



WEEKLY RELEASE



*New England Collegiate Conference
14 Gerri Drive, Attleboro, Mass. 02703
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NEW ENGLAND COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL



PLAYER OF THE WEEK — Newbury College junior middle hitter **Mark Thomas** (Wilbraham, Mass.) tallied 31 kills, ten blocks and five digs while hitting a .472 attack percentage in a 1-1 week . The Nighthawks defeated NECC opponent Daniel Webster 3-0 while falling to MIT 3-1. For the week, Bravo averaged 4.43 kills per set, 0.71 digs per set and 1.42 blocks per set.



ROOKIE OF THE WEEK — Southern Vermont sophomore setter **Ricky Harrington** (North Adams, Mass.) grabs the Mountaineers first NECC men's volleyball weekly honors for his efforts. Harrington helped lead the green and white spikers to a 2-0 week notching their first wins in two years. Harrington tallied 43 assists, six kills, six digs, five aces and two blocks. Over the two-match span, Harrington had a .364 attack percentage while dishing up a 6.14 assists per set.

*New England Collegiate Conference
Bay Path College ~ Becker College ~ Daniel Webster College ~ Elms College ~ Lesley University
Mitchell College ~ Newbury College ~ Southern Vermont College ~ Wheelock College
14 Gerri Drive ~ Attleboro, Massachusetts 02703
www.neccathletics.com*



NECC MEN'S BASKETBALL UPDATE (through March 8, 2009)

2009 ECAC Division III New England Men's Basketball Championship

First Round - Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at campus of the top four seeded teams

No. 8 Salve Regina 84 at No.1 Lasell 89
No. 7 Rivier College, 72 at No. 2 Colby-Sawyer, 62
No. 6 Daniel Webster College 78 at No.3 Westfield State 58
No. 5 Framingham State 71 at No. 4 Becker 95

Semifinals - Saturday, March 7, 2009 at highest remaining seeded teams

No. 1 Lasell 82 vs. No. 4 Becker 85
No. 7 Rivier 75 vs. No. 6 Daniel Webster 70

Championship - Sunday, March 8th at highest remaining seed

No. 7 Rivier 73 vs. No. 4 Becker 89

Becker Captures First ECAC Championship Title

Leicester, Mass. - Sophomore guard **Rajai Leggett** (New Haven, Conn.) netted 10 point, grabbed a game-high 12 rebounds, had 3 blocks, 3 steals and 4 assists and sophomore center **Trey Jacobs** (Lexington Park, MD) dropped in a game-high 20 points and fourth seeded Becker College used a clutch run early in the second half to pull away to a 89-73 win over seventh seeded Rivier College in the championship game of the ECAC Division III New England Men's Basketball Tournament.

Becker College extending their school record for NCAA wins, finished the season at 22-8, the Hawks are just two seasons removed from a 3-22 record. The Raiders completed their season at 16-13.

Leggett, who was named tournament Most Outstanding Player, led the Hawks to a 9-0 opening run with two layups. After a Raiders timeout, junior forward **Luke Brownell** (Hubbardston, Mass.) broke the drought with a jumper at 15:55. The teams traded baskets and Becker had the biggest lead of the half at 13 points after two free throws from **Travis Suber** (Springfield, Mass.) at the ten minute mark to make it 24-11.

From there the Raiders erupted for a 19-8 run over the next 7:42 to take their only lead of the game at 33-32. Freshman forward **Mark Williams** (Malden, Mass.) converted a 3 point play, senior forward **Felipe Lima** (Nashua, NH) and freshman guard **Joe Granato** (Arlington, Mass.) both chipped in 5 points to help key the run.

Sophomore guard **DeJohn Exum** (New London, Conn.) put the Hawks on his back over the last two minutes of the half scoring 9 points going 3 for 4 from behind the three point arc to give Becker a 44-40 lead heading into the locker room.

Leggett, opened up the second half just like the first, scoring the first six points of the half. The Hawks build their lead to ten points, 50-40 and never looked back. They shot 60% (15 for 25) in the second half while limiting the Raiders to just 30% (9 for 30).

For the game the Hawks connected on 7 of 16 (44%) from 3-point range while Rivier hit just 7 of 24 (29%).

Raiders center **DJ Poitras** (Bow, NH) and Lima both finished with a team-high 13 points. Williams led the team with 7 rebounds.

For the Hawks, Exum finished with 16 points and sophomore guard **Paul Gibbs** (Bear, DE) chipped in with 14 points off the bench. Senior guard **Travis Suber** (Springfield, Mass.), recently named the New England Collegiate Conference Player of the Year, added 15 points and 5 rebounds.

Daniel Webster Eagles Run Ends, Fall To Rivier 75-70 in ECAC Men's Basketball Semifinals

NASHUA, N.H. - **Kevin Harrington** (Center Ossipee, N.H.) led four players in double figures with 17 points while **Lance Bisson** (Nashua, N.H.) and **Nick Bean** (E. Longmeadow, Mass.) added 15 each guiding seventh-seeded Rivier College past sixth-seeded and host Daniel Webster College, 75-70 in the ECAC New England Championship semifinals before a full house Saturday afternoon.

The largest estimated crowd in Mario Vage Gymnasium history saw the Raiders (16-12) advance to its first championship game to face the winner of either No. 1 seed Lasell or No. 4 seed Becker in tomorrow's final. The two play late Saturday in the second semifinal.

Brian Inge (Ft. Washington, Md.) closed out his stellar two-year Eagle career with a game high 21 points including 18 in the second half as Daniel Webster finished its best overall season in program history at 18-10 overall.

Chris Hanson (Salem, Mass.) added 18 for the Eagles, all in the first half, while **William Kemp Harris** (Suitland, Md.) added eight points and eight rebounds. **Tim Jackson** (W. Henrietta, N.Y.), **Adam Landry** (Vernon, Conn.) and **Steve Savage** (Salem, N.H.) chipped in six points apiece.

Don Poitras (Bow, N.H.) added nine points and a game high nine rebounds for the Raiders.

The game marked the 36th all time meeting between the two longtime Nashua rivals, but only their third postseason meeting and first in 11 years. Both squads were also making their first appearance in the ECAC tourney.

Rivier advanced despite turning the ball over 24 times, thanks to an important advantage on the boards (45-32) as the Eagles were limited to just three second chance points. Rivier also finished with a 34-18 scoring edge in the paint.

Cold Eagle shooting throughout was another factor. DWC managed just 29-percent in the first half (9-31), while Rivier hit 44-percent (14-32) and the Raiders held a 38-31 lead at the break.

DWC improved to 39-percent in the second, but the Raiders hit the shots they needed down the stretch to hold off a second half Eagle charge.

Trailing 49-40 with 14:27 remaining, Inge dropped a three and after a Bisson tip in, Harris followed with a layup, Inge added a jumper and **Chris Voukides** (Salem, N.H.) nailed a trey from deep in the left pocket for a 51-50 game with 10:57 left.

Bisson followed with a jumper in the lane at the 10 minute mark, but two turnovers and seven straight missed shots doomed the Eagles hopes as Rivier rebuilt the lead to 63-50 following two Bean free throws with 4:24 to go.

Down 69-59 with 47 seconds left, Inge hit from downtown for a 69-62 game with 37 ticks to go, but Harrington went 5 for 6 at the line in the closing seconds to ice it.

The Eagles bid farewell to three seniors: Inge, who finished with 755 points in two seasons, Jackson, and **Joel Prince** (Woodbridge, Va.), who dished out four assists in his final game.

Each NECC institution may nominate one student-athlete for Player of the Week and one student-athlete for Rookie of the Week each week. Individual statistics, the team's opponents and the nominee's overall contribution to the team's performance are among the factors considered.

NECC MEN'S BASKETBALL UPDATE (through March 8, 2009)

2009 NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Tournament First Round

Hosted by St. Lawrence University
Friday, March 6, Burkman Gymnasium
St. Lawrence 81, Brooklyn 69
SUNYIT 85, Elms 77

Saturday, March 7, Burkman Gymnasium
St. Lawrence 90, SUNYIT 80

Elms Falls to SUNYIT 85-77 in NCAA Championships

CANTON, N.Y. - Junior guard **Diloo Brown (Harlem, NY)** poured in a game-high 21 points and sophomore forward **David Golembiowski (Barneveld, NY)** added 20 points to lead SUNYIT to an 85-77 win over Elms College in Friday night's first round of the 2009 NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Championship at the Burkman Gymnasium on the campus of St. Lawrence University. SUNYIT (23-6), which was making its first-ever NCAA Division III Championship appearance, advanced to Saturday night's second round to face host St. Lawrence, which defeated Brooklyn College in Friday night's other first round game. The Blazers, who were making their fifth consecutive appearance in the NCAA Division III Championship, had their program-record 16-game win streak snapped to finish with a school-record 26-2 mark. Junior guard **Juan Galdon (Holyoke, MA)** matched Brown's game-high total of 21 points, as he finished 8 of 14 from the field, including 3 of 4 from 3-point range in 26 minutes for Elms College. The Blazers trailed 74-73 before Brown drained a pair of free throws to extend SUNYIT's lead to 76-73 with 2:12 remaining. Brown then added three more free throws over the next 47 seconds to give the Wildcats what proved to be an insurmountable 79-73 advantage with 1:25 left. Although Galdon and senior forward **Malakie Berry (Enfield, CT)** added layups over the next 27 seconds to cut the Blazers' deficit to 79-77, the Wildcats added six more free throws in the closing seconds to seal their first-ever NCAA Division III Championship victory. Sophomore guard **Dan Gonzalez (East Windsor, CT)** finished with 11 points and sophomore forward **Juan Alverio (Toa Baja, Puerto Rico)** added 10 points for Elms College, which was limited to just 34.5-percent shooting. The Blazers jumped out to a quick 8-2 lead in the game's opening 3:12 before SUNYIT exploded for a 26-12 run over the next 9:12 to grab the largest lead of the half by either team at 28-20. Golembiowski exploded for three 3-pointers during the run and finished with 16 first half points on 6 of 11 shooting, including 4 of 7 from beyond the arc to help the Wildcats grab a slim 43-42 lead at intermission. Galdon finished 5 of 7 from the field and 2 of 2 from 3-point range to lead the Blazers with 12 first half points, while Alverio added all 10 of his points in just 11 minutes of action in the opening 20 minutes. The first half featured a total of four ties and seven lead changes. SUNYIT connected on 55.2-percent shooting from the field (16 of 29), including 6 of 11 from 3-point range in the first half, while Elms College shot just 39-percent (16 of 41) and 6 of 18 from three.

Elms Selected to 2009 NCAA Division III Championship First Round

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. - The NCAA announced brackets for its upcoming NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Championship on Monday morning, and for the fifth consecutive season, Elms College has earned a bid. Elms College (26-1) will play a first round game against SUNYIT (22-6) on Friday, March 6 at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York. Game time is 8:00 p.m. The winner of the Elms College/SUNYIT game will then advance to the second round on Saturday, March 7 to face the winner of the Brooklyn (22-5)/St. Lawrence (20-6) game. That game will also be hosted at St. Lawrence. Elms College punched its ticket into the field of 60 for the fifth consecutive year after earning one of only three Pool B bids nationally, as the New England Collegiate Conference (NECC) is currently in the first of a mandatory two-year waiting period for an automatic qualifier to the NCAA Division III Championship. The Blazers, who won both the NECC's inaugural regular season and tournament titles, have already posted a program-record 26 wins and are also in the midst of a program-record 16-game win streak. Elms College, which defeated Becker 105-76 in last Saturday's NECC Tournament title game, enters the NCAA Division III Championship with the second most wins among the 60 teams - behind only St. Thomas' (MN) 27-0 mark. Friday's game will mark the Blazers' first-ever meeting with the Wildcats, who make their first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division III Championship after posting a 78-49 win over Wells College in last Saturday's North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC) Tournament title game. Of its potential second round opponents, Elms College is 1-0 against Brooklyn and 0-1 versus St. Lawrence. The Blazers defeated Brooklyn 70-63 in the only meeting between the two teams back on January 11, 2003. Friday marks a return trip for Elms College to Canton, where it fell 85-79 to St. Lawrence in the first round of the 2007 NCAA Division III Championship on March 2, 2007.

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NECC MEN'S VOLLEYBALL UPDATE (through March 8, 2009)

NECC VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS						
	NECC Matches			Overall		
	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT
Elms	5	1	.833	11	11	.500
Newbury	4	1	.800	17	6	.739
Daniel Webster	2	2	.500	3	9	.250
Lesley	2	4	.333	2	15	.118
Southern Vermont	0	5	.000	2	12	.143

NECC MEN'S VOLLEYBALL WEEKLY HONOR ROLL (Week Ending March 8, 2009)

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

	SP	K	E	TA	Pct.	AST	SA	DIGS	BS	BA	TB	K/G	A/G	SA/G	D/G	B/G
Mark Thomas, NC (Jr., MH)	7	31	6	53	.472	0	0	5	2	8	10	4.43	0.00	0.00	0.71	1.42

Thomas tallied 31 kills, ten blocks and five digs while hitting a .472 attack percentage in a 1-1 week . The Nighthawks defeated NECC opponent Daniel Webster 3-0 while falling to MIT 3-1. For the week, Bravo averaged 4.43 kills per set, 0.71 digs per set and 1.42 blocks per set.

OTHER NOMINEES

	SP	K	E	TA	Pct.	AST	SA	DIGS	BS	BA	TB	K/G	A/G	SA/G	D/G	B/G
Joe Karnik, SVC (Jr., MB)	7	33	7	68	.382	1	0	0	1	2	3	4.71	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.30

ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

	SP	K	E	TA	Pct.	AST	SA	DIGS	BS	BA	TB	K/G	A/G	SA/G	D/G	B/G
Ricky Harrington, SVC (So., S)	7	6	2	11	.364	43	5	6	0	2	2	0.90	6.14	0.70	0.90	0.10

Harrington grabs the Mountaineers first NECC men's volleyball weekly honors for his efforts. Harrington helped lead the green and white spikers to a 2-0 week notching their first wins in two years. Harrington tallied 43 assists, six kills, six digs, five aces and two blocks. Over the two-match span, Harrington had a .364 attack percentage while dishing up a 6.14 assists per set.

OTHER NOMINEES

	SP	K	E	TA	Pct.	AST	SA	DIGS	BS	BA	TB	K/G	A/G	SA/G	D/G	B/G
Seung Hee Kin, NC (Fr., OH)	7	14	12	41	.048	0	2	4	0	3	3	2.00	0.00	0.30	0.20	0.40

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