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Solomon Ijah Named MAC Scholar Athlete of the Week

Junior track athlete is rewarded after record-breaking performance

CLEVELAND, Ohio (EMUEagles.com) — The Mid-American Conference announced Wednesday, Dec. 11, that Eastern Michigan University men's track and field junior Solomon Ijah (Murrieta, Calif.-Murrieta Valley) has been named the MAC Male Scholar Athlete of the Week for the period ending Dec. 8. Ijah is the third Eagle to be awarded the weekly accolade during the 2013-14 academic year, as EMU soccer's Megan McCabe and Angela Vultaggio were honored in back-to-back weeks during the 2013 women's soccer season.

The Murrieta, Calif. native earns the first scholar athlete of the week award of his career after busting EMU's heptathlon record wide open, eclipsing Kevin Lanier's previous 2011 record of 5,224 points by nearly 100, finishing with a winning score of 5,323 points at the Findlay Oiler Opener, Dec. 6-7. The junior won five-of-seven events, as he dominated the 60-meter dash in 7.10 seconds, sprinted through the 60-meter hurdles in 8.35 seconds (.01 seconds shy of the automatic MAC Championship qualifying mark), leapt for a distance of 6.69 meters in the long jump, threw the shot put for 14.30 meters, and cleared 4.40 meters in the pole vault. He also cleared 1.88 meters in the high jump and had a sub-2 minute time in the 1,000 meter run, finishing in 2:59.94. Ijah set personal-bests in every event except the high jump and long jump.

Ijah and the rest of the track and field Eagles will not be back in action until Friday, Jan. 10, 2014, when the squad will host the EMU Triangular with in-state rivals Oakland University and the University of Detroit Mercy at Bob Parks Track in Bowen Field House.