The fall season is used to evaluate incoming players and see how the returning guys have improved; from this we can work on an individual’s weaknesses and place less emphasis on their strengths,”

“...decided to go with cross country because I felt like I had more potential there. I only focused on running for about two years, and barely played any soccer during that time.”

Andrew Jenner,
Men’s Soccer
Senior Midfield

As fall athletics keep rolling along, participants in sports that are presently in the off season simply sit back, relax, and watch their comrades toil.

False statement.

Every organized athletic squad has begun some type of formal or informal training program by now, and baseball, softball, track, and tennis, the spring sports, are conducting coach-led practice and scrimmage sessions to prepare them for their respective seasons.

Coach Rob Roeschley and the baseball squad have been scrumming each other, and are slated to compete with teams such as Bridgewater in their four-week program.

“The fall season is used to evaluate incoming players and see how the returning guys have improved; from this we can work on an individual’s weaknesses and place less emphasis on their strengths,” Roeschley said.

“Sometimes, however, classes prevent certain players from making the sessions.

“When guys have to miss practice or scrimmages for class it gives the new guys a chance to show their stuff,” Roeschley said.

“Sometimes we have to piece a squad together and go with it.”

The softball team recently has had their field renovated. Heaps of new dirt have been dumped and spread on the infield and work on the left field area of the outfield has beautified the diamond and made it more player-friendly. The Lady Royals continue to practice, however, diligent as always. They have held scrimmages and still are recruiting possible players on campus.

Paul Johnson and the indoor/outdoor track team also work three days a week until the beginning of the winter season, which is not far off.

“Work in the fall is critical for indoors, because it builds a base that the athletes will draw from during the winter and spring seasons,” Johnson said.

When Johnson came to EMU the indoor program consisted of one meet; the ODAC championships. It has grown now to several meets, which is a solid precursor to the outdoor season.

“The tennis teams under Harlan DeBruyn are deep in their fall program, a six-week stint with scrimmages and usually a tournament.

“We mostly scrimmage JMU’s club team and travel to a tournament to get the athletes familiar with college play,” DeBruyn said. “I begin to think about the order of the ladder, but nothing concrete is laid out.”

Players wishing to test their skills against the varsity squad are welcome, and if good enough they may have a spot on the team.

With months until the start of their official seasons, spring and winter sports continue to work and strive for betterment, giving them an edge over an opponent who may be loafing about. All the better for EMU athletics.