

Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009

**BOWDOIN FENDS OFF CHALLENGE BY EASTERN W-BASKETBALL**  
*In Eastern Tip-Off Tournament final, Warriors battle back from deficit in loss*

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University women’s basketball team cut nine points off a 12-point deficit late in the game but Bowdoin College used timely free throw shooting to emerge with a 63-56 win the championship game of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Eastern Connecticut State University Tip-Off Tournament Sunday afternoon at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Eastern’s (1-1) only lead came on the first basket of the game, but the Warriors battled back from a 12-point deficit to cut the gap to four with just under four minutes left. At that point, the Warriors were unable to cut further into the lead on their next six possessions over the next three minutes, missing five shots and turning the ball over once. Freshman **Tanisha Carter (East Hartford, CT)** sank one of two free throws on the team’s seventh possession with 20 seconds left, but tournament MVP Caitlin Hynes (Owl’s Head, ME) and all-tournament selection Ellery Gould (East Sandwich, ME) of Bowdoin (2-0) converted two free throws each around a missed Eastern field goal to cement the win.

Bowdoin has won the Eastern Tip-Off Tournament in each of its two appearances, both triumphs coming over the Warriors. The championship game appearance was the 26<sup>th</sup> for Eastern, which has won 15 times.

Bowdoin all-tournament selection Jill Henrikson (Bath, ME) connected on all nine of her free throws in the game, helping her team to a 19-for-22 effort from the stripe in the game (9-for-10 in the second half). Henrikson was 15-for-15 from the foul line in the tournament. As a team, Bowdoin was 40-for-46 from the stripe in the tournament.

Eastern used a commanding 19-8 advantage on the offensive boards to score 15 second-chance points, but could not match Bowdoin’s balance and depth. Led by Gould (ten points, five rebounds), Bowdoin received 24 points from five substitutes, while three Eastern reserves were held scoreless from the floor in 25 minutes off the bench. The Warriors missed 12 of 13 three-point attempts in the game, including 0-for-9 in the second half.

Bowdoin got out of the gate quickly, scoring 13 straight points to build an 11-point, 15-4 lead that later crested at 12 eight minutes into action. In a 15-1 run en route to the 12-point lead, the visitors got points from four different players and rebounds from four different players. With Eastern trailing by eight at halftime, all-tournament selection **Jessica Moriarty (East Haven, CT)** scored four of her six second-half points and **Brittany Whiteley (South Windsor, CT)** added two of her team-high 14 points to spark the Warriors back into the game.

Hynes blocked four Eastern shots in the second half, five in the game. Henrikson led all players in the game with 18 points, Hynes adding 15 and Gould ten. Leah Rubega (Norwich, CT) grabbed a team-high seven rebounds.

(more)

Moriarty was joined on the all-tournament team by Carter, who narrowly missed her second double-double in as many collegiate games against Bowdoin. She followed Whiteley with 12 points and shared team-high rebounding honors with **Piper Chapman (Portsmouth, RI)** with nine. In the tournament, Carter led Eastern with 23 points and 20 rebounds and shot 60 percent from the floor (9-for-15). Moriarty had 22 points, seven steals and five assists.

Hynes scored 15 points in each of her team's tournament victories and did not turn the ball over in 56 minutes. Bowdoin's three all-tournament picks had only four turnovers in 142 tournament minutes.

Both Eastern and Bowdoin won over 20 games and qualified for the NCAA tournament a year ago. The Polar Bears were ranked No. 8 nationally in the WBCA/ESPN/USA Today pre-season poll after returning four starters from last year's 24-5 edition. The Warriors were unranked after losing four starters from last year's 25-4 club.

Eastern hosts Emmanuel College Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

### **Manhattanville wins third-place game**

Manhattanville College (2-1) won the third-place game, keeping Springfield College (0-3) off the board for the first 11 minutes of the second half in a 63-32 victory. The Valiants allowed only 16 points in each half, racing to a 17-point lead 15 minutes into play and preventing a Springfield player from reaching double figures.

All-tournament selection Simona Gordon (Cambridge, MA) scored a game-high 14 points for Manhattanville. In two tournament games, Gordon had 29 points (5-for-8 from three-point range) and seven assists.