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Eastern Illinois University

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Final VPUA candidate visits campus

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Football seniors face tough loss at season's end

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LOCAL

Bellantoni accepting donations

Assistant coach, wife look to help

By Collin Whitchurch
Sports Editor

Roc and Jenny Bellantoni wanted to do something special for their grieving friends.

After his friend and co-worker Jeff Hoover was killed in a car accident late Saturday, Roc Bellantoni said his wife and head coach Bob Spoo's wife, Susan, started kicking around ideas to help the families of Hoover and Eric Cash in their time of need.

"What we're doing is taking any donations of gift cards or money to put toward gift cards so the grandparents and others can get food while taking care of the kids," Roc Bellantoni said. "There will be plenty of people cooking casseroles and making food, so we figured rather than have 15 casseroles stacked in the freezer or refrigerator, getting gift cards for the two families would be a good idea."

Hoover, the Eastern football team's offensive line coach, was killed when the car he was riding in swerved to avoid a deer while returning home from the football game at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Cash, Eastern's strength and conditioning coach, his wife Sherri, Hoover's wife Penny and three children were also injured in the crash.

Roc Bellantoni said since the crash, several people have reached out to try and help in some way, and this is a way where people can help without having to do much.

"We've got a lot of calls, texts, e-mails, support from all around the country," Roc Bellantoni said. "This



ERIC HILTNER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern football defensive coordinator Roc Bellantoni, shown here during Saturday's game against Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and his wife Jenny are accepting donations to help pay for food for the families of Jeff Hoover and Eric Cash, who were involved in a car accident late Saturday near Effingham. The crash killed Hoover and injured Cash, his wife Sherri, Hoover's wife Penny and three children.

is a way people can help without really doing anything. They can get us money so they can eat while getting through these tough times."

Roc Bellantoni said people in Charleston who know where he lives can drop by his house if they want to contribute a donation.

Another way to contribute would be to go to the O'Brien Field complex

and give them to him.

He said they are also looking into starting a fund for the Hoovers' two children, Lauren and Cole.

He said details about the fund have not yet been hashed out.

"We want to get something together for them," Roc Bellantoni said. "With Penny being a part-time teacher, losing an income isn't

See page 8 for more

The women's basketball team shows its support to the football team in its time of mourning after the death of coach Jeff Hoover

going to be easy for those guys. We want to help the best we can and will

be looking for donations at some point."

People who wish to contribute a donation for the Hoover and Cash families can contact Jenny Bellantoni at jennybellantoni@gmail.com.

Collin Whitchurch can be reached at 581-7944 or cfwhitchurch@eiu.edu.

CITY

Changes to be made to Zoning Map

Council to discuss levying taxes

By Stephen Di Benedetto
City Editor

Levying property taxes tops the variety of items the City Council is expected to discuss during its regular meeting today at City Hall.

The council will also approve or deny the changes to the Zoning Map, comprehensive plan and the Unified Development Code, which were put on file for further review during the council's Nov. 17 meeting.

Mayor John Inyart said the property tax levy, which taxes property values that existed in 2009, is a limited increase. He said the levy is based off money spent toward construction projects in 2008.

Inyart said much of the increase would go toward increasing pension

costs, which are required by law to be funded. Pensions increased, largely, because of the economy, he said.

"We are not expecting any windfall this year," Inyart said.

Because the property tax will not yield a large increase, Inyart said the public works department would continue to operate in a maintenance mode in 2010.

Doing maintenance work allows the city to conduct minor repairs to the Charleston infrastructure. As a consequence, major construction projects will be postponed.

The city is also experiencing a \$300,000 shortfall, which has caused officials to look for possible cuts, which includes public works.

Inyart said the council is expected to place the levy on file for public inspection, which allows the council more time to review the matter.

Changes to the zoning map, comprehensive plan and development code are three years in the making,

"We are not expecting any windfall this year."

Mayor John Inyart

Inyart formed a committee to examine all three items and suggest changes.

The map has not been revised since its adoption in 1969. The code was adopted in 2003, and the plan was adopted in 1999.

Changes to the map are the most extensive because Charleston's zoning makeup has changed dramatically from 40 years ago.

Inyart said in a Nov. 17 *Daily Eastern News* article that the COUNCIL, page 5

UNIVERSITY

Dean search begins with Marilyn Levine

By Bob Bajek
Associate News Editor

The Chinese phrase "Lin ru lian" means a grove of lotuses. This foreign phrase also represents a Chinese name given to Marilyn Levine by a University of Chicago professor.

Levine was the first candidate for the dean of the College of Arts and Humanities to be interviewed by faculty Monday in the Dean's Conference Room in the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

Faculty questions

Levine, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Eastern Oregon University, was asked by Chris Hanlon, associate professor of English, how Levine would help the arts and humanities faculty to travel to help their research.

"You can't say that you want profes-

sional development and not support faculty travel to go to those opportunities," Levine said.

She said there are multiple routes in achieving a higher traveling stipend. At EOU, the faculty union could negotiate with the administration to try to get scholarship stipends in the summer.

She said the EOU administration already has to distribute \$180,000 a year toward sabbaticals, scholarship stipends and in conjunction with three different areas she oversees.

Scholarship stipends, she said, can be centrally given, and then a faculty committee should be making the decisions and the criteria on who gets the money and the standard rules.

John Allison, professor of English and president of Eastern's chapter of University Professionals of Illinois, DEAN, page 5

WEATHER TODAY



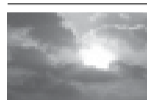
Sunny

HIGH 54°
LOW 36°
Controlling high pressure keeps things decently warm and sunny this December afternoon. However, an approaching cold front will cause some scattered showers tomorrow afternoon. Those showers will turn into snow flurries Wednesday night through Thursday morning. Expect a cold end to the week.

WEATHER TOMORROW



Wednesday
Rain then Snow
High: 43°
Low: 28°



Thursday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 34°
Low: 23°

For more weather information: www.eiu.edu/~weather

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Monthly testing of emergency siren

Eastern's emergency non-weather-related siren will be tested this morning.

The 10:30 a.m. siren, recognized by its distinctive pulse tone, is designed to alert the university community about potentially dangerous non-weather-related threats, like an active shooter situation, bomb threat or hazardous material spill.

Students, faculty and staff hearing this tone outside of a testing period should check their Eastern e-mail accounts and/or Eastern's Web site for important information.

Details concerning the emergency will be posted/updated as soon as they become available.

Percussion performance features Cuban music

The ensemble will perform an exciting array of music by Steve Reich, Anthony Cirone and Christopher Hardy, as well as traditional music from Cuba.

The performance is at 7 p.m. today in the Dvorak Concert Hall of the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

Ballroom dancing offered

Ballroom dance meets from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Lantz Dance Studio of the Student Recreation Center.

Everyone is welcome, and there is no cost to attend. No experience or partner is required.

—Compiled by News Editor Emily Zulz

'Tis the season to decorate



DANNY DAMIANI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Along with decorations, the Ballenger Teachers Center showcases different books on various winter-related holidays. Booth Library was decorated for the holiday during Thanksgiving break.

DENNEWS.COM



Thanksgiving alternative celebrations and vegetarian-friendly food

To top off Thanksgiving, desserts like pumpkin and other fruit pies are served. Typically after indulging in a meal consisting of too much food it can be difficult to fully appreciate the deliciousness of pies. To combat this theory, assistant online editor Alycia Rockey's family created a tradition dedicated to pie. Check out DENnews.com for more on this blog.

BLOTTER

Criminal damage to government property occurred Nov. 23 at the new Textbook Rental building, according to the University Police

Department. A theft occurred Sunday in Taylor Hall, police said.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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ADMINISTRATION

Final VPUA candidate visits campus

By Sarah Ruholl
Administration Editor

The search for a new vice president for university advancement is entering its final stage. The decision.

Keith Carver's campus visit and interviews on Monday were the final for the search. The search committee has asked that evaluation forms for all candidates be turned into the provost's office today.

The forms had originally indicated a Dec. 4 deadline, but a summary of the evaluations will be needed sooner than planned, according to a university press release.

Carver currently serves as assistant vice chancellor for development at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Carver's visit included meetings with President Bill Perry, Jill Nilsen, vice president for external relations, and representatives of campus groups. He was impressed with the close working relationships across campus.

"On an informal basis, the way I've been greeted by faculty, staff and students has been great. It shows they're comfortable," Carver said. "The way people interact, you can tell there is a close personal relationship between faculty and staff."

The majority of Carver's professional experience falls under the fundraising category, a major focus of the position, but the position's other responsibilities, such as government rela-

tions, will be areas he would have to work on.

"I've not had (working with legislatures) as an official role before," Carver said. "The University of Tennessee has two lobbyists that work on our behalf."

Carver acknowledged at an open campus meeting the complexity of the position.

"There are many hats this vice president is going to have to wear, whether it's philanthropy, alumni, government relations or working with the Board of Trustees," he said. "The role of this person is going to be all over the place. You're going to need someone who is going to be in the trenches."

Carver is eager to get into the position and get his hands dirty.

"You have to be out there asking for money and overseeing what's going on," Carver said. "I'm a roll-your-sleeves-up kind of guy."

In past projects, he has used some alternative ways to get faculty members interested in the fundraising process.

"I told the deans to make a shopping list of what they need," he said. "Like if an alumnus said, 'I can do \$1,000 for the College of Education.' What would you do with that money? They got really excited and started making lists."

Sarah Ruholl can be reached at 581-7942 or seruholl2@eiu.edu.



CHELSEA GRADY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Keith Carver, vice president for university advancement candidate, is the current assistant vice chancellor for development at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. UNIVERSITY UNION

'I'll be in the library every night until it closes'

By Jenna Mitchell
Staff Reporter

With the fall semester approaching an end, Kelly Eichberger is beginning to prepare for her upcoming finals.

The sophomore art major plans to make flashcards and repeatedly review for her exams. Eichberger believes this year will be harder than her freshman exams because the courses are harder and have covered more material.

"It's important to pass all of my finals because it will allow me to take more advanced classes for my major

in the future," she said.

The Student Success Center will have a workshop practical titled "Ace That Test!" from 4 to 4:30 p.m. today in the Charleston/Mattoon Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Brian Brausch, a graduate assistant in the Student Success Center, will lead the seminar.

The purpose of the workshop is to give students advice on how to improve study skills, calm nerves and boost the outcome of final exams.

Mallory Ahrens, a senior elementary education major, is already aware

of a few study mechanisms.

"Repetition and preparing yourself are good ways to succeed [on final exams]," Ahrens said.

She knows her exams this year will not be easy, but understands exactly how to prepare for them because of years of experience with college finals.

"I'll probably spend a lot of time in the study room (at the sorority house)," Ahrens said.

While many set study goals for themselves during the weeks before final tests, some students, like Justin

Wallace, do nothing to prepare for exams.

"I don't plan on studying because I don't really like to study," said Wallace, a sophomore kinesiology and sports studies major.

Thomas Brown, a junior sports management major, is also confident he does not need to study in order to do well on final exams.

"I don't plan on studying because there are no classes I feel like I need [to study for]," Brown said.

For some, choosing whether to study is an option. Athletic teams

have mandatory study tables they are expected to complete each week.

Michael Hesslau, a freshman history major, said being on an athletic team forces him to study and will therefore enhance his final grades.

His goals for the end of the semester consist of receiving all As and Bs on his exams.

"I'll be in the library every night until it closes," Hesslau said.

Jenna Mitchell can be reached at 581-7942 or DENnewsdesk@gmail.com.

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VIEWS



Eric Hiltner

Looking back and signing off

What have I done with the past four-and-a-half years of my life? It is cliché to say that my time at Eastern has been a blur, but like a good night out followed by a hazy morning trying to remember what happened, there are a few moments of clarity.

The weekend before Thanksgiving break, my sister (a 2001 Eastern alum) came to visit. It was quite the trip down memory lane for her.

We went past her old dwellings and buildings where she had classes and worked in. And over a few cocktails that night, she commented to me how our times here are polar opposites.

My time here at Eastern has primarily revolved around working as a photographer for *The Daily Eastern News*. It has given me access to all sorts of people, activities and places that are not afforded to the average student.

And I have tried my best to maximize my time here, to make an impact and not just be another of the faceless students who have graced this campus.

I have been on the sidelines of countless sporting events. I have felt the highs and lows of being an athlete; the joys of a championship season or pulling off a major upset, the sadness of losing in double overtime in the finals of a tournament or a first-round playoff knockout.

I have covered the politics on this campus, and even tried my hand in it for a while. I know how hard the students in Student Government work to try and make the "world" right. And how futile it all seems no matter how hard you try.

I have covered an innumerable number of events around campus; making friendships with people I would never have met had I not.

For two years I was the president of a registered student organization. I understand fully the difficulty of believing in the goodness of something and seeing the apathy toward it from within your ranks and from the campus community.

My memories of Eastern will not consist of the horrors of staying up late to write papers or finish projects or sitting in some lecture hall being bored to death by Professor Talksalot. They will consist solely of the people, places and things I have done.

My sister was one of those faceless students. She did the bare minimum to get out of here. Her name and face does not come up if you pour through *The DEN* archives or flip through the pages of the "Warbler."

She expressed a slight disappointment in that she spent as much time here as I have, having far fewer memories — and disappointment that there are few memories of her.

So, come December 19th, at 10 a.m., when I walk across the stage in Lantz Arena to receive my empty diploma holder, I will proudly walk with my head held high.

I have tried to make an impact, to make an impression on this campus as a role model of sorts.

I feel as though I have given as much to this campus as it has given me, and that is a satisfying feeling.

I wish you all the best of luck and thank you for giving me a memorable experience.

Eric Hiltner is a senior journalism major and can be reached at 581-7942 or DENopinions@gmail.com. He has worked for The Daily Eastern News since September 2005 and this is his final column.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid"

DAILY EDITORIAL
The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of The Daily Eastern News.

Student Government needs new solutions to old problems now

The Student Government has broken down. This semester has illustrated the fact that the student body isn't very interested in the goings on of the Student Senate.

Conversely, the Student Senate has not done enough to garner increased interest from students and with the fall elections coming up, that is unacceptable.

This is not to say those on the Senate do not work tirelessly, selflessly and to great lengths to improve such things. But the end result is what it is and the result is almost nonexistent.

This may be because of a lack of understanding among students as to what the Senate specifically does or is meant to do.

According to the preamble of the Student Body Constitution, the Student Government operates in order to "maintain academic freedom, academic responsibility, student rights and to foster the recognition of the rights and responsibilities of students to the university and community..."

And according to Article II of its Constitution, "The primary function of the Senate shall be to represent the student body of Eastern Illinois University and improve student life through the passage of bills and resolutions."

However, put plainly, the Student Senate works as a communication conduit between the students and the administration. It approves Registered Student Organizations, makes recommendations concerning policies and goings on to both the Apportionment Board and the Faculty Senate, and serves to represent students.

With that being said, the Student Government can only operate if the student body has a vested interest in those goings on.

And the current student body should be reprimanded for simply not caring enough just as much as the Student

"This is not to say those on the Senate do not work tirelessly, selflessly and to great lengths to improve such things. But the end result is what it is and the result is almost nonexistent."

Government needs to find a way to gain that interest.

This semester, the Student Senate has suffered through difficulty in maintaining quorum as well as increasingly short meetings. However, it has also managed to host several forums across campus in hopes of getting feedback from students concerning a number of things.

And the Senate has passed a number of resolutions. However, many of those resolutions focus on internal governing policies of the Student Senate. Needless to say, students are most likely unaware of these resolutions.

But now is the time for students to step up and take charge of their Senate. The Student Government elections are just around the corner. Just as it is important to go out and vote in any other election, the Student Senate elections are important as well. In fact, the first place to get involved politically is at home, and this is our home.

Furthermore, it is all too often that students can be heard complaining about any number of things across campus — the cell phone policy, smoking on campus, anything and everything concerning academics.

If students wish to see change on this campus, they must do more than show up to a polling place and vote for a familiar name. Throw your hat in the ring, fill out an application and see if you can bring about change as a part of the Senate. It's too late for the fall elections, but the spring elections will be coming soon enough. Be more than a face in the crowd.

If new interest cannot be found then what will the future hold for Student Senate? Will a semester turnover rate of two-thirds of Senate members continue until every single Senate member must be replaced every semester?

Will Student Senate even be able to fill those positions this year? We certainly hope so. But if things keep going this way, sooner than later the entire Senate may find itself rendered utterly irrelevant and entirely nonexistent.

FROM THE EASEL



ILLUSTRATION BY DARIUS JUTZI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

BEST COMMENTS FROM THE WEB

Column: Fixing an American tradition
Article posted on 11/30/09

"I thought that 'Change the Food' was a good idea. America is full of different nationalities and we should celebrate that. Land of the Free!..."

EIU Senior, 11/30/09

Column: Fixing an American tradition
Article posted on 11/30/09

"Or we could all gather around the table with our families at Thanksgiving and say what we are thankful for..."

Or..., 11/30/09

Get posted

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DEAN, from page 1

wanted to know Levine's experience in making serious personnel decisions and what her expectations are on teaching, research and community service.

"My standards are to look at the individual in their own light and their own creativity of professional development and one has to be guided by the criteria of the department," Levine said. "The key is, I do that at the start. When I recruit a faculty member, I am very clear with them about promotion, tenure and retention from the interview."

Levine also told Allison the third year review is crucial for a faculty member. She encourages proper mentoring and guidance for the tenure track faculty.

History professor Newton Key questioned if Levine would have a common message on learning at the department, college or the university level. Levine replied Eastern has to start as a community with a goal, and then set up expectations at the program level.

"One of the things that is very strong here is you have clearly articulated goals, a very nice philosophy statement for your general education," Levine said.

Janet Marquardt, professor of art history and women's studies, said deans are the ones who are the intermediaries between the faculty and administration. She wondered how Levine would represent the faculty.

"My nickname is 'The Closer,'" Levine said. "The dean has to look for the opportunity and advocate. I will advocate for my faculty for my programs and am ready to risk my job every week and it has been that way for five years. I don't know why I'm still standing."

Levine's goals

Levine expanded on how she could



ERIC HILTNER|THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Rachel Burklund, a senior art major, and Lauren Curta, an art graduate student, listen to Marilyn Levine, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Eastern Oregon University, respond to a question during a meeting with College of Arts and Humanities students in the Paris Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Monday.

assist with the professional development issue.

"One has to explore the travel funds in the other funding and what the tradition is," Levine said. "(At) some places, like my current institution, it is written into the contract the amount, then the faculty committee determines how the money is distributed.

"I could propose something like that to the current administration if that were the will of the faculty. It will require several conversations to formulate an idea."

Levine said if she were dean, she

would also look into examining the other priority areas with the faculty, like better book allocations or equipment for artists.

Integrative learning

President Bill Perry's plan for integrative learning impressed Levine in her discussions with him.

"I think President Perry has a wonderful view; we spent quite a while speaking about that," Levine said. "Some of that is programmatic. You want to have different courses and so on and so forth to work together.

Some more team teaching in senior seminars would be great."

But, Levine said she would like to see integrative learning at an earlier level.

"Maybe Eastern would want to have more portfolios from students that would be more reflective than integrative," she said. "That would be one method."

Asian influence

Linguistics is Levine's forte. She can speak Chinese and French fluently, speaks Korean "passably" and is studying Japanese and Latin.

She is a history professor who has published works concerning China and was the first non-Chinese president of the Historical Society for 20th Century China.

To improve and expand Asian studies, she said the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia is a good resource to prepare professors on how to teach Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese issues.

"That is an initiative that I might be able to get started here," she said.

Leadership

Levine said the dean's role with regard to faculty is to advocate.

"I am a really strong advocate on understanding the common message," she said. "I had a wonderful conversation with President Perry, and he told me how important professional development was for him. I would approach him and say, 'If that is true, wouldn't you allocate \$100,000 for professional faculty development?'"

Levine told the crowd Perry said he allocated the money for professional development, but it is a question of where does the money go.

At EOU, she's expanded programs, lobbied the administration to have the arts and science department budgets to be cut to 90 percent instead of 80 percent, and led interdisciplinary focus groups including rural health and Native American awareness.

Bob Bajek can be reached at 581-7942 or rtbajek@eiu.edu.

Find a more in-depth take on this story at DENnews.com

COUNCIL, from page 1

committee examined every piece of property in Charleston, examined how the zoning changed and tried to predict how the area could change in the future based off current trends.

The code contains all the city's zoning ordinances, and the plan contains long-range goals and ob-

jectives for the city. Changes to the plan were needed because some objectives are either outdated or have been completed.

The council will also discuss the appropriation of additional federal stimulus money for the second phase of the city's resurfacing proj-

ect, which is slated to begin in the coming spring and summer.

Inyart said the second phase includes the resurfacing of Jackson Avenue, from Eighth Street to 14th Street, and Harrison Avenue, from 11th Street to 18th Street.

The city received \$284,000 in

stimulus funds for the second phase. The city will use a total of \$75,000 from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund to pay for its portion of the entire resurfacing project.

The first phase of the project was conducted in October. Resurfaced intersections along Lincoln Avenue

included University Drive, Fourth Street and Ninth Street. The intersection of Polk Avenue and 14th Street was also resurfaced.

Stephen Di Benedetto can be reached at 581-7942 or sdibenedetto@eiu.edu.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | NOTEBOOK



AUDREY SAWYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshman guard Ta'Kenya Nixon drives the ball up the court during the game against Brescia (Ky.) on Sunday afternoon in Lantz Arena. She was named both Freshman of the Week and Player of the Week by the OVC.

Nixon receives two OVC honors

By Alex McNamee
 Staff Reporter

Freshman guard Ta'Kenya Nixon earned both Player of the Week and Freshman of the Week honors last week in the Ohio Valley Conference after averaging 14.3 points per game in the Women's Preseason National Invitation Tournament (WNIT).

In Eastern's first game of the season against No. 3 Ohio State in the first round, Nixon scored 10 points and dished out five assists. Eastern head coach Brady Sallee said Nixon was the most athletic player on the court during the game.

In the team's third game of the season, Nixon notched a double-double — 18 points, 11 rebounds — in leading the team to its first win of the season.

Along with averaging 14.3 points per game, Nixon led the team in minutes per game (30.3), field goal percentage (70.6), rebounds (20), assists (16), and steals (4).

Now through six games of the season, Nixon still leads the team in all of the previous categories. Through the month of November, the freshman averaged 12.2 points per game.

Sallee said Nixon is a key player on the team in that she can set the pace for the way the team plays during a game.

it's all about weathering the storm and keeping a good attitude about it."

Thomas is averaging 6.7 points per game this season, but in her last two games she has scored 22 points after only scoring 18 points in her first four games.

Results from over Break

Eastern (3-3) lost 84-80 to Texas-El Paso on Nov. 20, in the first round of the WNIT consolation bracket.

The Panthers shot 26 percent from beyond the arc and couldn't complete a comeback after being down 49-40 at halftime.

Eastern defeated Northern Colorado in the WNIT on Nov. 21, despite committing 20 turnovers.

The Panthers out-rebounded their opponent 51-34 and scored 25 second-chance points off of 22 offensive rebounds. The victory was the team's first of the season.

Eastern lost to Southern Methodist 79-52 on Nov. 24 after committing 24 turnovers. The 24 turnovers turned into 26 points for SMU.

The SMU bench outscored Eastern's 34-7, in a rout which saw SMU take a 31 point lead at one point in the game.

Turnover problems continued in Friday's game against Indiana-Purdue-Fort Wayne.

Despite committing 21 turnovers, the Panthers won 68-64.

Sunday's game featured six Panthers scoring in double figures as the Panthers only committed two turnovers and defeated Brescia (Ky.) 110-28.

Eastern's next game is at 5:30 p.m. Thursday against Tennessee State in Nashville, Tenn.

Alex McNamee can be reached at 581-7944 or admcnamee@eiu.edu.

Thomas getting back

After starting the season 2-for-20 from three point range, senior guard Ashley Thomas has gotten back on track, making six of her last seven three pointers.

Sallee said he is excited Thomas has started to get it going from three-point range in the past few games.

"It's a long season," Thomas said. "There are a lot of ups and downs so

COMICS

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Inside sports today

 Women's basketball- Nixon receives OVC honors

VIEWS



Dan Cusack

Pratl living up to hype early in year

It is early in the career of forward Shaun Pratl, but he may be the cornerstone to bringing Eastern men's basketball to the next level.

Pratl, a freshman from Oak Lawn (Richards), was nominated for Ohio Valley Conference Freshman of the Week after his performances against Chicago State, Eureka and Belmont. That was his second nomination early in this 2009-10 season.

The freshman came in with an impressive pedigree. He was named the *Chicago Sun-Times* Athlete of the Year for his standout performances in basketball and football in high school.

As a junior, he led his team to a Class 4A Illinois State Championship in basketball and finished third all-time in points scored at Richards High School.

But even only a few games in this season, Pratl is making an impact on both sides of the court. He is third on the team in points, averaging 9.2 points per game and is tops on the team with 4.8 rebounds.

What is impressive about Pratl is how natural the game seems to come to him, even only a few games into his Eastern career. He has the uncanny ability for the tip-in on the offensive end, which helps with his team-leading 10 offensive rebounds.

"He has a really good feel to the game," Eastern head coach Mike Miller said. "He just has a natural basketball instinct from what he's done in his playing career. He sees the floor well and he is a good passer."

In his second game ever as a Panther against Indiana-Purdue-Indianapolis, Pratl entered the game with the Panthers trailing in the middle of the first half.

After the game, he admitted he wanted to give the Panthers a lift because he was not about to lose. The freshman rattled off nine of the next 13 points for the Panthers, which kept them in the game as the Jaguars had a barrage of threes. This was an experienced and talented IUPUI team, and it had no answer for the promising big man.

Already, he has recorded double-figure points in three games this season. He has yet to prove himself against conference opponents, but it appears as he gets more games under his belt, he will only get better as the season goes on.

Only time can tell what the future holds for the 6-foot-8 forward, but if his performance early this season is any indication, things will only get better.

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JEFF HOOVER, 1968-2009

Athletics mourn Hoover's death

By Alex McNamee, Collin Whitchurch & Dan Cusack
Sports Staff

When Maggie Kloak heard the news that Eastern football offensive line coach Jeff Hoover died, she knew what his players were going through.

"I immediately felt for the players," said Kloak, a senior forward on the women's basketball team. "I didn't know the coach, but I know a lot of the players and I know what they are going through right now."

The women's basketball team endured a similar death in its family less

than a month ago. Assistant coach Jackie Moore collapsed while working out Nov. 4 in the Student Recreation Center and died. Moore's death caused the Eastern Athletic Department to cancel all home events that weekend and members of both basketball teams are wearing the initials "J.M." on their jerseys in her honor.

The athletic department has plans for a memorial service for Hoover but has not yet released what those plans are.

Ta'Kenya Nixon, a freshman on the women's basketball team, said because her team knows what the football players are going through, she's

trying to offer her support in any way possible.

"As the women's basketball team, we know how hard it is to lose someone," Nixon said. "We are trying to be really supportive, giving blessings, prayers, condolences out to their family. We are all really sad about it. We just want to help out and do what we can."

Nixon said the players feel a sense of needing to help out their friends in need since everyone helped them cope after Moore's death.

"Not just the football players, but all of the athletic teams helped us in our time of need," she said. "So right

now, we really want to be there for the football team."

Others around the athletic department, such as Eastern men's basketball head coach Mike Miller, knew Hoover as well. Miller said he was paired with Hoover during a golf outing when he first arrived at Eastern and had known him ever since.

"I was shocked and saddened when I heard about it. It's terrible," Miller said. "He was a great man in every sense of the word."

The DEN sports staff can be reached at 581-7944 or DENSportsdesk@gmail.com.

FOOTBALL



ERIC HILTNER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Spyros Bazigos, a red-shirt junior defensive lineman, receives a hug from Andre Lima, a red-shirt senior defensive tackle, following the end of Eastern's 48-7 first round Football Championship Subdivision playoff loss to Southern Illinois University at McAndrew Stadium in Carbondale.

Loss tough finish for seniors

Fourteen seniors finish career in loss to SIU-C

By Collin Whitchurch
Sports Editor

Bodie Reeder's senior season didn't play out in the ideal way.

After starting every game of his junior year and seeing extensive playing time as a sophomore after transferring from Wyoming, Reeder found himself on the bench throughout 2009 as graduate student Jake Chris-

tensen led the Panthers to an Ohio Valley Conference Title.

But despite all that, Reeder stays positive when talking about his experience in his final season as a Panther.

"We've been through a lot, this senior class," said Reeder, who played the final two quarters of Saturday's season-ending loss to Southern Illinois-Carbondale. "We didn't make the playoffs last year and we were used to making a statement inside the conference. We felt like we brought our level up this year. We improved in all three phases of the game and set a good start for

next year's team."

Reeder took all but four snaps at quarterback in 2008. He finished with 13 touchdown passes and seven interceptions, but the team struggled to a 5-7 record and missed the playoffs for the first time since 2004.

This year was quite different. Reeder attempted just 18 passes all season with half of them coming against the Salukis. He sat and watched as Christensen, the former Iowa quarterback, throw for more than 2,200 yards and 19 touchdown passes and earned second team All-OVC honors.

Still, Reeder served as one of the

team's four captains and stayed positive, supporting his teammates as he sat on the sidelines. Despite finally seeing a lot of action in Saturday's loss, Reeder said the amount of playing time was no silver lining on a tough loss.

"It hurts just as much," he said.

Senior center Chaz Millard, a three-time All-OVC performer, is in a unique situation because he is projected by some to potentially be drafted in the NFL Draft in April.

The Web site cdsdraft.com projects Millard to be drafted in the sixth round of the seven-round draft.

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EASTERN SPORTS SCHEDULE

Women's basketball
Thursday at Tennessee State
5:30 p.m. - Nashville, Tenn.

Men's basketball
Thursday at Tennessee State
7:30 p.m. - Nashville, Tenn.

M&W swimming
Friday at Ball State
5 p.m. - Muncie, Ind.

Women's basketball
Saturday at Austin Peay
5:15 p.m. - Clarksville, Tenn.

Men's basketball
Saturday at Austin Peay
7:30 p.m. - Clarksville, Tenn.

For more please see eiupanthers.com

NATIONAL SPORTS

College basketball
Wake Forest at Purdue
6 p.m. on ESPN

College basketball
Maryland at Indiana
6:30 p.m. on ESPN2

College basketball
Mich. St. at N. Carolina
8 p.m. on ESPN

College basketball
Virginia Tech at Iowa
8:30 p.m. on ESPN2