The NFL celebrated the New Year in style, with eight teams combining for 221 points, two blowouts, one bad snap and stunning-shell-shock for all. It placed the exclamation point on an NFL regular season that showcased parity, bravado and perhaps a changing of the guard from both the Los Angeles and New York分别的.  

**By El Samuel**

*Contributing Writer*

The NFC South played in the final game on Friday night, with the Atlanta Falcons hosting the Carolina Panthers. The Falcons were coming off a 29-27 win against the Miami Dolphins, while the Panthers were coming off a 27-17 loss to the Arizona Cardinals. The game was played at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, with a crowd of 68,000 fans.

The Falcons started off strong, with quarterback Matt Ryan completing 14 of 18 passes for 191 yards and two touchdowns in the first quarter. The Panthers responded with a strong third quarter, with quarterback Cam Newton completing 14 of 21 passes for 208 yards and one touchdown. However, the Falcons finished the game with a 27-17 victory, improving their record to 10-6. The Panthers fell to 6-10, ending their season.

**By Sean Boer**

*Sports Editor*

EMU men’s basketball team nearly shocked Bridgewater, when they nearly upset their rivals with a key effort by their new starting freshman, Bryan Williams.  

The Royals started off strong, with guard Ricky Easterling hitting a 3-point shot to give EMU a 3-0 lead. The Royals continued to build their lead, with center Jeff Shwalm scoring a basket and a foul to give EMU a 10-0 lead. The Eagles responded with a 7-0 run, led by forward Bryan Williams. The Royals were able to hold the Eagles to just 11 points in the first half, with a 37-11 lead. In the second half, the Eagles were able to cut the lead to 44-35, but the Royals were able to hold on for a 59-47 victory.

**Wrap Up**

Wednesday, Jan. 8
(W) Basketball vs. Washington & Lee, W 69-47
(M) Basketball vs. Bridgewater, L 66-74

Thursday, Jan. 9
(M) Volleyball vs. D’Youville, W 3-0

Saturday, Jan. 11
(M) Basketball vs. Bridgewater, W 67-63

Monday, Jan. 13
(M) Basketball vs. Hampden-Sydney, L 51-85

Tuesday, Jan. 14
(W) Basketball vs. Mary Baldwin, W 73-55

**Freshman Stars in First Start Against Bridgewater**

By Eb Samuel

*Contributing Writer*

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