March Madness Hits EMU

By Justin Boer
Contributing Writer

Baseball, the All-American pastime, is in the full swing of things. The only question for EMU is how they will do without their big slugger Eric Kratz, who graduated last year.

The EMU baseball team this past week has played a couple of games against formidable opponents. On Wednesday, Mar. 19, solid defense, patience, and persistence helped the Royals to defeat Randolph-Macon 4-1. The Royals starting pitching by John Lonnenman held Randolph-Macon to a single run and closer Kevin Forrey cruised through his two innings of work. In the eighth inning the Royals finally cracked the Generals had good run production for their hits and tough pitching. The Royals could get hits started but couldn’t bring in any of the runners. The Generals defeated EMU in both games by the scores of 7-1 and 15-2.

On Tuesday, EMU tried to bounce back from their last two defeats and were taking on Randolph-Macon again. A week before, they had beaten this team, but the Royals were coming off a two-game losing streak. They demonstrated their resiliency, though, and pounced on Randolph-Macon in the fourth inning, scoring four runs as a sneak preview of what was to come. EMU went on to win 15-6.

The Royals’ next game is a double header against Roanoke this Saturday.

Butler managed a huge upset over a very good Mississippi St. team, and Saint Joseph went into overtime against Auburn, but lost.

The craziest game of the first round, though, was probably Maryland versus the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. Maryland was a favorite to go at least to the final four, and the Wilmington game was expected to be a cakewalk. Instead, it went down to the last seconds. A Wilmington player was fouled with the ball and only a couple seconds left on the clock. He hurled up an ugly looking three-point attempt that went in as the buzzer sounded.

Mississippi in the first round and number four seed Louisville in the second round. Along with the unlikely teams, number one seeds Kentucky, Arizona, Texas, and Wisconsin are all still in the tournament. Butler, who upset number five Pittsburgh, is living up to its famed madness. Undoubtedly, sports fans will continue to be glued to their television sets during the next weeks.

Royal Wrap Up

Friday, Mar. 21
(M) Volleyball vs. Juniata, L 1-3
Saturday, Mar. 22
Baseball vs. Washington & Lee, L 1-7
Baseball vs. Washington & Lee, L 2-15
Softball vs. Lynchburg, L 1-22
Softball vs. Lynchburg, L 6-13
(M) Tennis vs. Emory & Henry, L 1-6

Monday, Mar. 24
(W) Tennis vs. Mary Baldwin, W 7-2
Tuesday, Mar. 25
Softball vs. Frostburg, L 11-16
Softball vs. Frostburg L 1-17
(M) Tennis vs. Emory & Henry, L 1-6
Baseball vs. Randolph-Macon, W 15-6