Freshman Talent Leads Lady Royals to Great Record

By David Rife
Contributing Writer

With more wins already than last year’s total, the new stars on the EMU women’s basketball team are trying to take this team to new heights. Coming into the season, the EMU Lady Royals’ fans knew they had a superstar on the team in Emily Mullet, but what they probably didn’t figure is how many incoming freshmen would have an impact on the team. The women’s team has six freshmen, four of which have impacted the team greatly: Stephanie Mathews, Laura Ludholtz, Amanda Renalds, and Carrie Grandstaff. All four of these freshmen have played in all 21 games.

Stephanie Mathews is a 5-9 guard/forward out of Woodstock, Va. She has started in eight of them and averaged 24.9 minutes a game. She’s tied for second on the team with 11.4 points scored per game, and is second with 2.4 steals per game. She ranks fifth on the team in offensive, 5.7 defensive, and total rebounding, averaging 3.9 offensive, 5.7 defensive, and 9.6 total per game. It has been a real bonus to be able to have a freshman come in and show the type of rebounding ability that Stephanie has.

Thanks to these four freshmen and a strong returning group, the Lady Royals are off to their best start ever under coach Mike Dunavant.

Laura Ludholtz is a 5-8 guard/forward out of Fort Defiance, VA. She has started 19 games for the team and averages 27.7 minutes a game. She ranks fifth on the team, averaging 9.8 points a game. She ranks just behind Mathews in defensive and total rebounding with 4.8 defensive and 6.5 total per game. She ranks first on the team in assists with 3.3 per game, and with steals, averaging 2.7 per game. Ludholtz has played more minutes than any other freshman and has been vital in the team’s success.

Amanda Renalds is a 6-1 forward/center out of Bridgewater, Va. She has also started in 19 of the team’s games and averages 22.8 minutes per game. She is also tied for second on the team averaging 11.4 points per game. Amanda has been the physical force inside which every team needs. She leads the team in block shots with 1.1 a game, and shows she is not afraid to be physical and thus leading the team with 2.6 fouls per game.

Carrie Grandstaff is a 5-9 guard/forward out of Luray, VA. She has started in 16 of the 21 games and averages 27.6 minutes per game. As a freshman, Carrie leads the team in scoring with 15.2 points per game. She leads the team in field goals made and 3-point field goals made. When watching her play in a game, it looks as if she has the ability to score each time down the court.

Thanks to these four freshmen and a strong returning group, the Lady Royals are off to their best start ever under coach Mike Dunavant. Look for this team to make a legitimately compete for the ODAC title this year.

Forgetting About Sports?

By Sean Boor
Sports Editor

Where has the importance of sports gone? Is it some sort of sin to be passionate about them? Since I have been at EMU, sometimes that’s the feeling I get.

Well, maybe the word “sin” is a strong word to use, but it helps get the point across. I remember being back in high school and the most important events were sporting events. People didn’t care about an art gallery, how the war in Iraq was going, or even how the last student government meeting went.

The only thing that really mattered was whether the football or basketball team did last night.

I’m not sure if it’s because people have matured, and sports aren’t a part of the more adult life. On the other hand, maybe it’s because this is a Christian school and we don’t think it is as important as the other events occurring in the world. The one thing that I am sure of though, is that I don’t think sports get the attention they deserve.

Just to set the record straight, I’m not trying to say that sporting issues and events should be the priority of this school or even the Weather Vane. And I’m not saying that sports are more important than art galleries or the possible war in Iraq. But I still believe that it should get its proper recognition. I am also not writing this in an attempt to rip on the Weather Vane or its head editors, so please don’t get that idea.

The point that I’m merely trying to make is what I’ve already stated. Even if you think personally that sports aren’t important, they are still a big part of campus life. They still are the most-attended events and are the one thing that is most commonly participated in by all students.

This thought of mine came to me after a critiquing session of the Weather Vane was done in one of my classes. The headline story of the paper last week was about a meeting with Joe Lapp and LiFT. It was brought to my attention that there were about 30 people that attended the meeting, yet there were about 700 people that attended the women’s basketball game. And there was even a bigger issue than both of those, and that was whether Tom Baker should be allowed to continue his job of head coach for the EMU men’s basketball team.

The information about the meeting was important for students to know about, but if only 30 people attended, compared to 700 people attending the women’s basketball game and all the talk that has been going on about Baker since as long as I’ve been at school; I’d have to say that the main interest at the time was buried on pages four and five.

But maybe I’m wrong about all of this. Maybe sports still are more important to people than I thought. If this is the case, than I think sports deserves to get more attention than what it is receiving right now.