

1-31-2014

## EMU Men's Basketball: Eastern Hits the Road For Another Cross-Divisional Matchup January 31, 2014

Eastern Michigan University

Follow this and additional works at: [http://commons.emich.edu/sports\\_scr](http://commons.emich.edu/sports_scr)

---

### Recommended Citation

Eastern Michigan University, "EMU Men's Basketball: Eastern Hits the Road For Another Cross-Divisional Matchup January 31, 2014" (2014). Eastern Michigan University, Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. EMU Archives, Digital Commons @ EMU ([http://commons.emich.edu/sports\\_scr/342](http://commons.emich.edu/sports_scr/342))

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives at DigitalCommons@EMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Sports Scores by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@EMU. For more information, please contact [lib-ir@emich.edu](mailto:lib-ir@emich.edu).

# Eastern Hits the Road For Another Cross-Divisional Matchup

Saturday, Feb. 1, 2014 » 3 p.m. » Millett Hall (6,400) » Oxford, Ohio



1/31/2014 10:50:00 AM

**YPSILANTI, Mich. (EMUEagles.com)** - The Eastern Michigan University men's basketball team will hit the road for another cross-divisional Mid-American Conference matchup this weekend Saturday, Feb. 1. The Green and White will travel to Oxford, Ohio to square off with Miami University at Millett Hall. Game time is scheduled for 3 p.m. on the RedHawks' home floor.

**CRISIS AVERTED:** The Eagles were slowly slipping down the MAC West standings after suffering a pair of losses last week. However, the Green and White reversed the trend Wednesday, Jan. 29, when it took down Bowling Green State University for the second time this season, 69-57. The Eagles were dominant in the contest, taking the lead with 12:43 left to go in the first half and never looking back. Eastern never relinquished the lead and pushed that advantage out to as many as 19 points. The win versus Bowling Green, coupled with a 21-point, 84-63, victory for Buffalo over Western Michigan, moved EMU back into a tie for second place in the division along with the Broncos at a 4-3 mark in Mid-American Conference play.

**FINDING THE GAME AT HOME:** The Eagles' contest with the RedHawks will hit the airwaves of 89.1 FM (WEMU). Veteran "Voice of the Eagles" Chad Bush will serve as EMU's play-by-play announcer for the WEMU broadcast.

**ALL-TIME AGAINST THE REDHAWKS:** The Eagles are behind in the series with Miami as Eastern trails by a tally

of 22-46, while the Eagles own that cushy 24-game lead in the history of these programs, EMU got the best of the RedHawks in the last two times these teams danced on the hardwood. Eastern first defeated Miami at the Convocation Center, Jan. 19, 2013, by a tally of 65-58, before knocking off the RedHawks in the second round of the 2013 FirstEnergy Mid-American Conference Men's Basketball Tournament, March 11, 2013, 58-47.

In that second round game, [Derek Thompson](#) led the Eagles into the MAC quarterfinals with 14 points to go along with five assists and four rebounds. Thompson was one-of-four players in double figures as [Daylen Harrison](#) tallied 11 points and five boards while [Glenn Bryant](#) added 10 points, all coming in the second half. Coming off of his first career double-double, EMU junior center [Da'Shonte Riley](#) padded the stat book, recording 10 points, grabbing nine boards, stealing four balls and blocking three shots.

**MURPHY VERSUS THE MAC:** Third-year Head Men's Basketball Coach [Rob Murphy](#) holds a 20-19 all-time record against Mid-American Conference opponents in his third MAC season. The Detroit, Mich. native won the MAC-West Division Title in 2011-12 during his first season as the head man at EMU, before going 7-9 last season. Murphy and his squads have seen most of their success against teams from their own divisions, going 14-8, while they are just 6-11 against the East Division which Murphy looks to improve during the 2013-14 season.

**MILLETT HALL IS A NIGHTMARE:** The 2013-14 EMU men's hoops squad is taking on a tall order when it heads to Oxford, Ohio to play at Millett Hall. An Eastern Michigan men's basketball team has not won in Millett since the 1995-96 season when the Green and White knocked off the RedHawks 73-60, Jan. 24, 1996. The 1995-96 Eagles team won the 1996 Mid-American Conference Tournament Championship before knocking off legendary basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski and his Duke Blue Devils in the first round of that season's NCAA Tournament.

**MURPHY MADE IT HAPPEN:** Although he has yet to win inside Millett Hall, EMU Head Men's Basketball Coach [Rob Murphy](#) owns a 2-1 record versus Miami. What may be more impressive about Murphy's two victories against the RedHawks is that he coached Eastern to its first victory against the Oxford, Ohio-based institution since the 1996-97 season. That's right, the Eagles had dropped 16-straight games to Miami until Murphy's team knocked off the RedHawks, 65-58, at the Convocation Center, Jan. 19, 2013. The 2012-13 campaign also marked the first time since the 1988-89 season that the Green and White had beaten Miami twice in one season.

**GLENN GOES OFF:** Redshirt-senior forward [Glenn Bryant](#) put on an offensive clinic in the 69-57 EMU victory over Bowling Green, Jan. 29. The Detroit, Mich. native put up a career-best 26 points, while shooting 10-of-18 from the floor. Not only did she shoot well from the field, but the 6-foot-8 forward threw down six thunderous dunks to lift the Green and White to the victory. On top of his stellar offensive performance, Bryant was able to carom 10 rebounds, giving himself the second double-double of the 2013-14 season, and the fourth of his career at Eastern Michigan.

**KEEPING THE BENCH AT BAY:** In the Eagles' first contest with the Falcons this year, Jan. 8, the Green and White allowed four members of the BGSU squad to score in double-figures. However, the Eagles did a stellar job of keeping the players off of Bowling Green's bench at bay. In total, EMU allowed just one point to the bench players of BGSU. In the Eagles' second win over the Falcons, the Green and White allowed just two bench points.

**RETURNING TO THE TOP ROTATION:** Head Coach [Rob Murphy](#) has been doing some tinkering with the starting lineup this season. So far, we have seen six different starting rotations, but it seems as though Murphy has decided to go back to his original 2013-14 starting lineup of [Daylen Harrison](#), [Raven Lee](#), [Da'Shonte Riley](#), [Mike Talley](#) and [Karrington Ward](#). That lineup has gone 4-3 this season. However, all three of those losses came against teams that play in high major conferences, including 3/4 Kentucky, No. 21/22 Massachusetts and Purdue.

**FEARING THESE FOUR:** For the first time since the 2004-05 season, Eastern has four of its student-athletes

averaging 10-or-more points this season. Currently, [Glenn Bryant](#) (11.1 ppg), [Raven Lee](#) (10.0 ppg), [Mike Talley](#) (10.4 ppg) and [Karrington Ward](#) (13.3 ppg) are averaging double-digit point totals. The members of the 2004-05 team that posted double-digit point totals were Markus Austin (13.8 ppg), John Bowler (13.0 ppg), Darryl Garrett (11.9 ppg) and Michael Ross (10.6 ppg).

**THE ORDER OF THE THIEVES:** Eastern is currently averaging 8.8 steals per game, which is not only the most in the Mid-American Conference but that number is also the 16th-most at the NCAA Division I level. So far this season, the Green and White has picked the opposition's pocket 10-or-more times in seven different games, including a season-high 18 in the Eagles' 56-37 win over Western Michigan, Jan. 14. Those 18 steals are the most since EMU stripped Davidson 18 times during the 2006 season, Nov. 10.

**NEVER SCARED:** Outside of the tough Mid-American Conference schedule that EMU drew this season, the Eagles did not shy away from playing top notch competition. According to ESPN.com's rankings, the Eagles own the ninth highest strength of schedule in the nation. Furthermore, CBSSports.com has the Green and White's strength of schedule as the fourth-highest in the country.

In addition to the EMU strength of schedule, the Eagles hold the 66th-best RPI according to ESPN.com and ranked 62nd by way of CBSSports.com. The Green and White look to use those numbers to their advantage come tournament time, as they try to make a push to the big dance.

**TALLEY FINDS HIS GROOVE:** After averaging just 6.5 points per game through the first eight games this season, [Mike Talley](#) has found his step offensively. Since that mark, the transfer has been posting 12.9 points per game, including three 20-plus point performances and nine double-digit scoring affairs.

**DEFENSIVE EXPERTISE:** The EMU squad has shown that it is one of the elite defensive units in college basketball this season. According to the NCAA statistics as of Jan. 27, 2014, the Eagles rank 41st in scoring defense, allowing 64.1 ppg, while they're No. 19 in the country in blocks at 6.1 per contest. The Green and White was swiping the ball 8.7 times per game, ranking as the 18th-most steals per game, and holding teams to just a 30 percent three point field goal percentage, good for 33rd in the country. The Eagles' most impressive stat is that they are holding teams to a 37.3 field goal percentage. This number ranks as the sixth-best in the nation.

**GIVE ME SOME MORE MACTION:** Heading into the 2013-14 season, it was announced that the Mid-American Conference would be expanding its regular season. Instead of the previous 16-game schedule, the member institutions will now play an 18-game conference slate. In order to fill those extra two games, each team will another pair of cross-divisional contests. EMU's two extra games will be filled by Bowling Green and the 2013 MAC Tournament Champion, Akron.

**FREE ONES STARTING TO FALL:** After shooting 64.1 percent from the free throw line in the first 12 games of the season, the Green and White has started to get the feel from the charity stripe. Since the 12th game of the year, Eastern is knocking down 70.9 percent of their free ones, including a season-best 83.3 percent (15-of-18) in its road loss at Buffalo, Jan. 11.

**TRIPLE TROUBLE:** Eastern Michigan has seen its three-point shooting percentage drop significantly over the past 10 games. Since EMU's win over Green Bay, Dec. 10, 2013, the Green and White has not shot better than 33.3 percent from beyond the arc, except for in one contest, and has shot just 23.5 percent from three-point land over that span.

**SEND IN THE SWAT TEAM:** Eastern Michigan's defensive prowess is what has allowed the team to be successful

the last few years. That stealthy defense includes their shot blocking ability. To this point, EMU has blocked 122 shots and they average 6.1 per contest which is the 18th-best in the country.

[Da'Shonte Riley](#) has led that defensive block party. The senior who transferred from Syracuse just two seasons ago has racked up 58 blocks already this season. The Detroit, Mich. native is also earning his spot in the EMU record books. The seven-footer has blocked 154 shots in his career, good for the third-most in Eastern Michigan history. He is just 13 shy of [Jamell Harris](#) for the second-most, while he trails the all-time leader Theron Wilson by a wide margin. Wilson finished his career with 257 rejections. Riley, however, has only played just over two seasons for the Green and White, while Wilson appeared on the EMU roster for four seasons (1992-96). Riley is the No. 15 spot in the country with his three per game this season.

[Glenn Bryant](#) has been no slouch at turning away the opposition. He is averaging 1.7 blocks per contest. His 76 career blocks have him ranked as the eighth-best shot blocker in EMU history.

**ON THE ROAD THIS YEAR:** Eastern Michigan has really struggled in games on the road this season. Overall, the Eagles are 3-5 away from Ypsilanti and are averaging just 63.6 points per contest, while allowing 70.9.

Individually, we have seen a dropoff in offensive production in EMU's two top-scorers away from home. Both [Karrington Ward](#) and [Raven Lee](#) average over 13 points per game inside the Convocation Center. However, when on the road, Ward notches just 11.6 points per contest, while Lee scores 7.4 points per tilt.