



# **FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE**

## **SPORTS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

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# **FALCONS SOAR TO ECAC SEMIFINALS**



**Western New England College - 55**  
**Fitchburg State College - 80**

## **ECAC TOURNAMENT QUARTERFINALS**

**FITCHBURG, Mass.** – No. 3 Fitchburg State College went on an 11-0 run to close out the first half and never looked back in a 80-55 victory over No. 6 Western New England College in the Quarterfinals of Division III New England ECAC Tournament Wednesday night at Fitchburg State's Recreation Center.

The Falcons (19-8) will advance to face the Nichols (No. 7) at Western Connecticut (No. 2) winner on Saturday. The semifinal and final rounds will be at the highest remaining seed. Times are TBA. The Golden Bears finish their season at 18-11.

Junior forward **Steph Payette (Townsend, MA/North Middlesex)** poured in a game-high 22 points to go along with three assists and two steals for FSC while senior forward **Diana Doyle (Springfield, MA/Cathedral)** added nine points on 4-of-8 shooting. Sophomore guard **Michelle Ridge (Milton, MA/Milton)** chipped in seven points off the bench for the victors.

WNEC put three scorers in double digits scoring, led by senior guard **Jen Dabrowski (Plainville, CT/Plainville)**, who scored 12 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Sophomore guard **Kailah Al-Darraji (Dover, NH/Dover)** and freshman guard **Lauren Stock (Rocky Hill, CT/Rocky Hill)**, who came off the bench, each contributed 11 points. Sophomore forward **Kaylyn Smith (Rensselaer, NY/Columbia)** added seven points and grabbed six rebounds for the Golden Bears.

The Falcons owned a 52-46 rebounding advantage and forced 21 WNEC turnovers while committing 16 of their own. FSC also shot 46.6 percent from the floor to the Golden Bears' 30.4 percent shooting from the field.

Payette powered the 11-0 run over the final 5:27 of the first half, scoring seven of her 22 points as the Falcons turned a 29-17 advantage into a 40-17 halftime cushion.