Column:

**Time to get Excited About Our Teams**

By Sean Boer
Sports Editor

The time has come for EMU sports fans to get excited. The women’s volleyball team and women’s basketball team have earned a spot in the NCAA tournament. It’s a true sports fan’s dream to see their team on a national stage. The women’s volleyball team has been a force to be reckoned with for years, and the women’s basketball team has rapidly risen in the national rankings.

As a true sports fan, it is vital to stick by your team when they are going through tough seasons and when snapping a losing streak seems to be an unbreakable trend. By your team when they are going through tough seasons and when snapping a losing streak seems to be the goal, believe in your team. They can redeem themselves. It looks as if the team has a very legitimate shot at making the NCAA tournament and that is very good reason to be excited and supportive of this winning team.

Another team that has had an outstanding season is the women’s basketball team. The team has about eight games left and is looking for a strong finish and then a very strong showing in the ODAC tournament. One of their remaining games includes Juniata, a team that defeated them earlier this year, and hopefully they can redeem themselves. It looks as if the team has a very legitimate shot at making the NCAA tournament and that is very good reason to be excited and supportive of this winning team.

Yet another team that has had an outstanding season is the men’s basketball team. The team has about eight games left and is looking for a strong finish and then a very strong showing in the ODAC tournament. One of their remaining games includes Juniata, a team defeated earlier this year, and hopefully they can redeem themselves. It looks as if the team has a very legitimate shot at making the NCAA tournament and that is very good reason to be excited and supportive of this winning team.

The Royals have only one more game left, an important one against Randolph-Macon. This is a must win game in order for them to stay in the top four of their division and give them home court advantage at least for the first round of the playoffs. This team is looking good and could potentially reach the NCAA tournament.

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**EMU’s Sports Funding Doesn’t Matter**

By Justin Boer
Contributing Writer

Listening to student athletes at EMU there is a curiosity to how the athletic funding of our university compares to other ODAC schools, and if this could be measured. It was expected to be a straightforward task of acquiring the budgets from top University and other ODAC universities, but unfortunately this wasn’t the case. Larry Martin was very helpful in supplying the budget figures, but with every number came a note of caution and point of modification.

For example, the budget has the women’s basketball team getting more money than the men’s basketball team. Would that be the reason why the women’s team is winning? It is doubtful; the differences in funding arising because the women are due for new uniforms and warm-ups next year, not because they are handing out scholarships or buying players. The list continues with contingencies. Why does women’s volleyball get more money than men’s volleyball teams? Well, the women’s coach has been a full-time employee for eight or nine years now, and the men’s team only has a part-time coach. Men’s and women’s tennis are the least-funded sports at about $15,000, but if we look why; tennis has one coach for both men’s and women’s teams for the past 10 years. Do you think they want to show their figures? By no means is this a simple answer. Our athletic budget totals compared this would be an accurate representation because some schools have more or less sports than others do. So unless anyone is looking for a doctorate or thesis topic on athletics spending, and wants to go crazy with details, leave this sleeping dragon alone. We know that EMU is a great school, with remarkable sports, team comradery, and fans. EMU takes pride in athletics spending, and wants to be an accurate representation, not just a budget; a value can’t be placed on that. Only the expensive schools in the ODAC can do that.

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**Wrap Up**

Friday, Feb. 14
(W) Basketball vs. Guilford, L 72-81
(M) Basketball vs. Shenandoah, L 41-80

Saturday, Feb. 15
(W) Basketball vs. Emory & Henry, W 77-49
(M) Basketball vs. Washington & Lee, L 73-76

(M) Volleyball vs. Medaille, W 3-0
(M) Volleyball vs. Hilbert, W 3-0

Tuesday, Feb 18
(M) Basketball vs. Roanoke, L 74-93

Wednesday, Feb 19
(W) Basketball vs. Hollins, W 77-56

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**Hugs & Slugs**

A mouldy hypothemic hug to snow. What could be hotter than a foot of good sledding material and a whole day off to enjoy it?

A diehard slug to EMU’s only cancelling half of Tuesday’s classes when Rockingham County schools are closed for the rest of the week.

A hug to those EMU staffers who tricked through the snow to provide us all with hot meals and other essential services.

A sore-throated hug to the cast and crew of “The World is a Comedy.” We meant to say “break a leg,” not “catch pneumonia.”

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Expires: 12/31/02

Free Medium Fountain Drink With any Sandwich over $4
- with this coupon
Expires: 2/10/03

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**Weather Vane**

Tuesday, Feb 18
(M) Volleyball vs. Medaille, W 3-0
(M) Volleyball vs. Hilbert, W 3-0

Wednesday, Feb 19
(W) Basketball vs. Hollins, W 77-56