, Eastern Conn. 0 (18-16, 15-6, 15-9)  
Wesleyan U. 3, Wheaton College (MA) 0 (15-13, 15-7, 16-14)  
Middlebury 3, U.S. Coast Guard 0 (15-10, 15-11, 15-11)  
Wheaton College (MA) 3, Eastern Conn. 0 (15-1, 17-15, 15-10)  
Bates College 3, Wesleyan U. 1 (15-11, 15-8, 9-15, 15-6)  
Franklin & Marshall 3, U.S. Coast Guard 0 (15-2, 15-8, 16-14)  
Middlebury College 3, Trinity College 2 (9-15, 15-11, 13-15, 16-14, 15-12)

(more)

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**Eastern Connecticut State University**

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Tuesday, Oct. 5, 1999

**ECSU DROPS FIRST LITTLE EAST MATCH EVER, TO WESTERN CONN.**  
*Warriors lose to Colonials after 25 consecutive victories*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team was beaten in a Little East Conference match for the first time ever -- after 21 consecutive victories -- as the Warriors were swept by Western Connecticut State University 15-1, 16-14, 16-14 Tuesday in conference round-robin play.

The Colonials (13-6, 5-0) won the battle of LEC unbeatens, routing the Warriors in the first game and emerging with two-point wins in the next two. Western had lost 25 straight matches to Eastern dating back to 1979.

Eastern (9-10, 4-1) had won all 21 of its conference matches since the beginning of LEC play in 1995. The Warriors have won all four LEC post-season tournaments and won last year's initial LEC regular-season title. Until yesterday, ECSU had won 63 of 68 games over the 21 straight wins.

Against Western, Eastern attacked at a season-low .037, committing 22 errors with only 26 kills on 110 chances. Sophomore outside hitter **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** had 16 digs and sophomore setter **Jessica Redding (ANDOVER, MA)** 16 set assists.

In the win over Keene State, junior back row player **Ellie Belcher (BROCKTON, MA)** had ten digs, Redding nine digs and 24 set assists. Junior right-side hitter **Rachel Cresman (WALLINGFORD)** had seven kills and attacked at .428. As a team, ECSU attacked at .250.

Eastern hosts the 19th Annual ECSU Volleyball Invitational this weekend, with play getting underway Friday at 5:30 p.m.

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**Eastern Connecticut State University**

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Tuesday, Oct. 5, 1999

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ROUND ROBIN VOLLEYBALL  
at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium  
Eastern Connecticut State University  
Willimantic, Conn.**

Western Conn. 3, Eastern Conn. 0 (15-1, 16-14, 16-14)

Keene State College 3, Rhode Island College 2 (8-15, 16-14, 9-15, 15-10, 15-12)

Eastern Conn. 3, Keene State College 0 (15-11, 15-10, 15-7)

Western Conn. 3, Rhode Island College 1 (15-5, 15-4, 15-17, 15-5)

**Records:**

Western Conn. (13-6, 5-0 little east)

Eastern Conn. (9-10, 4-1)

Keene State (4-8, 2-3)

Rhode Island College (8-13, 1-4)

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Eastern Connecticut State University

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Tuesday, Sept. 28, 1999

### ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SNAPS THREE-GAME SKID

*Warriors bounce back from first-game loss to defeat Wesleyan U. 3-1*

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team committed a season-low three reception errors in bouncing back from a first-game loss to defeat Wesleyan University 3-15, 15-10, 15-9, 15-7 Tuesday.

The win is the team's first after three straight losses and improves the Warriors to 7-9, 7-6 against New England competition. The Cardinals, who have lost 15 of 16 all-time against ECSU, are 6-6.

Eastern gave up the first six points of Game 1 en route to the loss. After evening the match at 1-1, Eastern fell behind 4-0 in Game 3 but scored the next five points and wrapped up the game win by scoring six of the final seven.

The Warriors committed a season-low three reception errors and also collected 75 digs -- their second most this season. Junior outside hitter **Sheryl Arrich (ROCKLEDGE, FL)** handled 40 of 41 serve receptions and sophomore outside hitter **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** 27 of 28. Belanger also led the way with 20 digs and was second with nine kills. Senior middle hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** had 16 digs and three blocks, sophomore middle hitter **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** team-highs with ten kills and four blocks. Sophomore setter **Jessica Redding (ANDOVER, MA)** had 28 assists and 14 digs.

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

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Saturday, Sept. 25, 1999

### ECSU VOLLEYBALL DROPS THREE OF FOUR AT MIT INVITE

*Losers of six of last seven, Warriors fall to 6-9 overall*

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team dropped its final three matches following an opening victory Friday at the MIT Invitational, finishing in a tie for seventh in the 16-team field.

Eastern (6-9) defeated Wheaton College (MA) in its opener Friday night but fell to host MIT later in the night, then was swept in both of its matches Saturday, losing to Bates College 7-15, 11-15, 4-15 and Amherst College 3-15, 3-15, 11-15. By splitting Friday, the Warriors were one of eight teams to qualify for play in the Championship Bracket Saturday, but turned out to be one of two teams -- along with Little East Conference rival Western Connecticut State University -- to lose both of its matches in that bracket.

A winner of five of their first eight, the Warriors had lost six of their last seven and have fallen out of the New England rankings for the first time since 1997.

Eastern attacked at just .045 against Bates and at -.019 against Amherst. Against Amherst, senior middle hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** had 11 of the team's 19 kills and attacked at .333 with a team-high ten digs. She was the only player to attack at above .000, however.

In the 14 tournament games, Eastern committed 34 service errors and attacked at just .078, dropping its season's average in the latter category to .127. In the tournament, Butts led the way with 32 kills, 45 digs and 19 blocks while sophomore outside hitter **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** had 30 kills and 38 digs. First-year junior outside hitter **Sheryl Arrich (ROCKLEDGE, FL)** committed only 11 reception errors on 151 attempts for a .927 percentage. She also had 34 digs. Junior back row player **Ellie Belcher (BROCKTON, MA)** added 34 digs and a .953 serve percentage while sophomore setter **Jessica Redding (ANDOVER, MA)** served at .967 and averaged 7.0 assists per game. Arrich (6) and Belcher combined for 11 of the team's 21 service aces.

Bates entered play ranked third in New England while the loss to Amherst, a sub-.500 team, was the second this season.

Two-time New England champion Wellesley College defeated Bates College 15-9, 15-9, 16-14 to win its third consecutive MIT Invitational title.

Eastern visits Wesleyan University Tuesday at 7 p.m.

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Saturday, Sept. 18, 1999

### ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL DROPS THREE MATCHES AT WILLIAMS QUAD

*Ranked third in New England, Warriors' four-match winning streak comes to halt*

WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team managed to win just one of ten games in losing to Williams College, Amherst College and Skidmore College Saturday at the Williams College Quad.

Eastern (5-6), ranked third in New England, was swept by Williams 6-15, 9-15, 7-15 and Amherst 13-15, 4-15, 3-15 before losing its finale to Skidmore 7-15, 13-15, 15-6, 10-15. Eastern, Williams and Amherst all competed in last year's NCAA Division III New England Tournament, with Williams reaching the tournament championship match.

Heading into action, the Warriors had won their last four after a 1-3 start, sweeping three Little East Conference matches last weekend and defeating Trinity College in their home-opener last Tuesday.

It marks the first time since Oct 17, 1992 that ECSU has lost three matches in one day. All three of the team's losses on that day were in best-of-three competitions and came against New York opponents RIT (twice) and Ithaca College at the Ithaca College Invitational.

Saturday, sophomore outside hitter **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** totalled 28 kills, senior middle hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** 25 kills, 19 digs and 12 block assists and sophomore middle hitter **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** 21 kills and 17 digs. Sophomore setter **Jessica Redding (ANDOVER, MA)** had 85 set assists.

Eastern competes at the MIT Invitational next Friday and Saturday at Cambridge, MA.

**Williams College 15-15-15, Eastern Conn. 6-9-7**

**Amherst College 15-15-15, Eastern Conn. 13-4-3**

**Skidmore College 15-15-6-15, Eastern Conn. 7-13-15-10**

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Eastern Connecticut State University  
little east conference

September 14, 1999

### ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL DEFEATS TRINITY 3-1 *Arrich serves 11 straight points in crucial Game 3 victory*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Junior outside hitter **Sheryl Arrich (ROCKLEDGE, FL)** served 11 consecutive points in Game 3 to lift the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a come-from-behind 15-10, 14-16, 15-11, 15-8 win over Trinity College Tuesday.

With the match tied one game to one, the Bantams moved out to an 11-4 lead in Game 3 before Arrich served the final 11 points to give the Warriors the win en route to the match triumph. In addition to her serving, Arrich handled 38 serve receptions in the match with just one error and also shared the team lead with 13 digs.

Sophomore outside hitter **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** had eight kills on her final 14 attack attempts after managing just two kills with six errors on her first 12 tries.

Senior middle hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** and Belanger each had 11 kills, with Butts adding 13 digs and Belanger ten. Also in double figures in digs were sophomore setter **Jessica Redding (ANDOVER, MA)** and sophomore middle hitter **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** with 11 each and junior back row player **Ellie Belcher (BROCKTON, MA)** with ten.

In the match, Arrich and Redding combined for 54 serves. Redding did not make an error while picking up three aces. Arrich had just three errors and one ace.

Eastern competes at the Williams College quad Saturday at 11 a.m.

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# ECSU

## Sports News

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Eastern Connecticut State University  
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Saturday, September 11, 1999

### ECSU VOLLEYBALL COMPLETES LITTLE EAST WEEKEND SWEEP *Warriors hang on to avoid upset bid by UMass Boston, win in five games*

BOSTON, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team remained unbeaten in 21 Little East Conference matches, completing a weekend sweep Saturday with wins over the University of Massachusetts Boston and Rhode Island College.

After sweeping the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Friday 15-4, 15-7, 15-11, Eastern (4-3) avoided an upset by holding off host UMass Boston 15-8, 13-15, 15-12, 5-15, 15-10 Saturday morning. The Warriors closed play with a 15-11, 15-12, 15-9 victory over Rhode Island College.

UMass Boston had won its first LEC regular-season match Friday over Rhode Island College after going 0-7 in 1998. After scoring just ten total points in a three-game regular-season loss to ECSU a year ago, the Beacons pushed the Warriors to the limit yesterday.

Against UMass, sophomore setter **Jessica Redding (ANDOVER, MA)** led the way with 33 set assists, six service aces and seven digs. Senior middle hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** added eight kills, 18 digs and two service aces and sophomore outside hitter **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** seven kills, ten digs and three service aces. In the deciding fifth game, ECSU had ten kills in 20 attempts with just two errors.

Against Rhode Island, Redding also had 33 assists while Belanger picked up seven of the team's 15 service aces and added nine kills. Butts had 13 kills, ten digs and four block assists and attacked at .417. Sophomore middle hitter **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** added eight kills and eight digs.

Thus far in conference play, the Warriors have won all ten regular-season matches the past two years and all 11 tournament matches, dating back to 1995.

Eastern hosts Trinity College Tuesday at 7 p.m. in its home-opener.

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Friday, September 10, 1999

**ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL WINS LEC OPENER**  
*Warriors win 19th straight conference decision 3-0*

BOSTON, Mass. -- Junior outside hitter **Rachel Cresman (WALLINGFORD)** had six kills and sophomore back row player **Carmen Hormaza (GLEN COVE, NY)** had eight digs to lead a balanced Eastern Connecticut State University attack that lifted the Warriors to a 15-4, 15-7, 15-11 sweep of Massachusetts Dartmouth Friday in Little East Conference round robin weekend play, hosted by Massachusetts Boston.

19 All 11 players saw action for Eastern (2-3), which remained unbeaten in 18 conference matches, dating back to the first year of conference volleyball play in 1995. The Warriors have won 57 of 60 games over that span.

Middle hitters **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)**, a sophomore, and **Kathy Orloski (WHATELY, MA)**, a freshman, and freshman outside hitter **Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA)** added four kills each. Led by Hormaza, six additional players had either four or five digs.

Sophomore setter **Jessica Redding (ANDOVER, MA)** collected ten assists in two games while freshman setter **Christy Hay (WEYMOUTH, MA)** added eight when she made her collegiate debut in the final game.

The match was the season-opener for UMass Dartmouth.

Saturday, Eastern meets host UMass Boston at 10 a.m. and Rhode Island College at 12:30 p.m.

**ECSU FIELD HOCKEY POSTPONED SATURDAY**

The Little East Conference field hockey match featuring ECSU and Keene State College, scheduled for Saturday at 1 p.m. at Mansfield, Conn., has been postponed due to wet field conditions.

No makeup date has been announced.

# ECSU

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Saturday, September 4, 1999

### ECSU VOLLEYBALL SPLITS PAIR AT SPRINGFIELD *Warriors sweep Coast Guard, swept by Brockport State*

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. -- Senior middle hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD)** had eight kills, attacked at .350 and added four service aces to pace the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a 15-10, 15-11, 15-12 sweep of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Saturday at the Springfield College Invitational.

The win was the only one at the season-opening tournament for the Warriors, who dropped their third tournament decision later Saturday against Brockport State 11-15, 13-15, 10-15. The Warriors lost to host Springfield and RIT Friday night.

Against Coast Guard, Butts led ECSU in both kills and digs (12). Sophomore outside hitter **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** added six kills and junior outside hitter **Sheryl Arrich (ROCKLEDGE, FL)** added five for the Warriors, who attacked at .255. Junior back row player **Ellie Belcher (BROCKTON, MA)** followed Butts with 11 digs -- finishing the tournament with 38 -- and matched Butts with four service aces.

In Saturday's two matches, sophomore setter **Jessica Redding (ANDOVER, MA)** had 35 set assists, ten service aces and 14 digs. Six of her aces came against Brockport. Sophomore middle hitter **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** added 12 kills Saturday, six in each match.

Butts, who broke the program career record of 185 block assists against Springfield Friday, was one of six selections to the all-tournament team. Butts was joined by Emily Verbridge (MVP) and Ushi Patel of tournament champion RIT, Robin Chase of Springfield, Chris Whitney of Brockport State and Maile Norman of Coast Guard.

Eastern opens defense of its Little East Conference regular-season title this weekend, competing in LEC round-robin play at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

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Friday, September 3, 1999

## **ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL DROPS TWO AT SPRINGFIELD INVITE**

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team committed 35 service errors and attacked at just .116 in dropping its opening two matches of the season at the Springfield College Invitational Friday.

The Warriors dropped their opener 12-15, 11-15, 15-13, 12-15 to host Springfield College before being swept by defending tournament champion RIT 12-15, 10-15, 10-15 in a battle of 1998 NCAA tournament qualifiers.

Featuring four new regular players on its roster, Eastern attacked at just .116 in the two matches and totalled 35 service errors. Twenty-three of the service errors came against Springfield and ECSU followed by attacking at just 0.42 against RIT.

First-year sophomore middle hitter **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** led the Warriors with 18 kills and a .240 attack percentage while junior back row player **Ellie Belcher (BROCKTON, MA)** had a team-high 21 digs and sophomore setter **Jessica Redding (ANDOVER, MA)** 45 set assists.

With two block assists against Springfield, senior middle hitter **Jen Butts (NEW BEDFORD, MA)** established an ECSU career record of 186, breaking the previous mark of all-America Kathy Kimball ('96).

Eastern continues play Saturday in the six-team, round-robin tournament, facing the U.S. Coast Guard Academy at 10 a.m. and Brockport State at 2 p.m.