



2004 OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE BASEBALL REPORT

March 9, 2004
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Kim Melcher
Phone: (615) 371-1698

Ohio Valley Conference
278 Franklin Road, Suite 103
Brentwood, Tennessee 37027
www.ovcsports.com

RECENT RESULTS

Sunday, March 7

@Austin Peay 2, Akron 0
@Mississippi 18, Eastern Illinois 10
@Eastern Kentucky 22, Oakland (MI) 18
@Louisiana-Monroe 3, Jacksonville State 2
@Virginia Tech 11, Morehead State 7
Memphis 8-7, @Murray State 5-2
Troy State 12, Samford 10
@Southeast Missouri 6-8, Brescia 0-0
@Mississippi State 8, Tennessee Tech 0

Saturday, March 6

@Austin Peay 1-6, Akron 0-5
@Mississippi 16-3, Eastern Illinois 5-1
Jacksonville State 2-1, @La.-Monroe 0-6
@Virginia Tech 12, Morehead State 7
Memphis 7, @Murray State 1
Nicholls State 10, Samford 9
@Mississippi State 12, Tennessee Tech 1

Friday, March 5

@Eastern Kentucky 10, Oakland 9
Northwestern 6, Samford 2
Viterbo 9, @Tennessee-Martin 6

Wednesday, March 3

South Alabama 5, @Jacksonville State 2
@Mississippi 15, Southeast Missouri 6
Tennessee Tech 13, @Tennessee 4

Tuesday, March 2

Austin Peay 4, @Lipscomb 3
@Mississippi 8, Southeast Missouri 1
Tennessee-Martin 5, @Belmont 3
King College 9, @Tennessee Tech 2

OVC STANDINGS

(Through games of Mar. 8)

	OVC					OVERALL				
	W	L	T	PCT.	GB	W	L	T	PCT.	STR.
Austin Peay	0	0	0	.000	--	6	1	0	.857	W5
Eastern Kentucky	0	0	0	.000	--	5	1	0	.833	W5
Morehead State	0	0	0	.000	--	4	6	0	.400	L2
Southeast Missouri	0	0	0	.000	--	3	5	0	.375	W2
Jacksonville State	0	0	0	.000	--	4	7	0	.364	L2
Tennessee-Martin	0	0	0	.000	--	4	7	0	.364	L1
Eastern Illinois	0	0	0	.000	--	1	5	0	.167	L5
Murray State	0	0	0	.000	--	1	8	0	.111	L5
Tennessee Tech	0	0	0	.000	--	0	4	0	.000	L4
Samford	0	0	0	.000	--	0	10	0	.000	L10

UPCOMING GAMES

Tuesday, March 9

Eastern Kentucky vs. Lehigh – 1:30 p.m.
Memphis at Tennessee-Martin – 2:00 p.m.
Samford at UAB – 6:00 p.m.
Toledo at Jacksonville State – 6:30 p.m.
Murray State at Arkansas State – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 10

Eastern Kentucky vs. St. Bonaventure – 9:30 a.m.
Vanderbilt at Austin Peay – 1:30 p.m.
Eastern Kentucky vs. Duquesne – 2:00 p.m.
Morehead State at Louisville – 2:00 p.m.
Saint Louis at Southeast Missouri – 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 11

Eastern Kentucky vs. IPFW – 9:30 a.m.
UT Martin vs. Wake Forest – 3:00 p.m.

Friday, March 12

Eastern Kentucky vs. Rhode Island – 9:30 a.m.
Niagra at Morehead State – 2:00 p.m.
Austin Peay at Birmingham-Southern – 6:00 p.m.
Toledo at Samford – 6:00 p.m.
Eastern Illinois at Southern Miss – 6:30 p.m.
NW Louisiana at Jacksonville St. – 6:30 p.m.
Southeast Missouri at Alabama – 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 13

Eastern Kentucky vs. Bowling Green – 9:00 a.m.
Niagra at Morehead State – 12 noon
Akron at Murray State (2) – 12 noon
Toledo at Samford – 1:00 p.m.
Austin Peay at Birmingham-Southern – 2:00 p.m.
NW Louisiana at Jacksonville State – 2:00 p.m.
Eastern Illinois at Southern Miss – 3:00 p.m.
Tennessee-Martin vs. Western Illinois – 3:00 p.m.
Southeast Missouri at Alabama – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 14

Eastern Kentucky vs. Fairleigh Dickinson – 2:00 a.m.
Niagra at Morehead State – 11:00 a.m.
Akron at Murray State – 12 noon
Austin Peay at Birmingham-Southern – 1:00 p.m.
Eastern Illinois at Southern Miss – 1:00 p.m.
NW Louisiana at Jacksonville State – 1:00 p.m.
Toledo at Samford – 1:00 p.m.
Southeast Missouri at Alabama – 2:00 p.m.
Tennessee-Martin vs. Missouri – 3:00 p.m.

ALL TIMES CENTRAL

2003 OVC BASEBALL NOTES

OVC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER OF THE WEEK:

TOMMY SMITH • C, SO. • MURFREESBORO, TN • AUSTIN PEAY

Smith played a key role in all four of Austin Peay's victories last week. The sophomore catcher went 3-for-3 in a 4-3 victory at Lipscomb, scoring the game-winning run after leading off the ninth with a single. He also drove in the Govs' only run in a 1-0, Game 1 victory over Akron, then rapped out a game-tying two-RBI single in Game 2's 6-5 triumph, and knocked in what proved to be the game-winner in a 2-0 victory in Game 3. For the week, he batted .667 (8-for-12) with four RBI and two runs. In addition, he was errorless in 22 chances behind the plate.

PITCHER OF THE WEEK:

JEFF MAULT • RP, SR. • WOWAKA, IN • AUSTIN PEAY

Mault recorded a win and two saves in 2.2 innings of scoreless relief work for the Govs last week. At Lipscomb, he picked up his first save of the season while working the ninth to secure APSU's 4-3 victory. Both of his relief appearances in Saturday's doubleheader against Akron came with runners in scoring position as he worked the Govs out of a one-out jam in Game 1 and a two-out predicament in Game 2, earning the save and the win, respectively.

2004 OVC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYERS

Mar. 8 Tommy Smith, Austin Peay
Mar. 15
Mar. 22
Mar. 29
Apr. 5
Apr. 12
Apr. 19
Apr. 26
May 3
May 10
May 17
May 24

PITCHERS

Mar. 8 Jeff Mault, Austin Peay
Mar. 15
Mar. 22
Mar. 29
Apr. 5
Apr. 12
Apr. 19
Apr. 26
May 3
May 10
May 17
May 24

AROUND THE DIAMOND...

AUSTIN PEAY (6-1 OVERALL, 0-0 OVC):

Austin Peay is off to its best seven-game start since a 10-0 beginning to the 1958 season. The Governors took two of three from Wright State to open the 2004 campaign, then defeated Lipscomb and swept a three-game set from Akron to extend their win streak to five games... APSU has won five consecutive series, dating back to last season... Sophomore catcher **Tommy Smith**, who has taken over backstop duties for the graduated A.J. Ellis, is off to a strong start, batting .600 and hitting safely in six straight games. He has five multi-hit outings thus far, sporting slugging and on-base percentages of .750 and .636, respectively... Third baseman **Jared Walker** is hitting .481 with two home runs and nine RBI, while junior second baseman **Jake Peterson** is batting .435 with five doubles and five RBI... Senior ace reliever **Jeff Mault** sports a 2-0 record with two saves in five appearances, allowing three hits and no runs in 4.0 innings of work... Junior starter **Rowdy Hardy** (2-0, 0.59 ERA) recorded a complete-game victory in his first start in the Govs' season-opener against WSU. He has struck out 11 batters and limited opponents to a .228 batting average in 15.1 frames on the mound... **Adam Carrico** is 2-1 with a 2.70 ERA... The APSU pitching staff has fanned 40 batters for an average of 6.31 strikeouts per nine innings... The Govs host Vanderbilt on Wednesday, then travel to Birmingham-Southern for a three-game weekend series.

EASTERN ILLINOIS (1-5 OVERALL, 0-0 OVC):

Eastern Illinois opened the 2004 campaign with a 6-4, 12-inning victory over SW Missouri State at the Louisiana-Monroe Tournament, but has since lost five straight. The Panthers finished tourney action with set-backs to host ULM and Kansas State, then dropped a three-game series at 12th-ranked Ole Miss... Freshman third baseman **Ryan Campbell** is riding a six-game hitting streak. He batted .500 against Rebel pitching over the weekend, including a 4-for-5 outing on Sunday where he rapped out two doubles and scored three times... Sophomore **Kirk Miller** worked EIU's first complete game this season in a Game 2, 3-1 loss to Ole Miss. He held the undefeated Rebels to their lowest run total thus far, giving up eight hits and striking out five batters... Walk-on **Matt Hall** threw two scoreless innings at Ole Miss... **Andy Kuntz** has yet to allow a run in 6.2 innings of work, racking up six strikeouts in the process... EIU hit .287 as a team over the weekend, but posted a 12.38 team ERA... The Panthers kick off their Spring Break trip this weekend with a three-game set at Southern Mississippi.

EASTERN KENTUCKY (5-1 OVERALL, 0-0 OVC):

Eastern Kentucky has won five straight after losing a 10-7 decision to Louisville in its season opener. The Colonels swept a three-game set from Chicago State and two from Oakland (MI) in their first homestand of the 2004 campaign... Sophomore designated hitter **Brett Bolger** went 6-for-7 against Oakland on Sunday, driving in four runs and scoring three times. He is batting .579 (11-for-19) for the season... Junior righthander **Scott Goetz** turned in the longest performance by an EKU starter thus far, tossing 6.0 innings in the 10-9, Game 1 win over Oakland. He struck out a career-high 12 batters, allowing five earned runs on five hits. Goetz leads the team with 17 K's and 11.1 innings pitched... EKU has registered only one single-digit run outing in 2004, with Colonel runners crossing the plate an average of 14.7 times per game... EKU will spend Spring Break in Bradenton, Fla., for the Florida All-Star Baseball Challenge. Scheduled opponents for EKU during the trip are Valparaiso, St. Bonaventure, Northern Illinois, Duquesne, IPFW, Bowling Green and Vermont.

2003 OVC BASEBALL NOTES

JACKSONVILLE STATE (4-7, 0-0 OVC):

Preseason OVC favorite and league newcomer Jacksonville State has kicked off the 2004 campaign with a challenging non-conference schedule, as all five of their opponents thus far were 2003 NCAA Regional participants. The Gamecocks opened with a 4-3 win over Alabama before dropping a three-game set to #2 LSU and taking two of three from Middle Tennessee. Last week, JSU went 1-3, losing a single outing to South Alabama and dropping two of three at Louisiana-Monroe... Senior righthander **Bobby Wynns** (2-1, 1.45 ERA) picked up his first win of the season in the Gamecocks' Game 1, 2-0 victory at ULM. He worked 7.2 innings, the longest stretch by a Jax State pitcher thus far in 2004, limiting ULM to five hits and a .185 batting average... **Winston Pearson** boasts the Gamecocks' longest hitting streak at five games... Senior catcher **Scott Smith** had two home runs versus Alabama, including his two-run game-winner in the ninth... JSU is 4-1 in games with one- or two-run margins, while going 0-5 in outings with a 5+ run differential... The Gamecocks are hitting just .195 as a team with four players batting over .200... JSU is home for four games, playing a single date against Toledo and a three-game set with Northwestern Louisiana.

MOREHEAD STATE (4-6, 0-0 OVC):

Morehead State lost a pair of decisions at Virginia Tech over the weekend, snapping the Eagles' four-game win streak. The Eagles opened the season with three losses at Tennessee and a single setback to Kentucky Wesleyan before picking up a lone victory over Campbellsville and a trio of wins against Toledo... Morehead had 13 hits to the Hokies' 12 on Saturday, but lost by a 12-7 margin after falling behind 7-0 early in the contest. The Eagles banged out 15 more hits on Sunday, rallying from a 5-0 deficit to take a 7-6 lead into the bottom of the eighth inning before the Hokies plated five runs and hung on for the win... Morehead rapped out 28 hits in 79 at-bats over the weekend for a .354 average... Catcher **Patrick Lager** went 6-for-9, while centerfielder **Travis Rima** was 5-for-9 with a double... Injuries are taking their toll on the Eagles early in 2004 as righthander **Lance Johnston**, who figured to be in the starting rotation, will miss the season due to shoulder surgery, while veteran centerfielder **Kevin Bryant** will most likely also sit out the season due to a broken bone in his arm. Bryant started all 49 games for the Eagles in 2003 and had played in two games this year... Morehead State visits Louisville on Wednesday, then returns home for a three-game series against Niagara.

MURRAY STATE (1-8, 0-0 OVC):

Murray State is off to a sluggish 1-8 start under new head coach **Rob McDonald** with four losses to Memphis and three at UAB. The Thoroughbreds' lone win, a 2-1 victory over Indiana at the Service Academy Classic on Feb. 27, was McDonald's first at the Division I level. Murray also dropped a decision to Air Force in tourney action... After Memphis pitcher Derek Hankins struck out 17 'Breds batters in a Feb. 28 Tiger win, Murray State paid him back in a Mar. 7 meeting, shelling him for five first-inning runs and chasing him before the frame was complete... Junior leftfielder **Clint Griggs** led the 'Breds with a .300 batting average at Memphis over the weekend... Junior righthander **Craig Kraus** has 14 strikeouts to four walks thus far... The 2004 Murray State roster is an even mix of veteran and incoming talent with 14 returning players and 15 newcomers... The 'Breds visit Arkansas State on Tuesday before returning home to host a three-game set with Akron.

SAMFORD (0-10, 0-0 OVC):

Samford is also experiencing a slow start, opening the 2004 campaign on a 10-game slide... Sophomore third baseman **Trey Moody** batted .455 at the Wiregrass Classic over the weekend, driving in a team-high five runs, including a three-run shot in Saturday's loss to Troy State... Sophomore righthander **Stephen Artz** worked 6.1 innings against Northwestern on Friday, striking out four batters while walking only one... Seven of the Bulldogs' losses have come by two runs or less... Seven is also the number of times Samford has already played in-state rival Troy State, losing six of the seven meetings by two runs or less. The average score of the SU-TSU meetings has been 5-3... In addition to TSU, Samford has played Auburn, Northwestern and Nicholls State... The Bulldogs' defense has already committed 28 errors, compared to 14 opponent miscues... Samford visits UAB on Tuesday, then hosts a three-game weekend series with Toledo.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI (3-5, 0-0 OVC):

Southeast Missouri posted a .500 effort last week, losing a pair at 12th-ranked Ole Miss before coming home to shut out Brescia in both ends of a doubleheader... Junior outfielder **Eric Horstman** went 5-for-14 in the Indians' four games last week, collecting two RBI, two doubles and two walks. He is batting a team-high .455 on the season with seven RBI and a .606 slugging percentage... Junior reliever **Brad Smith** has picked up the win in two of Southeast's three victories thus far. Last week, he worked 3.1 innings in two appearances, striking out six batters and walking one... In addition to Ole Miss, Southeast has played another Top 25 team, opening the season at then 18th-ranked Oklahoma. The Indians' first win of 2004 came at Arkansas State, where they scored six runs in the eighth and three in the ninth to post a 12-9, come-from-behind victory... Southeast entertains Saint Louis in a single outing, then visits Alabama for a three-game weekend series.

TENNESSEE-MARTIN (4-7, 0-0 OVC):

Tennessee-Martin has 11 games under its belt, counting a series victory over Bradley and a solid road outing at Belmont among its four wins thus far... **Bryant Jones'** switch from shortstop to second base hasn't affected his offense. The senior veteran is batting a team-high .525 after opening the season with an eight-game hitting streak and boasts a .900 slugging percentage with eight multi-hit games and three home runs to his credit... Jones is one of just four seniors on the Skyhawk roster this season... Freshman righthander **Ben Meador** is 1-1 with a 2.65 ERA, recording 15 strikeouts in three appearances and 17 innings of work, while sophomore **Justin Bryant** is 2-1 with a 5.51 ERA, fanning 11 batters through 16 frames of action... Sophomore catcher **Brett Spivey** is riding a six-game hitting streak, with four multi-hit outings thus far. He is batting .447 with a team-high nine RBI and two home runs... After a single home game against Memphis, the Skyhawks square off against Wake Forest, Western Illinois and Missouri as part of the Easton Challenge in Millington, Tenn.

TENNESSEE TECH (0-4, 0-0 OVC):

Tennessee Tech is winless in four outings under new head coach Matt Bragga, with setbacks to King College, Tennessee and 24th-ranked Mississippi State, the latter of which was a two-game series... The Golden Eagles' original home debut series against Ohio was cancelled after Cookeville received six inches of snow... Tech has three players hitting over .300, led by **Brandon Selvog**, who is batting .357 with a team-high five hits... Nine Golden Eagles have recorded hits thus far in 2004... **Zach Gray**, has a team-low 0.00 ERA after working two innings of relief... **Ben Pincus** pitched 4.2 scoreless innings of relief against Mississippi State on Sunday, giving up only one hit... Tech is off until a Jan. 17 date with Lipscomb in Cookeville.

2003 OVC BASEBALL SCHEDULE/RESULTS

AUSTIN PEAY (6-1, 14-0-0 OVC)

Feb. 28	WRIGHT STATE	W, 8-3
Feb. 28	WRIGHT STATE	L, 1-9
Feb. 29	WRIGHT STATE	W, 9-8
Mar. 2	at Lipscomb	W, 4-3
Mar. 6	AKRON	W, 1-0
Mar. 6	AKRON	W, 6-5
Mar. 7	AKRON	W, 2-0

* - OVC game

EASTERN ILLINOIS (1-5, 0-0 OVC)

Feb. 27	vs. SMS#	W, 6-4 (12)
Feb. 28	at Louisiana-Monroe#	L, 4-15
Feb. 29	vs. Kansas State#	L, 3-12
Mar. 6	at Ole Miss	L, 5-16
Mar. 6	at Ole Miss	L, 1-3
Mar. 7	at Ole Miss	L, 10-18

* - OVC game

% - OVC Tournament game

- Louisiana-Monroe Tournament (Monroe, LA)

EASTERN KENTUCKY (5-1, 0-0 OVC)

Feb. 25	at Louisville	L, 7-10
Feb. 27	CHICAGO STATE	W, 16-2
Feb. 28	CHICAGO STATE	W, 14-4
Feb. 29	CHICAGO STATE	W, 19-3
Mar. 5	OAKLAND (MI)	W, 10-9
Mar. 6	OAKLAND (MI)	W, 22-18

* - OVC game

% - OVC Tournament game

- Florida All-Star Challenge (Bradenton, FL)

2003 OVC BASEBALL SCHEDULE/RESULTS

JACKSONVILLE STATE (4-7, 0-0 OVC)

Feb. 18	ALABAMA	W, 4-3
Feb. 20	at LSU	L, 1-6
Feb. 21	at LSU	L, 2-14
Feb. 22	at LSU	L, 1-19
Feb. 27	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	W, 2-1
Feb. 28	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	L, 2-8
Feb. 29	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	W, 5-3
Mar. 3	SOUTH ALABAMA	L, 2-5
Mar. 6	at Louisiana-Monroe	W, 9-2
Mar. 6	at Louisiana-Monroe	L, 1-6
Mar. 7	at Louisiana-Monroe	L, 2-3

* - OVC game

MOREHEAD STATE (4-6, 0-0 OVC)

Feb. 13	at Tennessee	L, 0-11
Feb. 14	at Tennessee	L, 0-14
Feb. 14	at Tennessee	L, 1-29
Feb. 21	KENTUCKY WESLEYAN	L, 4-15
Feb. 24	CAMPBELLSVILLE	W, 9-2
Feb. 27	TOLEDO	W, 15-8
Feb. 28	TOLEDO	W, 9-8
Feb. 29	TOLEDO	W, 16-11
Mar. 6	at Virginia Tech	L, 7-12
Mar. 7	at Virginia Tech	L, 7-11

* - OVC game

MURRAY STATE (1-8, 0-0 OVC)

Feb. 20	at UAB	L, 8-15
Feb. 21	at UAB	L, 0-2
Feb. 22	at UAB	L, 5-6 (12)
Feb. 27	vs. Indiana#	W, 2-1
Feb. 28	vs. Memphis#	L, 1-7
Feb. 29	vs. Air Force#	L, 2-11
Mar. 6	MEMPHIS	L, 1-7
Mar. 7	MEMPHIS	L, 5-8
Mar. 7	MEMPHIS	L, 2-7

* - OVC game

- Service Academy Classic (Millington, TN)

2003 OVC BASEBALL SCHEDULE/RESULTS

SAMFORD (0-10, 0-0 OVC)

Feb. 20	at Troy State	L, 1-2
Feb. 21	at Troy State	L, 4-5
Feb. 22	at Troy State	L, 6-8
Feb. 24	at Auburn	L, 5-11
Feb. 27	TROY STATE	L, 3-5
Feb. 28	TROY STATE	L, 1-13
Feb. 29	TROY STATE	L, 6-7 (10)
Mar. 5	vs. Northwestern#	L, 2-6
Mar. 6	vs. Nicholls State#	L, 9-10
Mar. 7	vs. Troy State#	L, 10-12

* - OVC game

- Wiregrass Classic (Dothan, AL)

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI (3-5, 0-0 OVC)

Feb. 21	at Oklahoma	L, 1-7
Feb. 22	at Oklahoma	L, 5-11
Feb. 23	at Oklahoma	L, 2-10
Feb. 25	at Arkansas State	W, 12-9
Mar. 2	at Mississippi	L, 1-8
Mar. 3	at Mississippi	L, 6-15
Mar. 6	BRESCIA	W, 6-0
Mar. 6	BRESCIA	W, 8-0

* - OVC game

TENNESSEE-MARTIN (4-7, 0-0 OVC)

Feb. 17	WESTERN KENTUCKY	L, 2-8
Feb. 18	at Arkansas State	L, 1-2
Feb. 21	LOUISIANA-MONROE	L, 0-12
Feb. 21	LOUISIANA-MONROE	W, 5-2
Feb. 22	LOUISIANA-MONROE	L, 3-9
Feb. 25	BELMONT	L, 12-16
Feb. 28	BRADLEY	W, 4-2
Feb. 28	BRADLEY	W, 5-2
Feb. 29	BRADLEY	L, 5-20
Mar. 2	at Belmont	W, 5-3
Mar. 4	VITERBO	L, 6-9

* - OVC game

2003 OVC BASEBALL SCHEDULE/RESULTS

TENNESSEE TECH (0-4, 0-0 OVC)

Mar. 2	KING COLLEGE	L, 2-9
Mar. 3	TENNESSEE	L, 4-13
Mar. 6	at Mississippi State	L, 1-12
Mar. 7	at Mississippi State	L, 0-8

* - OVC game