Coach Axes Entire Men’s Volleyball Team

By Sean Boer
Sports Editor

The men’s volleyball team learned a lesson this past weekend when everyone on the team was cut.

The team started the season by going 4-0. The first win of the season was a home match against D’Youville (30-26, 30-21, 30-22). Their next three wins came in the Royal Invitational tournament that took place in the University Commons. They beat Philadelphia Biblical 3-2, Baptist Bible 3-0, and Lancaster Bible 3-0. Then last Friday they traveled to play against the Division II College Lees-McCrae. They lost that match by a score of 0-3. After this poor performance Axford decided the Royals needed to be taught a lesson.

So he cut the entire team and held three days of tryouts before the next game on the Jan. 29 against Juniata. According to sources on the volleyball team, they believe that this action needed to be done. They felt as if there was a real lack of discipline on the team. Freshman Ed Axford decided the Royals needed to be taught a lesson.

But even with a lack of upperclassmen, the feeling is still that they have a better team than last year. Jeff McCutcheon feels as if the overall talent on the team is much higher. They have a much bigger team than last year and this makes for more depth. He also believes that the bench is better than it was last year. Because everyone on the team has at least two years of experience under their belt, neither is a two seniors of the team – Matt Musselman and Derrick King. Those two are the people expected to be the key players of the team, along with junior Brandon Bergey and first-year Nick Bernardo.

Axford doing what is needed to get the players to do it the right way, look for this team to make an even better run at the title this year.

Track Team Anticipates Successful Season

By Wayne Paxton
Contributing Writer

While the wind gusts outside, the EMU track and field squad prepares for the upcoming spring season within the cozy confines of the Commons.

McCrae showed that lack of discipline on the team is going to hurt their chances of winning the rest of their games. He also went on to say about the tryouts, “It’s a gut check.” Nearing the end of tryouts, he believes that the motivation and desire has increased from most of the players. This is what he believes were coach Axford’s intentions made the cut.

The upcoming spring season within the EMU track and field squad prepares for Track Team Anticipates Successful Season

Jeff McCutcheon also mentioned on the team. Freshman Ed Axford decided the Royals needed to be taught a lesson.

In the field events, more promise is found in this young team. "This is one of the most promising teams in the ODAC," said Seth McGuffin, coach of throwers and jumpers. "Right now we have three jumpers in the top five: Mike Yoder, Joey Franze, and Austin Baer."

What is surprising is that these three, and other contributors, are first-year athletes, which bodes well for the future. The team is also starting to gel.

"This is a close team, as many athletes competed in the Valley District in high school. They know they are good enough to place in meets, and they want to win," added McGuffin. "We have never had this much depth."

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