When I decided to attend EMU I was faced with the realization that the school had no football team (no, soccer doesn’t count; that’s futbol). Back in high school I relished attending the Friday night game, seeing my buddies outside of the drudgery of work classroom atmosphere, and watching my jocks comrades stir up some carnage on the gridiron. So, what do we do, my fellow pigskin freaks, to sustain us through four years of school without football? Well, does anyone have an XBOX or a Playstation 2?

A few nights ago some of my hallmates and I decided to run a single-elimination tournament to quench our thirst for bedlam. The details: NCAA 2003 on Microsoft’s flagship console, no one can use number one-ranked PlayStation 2?

The music changes from Lynyrd Skynrd as the fourth quarter opens. Drew seems to have the home team on the ropes, but Drew somehow squeezes in a touchdown with 30 seconds remaining. Drew’s Seminoles get one last chance to tie it, but the field goal attempt misses wide right. Hunter yells in jubilation and it is Drew’s turn to sulk; now comes day after day of sulk; now comes day after day of trash talking for all who lost.

Not much can beat drilling a pass defense for a long touchdown pass. Even though EMU lacks a football program and the vibrant atmosphere that goes along with it, do not fret. Just grab some people, hook up the system, and play the night away (oh, don’t forget that math test, though).

The women’s volleyball team has great potential, but injuries have plagued the season so far.

The women’s team began the season with 10 players. For various reasons, the total dropped down to just eight. Now, with the ankle injury to outstanding player and sophomore Becky Langstraat, the team is down to only seven players. To compensate for these losses, senior Angela Swartzendruber is expected to join the squad and will add some depth to the team. Swartzendruber played with the team last year. Senior captains Kendra Conrad and Bonnie Berry offer good leadership both on and off the court.

Even with all the injuries that have occurred to the team this year, coach Ruth-Anne Wideman believes very strongly in this team. "I think this is a very strong team," she said. The team is very dedicated, focused, and knows what it will take to have a solid rest of the year.

There is another reason to hope for a strong end to the season. The team started its season by competing against the tougher teams in the ODAC conference, and will finish the season by playing the lesser of the ODAC teams.

The team first played Randolph-Macon, losing in a five-game match. Berry was unable to play. They then played Lynchburg with Berry back on the floor, and defeated the higher-ranking school in four games. Next, they played Emory and Henry without Langstraat, who was injured during a previous game. The EMU women took Emory and Henry to five games and lost 15-17 in a close.

"The record doesn’t look that awesome, but when you take into consideration that I’ve got my two middles out at different times, I think we are doing okay," said Wideman. "We need to revise our goals," said Wideman. "Because of the injuries, our goal would be to be 4th or 5th in the ODAC. I believe that this is a very realistic goal, and I believe that if we are in any of these positions in the tournament, I believe we can face any of the ODAC schools and go head to head with them with a 5 game match. We can beat them because we are a fairly experienced." There is hope that Langstraat will be back for the tournament.

Even after an injury-plagued season, the Royals are only 1-3 and have the easier part of the schedule coming up.

The team is looking for fan support. "I want the drummers back," said Wideman. "I like having the drummers there. We need all the fan support we can to get us to the ODAC tournament."