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Daily Eastern News: August 15, 2013

Eastern Illinois University

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UNIVERSITY BOARD | MOVE-IN ACTIVITIES



Eastern students enjoy the activities of last year’s move-in weekend. Above: Head football coach Dino Babers addresses students at the First Night mixer hosted in the South Quad on August 19, 2012. Left: The marching band drumline performs during the new student photo at O’Brien Field on August 17, 2012. Right: Students dance at the Barnyard Bash New Student Mixer in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union on August 15, 2012.

Festive First Days

Panthers greeted with celebration

By Bob Galuski
News Editor
@BobGaluski

Soaking up the last few sunshine rays of summer before it sizzles away, members of the University Board have planned a three-day long tropical-themed celebration.

To greet new students arriving on Eastern’s campus for the first time, the Welcome Back Weekend will be titled “Welcome to Pantherdis,” and from Thursday to Saturday will feature activities centered on beach and tropic themes.

Kara Butorac, the UB chairwoman, said UB events have always had themes.

“We love having themes and being like punny about it. I feel like that’s the UB way,” she said, laughing.

“Welcome to Pantherdis” is the overarching theme of Welcome Back Weekend, and each of the days will have separate themes relating to it, Butorac said.

Sponsored by the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union, the Union Bookstore, the EIU Parent’s Club, the EIU Counseling Center and Papa John’s Pizza, each day will have its own slew of activities for students.

“They’re just some fun summer themes that are getting you back into the school vibe, the school spirit,” she said.

New Student Mixer

Kicking off Welcome Back Weekend for freshmen and transfer students will be the New Student Mixer, titled “Blua.”

The mixer will be at 8 p.m. Thursday in the South Quad.

The main attraction to the mixer will be a foam dance party, Butorac said.

“A company is coming in, setting up a pool-like thing and then it’ll have beans, and overhead it’ll have lights, and the foam will just come down from the top,” Butorac said.

She also said the mixer is an opportunity for freshmen and transfer students to come together to socialize, as they are all in similar situations.

“Anybody can come,” Butorac said. “It’s just that the new students will be there and it’ll be their opportunity to get to know other new students.”

Butorac said one of the challenges about putting on the mixer and Welcome Back Weekend was not having a solid idea of where it would go during the summer months.

“At the beginning of the summer we didn’t have a concrete idea, so one of the challenges was hammering it out over the summer and getting everything ready to go with that,” she said.

Butorac said the mixer is a great way for students to get to know one another before the school year.

“They’re already going to Playfair, I think they’re required to do that, so they’re already there and then there’ll be music, food and fun,” she said.

Up All Nite

Taking center stage at 7 p.m. Friday in the Union will be a hypnotist, featuring a blend of comedy and hypnotism during the “Honoblulu” themed Up All Nite.

Butorac said Rich Aimes, the hypnotist, represents a different take on the UB’s Up All Nite, because there has not been an Up All Nite that centers around a particular performer.

“We’ve had comedy acts in the past, but those are always in 7th Street Underground, so they don’t get as much attention as they deserve,” she said.

CELEBRATION, page 5

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Eastern quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo and wide receiver Erik Lora look forward to the upcoming season, including the season opener against San Diego State.

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PLAN AHEAD

Check out the calendar of upcoming events for move-in weekend.

Page 2



FIRST NIGHT

Tradition to kick off school year

By Jarad Jarmon
Student Governance editor
@den_news

Celebrating the start of the fall semester, student government will be hosting “Make it a Blue Night” from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday in the South Quad.

The night will include giveaways and performances from the Panther Marching Band, Pink Panther dance team and the Eastern cheerleaders.

Student Body President Kaylia Eskew said this will be the ninth year of this celebration.

“It is big tradition where we (Eastern) come together,” Eskew said. “It’s a unity.”

This will be the first year Eskew has run the celebration.

Eskew said the night will start with a pre-show at 7:30 p.m. hosted by Darnell Tyms, student vice president of student affairs.

The pre-show will have a performance by the dance group Rhythm and X-tacy.

Alumni will also be serving hotdogs during the pre-show.


Eskew said they will also be giving away pom-poms and thunder sticks.

After Eskew, Tyms and Omar Solomon, an admissions counselor, welcome everyone to the night the marching band and Billy the Panther will perform.

TRADITION, page 5


Local weather

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FRIDAY



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Calendar of Featured Events

Thursday - August 15

9 a.m. Official Move-In Day
- EIU Campus

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Cool Off on the Quad with Career Services
- South Quad

3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. Welcome to the Neighborhood Picnic
- South Quad

7 p.m. Special Events: Welcome to Pantherdise
- South Quad

All Day Event Cultivating Creativity Exhibit
- Booth Library

Friday - August 16

8 a.m. Graduate Student Orientation
- Coleman Hall (Room 1771)

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Cool Off on the Quad with Career Services
- South Quad

7 p.m. UB Special Events: Welcome to Pantherdise
- MLK Union

All Day Event Cultivating Creativity Exhibit
- Booth Library

Saturday - August 17

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. WEIU Kids Day
- Kiwanis Park

7 p.m. UB Special Events: Welcome to Pantherdise
- South Quad


All Day Event Cultivating Creativity Exhibit
- Booth Library

Sunday - August 18


9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Button Boot Camp Training
- McAfee Gym (Room 1214)

All Day Event Cultivating Creativity Exhibit
- Booth Library

GRAPHIC BY ALEX VILLA



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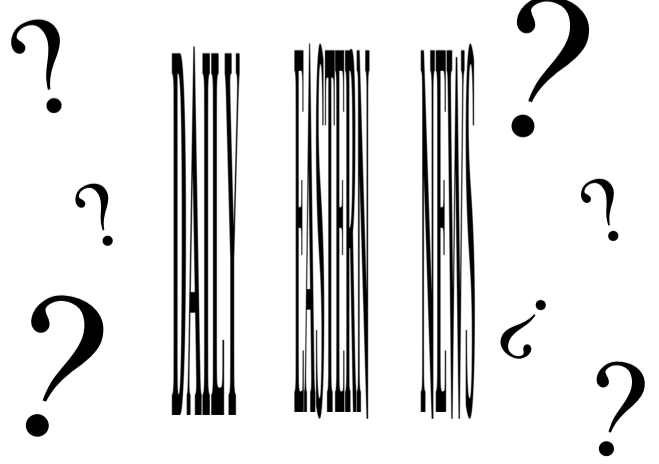
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FIRST NIGHT | ENTERTAINMENT

Hypnotist to mesmerize students

By **Stephanie Markham**
Verge Editor
@den_verge

Students willing to momentarily surrender their freewill could get the chance during an upcoming performance by comedic hypnotist Frederick Winters.

Winters has been hypnotizing Eastern students for 11 years, and according to his website, he has put on more than 2,000 shows and hypnotized more than 155,000 people.

Winters said it all started on Halloween night during his freshman year of college at Northwestern University.

He said an interest in psychology prompted him to see a hypnotist perform at his school that night, and he was riveted by the presentation.

“I couldn’t believe the power he had over these people,” Winters said. “And actually, you learn that you have no power over people as hypnotists, but that’s what it looks like.”

Winters said he was mentored and even became close friends with the hypnotist who inspired him, and he went on to become certified in hypnotherapy.

Showing people how powerful real hypnosis can be is what Winters said he enjoys most about performing for audiences.

“A lot of people come up to me after the show and say ‘I never believed in this until I saw your work,’” he said.

Winters said being hypnotized is similar to being in a dreamlike state.

“It’s kind of like how you can fly in

your dreams,” he said. “When I hypnotize people, I can make them think they can fly, but I wouldn’t do it just so they don’t take a flying leap off the stage.”

When people are hypnotized, they are not unconscious, rather they enter an altered state of consciousness that is focused on the hypnotist’s voice, he said.

“We’re kind of taking away critical thinking, so when you calm the mind down with people in a state of hypnosis, they’re not challenging you, and they take whatever suggestions I give them very practically as fact,” he said.

He said hypnosis essentially takes logical people like students and places them in illogical situations.

“I can hypnotize someone and say, ‘When I snap my finger, your belly button is gone and you can’t find it anywhere,’” he said. “Then they can look straight at the thing and not recognize it.”

Winters said some people resist entering hypnosis because of nervousness or other factors, so he only pulls people on stage who have volunteered.

“Some people are a little tougher,

but it doesn’t mean they can’t be hypnotized, it just means that their subconscious isn’t ready at that moment,” he said.

Although he makes students do funny things, Winters said it is important that the show is in good taste and people are not embarrassed.

Dawn Howe, secretary of the Residence Hall Association, said a performance by Winters would be a great way to kick off the school year because he always puts on a great show.

“I think the audience really likes it because a lot of people want to be that one to get hypnotized,” she said.

Campus Activities Magazine named Winters the Entertainer of the Year in 2006 and Best Male Performer in 2010.

Jody Stone, the associate director of residential life and conference services, said in an email that the crowd for Winters’ shows have grown from about 400 to 600 over the past 11 years.

“It is important for students to know that Frederick has four different shows, so any student who attended last year will be guaranteed to see a new show,” Stone said.

Stone said the Residence Hall Association would be giving out more than \$500 in raffle prizes at the end of the show.

Winters’ performance will be 3 p.m. Sunday in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Frederick Winters has performed as a hypnotist at Eastern for 11 years, and he will perform at 3 p.m. on Sunday in the Grand Ballroom at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Stephanie Markham can be reached at 581-2812 or samarkham@eiu.edu.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Socializing
can be key
to first days

As new freshmen and transfer students spend their first days at Eastern, they will make important first connections.

When dealing with the stress of moving in, figuring out campus and trying to find your place, here are some things to keep in mind.

Meet the people in your residence hall and your roommate. Also make sure you know who the resident assistants are in your building. They are there if you need them. This will also be the best time to make friends, and they could become some of your best friends for now and the future.

Get to know your roommate. You have to live with this person, so this weekend will be the prime time to bond. Once classes start, you will be on different schedules and may not have the hangout time you will now.

Go to the events planned for the weekend. These will help you see Eastern and get a true feel of who we are. The activities are not only designed for entertainment but to help you acclimate to your new environment.

Get organized. You have the time to get your room set up and your mind prepared for school. Once classes start, you will be busy. This is also the time to get your books. Some students wait until after classes start, but you will want them sooner rather than later.

Figure out your schedule. Remember when you were that senior in high school seeing the freshmen trying to find their classes? Well, it's your turn again. Take the time to print out your schedule and walk around campus to find out where all your classes are.

When you're done walking around campus, map out in your mind how you're going to go about your days. Will it be class, room, class or class, class, food. This will help you figure out what you will need to have with you during the day.

Remember to take advantage of the time you will have these first few days. It will only last for so long.

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This might all be very new to you, and if that's the case, I'm jealous.

You might be an incoming freshman at the beginning of your collegiate journey, or you might be a transfer student who left your old home for a new one here.

In either case, if these are your first few days at Eastern, welcome and congratulations.

You've got a new life here, and you can build it the way you want. It comes with new friends, a chance to pursue your passions or discover new ones, and opportunities to build yourself a better future.

The newness of your time here might be scary. You may not know who these new friends of yours will be, or what kind of future you want to build right now. That's OK, you don't need to figure this out right away.

This new life will take work. Whatever passions you have you'll want to give them your all, whatever friends you make you'll want to respect and whatever future you build you'll want to make sure it's a good one.

You'll have decisions to make. These will be tough, and you will want to think



Seth Schroeder

them over carefully, but you won't be alone. Remember, you just joined a new community. This means in addition to your old support system, you've now got a team of professors, advisers, administrators, resident assistants and fellow students who can potentially all offer you a helping hand.

In addition to all those people, you'll also have us. We are staff of *The Daily Eastern News*. We are reporters, photographers, editors, designers and artists working every day to put together the best publication we can to serve you.

We are all students developing our own passions while looking out for the campus we are proud to call home.

No one else can cover Eastern like we can. *The News* is the first draft of our universi-

ty's history; your history. We are part of your Eastern family, and we will support you the best way we know how.

Our goal is to tell your story. Let us know the best way to do this. Give us a call, email us or even reach out on Facebook or Twitter. If you would rather chat in person, our newsroom is located at 1811 Buzzard Hall. Stop by and say hi, we want to hear your thoughts and concerns.

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Many of our paid positions are open, and we are always looking for writers, photographers, designers or anyone looking to hone their skills.

No experience is necessary, and we will help teach you what you need to know.

We are your paper, and we want to serve you.

Our staff is here to help during your first days, and we will be here until graduation. Welcome home.

Seth Schroeder is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or denopinions@gmail.com

DRAWN FROM THE EASEL



ZAK JONES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Learn how to live, love the residence hall lifestyle

One may think living in the residence halls is an easy adjustment, but it is not like home.

I hate to break it to the freshmen and transfer students living on campus, but the dorm life is different and can be difficult to adjust to. I suggest making new friends and you can all try to help one another adjust to not having mom and dad there when you need something.

The friends you make in your residence hall can make your adjustment easier. My first year at Eastern, I wasn't only new, but I was a transfer student. I met some returning students and freshmen that made my adjustment to dorm life easier, and now they are like my family.

Having found these friends resulted in having an open door policy in my room for anyone who ever needs or needed to talk.

In the dorms, the resident assistants are there to talk to if you need them, but they won't be your alarm clock or remind you



Emily Provance

to study. They are students too. Life in a dorm doesn't have to be hard; having personal touches of home with you will help you adjust. Bring pictures of home, a favorite snack or a favorite blanket you can curl up under.

Being a transfer student is also a hard adjustment and even more so if you have never lived on another campus before. You are not as new, you are bringing credits and experience with you, so you are more likely to find returning students easier to connect with.

That final adjustment comes to those who

may have never had to share a bathroom or a bedroom. Unless you have bought out your room, you probably have a roommate.

You might have a roommate agreement, but you also have to sit down with your roommate and talk about boundaries. Better to figure them out now than to wait and have problems later.

Bathrooms are not bad, but they do take some getting used to. There is something about knowing someone is showering next to you that still gets to me, but it reminds me of summer camp. If you have ever been to summer camp you will be fine.

It may be stressful at first, but the bottom line is to try to make it as home-like as possible.

Oh, and don't ever forget your shower shoes.

Emily Provance is a senior journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or denopinions@gmail.com

Sorting through the stacks



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Amanda Krch, a junior special education and elementary education major, searches for her textbooks at Textbook Rental Monday. Textbook Rental is open Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for students to pickup their books before classes begin.

» TRADITION CONTINUED FROM PAGE1

They will be followed by the cheerleaders, Pink Panthers and then the Eastern athletic teams.

Once in the quad, the marching band will play the EIU Fight Song while accompanied by the cheerleaders and the Pink Panthers on stage.

Following the fight song, the cheerleaders will perform, followed by another group performance with the Pink Panthers and the Panther Marching Band.

The cheerleader squad captain Allie Moran said that they will be performing tradition cheers in order to get new cheerleaders use to the cheers and to show support to Eastern.

"I am definitely excited about the first night," Moran said. "It is a perfect way to wrap up the weekend and it exemplifies what EIU stands for."

The cheerleaders will also be teaching the crowd the fight song.

In addition to the fight song, the EIU War Chant will also be played and taught at the event.

J. Corey Francis, the assistant director of bands, originally wrote the chant last year, which was first played at the last game of the football season.

"I think it will really catch on with new students," Francis said. "I think it will be really big for our band."

The marching band and the Pink Panthers will then perform again.

"Make it a Blue Night" will end with the teaching and singing of the Alma Mater.

Student government will then be handing out 500 T-shirts.

Jarad Jarmon can be reached at 217-581-2812 or jsjarmon@eiu.edu.

» CELEBRATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE1

On Sunday, the Residence Housing Association will be hosting their own hypnotist, a scheduling Butorac said was an oversight.

"They're two different people, so hopefully they'll have enough variety," she said. "And I think not as many students will be on campus for ours, so hopefully the ones who missed ours can go to theirs so everybody can get a taste."

Butorac said Aimes would be giving his performance in the Grand Ballroom of the Union and everything else during Up All Nite would branch off from there.

"The hypnotist is right away at the beginning, and if they don't want to go to that they can go over to the other things," she said.

Other activities filling the night are a part of what Butorac calls "Creation Stations."

"For Up All Nite we're going to have more tropical beach party theme," she said. "We'll have make your own flip-flops, they're going to have little towels with airbrush, and then we'll have the usual caricature and sand art and things like that. And of course, free T-Shirt giveaways here."

Butorac added one of the good outcomes of having Up All Nite center around a performer, and then have activities on the side, was being able to make sure students were entertained throughout the evening.

"So it's like you get use of the whole night," Butorac said. "We want you there enjoying the whole night."

"Welcome to Pantherdise" is the "Blue Lagoon"-themed Quakin' in the Quad.

At 7 p.m. Saturday in the South Quad, students can gather to listen to music, eat food, and ride a mechanical great white shark.

Not a mechanical bull, Butorac said, but in keeping with the tropic theme, students can try their hand at staying on a mechanical great white shark.

For those who might not be interested in riding the shark, Butorac said other activities would be available.

"There's also this surfing thing, I think it's like a blow-up, and you're riding a surfboard," she said. "We have other inflatables."

In addition, there would also be what Butorac called "Wet and Wild" games for students to participate in.

She also said Quakin' in the Quad was the big celebration for food.

"This is the night we also have a lot of food," Butorac said. "We have tropical food, like ka-bobs, shaved ice, hamburgers, hotdogs. Papa John's is donating. We'll have pizza and food for everyone."

Quakin' in the Quad will be acting as the grand finale for "Welcome to Pantherdise," she added.

This is the big one, Butorac said. All of the other days are leading up to Quakin' in the Quad.

"And then First Night is right after that," she said. "It's all getting you ready for school to start."

Quakin' in the Quad
Rounding out the schedule of

Bob Galuski can be reached at 581-2812 or rggaluski@eiu.edu.

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ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

New staff arrives at Eastern

By Aldo Soto
Assistant Sports Editor
@AldoSoto21

Eastern's women's athletics had a bit of an overhaul beginning on May 16 when Debbie Black was hired as the new women's basketball coach.

But it didn't stop there.

Nearly a month after Kim Schuette accepted the head coach position for Purdue's softball team, Angie Nicholson was named Eastern's softball coach on July 19.

The final change came on Aug. 1, when Jason Cherry became the women's soccer interim head coach just 22 days before the start of the season.

Debbie Black

Black last worked as an assistant coach at Ohio State under the tutelage of head coach Jim Foster.

During her time as a Buckeye, the Saint Joseph's graduate was part of a coaching staff that saw six conference championships in eight seasons.

Black began her coaching career as an assistant in 1999 at Vanderbilt.

In 1999, she was drafted in the second round of the WNBA draft by the Utah Starzz. A year later, she began playing for the Miami Sol.

During her time in Miami (2000-02), Black earned a WNBA defensive player of the year award at the age of 35. Black finished her playing career in Connecticut, spending three years with the Sun before her retirement in 2005.

Angie Nicholson

Nicholson compiled a 211-152 record during her seven years as the Cleveland State softball head coach.

Nicholson coached Cleveland State to a pair of Horizon League regular-season championships in 2008 and 2010. Cleveland State also won the conference tournament title in 2009, which gave the school its first NCAA appearance since 1997.

Prior to her coaching stint at Cleveland State, Nicholson spent the 2006 season as Butler's coach and also coached Ursuline College, an NAIA school for one season as well. In that one season at Ursuline College, Nicholson coached the team to 25 wins, 22 more wins than the previous season.

Jason Cherry

Cherry was announced as the women's soccer coach interim head coach less than a month before the team's season began and only a week before the team reported to preseason camp.

Cherry joined the Eastern coaching staff in 2012 as an assistant coach.

Cherry was the top assistant coach at Western Illinois from 2008-11 and later became part of the East Carolina coaching staff during the 2011 season.

In his one year at East Carolina, the Pirates advanced to the Conference USA tournament semi-finals after a three-year absence from the tournament.

Cherry makes his head coaching debut against Oakland at home on Aug. 23 starting at 3 p.m. at Lakeside Field.

Aldo Soto can be reached at 581-2812 or asoto2@eiu.edu.

FOOTBALL



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Erik Lora, red-shirt senior wide receiver, runs the ball toward the endzone during the game on September 29, 2012 against Austin Peay at O'Brien Field.

Panthers look toward schedule

By Aldo Soto
Assistant Sports Editor
@AldoSoto21

The Eastern football team was ranked No. 19 by CollegeSports-Madness.com, making it the fifth top-25 ranking in the preseason.

Expectations have skyrocketed heading into the 2013 season after winning the Ohio Valley Conference title a year ago under first-year head coach Dino Babers.

Babers' elusive offense led the OVC with 5,651 total yards, falling second to Murray State in average yards per game and average points per game.

Wide receiver Erik Lora, the OVC Athlete of the Year, and quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo lead the fast-paced Panther offense return for their senior seasons.

Garoppolo has his eyes focused on week one at San Diego State.

"I'm looking forward to every game," Garoppolo said. "San Diego State is the first one and it's a big one."

Lora, Garoppolo's favorite target from a year ago, also said he is looking forward to the West Coast trip at the end of August.

"There are a couple of games on the schedule that are circled, definitely," Lora said. "San Diego State being our first game and coming back from (last season) that's a big one."

Aside from the season opener on Aug. 31, Lora said he is very much looking forward to the Panthers' conference opener against Eastern Kentucky.

In 2012, the Colonels finished second to Eastern in the OVC at 6-2 and in the head-to-head matchup in Richmond, Ky., the Panthers walked away with a 24-7 win.

Garoppolo was 32-of-51 and threw a touchdown, but also tossed two interceptions to the OVC's best scoring defense.

Lora finished the game with 10 receptions and 97 yards with a touchdown as Eastern Kentucky held the Panthers to their lowest point total in any conference game

that season.

"They have always given us a good match," Lora said. "We have always had tough games against them so, I don't think anything has changed."

The top two teams from the OVC will take to O'Brien Field on Sept. 28, for Eastern's family weekend.

A week before Eastern's first conference game, fans willing to make the nearly four-hour commute to Dekalb will see potential Heisman candidate Jordan Lynch quarterbacking Northern Illinois' offense.

Lynch became the first player in FBS history to run for more than 1,500 yards (1,815) and throw for more than 3,00 yards (3,138).

The Huskies' quarterback led Northern Illinois to 12 straight wins and the school's first ever BCS berth in the Orange Bowl.

Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. in Huskie Stadium on Sept. 21.

Entering his second year as coach of the Panthers, Babers said he wants his team to be even faster than it was in 2012.

Babers' saw Eastern score 49

points against Southern Illinois to start last season, but if anyone had doubts about the team's potential, Lora's breakout performance against Murray State three weeks later answered at least some questions as to how good the Panthers could be.

Lora set an Eastern and OVC record with 21 receptions and set a school-record with 269 receiving yards, which led the Panthers to a 50-49 overtime-win against the Racers.

Year two under Babers has seen the team train harder during the off-season to gain muscle strength in the legs, Lora said.

Last year, the Panthers were among the fastest teams in the OVC, but this year, Babers expects his team to even faster.

It may be hard to top last year's game, but Eastern and Murray State will meet on Nov. 9, in Murray, Ky., pitting the OVC's top two offenses from last season.

Aldo Soto can be reached at 581-2812 or asoto2@eiu.edu.

MEN'S SOCCER

Soccer preseason begins Friday

Blue and White Intrasquad competition 6 p.m. at Lakeside Field

By: Michael Spencer
Staff Reporter
@tmskeeper

The Eastern men's soccer team has a full slate of exhibition matches scheduled before the season officially begins on Aug. 30 against University of Illinois-Chicago.

Eastern will open preseason exhibition play at 6 p.m. Friday at Lakeside field, where the team will participate in the Blue and White Intrasquad competition.

The Panthers will then face St. Xavier at 2 p.m on Aug. 17 at Lakeside Field.

Eastern saw St. Xavier in the preseason last year when the Panthers drew 1-1 after leading for nearly the entire second half.

Eastern conceded a late goal from a set piece free kick to level the score with only seconds left in the match.

The preseason will continue for the Panthers in Indianapolis to play Butler on Aug. 20 before returning home for the final leg of the exhibition schedule against Dayton on Aug. 24.

Adam Howarth, an alumnus of Eastern in his 14th season as head coach, said earlier this summer that his biggest problem with the way the Panthers ended their 3-13-1 campaign last season, was that they fell short of his expectations.

In addition to winning only three matches, a percentage of just .206, the Panthers were just 1-5-1 in con-

ference, leaving them last place in the Summit League.

A large part of that battle was sorting out defensive issues, particularly at the centerback position, Howarth said.

Additionally, an early injury to goalkeeper Evan Turner led sophomore Garrett Creasor to see the field in 11 matches during his freshman season.

Despite a less than positive 2012, the Panthers rebounded in the off-season, only losing once in spring play, a record that Howarth attributes to his team's new attitude.

"In the spring we took a very much different approach in our preparation in terms of our play," he said. "We did some things that I think created a good atmosphere around the team. I think it was a really positive spring."

Part of that preparation involved

selecting a new team captain.

The sixteen players returning for the 2013 season picked senior midfielder Jake Plant.

Plant is a native of Birmingham, England, and joined the team last season from Northern Iowa Community College.

Plant played in 17 games in his first season with the team and scored two goals.

He was also selected for the Summit League academic honor roll last fall.

Eastern added a particularly large recruiting-class for 2013 as 10 new players have found their way to the Panther's roster.

"We will find out in preseason who is going to be the best and who steps up," Howarth said.

Michael Spencer can be reached at 581-2812 or at tmspencer2@eiu.edu.