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EMU Men's Basketball: Eagles and Governors Chop Baseball Doubleheader February 25, 2014

Eastern Michigan University

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Eagles and Governors Chop Baseball Doubleheader

Austin Peay took game one, 8-3, before Eastern rallied to take game two, 9-8



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CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. (EMUEagles.com) – The Eastern Michigan University baseball team split a doubleheader with the Austin Peay State University Governors Tuesday, Feb. 25. The home team took game one, 8-3, before the visiting Eagles claimed the nightcap at Raymond C. Hand Park with a 9-8 victory.

The split keeps EMU at 4-4 on the season, while Austin Peay holds a 2-7 record in 2014.

Game One: Austin Peay 8, Eastern Michigan 3

After EMU took an early 1-0, Austin Peay rattled off eight unanswered runs to cruise to the 8-3 victory. Each team tallied eight hits, but the Eagles committed four errors that led to four unearned runs for the Governors. APSU committed two errors, but none led to runs for Eastern. The Green and White struggled to get runners across the plate, leaving 12 on base during the first contest.

Starting shortstop [John Rubino](#) led the EMU bats, going 3-for-5 at the plate that included his fifth double of the season. Getting the start at third base, sophomore [Mitchell McGeein](#) also tallied a multi-hit game with a 2-for-3 performance, while blasting a solo home run in the top of the sixth, his second homer of the 2014 campaign. [Michael Mioduszewski](#) and [Sam Ott](#) knocked in one run apiece for the Green and White.

[Paul Schaak](#) (0-1) picked up the loss on the mound, going 3.2 innings and giving up seven runs on six hits and three walks; however, only three of Schaak's seven runs surrendered were earned due to EMU's miscues in the field. The senior lefty struck out seven of the 11 batters he retired on the afternoon. Freshman [Tyler Russell](#) pitched the last four innings of the game without allowing a run as only two batters notched hits off of the EMU rookie.

Rolando Gautier and Ridge Smith each recorded two hits and two RBI to lead Austin Peay to victory. Left-handed starter Levi Primasing (1-0) went six innings to register the win, allowing a pair of runs on five hits and two walks.

Eastern began the scoring in the second as back-to-back Mid-American Conference West Player of the Week [Lee Longo](#) recorded his conference-leading seventh double to lead off the inning. Catcher [Adam Sonabend](#) advanced his teammate on a groundout before Mioduszewski's single brought him across the plate. McGeein walked to keep the inning alive, but the two Eagles ended up stranded on base.

The Governors countered the EMU run with eight of their own in the next four innings. APSU scored three in the bottom half of the second on two hits and one EMU error. The home club added two runs in both the third and fourth with four hits and the help of three errors by the Green and White. Austin Peay ended its scoring with one run in the fifth; the leadoff batter walked to begin the inning, and the Governors played small ball before a single scored the runner.

After the first two batters were retired in the top of the sixth, McGeein went yard with a bomb to left field. One inning later, Ott singled in Rubino for EMU's final run of the game.

Game Two: Eastern Michigan 9, Austin Peay 8

In game two, the Eagles held off a late rally from the Governors to earn the one-run victory. Eastern broke a 4-4 tie with five runs in the seventh and eighth, but Austin Peay did not give up as it scored four in the bottom half of the eighth. Just like the first contest, both team recorded the same amount of hits (nine); however, Austin Peay committed four errors while EMU was perfect in the field. The one unearned run allowed by APSU proved to be the difference in the ballgame.

Rubino finished a great day at the dish with another multi-hit game, racking up two RBI on a pair of singles. Sonabend tallied a run and a RBI by going 2-for-5, while Longo and Adam Dennison both knocked in two runs. McGeein added his third extra-base hit of the day with a double in the seventh.

Sophomore [Michael Marsinek](#) made his season debut, lasting 4.1 innings. Out of the bullpen, [Devon Bronson](#) (1-1) got his first win of the season, and [Charlie Land](#) (1) shut the door by punching out three of the four hitters he faced to earn the four-out save.

Smith led the APSU hitters again with two hits and two RBI, while reliever Jared Carkuff (0-1) picked up his first loss of the season.

The Governors started right where they left off, carrying the momentum of a game one win into the second contest with a pair of runs in the bottom of the first. Two singles, one walk and a wild pitch put Austin Peay ahead, 2-0, at the end of one.

EMU took its first lead of the game in the third inning, putting three runs on the scoreboard. [Ty Gilmore](#) and [Marquise Gill](#) walked to begin the inning before a wild pitch advanced both runners into scoring position. Rubino singled up the

middle to score Gilmore, and the junior stole second to inch closer to the plate. With two ducks on the pond and two outs in the inning, Longo ripped a clutch base-knock to right to propel the Eagles into the lead, 3-2.

The game continued to seesaw back and forth as Austin Peay reclaimed the lead with two runs in the bottom of the fifth. Nonetheless, the Green and White countered with a run in its next at bat. Sonabend led off the inning with a double before Rubino knocked in his second run of the contest, knotting things up at four.

In the seventh, the Eagles scored two runs to gain the advantage. Sonabend brought in McGeein with a single while Dennison later scored after Gilmore reached base on an APSU error. Eastern continued to increase the lead with three runs the following inning, making it a 9-4 game. With the bases loaded, McGeein took one for the team as he was plunked by a pitch, advancing everyone on the bath path 90 feet. Next up was Dennison, and the EMU left fielder delivered with a single to his position that scored two Eagles.

APSU threatened in the bottom of the eighth with four runs as Head Coach [Jay Alexander](#) had to use three pitchers to complete the inning. Land entered for [Kristian Calibuso](#) and threw a wild pitch that allowed a run to score while another Austin Peay base runner advanced to third representing the tying run. Nonetheless, Land settled down to strike out the Governors' top hitter on the day, Smith, to keep his team ahead, 9-8.

In the ninth, Land returned to finish his business, retiring the side to pick up the save and secure the EMU win.

EMU will start making the trip back north, making a stop in Lexington, Ky. to square off against the University of Kentucky Wildcats in a three game series, Feb. 28-March 2. First pitch for game one is scheduled for Friday at 4 p.m.