1-10-2014

The Eagles Fly to Buffalo to Continue MAC Play January 10. 2014

Eastern Michigan University

Follow this and additional works at: http://commons.emich.edu/sports_scr

Recommended Citation
Eastern Michigan University, "The Eagles Fly to Buffalo to Continue MAC Play January 10. 2014" (2014). Eastern Michigan University, Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. EMU Archives, Digital Commons @ EMU (http://commons.emich.edu/sports_scr/320)
The Eagles Fly to Buffalo to Continue MAC Play
Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014 » 2 p.m. » Alumni Arena (6,100) » Buffalo, N.Y.

YPSILANTI, Mich. (EMUEagles.com) -- The Eastern Michigan University men's basketball team looks to keep its winning ways going Saturday, Jan. 11, when it travels to Buffalo, N.Y. for an afternoon matinee with the State University of New York at Buffalo at 2 p.m. inside Alumni Arena. Eastern is currently on a two-game winning streak after knocking off Rochester College, 92-54, in its final non-conference game before heading to Bowling Green State University on Jan. 8 for its first Mid-American Conference victory of the season, 56-51.

MAC PLAY UNDERWAY: After the first night of Mid-American Conference play, the Eagles sit tied for first with Western Michigan University in the West Division. The Green and White and the Broncos were the only two institutions to secure victories on opening night. On the otherside of the conference, Akron, Buffalo, Miami and Ohio each topped their opponents to obtain a share for the top spot in the East Division. Eastern and Buffalo will be one of four games scheduled on Saturday.

FINDING THE GAME AT HOME: The Eagles’ contest with the Bulls will hit the airwaves of 89.1 FM (WEMU). In addition to the WEMU broadcast, the game will be streamed live on a streaming service provided by Buffalo. To access the stream, head to BuffaloBulls.com

Veteran "Voice of the Eagles” Chad Bush will serve as EMU's play-by-play announcer for the WEMU broadcast, while Sean Hostetter will handle the analyst duties for the Saturday afternoon contest at Alumni Arena.
**ALL-TIME AGAINST THE BULLS:** The Eagles are behind in the series with Buffalo by just one game, as they trail by a tally of 9-10. EMU has gone back-and-forth with the Bulls the last two seasons, falling in Alumni Arena, 65-47, Jan. 24, 2012. However, the Eagles retaliated with a 65-46 victory at the Convocation Center, Feb. 6, 2013.

Last year, **Glenn Bryant** led the EMU offense with 17 points, followed by **Austin Harper** with 10. The Eagles posted six blocks, including four from Bryant, five steals and eight assists. Eastern shot 26-of-55 (47.3 percent) from the floor and out hustled the Bulls in fast break points, 8-0.

**MURPHY VERSUS THE MAC:** Third-year Head Men's Basketball Coach **Rob Murphy** holds a 17-16 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 12-8, while they are just 5-8 against the East Division which Murphy looks to improve during the 2013-14 season.

**A WIN'S, A WIN'S, A WIN:** The old addage, "a win's, a win's, a win" could be applied to the EMU conference opener against Bowling Green, Jan. 8. Despite a 56-51 victory at the Stroh Center in Bowling Green, Ohio the Eagles were held to their lowest point total of the season against a mid-major program. It was also the lowest shooting percentage in a game where the Green and White did not play a high-major program. In addition to the low point total and field goal percentage, Eastern shot just 14.3 percent from three-point land. However, other than the sloppy play, EMU was able to squeak out its first MAC opening win since the 2011-12 season.

**DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE:** Redshirt-freshman guard **Raven Lee** has shown some up-and-down play during the 2013-14 season. Lee scored in doubled figures in four out of the first five games this season, including a 38-point outburst against UT-Arlington, Nov. 23. Since that performance, the Detroit, Mich. native has not eclipsed the 20-point mark and has been in double figures just three times in nine games.

**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 12.8 points per game in six contest, including a pair of 20-plus point performances.

**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.

**A GOOD START:** After going 8-5 in non-conference action while playing one of the toughest schedules that Eastern has seen in its history, the Green and White are heading into Mid-American Conference play with its most wins since the 2009-10 season when they won eight non-conference tilts. That team finished the non-conference schedule with an 8-6 record, while going 17-15 on the season and 8-8 in MAC play.

**AT THE TOP OF THE MAC:** The Eagles are near the top of the esteemed Mid-American Conference in multiple categories this season. EMU posts the best field goal percentage defense (37.3 percent) and most steals (8.8 spg). EMU ranks second in blocked shots (6.4 bpg) and three-point field goal percentage defense (28.8 percent), while ranking third in turnover margin (+3.6) and scoring defense (65.0 ppg).

Individually, **Da'Shonte Riley** is in the lead in blocks, averaging 3.1 per contest, while **Glenn Bryant** is sixth, turning
away 1.9 per game. **Karrington Ward**'s 14.1 points per game is the 11th-best in the MAC, and Bryant is hitting 60.8 percent of his shots which is the third highest percentage in the conference. Additionally, **Mike Talley** has an assist/turnover ratio of 2.3, which is the third-best in the MAC.

**COMFY ON ANY FLOOR:** Detroit, Mich. native **Glenn Bryant** has shown that he can play at any gym across the country throughout his career. The senior is averaging 11.2 points away from Ypsilanti this season, while holding a 67.5 percent field goal percentage. Conversely, during home games the 6-foot-8 forward posts 9.6 points per contest, while knocking down 53.3 percent of his field goal attempts.

**NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION:** After recording a 7-5 record during the 2013 portion of this season's schedule, Head Coach **Rob Murphy** hopes to post a much better record in the month of January than he did in the 2012-13 campaign. Last season’s squad managed just a 3-5 record during the first month of the season last year. He is off to a 2-0 start after topping Rochester, 92-54, on Jan. 4, and defeating Bowling Green, 56-51, Jan. 8.

**65 OR BUST:** The Eagles seem to have found a magic number that they need to strive for this season. The Eagles are 8-0 when they score 65-or-more points this season. In their five losses they have not been able to eclipse that mark. Eastern scored 63 versus Kentucky, 57 in the setback to UMass, 64 in the game with Purdue, 59 in their loss to Duke and a season-low 48 points in a setback at Syracuse.

**ON THE ROAD THIS YEAR:** Eastern Michigan has really struggled in games on the road this season. Overall, the Eagles are 2-4 away from Ypsilanti and are averaging just 61.8 points per contest, while allowing 72.0.

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 15 points per game inside the Convocation Center. However, when on the road, Ward notches just 11.3 points per contest, while Lee scores 6.2 points per tilt.

**A BLOCK A DAY:** Senior center **Da'Shonte Riley** has played in 66 career games for the Green and White. During that time, he has accumulated 139 blocks, which ranks as the third-most in EMU history. In 67 career games, the Detroit, Mich. native has swatted at least one shot in all but 17 contests. This season, he has recorded a block in all but three games, while he missed out in eight games last season and six during the 2011-12 season. Overall, he has managed to stuff the opponent at least once in 74.6 percent of the games he has appeared in for EMU.

**HAPPY AT HOME:** The Eagles have enjoyed much success within the friendly confines of the Convocation Center this season. With a 7-1 record, EMU has shot 48.6 percent from the floor, while hitting 39.6 percent of its shots from three-point land. Eastern is scoring 76.5 points per contest, while holding its opponents to 59.8 points per game. Under Head Coach **Rob Murphy**, the EMU basketball team has been comfortable opening up the season inside the friendly confines of the Convocation Center. Throughout the past three seasons since Murphy has taken over the EMU program, he holds a 29-10 record inside the Convocation Center.

**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 88 shots and they average 6.4 per contest which is tied for the 16th-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 43 blocks already this season. The Detroit, Mich. native is also earning his spot in the EMU record books. The seven-footer has blocked 139 shots in his career, good for the third-most in Eastern Michigan history. He is 28 shy of **Jamell Harris**, 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 one and a half seasons for the Green and White,
while Wilson appeared on the EMU roster for four seasons (1992-96). Riley tied in the No. 17 spot in the country with his 3.1 per game this season.

Glenn Bryant has been no slouch at turning away the opposition. He is averaging 1.9 blocks per contest. His 69 career blocks have him tied with Calvin Warner as the ninth-best shot blocker in EMU history.

ROAD WOES: Since Rob Murphy took over as the head coach of the Eagles, the team has struggled on the road. Overall, Murphy’s teams are 9-29 on the road in his first three seasons. In non-conference play, the Green and White holds a 3-18 record away from the Convocation Center.

CHECK THE SPECIALTY STATS: The Eagles are averaging 29.4 points per game in the paint, 24.9 points off the bench, 17.9 points per game off turnovers, 9.9 second-chance points and 11.4 fast break points per game.

BENCH WORK: The Eagles’ bench is providing 24.9 points per game through the first 14 contests. Those 24.9 points per game account for 35.4 percent of the Green and White’s scoring this season.

DEEP GREEN SEA: Head Coach Rob Murphy has the luxury of being “too deep”. Murphy has 10 players that he feels could start on any given day for the Green and White. So far this season, the Detroit, Mich. native has played 10 different student-athletes for at least 10 minutes per game, including eight that have seen at least 14 minutes of action per contest.

DEFYING MURPHY’S LAW: Although defense has been Head Coach Rob Murphy’s philosophy since he stepped foot on the campus of Eastern Michigan, the 2013-14 basketball team seems to be showing the third-year head coach that it might be able to win games on the offensive side of the ball as well. Since coming to Ypsilanti, Murphy’s squads have averaged 53.2 and 56.6 points per game, respectively. On the other side of the ball, Murphy’s Eagles have allowed just 58.7 and 59.1 points per contest in those two seasons. Throughout this season, the Eagles are averaging 70.2 points on the offensive side, while allowing just 65 points on the defensive side. It seems as though these Eagles are embracing the defensive philosophy while exploding on the other side of the court as well.