The Lady Royals are turning heads as they turn up the heat. EMU now sits at number nine in NSCAA/Adidas Regional Ranking as they raised their record to 5-2 overall and 4-1 in Old Dominion Athletic Conference competition by defeating Roanoke College on Saturday by a score of 1-0.

The Royals continue to be inspired, but this time a good chunk of that inspiration came from being able to watch their professional role models in action. Some of the women’s team traveled to Washington, D.C. on Sunday the 21st and a smaller group made the trip on Wednesday, the 24th to see the U.S. National team in FIFA World Cup action. Sunday’s double-header included a 3-1 United States victory over Sweden and later Brazil defeated Rep. of Korea 3-0 to showcase the opening ceremonies of the tournament.

For senior midfielder Heather Bauman, seeing 21 yr.-old University of North Carolina standout Cat Reddick in person on an international level was awe-inspiring. Bauman “It’s just cool that girls our age can do that...That they can play so hard at such a high level.” She said. That motivation carried through the week for the game against the Maroons. Senior Holly Showalter and sophomore Christy Hurst were in agreement their mental mindset before the game was focused and that they were ready for a ‘challenging game’. Ready they were.

The Royals held the Maroons (6-5 overall, 4-1 conference) 0-0 in the first half through a team effort. The only goal of the game came in the beginning of the second half when Bauman assisted senior forward Ellie Lind in her breakaway. Lind’s goal gives her 12 on the season and ties her at second place in ODAC scoring this season. Freshman goalkeeper Joy Shaiebly, who had previously been splitting time between the goal and substituting in as a forward, had her first collegiate start as a keeper Saturday. Shaiebly posted a shutout, (8 saves) and blocked a goal by Jill Hoffmeister, the ODAC’s leading scorer, to prevent a tie during the last minute of play.

The Royals’ have been working hard to continue their recent winning streak. Bauman thought that the Royals’ Friday practice had also helped prepare the team for Saturday’s game by going over some defensive plays and getting the team to better communicate when setting up for set kicks, which ended up being an important element of the Royals maintaining the 1-0 shutout.

The Royals continue to work together and to find inspiration in small things. The women will have to take that drive into the next week as they play local rival Bridgewater on Wednesday, October 1st. The Royals then host Messiah, ranked 11th in Division III polls, on Monday October 6th at 4p.m. and Randolph-Macon on the 7th at 4p.m. on Bomberger field.

The team looks toward a weekend in Greensboro, N.C., where they will play at the Guilford Tournament on Friday and Saturday, and will continue regular conference play on Oct. 7 against Roanoke. Looking toward the next weeks of play, Wideman said “We are a young team and are playing some of the top teams in the ODAC at the beginning of the season. As we go through the upcoming month, we will know a little better where we stand in the conference...this is an all around team effort.”