**Field Hockey Cracks Nation’s Top 20!**

By Wayne Paxton  
Staff Writer

A new organization has surfaced in the valley for Christian athletes, both high school and college age alike. Athletics in Action (AIA) has begun a branch at JMU as part of Campus Crusade and are adding members daily. Membership is open to EMU students as well, and hopefully future and current athletes on campus will get involved.

AIA, which is similar to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes prevalent in high schools across the nation, strives to reach young adults and share the gospel of Jesus Christ via sports ministry. Traveling all around the globe to cater to teens and to train adults in sports ministry, the Xenia, Ohio-based company provides international channels in which the Word of God can reach even the remotest of locales.

**New Coaches to Give Softball a Makeover**

By Simone Bourdon  
Contributing Writer

New head and assistant coaches are aiming to hit a grand slam with EMU softball—and they’ll do it on a renovat-ed field.

One of the key players in all of these advancements is the new head coach, JD McCurdy. McCurdy comes to EMU from Turner Ashby High School in Harrisonburg, Va. He has had much success in his time at TA including eight consecutive trips to the district playoffs.

In addition to his high school experience he has led his summer team to five consecutive state championships.

McCurdy is joined by Britt Martin, Larry Martin, and Emilio McCurdy. McCurdy is a recent graduate of JMU. He is a recent graduate of JMU.

Larry Martin, Director of Athletics, is hoping to have most of the changes done by the start of the spring season and many people have been lending a hand and many hours of hard work to see these improvements are made.

The Lady Royals are ranked 20th in the most recent National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) Division III Poll.

**Ladies’ Volleyball is “Set”**

By Danielle Steckley  
Staff Writer

With the first weekend of September came the Gettysburg Battlefield Classic and trip north for the women’s volleyball team. Playing four matches in two days, the Royals returned to EMU with a Saturday win against Washington under their belt.

They did not fare as well against York and tournament champions Eastern on Friday night, or versus Johns Hopkins in their second match on Saturday. Despite their losses at the tournament, the team was not blown away by most of their opponents. Many of the individual games were within a few points, keeping the matches close, and on Saturday both of the matches were four-game contests.

The Lady Royals’ first contest occurred at 5 p.m. Friday evening, against York. Bryn Mullet led the team with seven kills, Becky Langstraat offered six, and Anna Dinatman registered five, to account for 18 of the 23 kills of that match. A strong Eastern team dominated their opponent both offensively and defensively, with 50 kills to Washington’s 34, and 72 defensive digs compared to the 37 of the other team. From their 11 a.m. victo-ry, the Lady Royals faced Johns Hopkins in their final match of the tournament. Although fresh-man, Lisa Berry, contributed 12 kills in the tightly contested match, EMU walked away from the four game match with the loss. The tournament ended with Gettysburg falling to pow-erful Eastern in a four game match. Looking ahead after a disappointing results of Friday’s matches, the Royals were able to add a win to their record with their match against Washington on Saturday morning. The team dominated their opponent both offensively and defensive-ly, with 50 kills to Washington’s 34, and 72 defensive digs com-pared to the 37 of the other team. From their 11 a.m. victo-ry, the Lady Royals faced Johns Hopkins in their final match of the tournament. Although fresh-man, Lisa Berry, contributed 12 kills in the tightly contested match, EMU walked away from the four game match with the loss. The tournament ended with Gettysburg falling to pow-erful Eastern in a four game match. Looking ahead after a disappointing finish to last weeks tournament, the Lady Royals will take on rival, Bridgewater at 4 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 12, for their first match of the Bridgewater Tournament. The action will continue at 6 p.m. when EMU meets Marymount, and will recom-mence on Saturday morning at 9 a.m. against Hollins, and pool play will finish at 11 a.m. against Sweet Briar. Although the team is young, their natural athleticism, as well as leader-ship from upperclassmen Stephanie Miller, senior, and Becky Langstraat, Michelle Nafziger, and Anna Dintaman, juniors, should culminate into a winning season.