Tough Play, Tougher Loss

By Elisa Wolf
Staff Writer

The men’s soccer team suffered a tough loss to Virginia-Wesleyan this past Saturday during Homecoming festivities, placing them at 5-3-4 overall and 2-2-2 in Old Dominion Athletic Conference competition.

Fifteen minutes into the game the Marlins were able to take advantage of a corner kick that idled past sophomore goalkeeper, Tim Koehn, who also made some key saves during the game. Wesleyan out-cornered EMU six to three. Possession changed frequently in the first half, though the Royals managed to keep the Marlins in their own territory for the majority of the second half. During Saturday’s action, Koehn tallied three saves while the backs squelched the Marlin offense for the rest of the game.

Sophomore midfielder Joel Shank led the Royals in shots with six, followed by junior forward Eric Blosser with five. Kevin Murray led the Marlins in shooting with three. The efforts of the Royal offense were not enough, however, to get past the Marlin’s senior goalkeeper, Sean Wheaton. Wheaton posted six saves giving Virginia-Wesleyan their sixth straight shutout and placing the team at 9-2 overall and 4-0 in ODAC. The win was enough to place the Marlins as the sole team at number one in the conference.

Tuesday’s game at Washington and Lee was postponed due to inclement weather. EMU led W&L 4-1 with only 16 minutes left on the clock, but lightning forced the end of play. The Royals will return to W&L, the fourth ranked team in the ODAC, to play the remaining minutes after the regular season has ended.

The team will travel to Christopher Dock Mennonite High School in Pa. on Friday to play Eastern, but the real test of the season comes on Saturday, Oct. 18 when the Lady Royals face the number one ranked team in Division III, the College of New Jersey, in an away match.

Coming out of the midsemester break, the field hockey team will play their final home game of the regular season against Roanoke College on Wednesday. The results of their matches over the long weekend could determine their standings going into the post-season.

By Danielle Steckly
Staff Writer

Proving their staying power, the women’s field hockey team improved to a 12-0 record over the Homecoming weekend, which has pushed them to a number seven ranking in Division III play.

The Lady Royals defeated Catholic University 7-1 on Saturday afternoon in front of a large Homecoming crowd. Catholic’s Stephanie Roselle scored in the 28th minute of the game, but only after EMU’s Kristin Moyer and Molly Harrington had each registered a goal for the Royals. Just over a minute after Roselle’s goal, Moyer scored her second goal of the game. She finished the match with three goals and an assist. Moyer, Jennie Hunter, Jonalyn Denlinger, and Tessa Grubb each registered goals during the second half, with Lisa Esh offering two assists.

The intensity level of both teams was readily apparent throughout the entire game. The Royals were ruthless on the field, knocking down every scoring opportunity that the Marlins had in the second half.

Physical play dominated the homecoming loss to Virginia Wesleyan. The teams combined for 30 fouls.

Play was physical on both sides of the field. EMU had a total of sixteen fouls and Wesleyan fourteen. Although tensions were high on the field, the Royals were able to refrain from getting any cards while four different Wesleyan team members received yellow cards.

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Royal energy seemed to pick up as the 200 plus fans continued to encourage the team. Koehn remarked that teamwork was an important element of Saturday’s game.

Although the Royals fell short of a victory, the tenacity and desire of the players did not. The efforts the Royals husted to every 50/50 ball and gave a strong showing of what Head Coach Roger Mast has already noted as a ‘strong work ethic’.

The men’s team will face local rival Bridgewater College in conference action Saturday Oct. 18 at 11a.m. on the Eagles’ home turf. Bridgewater is currently ranked number 10 in the South Region with an overall record of 10-3-0 and a conference record of 5-1-0. Good luck to the Royals as they look to improve their record.

By Kai Orenic
Sports Editor

Justin Hawkins and Tim Harder led the way as the EMU cross country team finished second at the Virginia Division II/III State Cross Country Championships on Saturday.

Hawkins, the team’s number one runner, placed sixth in the field of 64, and Harder finished 15th. Both were awarded all-state honors. Sophomore Kevin Beachy narrowly missed the recognition, finishing in 16th position.

Senior Kai Orenic finished 19th, and Caleb Yoder rounded out the scoring in 23rd place. Roanoke College placed five runners in the top 10 to dominate the team scoring. Washington & Lee University was third in the men’s race.

Hawkins entered the race as the defending State Cross Country Champion, but a repeat was not likely. During the indoor track season Hawkins developed a bone cyst in his heel. Doctors gave him two options; undergo a bone graft and possibly give up competitive running for good, or run through the pain.

Hawkins deferred the surgery, and spent eight months rehabbing his heel. His training has been consistent and he has high hopes for the outdoor track season.

Freshman Kendra Nissley continued her successful firstcampaign. She placed ninth Saturday and has solidified herself as the team’s top runner. Junior Wendy Driver had a breakout race. She missed all-state honors by 15 seconds, finishing in 17th. Sophomore Leslie Grant was 23rd, Maureen Gingerich 29th, Andrea Kiss 30th, and Megan Kemp 51st.

Longwood University edged Roanoke College in the team scoring. Washington & Lee was third and the Lady Royals were fourth overall.

Kristin Moyer slips a shot past the outstretched leg of Catholic University’s goal keeper in Saturday’s Homecoming win. The 7th-ranked Lady Royals travel to Ewing, NJ to play the College of New Jersey over fall break. TCNJ is the top-ranked team in Division III.