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Preseason Poll Predicts EMU to Finish Second In MAC West

EMU soccer receives two first place votes as MAC releases its preseason coaches' poll



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CLEVELAND, Ohio (EMUEagles.com) -- The 2014 Eastern Michigan University women's soccer team has been picked to finish second in the Mid-American Conference West Division as the conference released its preseason coaches' poll, Monday, Aug. 18. In addition to the runner-up prediction, the Eagles also received two votes to win the West.

Western Michigan University topped the standings as the favorite to win the West with seven first-place votes, while EMU and Ball State each received a pair of first-place votes to follow the Broncos in second and third, respectively. The majority of coaches also felt that WMU would repeat as MAC Tournament champion. Rounding out the West in order of the final three spots are Central Michigan University, the University of Toledo and Northern Illinois University.

In the East, the coaches overall felt that Kent State University would claim the top spot in the division; however, Miami University, predicted to end up behind the Golden Flashes, held seven first-place votes compared to just five for KSU. With those two teams taking all of the votes to finish at the top, Ohio University followed in third and the University at Buffalo was tabbed to finish fourth. The University of Akron and Bowling Green State University completed the standings in the East division.

Last year, the preseason poll predicted the Green and White to finish second in the West, but the Eagles exceeded

those expectations by standing alone atop the Mid-American Conference at the conclusion of the regular season with an 8-2-1 record in MAC play and a 12-7-2 overall record. The conference championship was the program's third overall and first since the 2003 season. Despite losing five seniors to graduation, Coach [Scott Hall](#) returns a veteran cast that includes 2013 MAC Offensive Player of the Year [Angela Vultaggio](#) and MAC Co-Defensive Player of the Year [Emily Dzik](#).

After finishing the preseason with a 1-0-1 record, Eastern begins the 2014 regular season at home against Fordham University, Aug. 22, at 4 p.m. Two days later, EMU welcomes Indiana University, a 2013 NCAA Tournament qualifier, to Ypsilanti for a Sunday afternoon affair between two solid programs. The Aug. 24 contest is set for a 1 p.m. start time. The Eagles begin MAC play, Sept. 26, as they travel to Miami for what will be a challenging conference opener based on the coaches' predictions.

2014 MAC Women's Soccer Preseason Coaches' Poll (First-Place votes in parentheses)

East Division

1. Kent State (5)
2. Miami (7)
3. Ohio
4. Buffalo
5. Akron
6. Bowling Green

West Division

1. Western Michigan (7)
- 2. Eastern Michigan (2)**
3. Ball State (2)
4. Central Michigan (1)
5. Toledo
6. Northern Illinois

MAC Tournament Predicted Champion: Western Michigan