
title east conference

Thursday, Nov. 10, 2005

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL SWEEP BY CORTLAND IN NCAA OPENER

Third-seeded Red Dragons have enough to eliminate Warriors, 30-26, 30-23, 30-17

NEW YORK – Six-foot-two inch freshman middle blocker Tiffany Chatman had nine kills and attacked at .316 to help carry the third-seeded Cortland State College women's volleyball team to a three-game sweep of sixth-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University in the opening round of the 2005 NCAA Division III New York Regional Volleyball Tournament Thursday afternoon at the Coles Sports Center on the campus of New York University. Game scores were 30-26, 30-23, 30-17.

Cortland (32-7) advances to the regional semifinals Friday at 4:30 p.m. against the winner of a late Thursday match between second-seeded Ithaca College and seventh-seeded New Jersey City University. Eastern (28-11) had a six-game winning streak snapped and concludes its third season under head coach **Jolie Ward** with an overall record of 28-11.

Trailing by six points early in the first game, Eastern surged back to tie the game 23-23 before the Red Dragons scored two points in a row to take the lead for good; neither team was able to lead by more than two points until late in Game 2, when Cortland scored five straight to take command, 28-22; in the final game, Cortland raced to a 12-4 advantage but the Warriors battled back to as close as five points before the Red Dragons ran off seven straight points to move out to a 28-15 lead.

Chatman, the New York Region Rookie-of-the-Year and the only freshman chosen to the all-region team, keyed Cortland's first-game win with five kills and just one error on ten attempts, with senior outside hitter Danielle Turner adding four kills without an error and freshman libero Kate Gosman digging up six balls.

Middle blockers **Nicole Tassone (EAST PATCHOGUE, NY)** and **Emma Sousa (COVENTRY)** combined for 16 kills and seven blocks while junior libero **Marianna Capomolla (STAMFORD)** had 12 digs, sophomore outside hitter **Angela Loomis**

(more)

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(MERIDEN) adding seven and sophomore setters **Priscilla Dougherty (ISLAND PARK, NY)** and **Jen Braswell (WILTON)** five each. Dougherty had 12 set assists, Braswell eight. Tassone, a senior, had nine kills and attacked at .231 and also added two blocks. Sousa, a sophomore, had seven kills and attacked at .227 and led all players on both teams with five blocks.

Turner and junior outside hitter Daina Marsh each had ten kills for Cortland. Led by Chatman, Cortland attacked at .229. Gosman led both teams with 17 digs, Turner adding 11 and senior setter Lizz Rakita 39 set assists.

Eastern attacked at just .111 against Cortland, well below its season percentage of .171. Averaging less than two reception errors per game, the Warriors were guilty of 11 in three games Thursday, with eight coming in the final game. Cortland posted a .938 reception percentage, led by Marsh (.950 on 20 attempts).

Both teams entered NCAA play with momentum but fielding young teams. Eastern had won 19 of 22, two of the wins coming in the Little East Conference tournament last weekend at Geissler Gym. Ranked third in the New York region, Cortland had won 12 of 14, the last two coming in the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) championships at Cortland. Both teams had eight freshmen and sophomores in uniform. The Red Dragons had six players standing at least 5-foot-10 inches tall, including Chatman and sophomore middle blocker Alice Kahrs at 6-foot-2. Kahrs led Cortland with four blocks.

For Eastern, it was its New England Division III record 14th NCAA appearance (first since 1998) while the Red Dragons are competing in their 19th NCAA tournament in the last 21 years. Cortland leads the all-time series, 9-1.

**NCAA Division III
New York Regional Tournament
at New York (NYU host)**

Cortland State College 3, Eastern Conn. 0

Eastern Conn. (28-11)	26	23	17
Cortland State (32-7)	30	30	30

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Saturday, Nov. 5, 2005

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL WINS FIFTH LITTLE EAST CROWN

In tenth finals appearance, top-seeded Warriors sweep third-seeded Keene State

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Junior defensive specialist **Marianna Capomolla (STAMFORD)** had 18 digs and committed only two errors on 33 reception attempts to spark the top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a 30-23, 30-28, 30-22 sweep of third-seeded Keene State College Saturday in the championship game of the 2005 Little East Conference tournament at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

The tournament title is the fifth for Eastern (28-10), which was participating in the final for the tenth time in the 11-year history of the event. It is the Warriors' first championship since they won the fourth of four straight in 1998. By winning the tournament title, Eastern qualifies automatically for its New England Division III record 14th NCAA tournament, which gets underway with regional play Thursday.

Capomolla, a second-year transfer, was named tournament Most Outstanding Player. In two matches (six games), Capomolla had 32 digs and had a reception percentage of .969. She committed only two errors on 65 reception attempts in the tournament.

Eastern trailed through the middle stages of all three games before rallying each time against Keene State (17-12), which was appearing in the title game for the first time. In Game 1, the Warriors trailed by four, 17-13, before outscoring the Owls 17-6 the rest of the way. In Game 2, the Warriors scored the final two points to break a 28-28 tie. In Game 3, Eastern scored six of seven points midway through the game to assume an 18-17 lead.

Keene was coming off an emotional five-game win over No. 2 seed Plymouth State Friday night, where it rallied after losing the first two games and trailing 18-9 in Game 3. Eastern swept No. 4 seed Rhode Island College Friday in the semifinals.

(more)

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Against Keene, sophomore **Angela Loomis (MERIDEN)** led all Eastern players with 15 kills and a .387 attack percentage while junior **Jessica Keogh (MONROE)** had nine kills and a .350 attack percentage and senior **Chrissie Siranko (DANBURY)** 11 kills and a .321 attack percentage, as well as five blocks. Sophomore **Emma Sousa (COVENTRY)** added nine kills and five blocks. Keogh led all players in the match with 20 digs, Loomis adding 17. Keogh also handled 25 reception attempts with just two errors. Sophomore setters **Meghan Doyle (HEWLETT, NY)** and **Priscilla Dougherty (ISLAND PARK, NY)** each had 14 assists.

For Keene, senior Shelly Ellis (Hampton, NH) had 13 kills, attacked at .286 and led her team with 19 digs. Freshman Brittany O'Bryant (Merrimack, NH) had 15 kills and a .482 attack percentage and 11 digs. Junior Lauren Graham (Port Jefferson Station, NY) had 14 digs and received 41 serves with just four errors. Junior Genna Florkowski (East Northport, NY) added 14 digs and senior Adrienne Deschnow (Portland, CT) collected 22 assists.

Eastern has won 19 of its last 22 since losing four straight in late September. The third of those four straight losses came in four games Sept. 28 at Keene State, when the Owls defeated Eastern for the first time in the series after ten straight losses.

Eastern Conn. 3, Keene State College 0

Keene State (17-12)	23	28	22
Eastern Conn. (28-10)	30	30	30

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Friday, Nov. 4, 2005

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL QUALIFIES FOR 10TH LEC FINAL
Streaking Warriors sweep Rhode Island College, will face Keene in title match

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. -- Junior **Jessica Keogh (MONROE)** and **Marianna Capomolla (STAMFORD)** combined for 29 digs and handled 54 receptions without an error to lift the top-seeded Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to a three-game sweep (30-27, 30-19, 30-25) of fourth-seeded Rhode Island College Friday night in the semifinals of the 2005 Little East Conference Tournament at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

With its fifth straight win over Rhode Island (22-14), Eastern (27-10) will face third-seeded Keene State College (17-11) in Saturday's championship match at noon. Keene State overcome a two-game deficit to post a 3-2 victory over second-seeded Plymouth State University (22-16) in Friday night's first semifinal.

Eastern will be making its 10th trip to the final in the tournament's 11 years. The Warriors won titles from 1995 through 1998, losing last year to Plymouth State, 3-0. It will be the first finals appearance in the 11-year history of the tournament for Keene, which recorded its highest regular-season finish (third) during the regular season. Plymouth, which had downed Keene 3-2 Sept. 16, had reached the tournament final each of the past two seasons, winning its first crown a year ago over Eastern.

Since losing four straight, Eastern has won 18 of its last 21, including its last five straight. The Warriors had beaten Rhode Island in four games Sept. 17 in Providence. The Anchorwomen were the top seed in last year's conference season after sharing the regular-season title with Eastern, Plymouth and Western Connecticut. Eastern and Plymouth shared this year's regular-season conference title with 6-1 records.

Keogh led Eastern with 15 digs and was perfect in receiving 22 serves. Capomolla followed with 14 digs and handled 32 serves without an error. Keogh also had eight kills. Senior **Nicole Tassone (EAST PATCHOGUE, NY)** led the Warriors with nine kills and contributed five blocks. Sophomore setter **Meghan Doyle (HEWLETT, NY)** recorded 15 assists.

Although Rhode Island attacked at just .126, senior Kristy Nix (East Setauket, NY) had 12 kills and attacked at .229, with junior Erin Miga (Cranston, RI) collecting seven kills and attacking at .238. Senior Stephanie Wojciechowski (North Kingstown, RI) had 19 digs, Nix 15. Wojciechowski handled 45 receptions with just three errors.

Keene, which swept former five-time conference champion Western Connecticut State University in Tuesday's first round, has won seven of nine. The Owls defeated Eastern in four games for the first time in the 11-game series when the teams met in the regular season Sept. 28.

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Friday, Nov. 4, 2005

KEENE W-VOLLEYBALL UPSETS PLYMOUTH IN LEC SEMIFINALS

Owls overcome two-game deficit to reach ~~first~~ conference finals for first time

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The third-seeded Keene State College women's volleyball team scored four of the final five points in Game 5 to overcome a two-game deficit and post a 3-2 victory over second-seeded Plymouth State University Friday night in the semifinals of the 2005 Little East Conference Tournament.

Keene will face host and No. 1 Eastern Connecticut State University (27-10), which swept No. 4 seed Rhode Island College (22-14) in Friday's second semifinal. Game scores were 30-27, 30-19, 30-25. Eastern will be making its 10th trip to the final in the tournament's 11 years. The Warriors won titles from 1995 through 1998, losing last year to Plymouth State, 3-0.

After losing the first two games, 30-24, 30-27, Keene (17-11) bounced back to capture the final three by scores of 30-27, 30-18, 15-11. Looking for a three-game sweep, Plymouth (22-16) raced to an 18-9 lead in Game 3 but Keene answered with eight straight points to pull to within one point and later took the lead for good, 27-26.

It will be the first finals appearance in the 11-year history of the tournament for Keene, which recorded its highest regular-season finish (third) during the regular season. Plymouth, which had downed Keene 3-2 Sept. 16, had reached the tournament final each of the past two seasons, winning its first crown a year ago over Eastern Connecticut State University.

Keene, which swept former five-time conference champion Western Connecticut State University in Tuesday's first round, has won seven of nine and Plymouth has lost three of its last four.

Against Plymouth Friday, Keene attacked at just .128 but averaged 25.4 digs in the five games. Senior Shelly Ellis (Hampton, NH) had 19 kills and attacked at .283 and also had 14 digs. Freshman Brittany O'Bryant (Merrimack, NH) had 18 kills. Sophomore Kelly Yankowski (Turners Falls, MA) had ten kills and 22 digs, junior Genna Florkowski (East Northport, NY) 27 digs and four service aces and junior Lauren Graham (Port Jefferson Station, NY) 22 digs and four aces. Senior Adrienne Deschnow (Portland, CT) collected 38 assists.

For Plymouth, senior Becky Ciulla (Chelmsford, MA) had 16 kills, 32 digs and five blocks and senior Kelly Landry (Nashua, NH) 16 kills and 24 digs. Senior Amanda Bagwell (Riverside, RI) set 51 assists.

Saturday, Oct. 29, 2005

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL SECOND AT BRANDEIS INVITE
Warriors win four straight after opening-night loss; end regular season 26-10

WALTHAM, Mass. – The Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team closed out the regular season with a second-place finish at the Brandeis University Judges Classic this weekend at the Gosman Sports and Convocation Center.

Ranked 15th in New England, Eastern (26-10) rebounded from a four-game loss to host Brandeis (16-18) Friday by losing only one game in capturing its final four matches to earn a second-place finish in the six-team field. The Warriors swept Newbury College (17-15) Friday night before defeating Gordon (12-17) in four games and sweeping Endicott College (21-14) and Plymouth State University (22-15) Saturday. The win is the second in a week for Eastern over Plymouth, with whom it shared the Little East Conference regular-season title.

After winning nine and losing seven over its first 16 matches this year, Eastern won 17 of its last 20, with two of the losses coming to regionally-ranked teams.

Against Saturday's three opponents, Eastern won eight games by a total of 30 points, capturing four of the five games that were decided by two points.

In Saturday's win over Gordon, senior **Nicole Tassone (EAST PATCHOGUE, NY)** had 11 block assists. Juniors **Jessica Keogh (MONROE)** and **Marianna Capomolla (STAMFORD)** combined for 48 digs while senior **Chrissie Siranko (DANBURY)** and sophomore **Emma Sousa (COVENTRY)** combined for 23 kills and sophomore setters **Priscilla Dougherty (ISLAND PARK, NY)** and **Meghan Doyle (HEWLETT, NY)** combined for 43 assists.

Against Endicott, Capomolla and Keogh had 16 digs each, Keogh adding 11 kills and Siranko and sophomore **Angela Loomis (MERIDEN)** ten each. Dougherty had 23 assists, sophomore **Jen Braswell (WILTON)** 17.

Against Plymouth, Capomolla had 14 digs and five service aces, Keogh 15 digs and freshman **Juliet Barber (MINEOLA, NY)** 12. Tassone had 12 kills, Siranko 11, Sousa nine without an error and junior **Lesley Mumford (YARMOUTH, MA)** eight. Dougherty had 27 assists, Braswell ten.

As the No. 1 seed, Eastern will host the Little East Conference semifinals and final this Friday and Saturday at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium. The Warriors will play the second of two semifinal-round matches Friday at 6:30 p.m. The final is set for Saturday at noon.

Eastern Conn. 3, Gordon College 1

Eastern Conn. (24-10)	30	30	30	30
Gordon College (12-17)	25	26	32	28

Eastern Conn. 3, Endicott College 0

Eastern Conn. (25-10)	30	30	33
Endicott College (21-14)	22	28	31

Eastern Conn. 3, Plymouth State U. 0

Eastern Conn. (26-10)	31	30	30
Plymouth State U. (22-15)	29	24	23

Friday, Oct. 28, 2005

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL SPLITS PAIR AT JUDGES CLASSIC

As No. 15 team in New England, Warriors lose to Brandeis, sweep Newbury

WALTHAM, MA -- The Brandeis University women's volleyball team broke from an early tie in Game 3 to score seven of the next eight points and went on to 3-1 victory over Eastern Connecticut State University Friday night in the opening night of the Judges Classic at Auerbach Arena.

After the teams split two-point decisions, Brandeis (12-18) broke from a 4-4 tie by scoring seven of the next eight points to move out to an 11-5 lead en route to the Game 3 win. In Game 4, the Judges scored the first three points and were never headed. Brandeis won the match, 31-29, 28-30, 30-22, 30-19.

A winner of 14 of its last 17 and ranked No. 15 in New England, Eastern (23-10) salvaged a split on the evening by sweeping Newbury College (11-19), 30-16, 30-25, 30-20. Three weeks ago, Eastern had edged Brandeis in five games at its own Crabtree Claissic.

Against Brandeis, senior middle blocker **Nicole Tassone (EAST PATCHOGUE, NY)** had 12 kills, nine digs and six blocks, senior right-side hitter **Chrissie Siranko (DANBURY)** added eight kills, junior **Marianna Capomolla (STAMFORD)** 22 digs, freshman **Juliet Barber (MINEOLA, NY)** 11 digs and sophomore **Jen Braswell (WILTON)** 17 assists. Capomolla received 30 serves with just two errors but the Warriors committed 12 reception errors as a team.

In sweeping Newbury for the second time in two weeks, Eastern junior **Jessica Keogh (MONROE)** had 11 kills and attacked at .320 and Siranko added ten kills, attacked at .333 and contributed six blocks. Tassone had eight kills and four blocks. Defensively, Barber had 14 digs, Keogh 13 and Capomolla and sophomore **Priscilla Dougherty (ISLAND PARK, NY)** ten digs each. Sophomore **Meghan Doyle (HEWLETT, NY)** had 29 set assists.

Saturday, Eastern plays Gordon College at noon, Endicott College at 3 p.m. and Plymouth State University at 5 p.m.

Brandeis U. 3, Eastern Conn. 1

Eastern Conn. (22-10)	29	30	22	19
Brandeis U. (12-18)	31	28	30	30

Eastern Conn. 3, Newbury College 0

Newbury (17-12)	16	25	20
Eastern Conn. (23-10)	30	30	30

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Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2005

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS WESTERN NE, 3-0
Surging Warriors have won 13 of their last 15 matches, now 22-9 on season

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University women’s volleyball team scored the first five points of Game 1 and went on to sweep Western New England College by scores of 30-16, 30-20, 30-21 Tuesday night at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

A winner of 13 of its last 15, Eastern (22-9) won for the tenth time in 11 home matches. Western New England College (13-14) had defeated the Warriors after 14 straight losses in 2003 and followed that up with another victory a year ago at Geissler Gym. The Golden Bears won in five games both years, taking the decisive game by two points both times.

Tuesday, the Warriors jumped to a 5-0 lead in Game 1 – sophomore **Priscilla Dougherty (ISLAND PARK, NY)** serving four of the points – and were never headed. Eastern took the lead for good in Game 2, 7-6, and went in front for good in Game 3, 8-7.

Junior libero **Marianna Capomolla (STAMFORD)** led Eastern with 21 digs and did not commit an error on 20 reception attempts. Junior outside hitter **Jessica Keogh (MONROE)** had 12 digs and six service aces and senior right-side hitter **Chrissie Siranko (DANBURY)** six kills and attacked at .417.

Sophomore middle hitter Ashley O’Keefe (South Dennis, MA) led the Golden Bears with nine kills and 11 digs, junior defensive specialist Jessica Vogel (Tonawanda, NY) adding 13 digs and sophomore setter Becky Cardin (Hudson, NH) adding 25 set assists.

The match was the final regular-season home one in the Eastern careers of seniors Siranko and middle blocker **Nicole Tassone (EAST PATCHOGUE, NY)**. Tassone had four kills and three blocks.

Since losing to St. Joseph’s-Patchogue Oct 1, Eastern has lost only to Smith College and Wesleyan University, ranked No. 6 and No. 12 in New England.

Eastern competes in the Brandeis University Judges’ Classic this weekend, opening against the host Judges Friday at 6 p.m. before hosting the semifinals and final of the Little East Conference Tournament Friday-Saturday Nov. 4-5. The Warriors earned the No. 1 seed and a share of the regular-season title Saturday with a four-game win over defending tournament champion Plymouth State University, ranked No.13 in New England.

Eastern Conn. 3, Western NE College 0

Western NE (13-14)	16	20	21
Eastern Conn. (22-9)	30	30	30

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little east conference

Saturday, Oct. 22, 2005

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL CLINCHES SHARE OF LEC TITLE

As No. 1 seed, Warriors will host semifinals and final No. 4-5

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University women’s volleyball team attacked at .375 in defeating Plymouth State University Saturday afternoon to clinch a share of the Little East Conference regular-season title and secure the top seed in the conference playoffs next month.

For the second straight year, Eastern (21-9, 6-1 little east) finishes with a share of the conference regular-season title, this time with Plymouth State (18-13, 6-1 little east). The Panthers were denied an opportunity to win their first outright regular-season crown when they were beaten by Eastern in four games, 30-19, 24-30, 30-25, 30-20.

For the first time since the first season of the conference tournament in 1995, Eastern will host the conference tournament Nov. 4-5 at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium. Six teams qualify for the playoffs, with two first-round matches scheduled for Tues., Nov. 1. As the top seeds, Eastern and Plymouth draw byes into the conference semifinals.

In its first match Saturday, Plymouth rallied from match point against Rhode Island College (20-13, 4-3 little east) to win its sixth straight conference match. Trailing two-games-to-one, Plymouth survived match point to win Game 4 by two points, then edged the Anchorwomen 15-12 in the deciding game. Rhode Island was the No. 1 seed and host for last year’s conference tournament.

The Warriors snapped a four-game losing streak at the hands of Plymouth, which swept Eastern a year ago in the conference playoff championship match.

A winner of 12 of its last 14, Eastern remained in contention for the regular-season title earlier Saturday with a four-game win over the University of Southern Maine (6-20, 0-7 little east). With the victory, the Warriors posted their 23rd 20-win season in the last 26 years.

(more)

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Against Plymouth, Eastern attacked at .325. Leading the way were seniors **Chrissie Siranko (DANBURY)** and **Nicole Tassone (EAST PATCHOGUE, NY)**, junior **Jessica Keogh (MONROE)** and sophomore **Emma Sousa (COVENTRY)**. The foursome combined to attack at .391. Siranko had 15 kills without an error for a .600 attack percentage; Sousa 12 kills with just one error (.440), Tassone 15 kills with three errors (.357) and Keogh 11 kills with four errors (.219).

Junior **Marianna Capomolla (STAMFORD)** had 23 digs and committed only one error on 34 reception attempts while Keogh had 17 digs and handled 24 receptions with only two errors. Sousa, sophomore **Priscilla Dougherty (ISLAND PARK, NY)** and freshman **Sandra Jaques (MILFORD)** each had 11 digs, sophomore **Jen Braswell (WILTON)** adding ten. Siranko and Tassone each also had four blocks. Dougherty had 33 set assists, Braswell contributing 24.

Ranked 13th in New England, Plymouth attacked at only .171 in the match. Senior Becky Ciulla (Chelmsford, MA), who played her freshman season at Eastern, had 16 kills and senior Becky Landry (Nashua, NH) 14. Ciulla had 28 digs, sophomore Kim Tobyne (Bedford, NH) 26 and Landry 25. Senior Amanda Bagwell (Riverside, RI) had 43 set assists.

After finishing in a tie for fifth place in head coach **Jolie Ward's** first season in 2003, Eastern has shared the regular-season title each of the past two years. The Warriors have reached the tournament final nine times in ten years, winning the first four championships between 1995 and 1998.

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

(more)

Saturday, Oct. 22, 2005

**Little east conference
Women's Volleyball
At Willimantic, Conn.**

Eastern Conn. 3, U. of Southern Maine 1

Southern Maine	30	27	17	15
Eastern Conn.	27	30	30	30

Eastern Conn. 3, Plymouth State U. 1

Plymouth State	19	30	25	20
Eastern Conn.	30	24	30	30

Plymouth State U. 3, Rhode Island College 2

Plymouth State	30	27	22	32	15
R.I. College	28	30	30	30	12

Rhode Island College 3, U. of Southern Maine 0

R.I. College	30	30	30
Southern Maine	20	27	17

Team Records:

Eastern Conn.	21-9 (6-1 little east)
Plymouth State	18-13 (6-1 little east)
R.I. College	20-13 (4-3 little east)
Southern Maine	6-20 (0-7 little east)

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2005

WESLEYAN RALLIES PAST EASTERN VOLLEYBALL, 3-2
Warriors win two of first three games, but can't put away Cardinals

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. – Freshman Lisa Drennan had three kills to spark a run of five straight Wesleyan University points in the decisive fifth game as the Cardinals downed Eastern Connecticut State University in women's volleyball Wednesday night at the Freeman Athletic Center. Game scorers were 30-17, 26-30, 30-28, 18-30, 7-15.

After losing two of the first three games, Wesleyan (15-8) routed Eastern (19-9) in Game 4, then scored five straight points to move out to a 10-4 lead in Game 5. Drennan had consecutive kills to account for the first two points of the run, then added a third kill to make it 10-4. Eastern never challenged seriously the rest of the game.

Looking for its third straight win over Wesleyan, Eastern dominated Game 1 en route to an easy win – scoring 12 of the game's first 14 points. Later, the Warriors took a 2-to-1 advantage in games by scoring three straight key points late in Game 3 to turn a 26-25 lead into a 29-25 advantage.

Sophomore **Angela Loomis (MERIDEN)**, who had a key kill late in the Game 3 victory, led the Warriors with 14 kills, senior **Nicole Tassone (EAST PATCHOGUE, NY)** contributing ten kills, six blocks and three service aces. Tassone had six straight kills in the Game 2 loss.

Junior **Marianna Capomolla (STAMFORD)** had a team-leading 17 digs and was successful on 31 of 33 reception attempts, including the first 22 serves that she received. Junior **Jessica Keogh (MONROE)** followed Capomolla with 14 digs and was perfect on 25 reception attempts. Sophomore **Priscilla Dougherty (ISLAND PARK, NY)** had 24 assists and served 32 balls with just one error.

Eastern closes out Little East Conference play Saturday when it hosts the University of Southern Maine and Plymouth State University beginning at 1 p.m. Defending conference playoff champion Plymouth is 5-0 in the conference, Eastern 4-1 and Southern Maine 0-5. In addition to facing Eastern, Plymouth and Southern Maine will also meet Rhode Island College (3-2) Saturday. If Eastern defeats Southern Maine and Plymouth defeats Rhode Island, the Eastern-Plymouth winner will be seeded first in conference tournament and will host the semifinals and final Nov. 4-5. Plymouth swept Eastern in last year's conference playoff final.

little east conference

Saturday, Oct. 15, 2005

STREAKING EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL WINS PAIR

After sweeping Clark and Newbury, Warriors 10-1 in last 11 matches

BROOKLINE, Mass. – Senior **Chrissie Siranko (DANBURY)** had 27 kills and a .564 attack percentage and junior **Marianna Capomolla (STAMFORD)** served ten aces and amassed 26 digs to spark the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to three-game sweeps of Clark University (30-22, 30-18, 30-23) and Newbury College (30-26, 30-18, 30-16) Saturday afternoon at Hellenic College

A winner of ten of its last 11, Eastern (19-8) moves to within a victory of 20 wins for the 23rd time in the last 26 seasons. Eastern has defeated Clark (6-16) in 11 of the last 13 meetings and is 3-0 in two years of play against Newbury (11-10).

Siranko had 14 kills and three errors against Clark and 13 kills and two errors against Newbury for a .564 attack percentage on the afternoon while sophomore **Emma Sousa (COVENTRY)** had 13 kills and just one error for a .522 attack percentage against Clark. She finished the afternoon with 18 kills and a .417 attack percentage to go along with eight blocks.

On the day, Eastern attacked at .249, recorded a .949 reception percentage (six errors on 117 chances) and led by Capomolla, collected 25 service aces. Against Newbury, Capomolla equalled her career high with eight aces and now has 90 in 212 career games. Senior **Nicole Tassone (EAST PATCHOGUE, NY)** and junior **Jessica Keogh (MONROE)** each served four aces against Clark. Against Newbury, Keogh had eight kills and attacked at .294.

Defensively against Clark, Keogh handled 20 receptions (17 straight without an error) with just one error and Capomolla was successful on 19 of 21 reception tries. Freshman **Sandra Jaques (MILFORD)** had a team-high 19 digs against Clark while Capomolla had 13 digs in each match.

Eastern's four sophomore setters amassed the majority of the team's assists. Against Clark, **Courtney Fromm (WINGDALE, NY)** had 17 and **Priscilla Dougherty (ISLAND PARK, NY)** 15. Against Newbury, **Meghan Doyle (HEWLETT, NY)** collected 18 and **Jen Braswell (WILTON)** 14.

Eastern visits Wesleyan University Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Eastern Conn. 3, Clark U. 0

Eastern Conn. (18-8)	30	30	30
Clark U. (6-16)	22	18	23

Eastern Conn. 3, Newbury College 0

Eastern Conn. (19-8)	30	30	30
Newbury (11-10)	26	18	16

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little east conference

Thursday, Oct. 13, 2005

SMITH MAINTAINS MASTERY OF EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL

Pioneers stop Warriors' winning streak at eight with three-game sweep

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. – The Smith College women's volleyball team broke game point in the second game and went on to a 30-25, 32-30, 30-15 win over Eastern Connecticut State University in stopping the Warriors' winning streak at eight matches Thursday night at Ainsworth Gym.

Since losing 22 consecutive decisions to Eastern (17-8), Smith (15-4) has downed Eastern the last six times the team have met. The Pioneers, ranked No. 5 in New England, have taken ten straight games from Eastern since the Warriors came away with a 33-31 decision in the third game of a four-game loss in 2002.

After losing the first game Thursday, Eastern surged to a 17-8 lead in Game 2 before Smith re-gained the momentum to take a 25-24 lead. A key dig by sophomore setter **Priscilla Dougherty (ISLAND PARK, NY)** led to block assists from senior middle blocker **Nicole Tassone (EAST PATCHOGUE, NY)** and sophomore outside hitter **Angela Loomis (MERIDEN)** that gave Eastern a 29-28 lead and the serve. Smith, however, avoided game point by tying the match, then broke a 30-all tie by scoring the final two points. The tie-breaking point came on a kill and the Pioneers won the game when Eastern was unable to return the final serve.

Tassone, last week's Little East Conference Offensive Player-of-the-Week, attacked at a team-leading .522, collecting a team-high 13 kills with just one error. Tassone is attacking at .343 in the team's last 11 matches.

Loomis was perfect on 23 reception attempts and also led the Warriors with 19 digs – the second-highest total of her career. Junior defensive specialist **Marianna Capomolla (STAMFORD)** followed with 13 digs in helping Eastern record its highest dig total (68) in a three-game match this season. Capomolla also accepted a team-high 41 serves, committing only three errors. Junior outside hitter **Jessica Keogh (MONROE)** attacked at .333, picking up seven kills along with senior middle blocker **Chrissie Siranko (DANBURY)** and sophomore middle blocker **Emma Sousa (COVENTRY)**. Siranko also had five blocks, Tassone adding three. Sophomore setters Dougherty and **Meghan Doyle (HEWLETT, NY)** each had 14 assists.

Senior outside hitter Kate Sorensen led Smith with 14 kills and 15 digs, sophomore outside hitter adding 12 kills and 23 digs and senior setter Lauren Perry setting for 38 assists.

Eastern plays at tri-match Saturday against Clark University and host Newbury College at 11 a.m.

Smith College 3, Eastern Conn. 0

Eastern Conn. (17-8)	25	30	15
Smith College (15-4)	30	32	30

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Saturday, Oct. 8, 2005

WARD GAINS 100th CAREER VOLLEYBALL COACHING WIN

Milestone victory comes in second win Friday night at Crabtree Classic

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Eastern Connecticut State University's three-game sweep of Babson College in the second game of the 25th Anniversary Crabtree Classic women's volleyball invitational Friday night represented the 100th NCAA coaching win for third-year head coach **Jolie Ward**.

In her sixth season as a Division III head coach, Ward has won 103 and lost 80. Now in her third year at Eastern, Ward has won 52 and lost 43. Prior to her current appointment, Ward won 51 and lost 37 at Farmingdale State University between 2000 and 2002. Two of Ward's teams have won more than 20 games: She led Farmingdale to a 21-7 record in its first season as a four-year institution in 2000 and last year directed the Warriors to an overall 21-16 record, a share of the Little East Conference regular-season title and a spot in the conference tournament championship match.

Among volleyball coaches, Ward currently ranks third at Eastern in wins at Eastern and matches coached (95) at Eastern, needing 19 matches to move into second place all-time in that category.

In addition to her NCAA victories, Ward compiled a two-year record of 35-24 in 1998 and 1999 when Farmingdale was a two-year institution.

A native of Bellport, NY, Ward was selected as only the fourth permanent head coach in program history in August of 2003. Former head coach Floretta Crabtree compiled 616 wins over the program's first 22 seasons before retiring following the 1996 season.

As a player, Ward was a four-year collegiate volleyball letterwinner and a member of four post-season tournament teams between 1993 and 1997. A 5-foot-8 inch right-side hitter, Ward lettered three seasons at Stony Brook University between 1993 and 1995 and completed her eligibility in 1997 as a graduate student at Division II Dowling College.

Through matches of October 8, Eastern has won 17 and lost 7, 4-1 in the Little East Conference. The Warriors began the week ending an 11-match losing streak at the hands of Western Connecticut State University Tuesday night at Geissler Gymnasium, then swept to five wins in capturing its own Crabtree Classic over the weekend. The team's current eight-match winning streak is its longest since 1998, when it won a program-record 15 in a row en route to the most recent of its New England Division III-record 13 NCAA tournament bids.

little east conference

Saturday, Oct. 8, 2005

EASTERN W-VOLLEYBALL WINS OWN CRABTREE CLASSIC

Tourney MVP Emma Sousa leads Warriors with 51 kills and 15 blocks in five wins

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Tournament Most Outstanding Player **Emma Sousa (COVENTRY)** had 51 kills and 15 blocks in leading the Eastern Connecticut State University women's volleyball team to the title of its own 25th Annual Crabtree Classic women's volleyball invitational Friday and Saturday at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern (17-7) won all five of its matches in the six-team round-round tournament to win its second title in the last four years. Tournament runner-up Brandeis University's only tournament loss came in the opener Friday night against Eastern, which won the decisive game, 15-13. Following that opening win, the Warriors lost only two games in capturing their next four matches.

Eastern, which has compiled its longest winning streak (eight matches) since 1998, guaranteed itself the tournament title by defeating Wheaton College in four games in the second of three matches Saturday. The Warriors wrapped up a perfect tournament record with a three-game sweep of 2004 tournament champion Johnson & Wales University in Saturday's final match.

Sousa, who was named to the tournament all-tournament team as a freshman in 2004, led Eastern with her kill total and was second to senior **Chrissie Siranko (DANBURY)** on the team with her block total. Sousa also contributed 20 digs. In the win over Brandeis, she committed only two errors on 17 reception attempts.

Junior **Marianna Capomolla (STAMFORD)** led the way defensively in the tournament with 66 digs and had a .947 reception percentage on 133 receptions. After committing five errors on 19 receptions against Brandeis, Capomolla had only two errors on 114 chances in the final four wins for a remarkable .982 percentage.

(more)

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Senior **Nicole Tassone (EAST PATCHOGUE, NY)** had 46 kills and attacked at a team-high .337 to go along with 15 blocks while Siranko had 41 kills and a team-leading 16 blocks. Junior **Jessica Keogh (MONROE)** had 45 digs and committed only one error on 57 receptions while freshman **Sandra Jaques (MILFORD)** added 43 digs and was successful on 64 of 69 reception tries. Sophomore **Angela Loomis (MERIDEN)** collected 14 of the team's 58 service aces, four coming in succession against Babson College.

All four of Eastern's sophomore setters contributed to the five wins. **Priscilla Dougherty (ISLAND PARK, NY)** had 64 assists, **Courtney Fromm (WINGDALE, NY)** 50, **Meghan Doyle (HEWLETT, NY)** 41 and **Jen Braswell (WILTON)** 31. Dougherty had 20 against both Brandeis and Johnson & Wales, Doyle 22 against Lasell, Braswell 14 against Wheaton and Fromm 15 against Johnson & Wales.

Friday night's three-game sweep of Babson College represented the 100th coaching win for third-year head coach Jolie Ward. In her sixth season as a Division III head coach, Ward has won 103 and lost 80. In her third year at Eastern, she has won 52 and lost 43. Prior to her current appointment, Ward won 51 and lost 37 at Farmingdale State University.

The tournament title is the second in as many weekends for Eastern, which won two of three matches last Saturday at the Hunter College Invitational.

Eastern visits Smith College Thursday at 7 p.m.

little east conference

Friday, Oct. 7, 2005

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL OPENS INVITE WITH TWO WINS

In first match, Warriors defeat Brandeis for first time in five-game decision

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – Senior **Nicole Tassone (EAST PATCHOGUE, NY)** had three kills and a block to help Eastern Connecticut State University rally from a late two-point deficit in the deciding game and post a 3-2 victory over Brandeis University Friday night on the opening night of the 25th Annual Crabtree Classic women's volleyball invitational at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern (14-7) recorded a 30-32, 30-27, 31-29, 25-30, 15-13 victory over Brandeis (7-10) in its first match, then swept Babson College (4-9) 30-26, 30-14, 30-20 in equaling its season-high five-game winning streak.

Needing one win to defeat Brandeis for the first time after five losses in this series, Eastern dropped a five-point decision to the Judges after trailing throughout Game 4. Down 12-10 in the deciding game, the Warriors scored three straight points to take a 13-12 lead. With the score tied at 13, Tassone recorded her 12th kill of the match on a set from sophomore **Priscilla Dougherty (ISLAND PARK, NY)** to give Eastern a one-point lead, and sophomore **Emma Sousa (COVENTRY)** and freshman **Sandra Jaques (MILFORD)** teamed to block a Brandeis attack attempt and end the match.

In the match, the Warriors registered a season-high 25 blocks, with junior **Chrissie Siranko (DANBURY)** contributing a block solo and a career-high seven assists, Sousa a solo and five assists and Tassone a solo and four assists. Eastern also had 11 service aces against Brandeis and 14 more against Babson.

(more)

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In the fifth game against Brandeis, Tassone contributed to four of Eastern's final five points. She had consecutive kills to pull Eastern even at 12, a block assist to make it 13-12 and a kill to make it 14-13. In the match, she attacked at .393, committing only one error on 28 attempts.

In two matches, Sousa had 23 kills, Siranko 22 and Tassone 14, with Tassone attacking at .393 against Brandeis and Sousa at .421 against Babson. Siranko led Eastern with eight blocks, Sousa adding six and Tassone five.

In the two wins, junior **Marianna Capomolla (STAMFORD)** had 28 digs, junior **Jessica Keogh (MONROE)** 22 and Jaques 17. Capomolla did not commit a reception error on 27 tries against Babson and Keogh collected 19 without an error on the evening. Jaques handled 26 of 27 receptions (23 of 24 against Brandeis) and freshman **Jasmine Lopez (MERIDEN)** received a career and team-high 29 against Brandeis as the team's designated defensive player.

Sophomore **Angela Loomis (MERIDEN)** had five service aces against Babson while Capomolla and Keogh finished the night with four each. Dougherty accumulated 32 assists in two matches, sophomore **Courtney Fromm (WINGDALE, NY)** 20.

Along with Eastern, Wheaton College (MA) won both of its matches on the first day of the six-team round-robin tournament.

Saturday, Eastern faces Lasell College at 9:30 a.m., Wheaton at noon and Johnson & Wales at 2 p.m. Johnson & Wales defeated Eastern twice in five games in last year's tournament after the Warriors had won all seven previous meetings between the clubs.

Saturday, Oct. 8, 2005

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Saturday, Oct. 8, 2005

**25th ANNIVERSARY
CRABTREE CLASSIC
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL INVITATIONAL**

October 7-8, 2005

**Hosted by Eastern Conn. State U.
at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium
Willimantic, CT**

FINAL STANDINGS

Institution	Record			
	MATCH		GAME	
Eastern Conn.	5	0	15	4
Brandeis U.	4	1	14	5
Wheaton College, MA	3	2	12	8
Johnson & Wales U.	2	3	8	10
Lasell College	1	4	4	12
Babson College	0	5	1	15

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Name	Cl.	Institution
Emma Sousa*	So.	Eastern Conn.
Julianna Pham	So.	Babson College
Lorraine Wingenbach	Fr.	Brandeis U.
Audra Vaccari	So.	Johnson & Wales U.
Allison Bianco	So.	Lasell College
Marriah Vengroff	Sr.	Wheaton College, MA

**-Most Outstanding Player*

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