
little east conference

Nov.
Saturday, ~~October~~ 3, 2001

ECSU VOLLEYBALL FALLS IN LITTLE EAST CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Top-seeded Western Connecticut sweeps Warriors to win third straight title

DANBURY, Conn. -- Cynthia Socoloskie had 14 kills, eight service aces and eight digs to lead the Western Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to its third straight Little East Conference tournament title with a 30-24, 30-19, 30-26 championship game victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Saturday at the William A. O'Neill Athletic and Convocation Center.

The win caps Western's (22-11) third straight conference tournament title and unbeaten season. Western won all 27 games against conference opponents this year. Eastern (21-11), the only conference team to reach the final of all seven LEC tournaments, had won the conference's first four titles. Western has beaten ECSU the last seven times the teams have met.

Top-seeded Western had swept fourth-seeded Plymouth State 30-23, 30-28, 30-13 and Eastern had rallied to eliminate third-seeded Massachusetts Dartmouth 22-30, 27-30, 30-18, 34-32, 16-14 in Friday's semifinal round.

In Saturday's final, Western led from start to finish in Game 1 after scoring the first four points, scored six of seven points to break from a 9-9 tie in Game 2 and scored five straight to expand a 23-21 lead to 28-21 in Game 3.

Joslyn Wiseman had 14 digs and ten kills in support of Socoloskie for Western while Debra Senior had ten kills. Jaymie Rosario had 38 assists and 12 digs and was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player for the second straight year.

ECSU senior **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** led ECSU with 14 kills and a .323 attack percentage, junior **Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA)** adding 13 digs and 20 assists and freshman **Jessica Leifert (WINSTED)** 13 digs. As a team, ECSU attacked at only .109, managed a pass percentage of only .811 and had only one block.

In Friday's five-game comeback win over UMass Dartmouth - Eastern's 22nd straight win over the Corsairs -- Rondeau had 20 kills, a .333 attack percentage, 15 digs and four blocks, senior **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** nine kills and 25 digs, sophomore **Amanda Sprouse (ASHEVILLE, NC)** nine kills and 22 digs and Edwards 13 dig and 37 assists. Sophomore **Kristen Skelly (BROOKFIELD)** contributed six service aces.

Against UMass Dartmouth, Eastern rallied from a 28-22 deficit in Game 4 behind the serving of Skelly and withstood UMass serving for match point with a 31-30 lead. With the score tied 32-all, Edwards and sophomore **Joli Burleigh (RED HOOK, NY)** blocked for the go-ahead point and Edwards ended the game when she put her tip to the floor. The Corsairs had two opportunities to win the match when they held leads of 14-12 and 14-13 in Game 5 but Leifert served ECSU's final three points. One of the points came on a service ace and the other two came on UMass attack errors.

In the tournament, Rondeau had 34 kills, attacked at .329, had four blocks and a .917 pass percentage, Belanger adding 13 kills, 36 digs and a .943 serve percentage and Edwards 57 assists and 26 digs.

Eastern awaits word on a possible invitational to the ECAC Division III North Tournament, which will be held next Friday and Saturday.

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.ecsu.ctstateu.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

The Little East Conference Women's Volleyball Tournament CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

O'Neill Center - Western Connecticut State University - Danbury, Connecticut - November 3, 2001

WESTERN CONNECTICUT CAPTURES LITTLE EAST VOLLEYBALL TITLE

DANBURY - CT - Western Connecticut State University won its third straight Little East Conference Tournament Title with a 3-0 sweep over Eastern Connecticut State University at the O'Neill Center Saturday afternoon. The Colonials 30-24, 30-19 and 30-26 win earned them an automatic berth into the upcoming NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championships that begin on Wednesday, November 7.

Western Connecticut finished a perfect 27-0 in regular and post-season games against LEC opponents this past year.

"Our team played very well today. Their experience at this time of year really showed on court today," said Western Connecticut Head Coach Richard Myers. "Now we have to show that we can advance further into the NCAA Tournament."

The Colonials have made it to the second round of the NCAAs in 2000 and 2001.

Senior setter **Jaymie Rosario** (West Nyack, NY) was named the Tournament's Most Outstanding Player after registering 38 sets, 12 digs, four kills and two service aces. Rosario, a two-time LEC Player of the Year, was named MOP in 2000 as well.

"Jaymie has been one of the best players every to play here at Western Connecticut," added Myers. "She is such a calming force to all the players. Nothing seems to take her out of her game."

Cynthia Socoloskie (Levittown, PA) tallied a team-high 14 kills along with eight aces and eight digs for the winners. **Debra Senior** (Croton-on-Hudson, NY) and **Joslyn Wiseman** (Blue Point, NY) were credited with 10 kills apiece. Senior added seven digs and an ace while Wiseman led the team with 14 digs.

Vicki Rondeau (Putnam, CT) led Eastern Connecticut, 21-11, with 14 kills on the day.

Joli Burleigh (Red Hook, NY) added eight kills on 17 attempts for the Warriors. **Kate Edwards** (Montague, MA) registered 20 sets and was tops, along with freshman **Jessica Leifert** (Winsted, CT) with 13 digs.

Prior to Western Connecticut's run of three straight tournament titles, the Warriors ran off a string of four straight league titles from 1995 to 1998. They have finished second to the Colonials in each of the last three years.

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

Western Connecticut 3, Eastern Connecticut 0

Teams	1	2	3
Eastern Connecticut (21-11)	24	19	26
Western Connecticut (22-11)	30	30	30

The Little East Conference Women's Volleyball Tournament SEMIFINALS

O'Neill Center - Western Connecticut State University - Danbury, Connecticut - November 2, 2001

STATE RIVALS TO CLASH FOR LITTLE EAST VOLLEYBALL TITLE ON SATURDAY

MATCH ONE

Eastern Connecticut 3, UMass Dartmouth 2

MATCH TWO:

Western Connecticut 3, Plymouth State College 0

DANBURY - CT State rivals will collide on Saturday when Western Connecticut State University meets up with Eastern Connecticut State University for the 2001 Little East Conference Championship at 12 noon.

Eastern Connecticut came from behind to defeat UMass Dartmouth, 3-2 in the semifinals of the LEC Women's Volleyball Championships at the O'Neill Center. The Warriors prevailed 22, 30, 27-30, 30-18, 34-32 and 16-14.

Eastern Connecticut, 21-10 trailed 2-0 before taking the third game 30-18.

In the fourth game, Eastern Connecticut trailed 26-21 before **Kristen Skelly (Brookfield, CT)** served six straight points and gave the Warrior an edge, 27-26 on their way to a 34-32 win.

In the deciding game, UMass Dartmouth raced to a 13-9 advantage before Eastern stirred back to knot the game at 14-14. The Warriors would go on to score the next two points to pull off the thriller.

Vicki Rondeau (Putnam, CT) led Eastern Connecticut with 19 kills.

Christine Belanger (Ashford, CT) and **Amanda Sprouce (Asheville, NC)** had 25 and 22 digs, respectively for the winners. Eastern's offense was controlled by **Kate Edwards (Montague, MA)** who registered 37 sets on the night.

UMass Dartmouth falls to 24-8 on the season.

In the nightcap, host Western Connecticut swept Plymouth State College in three games, 30-23, 30-28 and 30-13.

In the second game, Plymouth State, 17-14, raced to a 21-11 lead before **Jaymie Rosario (West Nyack, NY)** reeled off nine straight points to cut Western's deficit to 21-20. The Colonials capped off a 13-2 run as and took a 24-23 advantage.

The Panthers would knot the game at 28-28 before the hometowners would put it away.

The Colonials, 21-11, were led by Rosario's 37 sets, five service aces and 18 digs.

Cynthia Socoloskie (Levittown, PA) led Western Connecticut's attack with 16 kills.

Debra Senior (Croton-on-Hudson, NY) and junior **Joslyn Wiseman (Blue Point, NY)** added 10 and eight kills, respectively. Senior was second on the team with 13 digs.

Plymouth State was led by **Sonia Trudell (Somersworth, NH)** who had six kills and 22 digs on the night.

Becky Landry (Nashua, NH) added nine kills while **Jessie O'Hearn (Tilton, NH)** tallied 22 set assists.

MATCH ONE

Teams	1	2	3	4	5
Eastern Connecticut (21-10)	22	27	30	34	16
UMass Dartmouth (24-8)	30	30	18	32	14

Statistics for the Corsairs were not made available.

MATCH TWO:

Teams	1	2	3
Western Connecticut (21-11)	30	30	30
Plymouth State (17-14)	23	28	13

Eastern
Connecticut
State
University

ECSU

Sports News

Sports Information Office
Director, Bob Molta
Tel.: (860) 465-5172
Fax: (860) 465-4696
Hotline: (860) 465-5756

little east conference

Saturday, October 27, 2001

ECSU VOLLEYBALL REGAINS 20-WIN MARK WITH VICTORY

Warriors repeat 3-1 win over Westfield State, end regular season 20-10

WESTFIELD, Mass. -- Senior outside hitter **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** had team-highs in kills (22) and digs (14) to power the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a 3-1 win over Westfield State College Saturday in the regular-season finale.

With the 28-30, 30-23, 30-17, 30-23 win, Eastern (20-10) returns to the 20-win plateau for the 20th time in the last 22 years. ECSU had fallen under the 20-win mark each of the last two years. ECSU had beaten Westfield (10-14) 3-1 Sept. 29 at the Amherst College Invitational.

In committing only two errors on 31 attempts, Belanger attacked at .645. In addition, she committed only one service error on 21 attempts. Senior middle hitter **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** added eight kills, four service aces and three blocks. Freshman outside hitter **Jessica Leifert (WINSTED)** had seven kills, 12 digs and four service aces and junior back row player **Carmen Hormaza (GLEN COVE, NY)** ten digs. Junior setter **Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA)** had 33 set assists, seven kills, eight digs and three service aces.

Eastern opens play in the 2001 Little East Conference playoffs Saturday at 3 p.m. at Western Connecticut State University. Second-seeded ECSU drew a first-round bye and will play the winner of a Tuesday first-round match between third-seeded Massachusetts Dartmouth and sixth-seeded Rhode Island College.

Eastern Conn. 3 (28-30-30-30), Westfield State 1 (30-23-17-23)

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.ecsu.ctstateu.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

little east conference

Saturday, October 20, 2001

ECSU W-VOLLEYBALL EARNS BYE IN LEC PLAYOFFS WITH WINS
Warriors rally to edge Plymouth State in five games, sweep Southern Maine

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team rallied from a game down to defeat Plymouth State College 3-2 en route to two Little East Conference victories Saturday at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

In a battle of conference teams with one loss, Eastern (19-10, 6-1 little east) rallied from a game down to post 30-26, 26-30, 25-30, 30-28, 15-12 wins over Plymouth State (4-2) before sweeping the University of Southern Maine 30-20, 30-24, 30-13 and gain a bye into the semifinal round of the LEC tournament early next month as one of the conference's top two seeds.

Seniors **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** and **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** -- playing in the final regular-season home matches of their careers -- led the Warriors (19-10) to their 23rd and 24th regular-season conference wins in 28 tries since the formation of LEC regular-season play in 1998. Rondeau had 16 kills and 19 digs, Belanger 11 kills and 16 digs. Junior setter **Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA)** added 38 set assists, 13 digs and six service aces.

In the fourth-game win over Plymouth (14-11, 4-2), Belanger (6) and Rondeau (5) combined for 11 of the team's 14 kills and each had five of the team's 21 digs.

Eastern visits Westfield State College Saturday in the final match of the regular season.

Eastern Conn.	30	26	25	30	15
Plymouth State	26	30	30	28	12
R.I. College	27	30	30	26	15
Southern Maine	30	19	17	30	10
Eastern Conn. (19-10, 6-1)	30	30	30		
Southern Maine (14-11, 1-5)	20	24	13		
Plymouth State (14-11, 4-2)	20	30	31	31	
R.I. College (10-20, 2-5)	30	26	29	29	

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.ecsu.ctstateu.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

Eastern
Connecticut
State
University

ECSU

Sports News

Sports Information Office
Director, Bob Molta
Tel.: (860) 465-5172
Fax: (860) 465-4696
Hotline: (860) 465-5756

little east conference

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL DOWNS TRINITY COLLEGE 3-1

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Seniors **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** and **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** combined for 32 kills to lead the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a 3-1 win over Trinity College Tuesday at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern (17-10) won the first two games by scores of 30-26 and after the Bantams (11-13) rallied for a 39-37 win in Game 3, the Warriors won the deciding game 30-20.

Belanger led the Warriors with 18 kills and a .317 attack percentage. Rondeau had 14 kills and a .407 attack percentage. Belanger also had 14 digs and served 27 balls without an error and had four service aces. Junior setter **Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA)** led all ECSU players with 16 digs and 34 set assists while freshman **Jessica Leifert (WINSTED)** had 12 digs, 7 kills and five service aces.

Eastern hosts Plymouth State College (1 p.m.) and the University of Southern Maine (3:30 p.m.) Saturday at Geissler Gym in Little East Conference action.

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.ecsu.ctstateu.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

Eastern
Connecticut
State
University

ECSU

Sports News

Sports Information Office
Director, Bob Molta
Tel.: (860) 465-5172
Fax: (860) 465-4696
Hotline: (860) 465-5756

little east conference

Saturday, October 13, 2001

ECSU VOLLEYBALL FOURTH AT SPRINGFIELD INVITATIONAL *Warriors lose in five games to Clark after winning first two games of match*

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. -- The Clark University women's volleyball team bounced back from a two-game deficit to defeat Eastern Connecticut State University 28-30, 23-30, 30-21, 32-30, 15-10 as the Warriors finished in fourth place at the eight-team Tom Hay Tournament, hosted by Springfield College Saturday.

Eastern (16-10) had placed second in its four-team pool by defeating Rhode Island College 30-20, 30-18, 30-25 and Emmanuel College 30-22, 30-27, 30-20 and losing to No. 7 New England-ranked Springfield College 18-30, 17-30, 18-30. Clark had won two of three in its pool to place second behind Gordon College.

In the five-game loss to Clark (17-4), which had swept ECSU at the Bridgewater State College Invitational Sept. 22, senior **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** had 22 kills and freshman **Jessica Leifert (WINSTED)** 11 kills, eight digs and four service aces. Senior **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** had nine digs and seven block and junior **Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA)** nine digs, four service aces, three blocks and 43 set assists.

As a team, Eastern had 13 service aces against Clark but had 17 service errors and 15 reception errors.

Belanger was one of seven players selected to the all-tournament team. Tournament champion Springfield College and runner-up Gordon College had two selections each while Eastern, Rhode Island College and Clark had one each.

Eastern hosts Trinity College Tuesday at 7 p.m.

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.ecsu.ctstateu.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

Eastern
Connecticut
State
University

ECSU

Sports News,

Sports Information Office
Director, Bob Molta
Tel.: (860) 465-5172
Fax: (860) 465-4696
Hotline: (860) 465-5756

little east conference
Wednesday, October 10, 2001

ECSU VOLLEYBALL WINS FIFTH MATCH IN LAST SIX *Warriors sweep Johnson & Wales 30-27, 30-27, 30-20*

PROVIDENCE, RI --Senior **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** served for four straight points late in a second-game win and the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team went on to sweep Johnson & Wales University 30-27, 30-27, 30-20 Wednesday at the Harborside Recreational Center.

Eastern (14-8) has won five of its last six while Johnson & Wales falls to 13-9. The Wildcats, who have qualified for the last two NCAA tournaments as champions of the Great Northeast Athletic Conference, dip to 4-9 in non-conference competition.

With Eastern trailing 25-24 in Game 2, Rondeau served four straight points as the Warriors surged into a lead which they did not surrender. In the opening game, junior **Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA)** helped rally the Warriors from a 19-14 deficit, serving the final five points of a six-point run which lifted ECSU into a 20-19 lead.

Edwards had a team-high 22 set assists and also added 11 digs and successfully served 19 of 20 attempts. Rondeau led ECSU with eight kills, senior **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** adding seven and freshman **Jessica Leifert (WINSTED)** six. Leifert also shared the team lead with sophomore **Amanda Sprouse (ASHEVILLE, NC)** with 13 digs and matched Belanger with three service aces. As a team, ECSU committed only five reception errors and averaged 21 digs in the match.

Eastern plays the first of four matches at the eight-team Tom Hay Invitational, hosted by Springfield College, Saturday at 9 a.m. against Rhode Island College.

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.ecsu.ctstateu.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

Eastern
Connecticut
State
University

ECSU

Sports News

Sports Information Office
Director, Bob Molta
Tel.: (860) 465-5172
Fax: (860) 465-4696
Hotline: (860) 465-5756

little east conference

#2-01/02

October 4, 2001

ECSU HOSTS 21st ANNUAL VOLLEYBALL INVITE THIS WEEKEND
Warriors face Endicott College Friday at 5:30 p.m. in opener

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Eastern Connecticut State University will be hosting its 21st annual women's volleyball invitational this Friday and Saturday at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium. The *Crabtree Classic* -- named in honor of former ECSU head coach Floretta "Pinky" Crabtree, who retired as the New England leader in coaching victories -- starts Friday at 5:30 p.m. and concludes Saturday with the 3 p.m. championship match.

Eastern and defending tournament champion MIT -- the No. 1 ranked team in New England -- will be joined in this year's field by Babson, Endicott, Plymouth State, MIT, and Wheaton College.

Eastern (9-7) is under the direction of first-year head coach Wayne Sombric and assisted by Beth Craig and Zach Drosch. Eastern is under the leadership of tri-captains **Christine Belanger** (ASHFORD), **Vicki Rondeau** (PUTNAM) and **Carmen Hormaza** (GLEN COVE, NY) Eight of this year's roster players are returning letterwinners.

Rondeau leads the Warriors in kills (166) and blocks (46) and is third in service aces (30) while junior setter Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA) has a team-leading 130 digs and 313 assists. The Warriors will be without junior middle hitter Kathy Orloski (WHATELY, MA), who will miss weekend play with a twisted ankle. Orloski is the ECSU leader in attack percentage (.304) and is second in kills (117) and blocks (45).

Eastern, looking to win its first title in this tournament since 1982, opens play Friday at 5:30 against Endicott before meeting Wheaton at 7:30.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Friday

5:30 p.m.:

Eastern Conn. vs. Endicott • Wheaton vs. Babson • MIT vs. Lasell

7:30 p.m.:

Eastern Conn. vs. Wheaton • Babson vs. Endicott • Plymouth State vs. MIT

Saturday:

9 a.m.:

Eastern Conn. vs. Babson • Wheaton vs. Endicott • Lasell vs. Plymouth State

11 a.m.:

Elimination play

1 p.m.:

Elimination play

3 p.m.:

Championship match

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.ecsu.ctstateu.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

Eastern
Connecticut
State
University

ECSU

Sports News

Sports Information Office
Director, Bob Molta
Tel.: (860) 465-5172
Fax: (860) 465-4696
Hotline: (860) 465-5756

little east conference

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SWEEP BY WCSU IN LITTLE EAST

Two-time defending champions defeat Warriors for sixth consecutive time

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Two-time Little East Conference Player-of-the-Year Jaymie Rosario had 14 digs and 42 assists to lead the Western Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to 30-27, 30-27, 30-24 wins over Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium in the Warriors' home-opener.

In a battle of conference unbeaten, Western (12-9, 2-0) defeated ECSU (9-7, 4-1) for the sixth straight year -- winning 18 of 19 games in that stretch -- after the Warriors had won the first 25 matches in the series.

For Western, Cynthia Socoloskie, Debra Senior and Bridgit Horvay combined for 33 kills and a .448 attack percentage. Senior led all players with 17 digs.

Junior middle hitter **Kathy Orloski (WHATELY, MA)** led ECSU with 12 kills and a .524 attack percentage, with senior middle hitter **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** adding nine kills, six digs and four blocks. Junior setter **Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA)** had 26 set assists and a team-high 12 digs. Junior **Carmen Hormaza (GLEN COVE, NY)** and freshman **Jessica Leifert (WINSTED)** each had nine digs.

As a team, Eastern attacked at only .098, committing 22 attack errors.

Eastern hosts its 21st Annual ECSU Invitational -- the Crabtree Classic -- this weekend at Geissler Gymnasium. The Warriors face Endicott College Friday at 5:30 p.m. in the tournament opener.

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.ecsu.ctstateu.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

little east conference

Friday, September 28, 2001

ECSU VOLLEYBALL DROPS AMHERST INVITE OPENER

Warriors swept by host Amherst College 30-14, 30-11, 30-17

AMHERST, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team attacked at just .068 in being swept by Amherst College in the opening round of the Amherst College Invitational Friday.

Ranked sixth in New England, Amherst posted 30-14, 30-11, 30-17 victories to win its 11th match of the season against just two losses. ECSU is 8-5.

Senior **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** led ECSU with eight kills, senior **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** adding five kills and five digs. Freshman **Jessica Leifert (WINSTED)** had nine digs, junior **Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA)** eight digs and three blocks. Junior **Kathy Orloski (WHATELY, MA)** had five blocks.

ECSU faces Westfield State at 10 a.m. and U.S. Coast Guard at noon in the tournament.

ECSU WOMEN'S SOCCER HOSTS KEY LITTLE EAST MATCH

Warriors, Plymouth State unbeaten in Little East Conference

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's soccer team, ranked in a tie for fifth in New England, hosts Plymouth State College Saturday at 1 p.m. in a battle of unbeaten Little East Conference teams.

Eastern (7-1-1, 1-0-1) has beaten Plymouth (4-4, 2-0) by scores of 2-1 each of the last two years after the Panthers had won nine straight in the series. The Warriors, 3-1 at home this year, are coming off Thursday's 3-2 non-conference win at Bridgewater State. Plymouth had a three-game winning streak snapped Tuesday in a 1-0 home loss to Salem State. Plymouth is playing its first road contest after six straight at home.

The match features the top four scorers in the conference. A balanced ECSU attack is led by conference scoring leader **Jen Ferrari (COVENTRY, RI)**, who has nine goals and 21 points, senior **Julia Neilson (SALISBURY)**, who has six goals and 16 points and sophomore **Brianne Vernam (MEDFORD, NY)** with three goals and 11 points. Sophomore keeper **Stacey Schofield (WOODSTOCK)** has started all nine matches in net and has a 1.20 goals-against average. Junior Sandra Petlick (7-3-17) and senior Carrie Poulin (5-4-14) have combined to score 12 of Plymouth's 16 goals. Senior Becky Kennedy has played all but 21 minutes in net for Plymouth with a 1.67 goals-against average.

Eastern
Connecticut
State
University

ECSU

Sports News

Sports Information Office
Director, Bob Molta
Tel.: (860) 465-5172
Fax: (860) 465-4696
Hotline: (860) 465-5756

little east conference

Saturday, September 29, 2001

ECSU VOLLEYBALL SPLITS TWO MATCHES AT AMHERST INVITATIONAL
Warriors defeat Westfield State, lose to Coast Guard to finish 1-2 in tournament

AMHERST, Mass. -- Senior **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** had 25 kills and attacked at .339 to lead the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a win and a loss Saturday on the second day of the Amherst College Invitational.

Eastern (9-6) defeated Westfield State College 30-24, 28-30, 30-28, 30-21 and lost to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy 21-30, 22-30, 28-30 to finish with a win and two losses in the tournament. Friday, Eastern was swept by host Amherst College 30-14, 30-11, 30-17. Amherst won the title with three wins in as many matches.

Rondeau and senior **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** each had 14 kills against Westfield (6-7). Belanger attacked at .522 against Westfield, Rondeau .323 and junior **Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA)** .667 on 12 attempts. Sophomore **Amanda Sprouse (ASHEVILLE, NC)** and Edwards each had nine digs against Westfield and junior **Carmen Hormaza (GLEN COVE, NY)** served seven aces. Against Coast Guard (8-4), Rondeau attacked at .360, Belanger .357 and Sprouse .556. Hormaza and Sprouse each had ten digs, Belanger nine and Edwards seven in the loss.

Edwards collected 54 set assists in the two matches while Rondeau had 25 kills and attacked at .339, Belanger 19 kills and a .459 percentage, junior **Kathy Orloski (WHATELY, MA)** ten kills and a .600 percentage and Sprouse eight kills and a .438 percentage. As a team on the day, Eastern attacked at .260 but committed 28 service errors against only 19 aces.

Eastern hosts Western Connecticut State University Tuesday at 6 p.m. in a match which features two unbeaten teams in the Little East Conference.

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.ecsu.ctstateu.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

Eastern
Connecticut
State
University

ECSU

Sports News

Sports Information Office
Director, Bob Molta
Tel.: (860) 465-5172
Fax: (860) 465-4696
Hotline: (860) 465-5756

little east conference

Friday, September 28, 2001

ECSU VOLLEYBALL DROPS AMHERST INVITE OPENER

Warriors swept by host Amherst College 30-14, 30-11, 30-17

AMHERST, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team attacked at just .068 in being swept by Amherst College in the opening round of the Amherst College Invitational Friday.

Ranked sixth in New England, Amherst posted 30-14, 30-11, 30-17 victories to win its 11th match of the season against just two losses. ECSU is 8-5.

Senior **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** led ECSU with eight kills, senior **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** adding five kills and five digs. Freshman **Jessica Leifert (WINSTED)** had nine digs, junior **Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA)** eight digs and three blocks. Junior **Kathy Orloski (WHATELY, MA)** had five blocks.

ECSU faces Westfield State at 10 a.m. and U.S. Coast Guard at noon in the tournament.

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.ecsu.ctstateu.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

Eastern
Connecticut
State
University

ECSU

Sports News

Sports Information Office
Director, Bob Molta
Tel.: (860) 465-5172
Fax: (860) 465-4696
Hotline: (860) 465-5756

little east conference

Wednesday, September 26, 2001

ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS KEENE STATE 3-0 *Warriors improve to 36-5 all-time in Little East Conference competition*

KEENE, NH -- Senior **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** led the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team with 14 kills, a .333 attack percentage, 17 digs and seven blocks as the Warriors swept Keene State College 30-25, 30-21, 30-19 Wednesday in a Little East Conference match.

Eastern (8-4), a winner of 36 of 41 matches since the beginning of conference play in 1995, remains unbeaten in four conference matches this year. The Owls are 2-9 overall, 0-3 in the conference.

Following Rondeau, who was 5-for-7 without an attack error in the deciding game, was junior setter **Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA)**, who had 26 set assists, four blocks, six digs and five service aces.

Freshman **Jessica Leifert (WINSTED)** had eight digs, sophomore **Amanda Sprouse (ASHEVILLE, NC)** and **Carmen Hormaza (GLEN COVE, NY)** adding seven digs each. The Warriors had nine blocks in the match and averaged nearly 20 digs per game.

Eastern competes in the Amherst College Invitational Friday and Saturday at Amherst, MA. ECSU opens against Lesley College at 7 p.m.

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.ecsu.ctstateu.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

Eastern
Connecticut
State
University

ECSU

Sports News

Sports Information Office
Director, Bob Molta
Tel.: (860) 465-5172
Fax: (860) 465-4696
Hotline: (860) 465-5756

little east conference

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SWEEP BY WESLEYAN U. 3-0

Warriors attack at -.020 in dropping fourth in last five outings

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team attacked at -.020 in dropping its fourth match in the last five outings 19-30, 24-30, 19-30 to Wesleyan University Tuesday.

Eastern (7-4) has lost four of its last five -- all by shutout -- after opening the season with six straight wins. Wesleyan (10-3), last year's ECAC North Region Tournament champion, has won seven of its last eight. The Cardinals have defeated ECSU the last three times the teams have met after the Warriors had won 14 straight.

Eastern managed only 17 kills Tuesday while committing 19 attack errors for a percentage of -.020. In the deciding game, ECSU was 3-for-31 with six attack errors (-.097). The Warriors also committed eight service errors with just four aces in the match.

Senior middle hitter **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** led ECSU with 14 digs and five blocks, senior **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** and junior **Carmen Hormaza (GLEN COVE, NY)** adding ten digs each. ECSU averaged a season-high 17.0 digs in each game. Hormaza also successfully passed 21 of 22 balls. Junior setter **Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA)** had 13 assists and three blocks.

Eastern looks for its fourth straight Little East Conference win Wednesday at Keene State College (6 p.m.)

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.ecsu.ctstateu.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

Eastern
Connecticut
State
University

ECSU

Sports News

Sports Information Office
Director, Bob Molta
Tel.: (860) 465-5172
Fax: (860) 465-4696
Hotline: (860) 465-5756

little east conference

Saturday, September 22, 2001

ECSU VOLLEYBALL FINISHES 1-2 AT BRIDGEWATER STATE INVITATIONAL
Warriors swept by Clark University 30-27, 30-23, 30-22 Saturday

BRIDGEWATER, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team was swept by Clark University 30-27, 30-23, 30-22 Saturday, finishing with one win and two losses at the Bridgewater State College Invitational. The Warriors did not advance to Saturday afternoon's championship match. The top team from each of two four-team pools met in the tournament final.

Friday, Eastern (7-3) split two matches, losing to Bates College 27-30, 21-30, 24-30 but bouncing back to defeat Wheaton College 31-29, 30-18, 22-30, 32-30.

Against Clark, freshman **Jessica Leifert (WINSTED)** had 12 digs, junior **Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA)** 19 set assists and three service aces and junior **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** nine kills. Rondeau represented ECSU on the all-tournament team. In Friday's split, she led the Warriors with 27 kills and six blocks and added 13 digs. In the decisive game over Wheaton Friday, she was 7-for-9.

Eastern visits Wesleyan University Tuesday at 7 p.m.

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.ecsu.ctstateu.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

Eastern
Connecticut
State
University

ECSU

Sports News,

Sports Information Office
Director, Bob Molta
Tel.: (860) 465-5172
Fax: (860) 465-4696
Hotline: (860) 465-5756

little east conference

Thursday, Sept. 20, 2001

22-MATCH VOLLEYBALL WINNING STREAK VS. SMITH ENDS *ECSU swept by Pioneers, handed first loss of season 31-33, 14-30, 26-30*

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball 22-match winning streak against Smith College came to a halt Thursday as the Pioneers swept the Warriors 33-31, 30-14, 30-26 at Ainsworth Gymnasium.

The loss was also the first of the season for Eastern (6-1) while Smith improves to 5-1.

Offensively, Eastern attacked at only .016, committing 30 errors against only 32 kills. The Warriors rallied in Game 1 with six straight points to take a 28-25 lead and were within one point (29-26) of winning the game. Smith broke a 31-all tie by scoring the final two points, the first coming on ECSU's serve. The Warriors never challenged in Game 2, attacking at just -0.026. Eastern took an early lead in Game 3 before Smith surged back to take the lead for good, 23-22.

Junior Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA) had ten of the team's 32 kills and was second with 13 digs and also added 12 set assists. Senior Christine Belanger (ASHFORD) led all ECSU players with 14 digs, junior Carmen Hormaza (GLEN COVE, NY) adding 11 digs and sophomore Kristen Skelly (BROOKFIELD) ten.

Eastern opens play at the Bridgewater State College Invitational Friday at 5:30 p.m. against Bates College.

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu

WEB SITE: <http://www.ecsu.ctstateu.edu/depts/athletics>

MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

little east conference

Tuesday, September 18, 2001

ECSU VOLLEYBALL SURVIVES WESTERN NE UPSET BID *Warriors rally in final game to defeat Golden Bears for 13th straight time*

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. -- The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team scrapped back from a 14-11 deficit in the deciding game to post a 30-27, 27-30, 30-22, 19-30, 18-16 decision over Western New England College Tuesday.

Eastern (6-0) had to rally late in the deciding game to remain unbeaten in 13 meetings all-time against the Golden Bears (4-7). The Warriors had entered the match having won 19 straight games against Western New England. The hosts snapped the 20-game losing streak with the win in Game 2 and forced a deciding game by racing to a 9-0 lead in Game 4 and easing to that win.

Western New England had several opportunities to put ECSU away in the deciding game but failed. Twice, the hosts served for game point but both times committed a service error that gave the Warriors a point. Trailing 16-15, the Warriors tied the match on a service error and clinched the win on consecutive serves by junior back row player **Carmen Hormaza (GLEN COVE, NY)**. Senior middle hitter **Vicki Rondeau's (PUTNAM)** 12th kill of the match gave ECSU the win.

After committing six consecutive reception errors in losing Game 5, Eastern was perfect on 13 tries in the deciding game.

Junior middle hitter **Kathy Orloski (WHATELY, MA)** led ECSU with 16 kills and a .400 attack percentage. Rondeau had a team-high 12 digs and four blocks, sophomore setter **Kristen Skelly (BROOKFIELD)** 17 assists and ten digs. Sophomore outside hitter **Joli Burleigh (RED HOOK, NY)** had seven digs and five service aces and committed only one service error on 19 attempts. Junior setter **Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA)** had 16 assists, 11 digs and six kills. Senior outsider hitter **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** had nine digs and four service aces, her final ace pulling ECSU to within 14-13 in Game 5.

Eastern visits Smith College Thursday at 7 p.m.

Eastern
Connecticut
State
University

ECSU

Sports News

Sports Information Office
Director, Bob Molta
Tel.: (860) 465-5172
Fax: (860) 465-4696
Hotline: (860) 465-5756

little east conference

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2001

ECSU VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS LITTLE EAST CONFERENCE PAIR
Rondeau leads Warriors past UMass Boston and UMass Dartmouth

PROVIDENCE, RI -- Senior **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** had 23 kills and nine service aces to lead the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to Little East Conference wins over the University of Massachusetts Boston and University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Saturday at Rhode Island College.

Eastern (5-0, 3-0) swept UMass Boston (1-12, 1-2) 30-18, 30-12, 30-18 and prevailed over UMass Dartmouth (3-4, 1-2) by winning the final two games 30-23, 27-30, 29-31, 30-21, 15-5. The Warriors had swept Rhode Island College Friday night in their conference opener.

In addition to Rondeau, junior **Kathy Orloski (WHATELY, MA)** had 15 kills and junior setter **Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA)** 35 assists. In the five-game win over the Corsairs, Rondeau had 15 kills and three service aces, Orloski ten kills, Edwards 20 assists, sophomore setter **Kristen Skelly (BROOKFIELD)** ten assists and 11 digs and senior **Christine Belanger (ASHFORD)** and junior **Carmen Hormaza (GLEN COVE, NY)** five service aces and ten digs each.

With three wins this weekend, Eastern improved its all-time record against conference opponents in conference play to 35-5. Against Rhode Island, UMass Boston and UMass Dartmouth, Eastern is 18-0 in conference competition.

Eastern visits Western New England College Tuesday at 7 p.m. in a match originally scheduled for last Tuesday.

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu
WEB SITE: <http://www.ecsu.ctstateu.edu/depts/athletics>
MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226

Eastern
Connecticut
State
University

ECSU

Sports News

Sports Information Office
Director, Bob Molta
Tel.: (860) 465-5172
Fax: (860) 465-4696
Hotline: (860) 465-5756

little east conference

Saturday, September 8, 2001

ECSU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL WINS FIRST UNDER NEW COACH *Warriors blank Ramapo, Merchant Marine in openers under Sombric*

KINGS POINT, NY -- Senior middle hitter **Vicki Rondeau (PUTNAM)** had 22 kills and attacked at .617 to spark the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to 3-0 season-opening wins over Ramapo College and host U.S. Merchant Marine Marine Academy Saturday. ECSU defeated Ramapo (0-2) 30-20, 30-19, 31-29 and Merchant Marine (1-2) 30-24, 31-29, 30-14.

The wins are the first for Eastern under first-year head coach Wayne Sombric, who was named the third permanent head coach in program history last spring after five years as an assistant at Colorado College.

Rondeau, a six-foot captain, had 11 kills in each game and committed only one error on 34 attempts in both matches. Rondeau also contributed 16 digs, three blocks and four service aces on the day. Junior middle hitter **Kathy Orloski (WHATELY, MA)** added 22 kills and attacked at .311. Senior outside hitter Christine Belanger (ASHFORD) had 14 digs and five service aces in helping the Warriors collected 25 service aces on the day.

Junior setter **Kate Edwards (MONTAGUE, MA)** and sophomore setter **Kristen Skelly (BROOKFIELD)** had 34 and 28 assists, respectively. Skelly also had six digs and six service aces against Merchant Marine.

Eastern visits Western New England College Tuesday at 7 p.m.

E-MAIL: molta@easternct.edu
WEB SITE: <http://www.ecsu.ctstateu.edu/depts/athletics>
MAILING ADDRESS: Sports Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St.
Willimantic, CT 06226