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## EMU Men's Baseball: EMU Remains in Tennessee to Face Austin Peay February 24, 2014

Eastern Michigan University

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## EMU Remains in Tennessee to Face Austin Peay

Eagles and Governors set for back-to-back games, Feb. 25-26



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**YPSILANTI, Mich. (EMUEagles.com)** -- Following a three-game series in Nashville, Tenn. versus the University of Tennessee at Martin, the Eastern Michigan University baseball team (3-3) remains in the Volunteer State for back-to-back games against Austin Peay State University (1-6), Feb. 25. First pitch for game one against the Governors is set for 2:30 p.m. CT from Raymond C. Hand Park in Clarksville, Tenn. The two-game set begins a busy week for the Eagles as they will play five games in a six-day span. The University of Kentucky awaits for the weekend series, Feb. 28-March 2.

Veteran starter [Paul Schaak](#) is the probable starter for game one, which would be his second start of the 2014 season. In the series finale, the ball will be handed to left-hander [Michael Marsinek](#). The sophomore will make his season debut on the mound against the Governors.

**LEADERS OF THE MAC:** Through the first two weeks of the 2014 season, the EMU bats have proven to become a huge threat to opposing pitchers. Eastern leads the MAC in several hitting categories: batting average (.311), slugging percentage (.491), runs (54), doubles (22), triples (3), RBI (48) and walks (31). Moreover, the Eagles rank second in the conference in on-base percentage (.403), steals (15) as well as being tied in the home run category (4). Individually, four Eagles top the MAC charts. [Sam Ott](#) leads the league as the only one reaching double digits in runs

scored (11) while his seven walks are second behind fellow co-captain [Adam Sonabend](#), who has eight. [Lee Longo's](#) six doubles and 22 total bases are league-bests, and the senior first baseman also is second in the conference with a .500 average at the dish. On the mound, reliever [Charlie Land](#) is one-of-five pitchers in conference that has pitched a minimum of one inning per team game without allowing an earned run. Land has thrown 7.1 innings without surrendering an earned run, striking out seven and holding opposing hitters to a .192 clip in the process.

**HELLO GOVERNORS:** Austin Peay returns home after getting swept by Baylor last weekend, Feb. 21-23. The Governors are 1-6 on the season and are looking to snap its current four-game skid against Eastern. Freshman Alex Robles leads Austin Peay at the plate with a .429 batting average as well as tallying an extra-base hit in each category to assist his .714 slugging percentage. Another freshman, Ridge Smith, paces the team with seven RBI while also scoring six runs himself. On the mound, the Governors project to start hometown freshman Levi Primasing. The lefty has appeared in two games this season, sporting a 3.86 ERA in 4.2 innings. Austin Peay's starting pitcher for game two has yet to be determined.

**LONGO AND COMPANY PLAY LONG BALL:** After going homer-less in the season-opening series at Clemson, EMU found the long ball while in Nashville against UT Martin. In the first contest of the three-game set, [Lee Longo](#) blasted the first home run of the season over the right center field fence in the top of the sixth. Two batters later, teammate [Adam Dennison](#) joined the club with a bomb that cleared the wall in left center field.

During the second game, a pair of sophomores not in the everyday lineup took advantage of their plate appearances by going deep. [Mitchell McGeein](#), getting the start at third base, hit a three-run home run in the bottom of the first to cap off a six-run inning for the Green and White. Ending the scoring on a day where EMU recorded 18 runs, [Tony DiLeo](#) sent a three-run shot of his own to left field for his first hit of the 2014 campaign.

**PILING UP THE PLATE:** In EMU's two wins over UT Martin (17-3, 18-6), the Eagles scored a combined 35 runs. Throughout the weekend, the Green and White totaled 39 hits, including 19 extra base hits. Eastern tallied 13 doubles, two triples and four home runs against the Skyhawks' pitching. Scoring 38 runs throughout the series was the most by Eastern in a three-game stretch since April 17-22, 2009 when the Eagles plated 40 runs in three consecutive games. At that time, EMU recorded 24 runs in a pair of contests against Western Michigan before piling on 16 runs versus Cleveland State.

**LONGO DOUBLES UP MAC WEST PLAYER OF THE WEEK ACCOLADES:** For the second straight week, EMU first baseman [Lee Longo](#) was named the Mid-American Conference West Player of the Week, the conference announced Monday, Feb. 24. The back-to-back weekly awards gives the EMU senior two for his career as an Eagle.

Longo had another monstrous week at the plate, batting .538 with five RBI. The Mayfield, Ohio native notched multi-hit performances in all three games against University of Tennessee at Martin this past weekend, including a 3-for-4 showing in the game two, Feb. 22, a 18-6 victory for EMU. In the series opener, Longo hit the Eagles' first home run of the season to go along with a double that also knocked in one run. Three of Longo's seven hits went for extra bases, and he also crossed the plate four times throughout the weekend. Longo's offensive output helped EMU clinch the series against the Skyhawks as the Green and White scored 35 runs in the first two games of the first ever series between the two programs.

Toting a .500 batting average in the clean-up spot throughout the first six games of 2014, seven of his 13 hits have gone for extra bases, leading to an .846 slugging percentage. He paces the team in nearly every offensive category, including knocking in eight runs as well as scoring seven of his own. Longo's numbers rank in the top of the conference as his six doubles and 22 total bases lead the MAC. His .500 clip at the dish is currently second among all MAC hitters.

**MEET MIODUSZEWSKI:** Head Coach [Jay Alexander](#) has a newcomer on his team this year, but this Eagle is already familiar with EMU Athletics having been a member of the football team during the 2012 season. Redshirt-freshman [Michael Mioduszewski](#) (pronounced met--uh-SHEFF-ski) has made the transition from the gridiron to the diamond quite smoothly, hitting at a .571 clip (4-for-7) in three games this season. Three of his four hits have been doubles, leading to a 1.000 slugging percentage that is tied for a team-best. With his power at the plate, look for Mioduszewski to be a spark off the bench or in the EMU starting lineup.

**FIELDING WOES:** While the EMU bats have been on fire to begin the season, the same cannot be said for the Eagles' gloves. Through six games, Eastern has committed 17 errors that have led to 10 unearned runs by EMU pitching. In back-to-back Sunday contests, errors in the eighth inning have propelled the opposition ahead, leading to losses for the Green and White. Clemson scored three runs on EMU miscues, Feb. 16, and UT Martin followed with a pair of runs on Eastern errors, Feb. 23. EMU's .933 fielding percentage ranks at the bottom of the MAC.

**KENTUCKY AWAITS THE WEEKEND:** Following mid-week play against Austin Peay, the Green and White match up against the University of Kentucky for three contests, Feb. 28-March 2. The first game, on the last day in February, begins at 4 p.m. from Cliff Hagan Stadium in Lexington, Ky. Game two will see its first pitch at 2 p.m. while the Sunday, March 2 matinee is scheduled for a 1 p.m. start time.