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The Keep

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

'TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID'

FALL BACK INTO FUN

WELCOME WEEKEND BRINGS FAIR, FIRST NIGHT, FRESHMEN, MORE

By News Staff
@DEN_news

Loud music echoing across the campus from Eastern's Panther Marching Band starting off this year's First Night Spirit Rally.

As they made their way to O'Brien Field the school's spirit was felt all around the stadium.

First Night was the final event held on Welcome Weekend. The event was full of

activities, live performances and prizes to get the students to interact with one another, share their panther pride and leave them with energy to take into their first day of classes.

University President Jay Gatrell was very energetic as it was his first "First Night Spirit Rally" as Eastern's

***Welcome Weekend,
Jump Page 4***

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Welcome Weekend story and photos

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Athletes to watch this season



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About
The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published weekly on Wednesday, in Virden, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and online during the summer term except during university vacations or examinations. One copy per week is free to students and faculty. Additional copies can be obtained for 50 cents each in the Student Publications Office in Buzzard Hall.




Advertising
To place an advertisement or classified ad in *The Daily Eastern News*, call the ads office at 581-2812 or fax 581-2923. Visit our online advertisements at dailyeasternnews.com/classifieds.

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Contact any of the above staff members if you believe your information is relevant.

Corrections
The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds or is made aware of by its readers will be corrected as promptly as possible. Please report any factual error you find to Editor-in-Chief Madelyn Kidd at 581-2812.

Employment
If you would like to work for *The Daily Eastern News* as a reporter, photographer, columnist, cartoonist, copy editor, designer or videographer, please visit at the news-room at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

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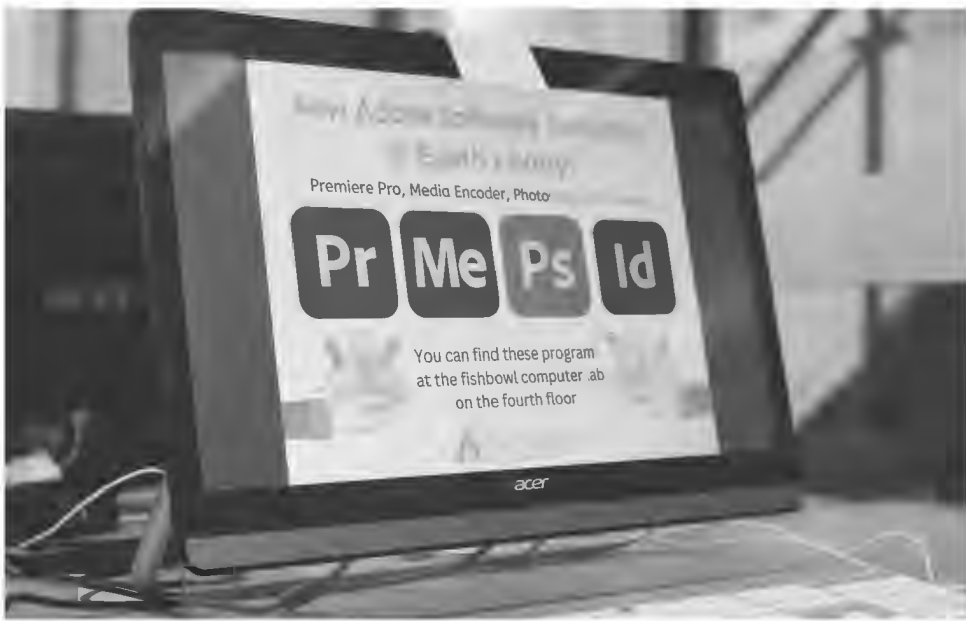
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Adobe now free for Eastern

By **Chandler Smith**
Reporter | @DEN_news

All Eastern students and employees will have access to the Adobe Creative Suite programs. According to an email from the University, Eastern secured the Creative Cloud through a partnership with all Illinois public higher education institutions. After three years, students will need to re-apply for access annually. Adobe products for students can be a luxury to have and some production classes at Eastern require some use of the Adobe products. In the past, these products were not easily accessible for students in production classes and many students needed better access to Adobe.

The students in production classes used to spend hours on production work at the library. Now, they can spend the time at home working on their projects. “I had to use Adobe for my major as a TV video production major, it’s very expensive,” said Bailey Annan, a senior TV and video production major said. “So, it was hard just to like, get my assignments done because it’s like, I had to make time to go to the library.” A lot of students learned how to use Adobe in the classroom and now it is more beneficial for the students to access the product. “I know how Adobe works,” said TV and video production major Ethan Lozada .”It is like you are taught how to use Adobe because it is offered on campus.” It can also be helpful for students in audio production classes and students who prefer Adobe over other free products.



FILE PHOTO

Eastern will offer all students and faculty access to the entire Adobe Creative Cloud Suite for free. Students can log in using their school emails.

“So, I’m in all sorts of production classes, whether for video, audio, voice or music,” theatre student Mitch Cox said. “So, when it comes to the Adobe products, they offer a lot of quality with their software, where other software’s don’t have the accessibility and ease that Adobe products have.” Since students can access Adobe Creative Cloud anywhere on their personal computers now some wonder why the university could not have made the product available sooner. “I don’t need the Adobe software anymore because I’m done with those courses that need it, but like, if I had it, it would have been so much easier to do all of my courses.” Annan said. The product subscription was made free for students and employees thanks to a new contract and a lower price for the product.

“A few things happened that made it possible for Eastern to offer Adobe to all students at no additional cost to the student,” Director for Information Technology Service Ryan Gibson said. “First, through a partnership with other public 4-year Illinois universities, Eastern obtained a lower price point than was previously possible.” Also, the decision was made by Eastern so the university can better enhance support for curriculum and address the digital divide that many students were facing. For the students of communication and journalism majors who use the product a lot this has become an easier way to access the adobe product.

Chandler Smith can be reached at 581-2812 or at cbsmith5@eiu.edu.

FRONT PAGE BY ROB LE CATES

What's Happening August 23 - 30

Wednesday IFC Recruitment 6 a.m. - 7 p.m. - MLK Junior Union	Saturday NPHC B-B-Que 12 p.m. - 7 p.m. - South Quad Pancake Bar + Saturday Morning Cartoons 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. - ILCM Student Center	Monday Field Day with Student Government 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. - Library Quad
Thursday BSU Chill & Chat 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Library Quad	Sunday YOUR EVENT COULD GO HERE!	Tuesday University Board General Body Meeting 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. - Buzzard Hall 1140
Friday Kickin/ It with NPHC - Kickball Game 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. - Library Quad		Wednesday Poker Club 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. - MLK Junior Union

Send your event information to dennewsdesk@gmail.com to be added to our online and print calendars!

Resources to use on campus

By Audra Gullquist
Assistant News Editor | @DEN_News

Every student new or returning is eligible for the abundance of resources Eastern provides to ensure that campus feels like home.

Taking advantage of these opportunities, services and resources can help students excel in classes and ease any nerves that come with the back-to-school season.

The Martin Luther King Jr. University Union strives to provide services that cater to all students' needs.

The Union is home to the bookstore, hair salon, B&B Java, EIU Lanes, Panther Pantry, Panther Print and Copy Center and much more.

The bookstore is located on the first floor of the Union, on the east side, and is a student's one-stop-shop for all academic needs.

They carry school merchandise as well as school and art supplies, posters and gift cards to help students prepare for returning to class.

The bookstore is open Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and closed on Sunday. For further information on the bookstore, call 1-217-581-5821 or email remartin@eiu.edu.

Eastern's Panther Pantry provides snacks and drinks for students needing



ASHANTI THOMAS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Java Beanery & Bakery is an on-campus cafe that is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays. The cafe is closed on Saturday and Sunday.

some fuel to get through their classes.

Those in a rush can find convenience in the array of breakfast and snack foods provided by the Panther Pantry. The pantry is open Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. and closed Saturday-Sunday.

As a college student, it is critical to add some socializing and fun to the busy schedule.

It can be difficult to take some time away from school work to hangout with friends, which is why Eastern's Union is also home to bowling lanes.

EIU Lanes invites students, faculty and the community to take a break from all their hard work at a very affordable price.

The bowling alley offers pool, arcade games and TV. Student leagues are also held at EIU Lanes every fall and spring. EIU Lanes is open Friday- Saturday: 4 p.m.- 10 p.m. and Sunday: 4 p.m.- 9 p.m.

The Panther Shuttle provides accessible transportation to students, faculty and members of the community. The routes of the shuttle can be viewed on

Eastern's website. The shuttle is available all days of the week.

Any questions regarding the shuttle may be directed at 217-581-3213.

College can be hard for many college students, mentally and physically. Sarah Bush Lincoln, SBL, health and counseling medic clinic makes help easily accessible to students.

The clinic pledges that its mission is "to address health and wellness needs which impact the ability of our students to be successful in and out of the classroom through a variety of individual, interpersonal, population, and environmental methods and strategies which focus on health promotion, prevention, consultation, intervention, treatment, aftercare, and recovery."

In pursuit of accomplishing their mission, the SBL clinic provides many services to all students.

Free flu shots are also accessible to students. However, the dates for future flu vaccination clinics have not yet been released. The clinic is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information regarding student resources and services, visit their website.

Audra Gullquist can be reached at 581-2812 or at agullquist@eiu.edu.

THROUGH THE LENS: Move-in Madness



PHOTOS BY ASHANTI THOMAS, TYRIQ JOHNSON, & DT EMBERY-TAYLOR

Top left: Student ambassadors also known as Panther Pals, help students and their families move in to Thomas Hall on the first day of new student move in.

Top right: Dad, Matt Doran, helps his daughter Olivia Doran, a freshman, move into her dorm for her first year time. Doran said, "she's my baby, it's hard to let her be on her own you know, but I gotta let her spread those wings and live her life"

Bottom Left: Students and family members wait at Andrews Hall for the elevators to take them to their floor.

Bottom Right: Many students and their family members move into Andrews Hall on the first day of new student move in.



Top right: Jay Gatrell, the new president at EIU speaks to the crowd at the First Night spirit rally



Bottom Left: At First night the crowd tries to catch toy footballs and bracelets thrown by Eastern illinois Football team Sunday Nigh

Bottom Right: Team Leaders Emily Ross (left), a senior music education major, and Kennedi Hall (right), a human services program administration graduate student, paint a lamppost at at The Square Saturday morning. Ross thinks that the community coming together will be beneficial to everyone involved. "It's going to ensure the success of all of our students, our community and ensure the success of keeping the university alive, keeping numbers good here, just keeping a positive community that attracts students," Ross said.



Left: The crowd at the First Night spirit rally try to catch footballs, necklaces, and t-shirts that were being thrown to them Sunday night.

Down: Toni Abatangelo, a junior elementary education major, and Megan Savanglio, a senior career technical education major, ride a swing ride Saturday evening Both said they hope Eastern will regularly hold fairs for years to come.



Students, Eastern, community enjoy weekend festivities

Jump from cover

"As provost, I basically watched the event and didn't have an active role, although I threw a few T-shirts a couple of times," Gatrell said. "This year it was great to be there in a new role and meet students."

Although it was his first spirit rally, Gatrell has been attending the events every year since he started in 2017.

"I always enjoy the Panther Marching Band. I also enjoy the excitement of the Greek letter organizations from NPHC, IFC, PHC, and the Multicultural Council and the student-athletes," Gatrell said. "It's just a fun evening."

Student Affairs Vice President Anne Flaherty was in attendance displaying her school spirit through her blue and white attire and necklace made of blue string lights.

"It's my favorite time of the year," Flaherty said. "I love having students back I love the energy and I love the excitement and the potential for the year ahead."

For almost 10 years there has been one man in charge of controlling the First Night crowd and that's Mr. EIU aka Admissions Counselor Omar Soloman. Whether it is creating a new chant or getting the audience pumped to greet their

next speaker, Soloman steals the show with energy like no other.

"I live through the students; the students empower us to do our jobs better, so I feed off their energy so it's kinda easy," Solomon said. "When the students give me that energy, I have to give it right back tenfold."

Claire Meek, a freshman journalism major, was one of many smiling faces in the audience who shared her thoughts for this upcoming semester

"I'm looking forward to meeting people and just getting like more involved in the school, I'm kinda nervous I just hope I like find my classes," Meek said.

Carlos Cortez Jr., a senior exercise major, was full of excitement and enthusiasm the whole night as he was happy to finally be back on campus.

"I found my group and kinda my home away from home in Alpha Psi Lambda so it's a great feeling that I have them behind my back, I got myself and everyone who's supported me throughout," said Cortez.

His favorite activity from the night was strolling with his fraternity and the other Greek organizations on campus.

"I love strolling it's been a minute you know," Cortez said. "[I] took the summer off you know but I'm back but it's definitely fun especially strolling with the other groups and organizations it's always

fun," he said

As First Night came to a close, the students were left with one overall theme: enjoy your time here, talk to a stranger, shake a hand, make a friend and keep your spirits high because school starts bright and early tomorrow morning.

Welcome Weekend Fair

Nerves crept over Kristal Muñoz, a senior criminology/criminal justice major, as the night progressed at the Welcome Weekend Fall Fair.

In addition to providing a fun event for new and returning students, another goal is to bring the Charleston and Eastern communities together.

Muñoz said she was super nervous that people would not be receptive to the efforts.

Her anxiety spiked after a community member asked if she had any involvement with planning the fair.

She prepared herself to be chewed out, but she was pleasantly surprised when the woman said she brought her four grandchildren and wanted to thank the organizers for putting on the fair. The grandmother went on to say she has not seen this side of Charleston in a long time and appreciated the students' friendliness toward her grandchildren and other community members.



Braylon Willis, a senior fashion merchandising major, competes in the dance competition at First Night spirit rally.

"That was really heartwarming to hear. I almost shed a tear," Muñoz said. "It's nice to know, in theory, people are enjoying [the fair], but to have someone who's actually been in town for a while say it to your face, it just touches your heart."

University Board started planning the

"When I see [attendants] come up and hear in passing be like, 'Oh my gosh, I gotta come back tomorrow,' [it] makes me happy."

- Kristal Muñoz

fair in April, with a desire for a larger-scale event than in years past. Muñoz worked behind the scenes during the summer, as the summer programmer on bringing the fair to life and worked the fair all three nights.

Last year's event was rained out and COVID restricted several years of events prior to the rain, and, the organization had extra funds to invest in larger-scale rides.

Quakin' in the Quad has been a tradition for the past several years. The gathering would house several inflatable attractions like a bull ride, jousting, obstacle courses and hatchet throwing in the South Quad.

What was once inflatable is now metal and fast-moving.

Some of the rides included two Ferris wheels, one in which its cab spun, a tilt-a-whirl, two swing-like rides, and several rides catered toward younger children.

Carnival game classics like balloon darts, ring toss, and ball in the basket were available to be played at a price of

around \$10.

Most of the rides had an extensive line with students exiting the ride only to jump right back in to ride again.

Director of the Office of Student Life Ceci Brinker said the last fair-like event held dated back to 2016 and repetition is one of the reasons why they brought back the miniature carnival.

Originally, students would be allowed free entry with community members being required to pay for each ride or purchase unlimited ride wristbands for \$20, but Brinker said the group received some push-back on the choice and decided to lift the payroll.

The group decided wristbands and student IDs for each ride would be too confusing and complicated, so Brinker said the group simplified things so it would have a laid-back atmosphere.

"We just thought starting the school year [with the fair] would be a great way to do that, as well as improve the Charleston community," Brinker said.

"[The positive feedback] what's holding me together these days," Muñoz said. "When I see [attendants] come up and hear in passing be like, 'Oh my gosh, I gotta come back tomorrow,' [it] makes me happy."

Alexis Moore-Johns, Cam'ron Hardy, Payton Liggins and Rob Le Cates contributed to this story. Individual stories available online.

The News can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.



Up: Omar Solomon hosted 2023 First Night for Eastern Illinois University and also introduced Jay Gatrell first year as president



Left: The Panther Marching Band performs at the First Night spirit rally

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Changes in 2023

By Rob Le Cates

When I joined *The News* two years ago I knew instantly I wanted to become Editor-in-Chief due to those around me who influenced and helped me fall in love with journalism.

This will be my third year here and I can tell you, my excitement has been building since I started planning in May. From my time working here, I have had the opportunity of covering a wide variety of topics including a fatal car crash, Unofficial, house fires, the Hindu holiday Holi, last semester's faculty strike, Miss Black EIU, a memorial service held for a student who took their own life, and much more.

I have had several leadership position from my time here those include assistant photo editor, photo editor and summer editor-in-chief.

There will be a few changes this semester and goals I hope to achieve as a staff.

One of the changes is shifting our focus to online content. In years past I feel we have devoted a heavy amount of attention to our print product and started to lose sight of daily storytelling.

As much as it saddens me to say, our print products are not picked up consistently enough to where we can think print first and online second.

Jumping off our focus, we are making a major push to utilize and re-brand our social media. As mentioned, our print product is not as popular as it was before, so we have to go where students are.

I have helped run our Instagram for the past year and a half, and am excited to say we have seen a noticeable spike in engagement. I hope to get the re-brand launched as soon as possible but expect a delay.

Another new addition is our weekly audio and written newsletter released Friday morning. This is something I am excited about because not only are podcasts becoming quite popular but it allows us a new way to deliver content to you in around five minutes.

The newsletter will be a highlight of the week where the host will talk about five or six stories including updates about Eastern's sports.

With these new changes, I have assembled a staff I have complete confidence in. Some are returning members from past semesters but most are new to *The News*. This excites me because not only are they going to be working for me but it brings in new coverage ideas.

Rob Le Cates can be reached at 581-2812 or at deneic@gmail.com.



PHOTO BY ROB LE CATES

EDITORIAL

Welcome to The News

If you are reading this then there is a good chance you know who we are but if you don't... we are *The Daily Eastern News*, Eastern's student-run newspaper operating since 1915..

We have been fortunate enough to still continue producing a print product and are one of a few Illinois state institutions who still print. All content is thought of, produced by, and published by students (like you).

The News covers a wide variety of things on and off campus that pertains to our main audience, Eastern and its students.

In years past we have had a small-but-mighty staff, and luckily this year we are starting out with the biggest initial staff in the last three years of around 25 individuals.

While most of us and a fraction of our audience love the print edition, papers aren't being picked up as much anymore. We wanted to transition away from thinking print first and online second.

This year, we are realigning our focus to online storytelling and content. We

won't be strictly doing themed weekly editions anymore, but rather developed stories to lead the page, some themed story packages and the best stories from the week.

Most students get their news online and on their phones. So what do we do? Adapt.

We have seen a drastic increase of engagement on our Instagram from students over the last year and a half, totaling to a little over 1,600 followers. In light of this surge in visibility, we will be making a heavy push toward a total rebrand on Instagram and other social media.

One more new change is we are bringing back our weekly newsletter. Our idea is to give the audience a way to get a summary of the most important stories from the week in a quick five minutes whether that be through words or audio.

With these changes, we would like to extend an invitation to our new and returning readers about the opportunities available to you.

The News is open to students of any

major and year in school.

We are always looking for students to bring fresh talent and ideas to the paper. Some of the positions we have are news and sports reporters, opinion columnists, photographers, podcasters, videographers, and cartoonists. Whatever your interest is we can find you a place for us.

If this has piqued your interest, please don't hesitate to stop by the newsroom in room 1811 in Buzzard Hall, contact us on our socials or call us at 581-2812.

One piece of information to leave you with is while some of us treat this as a full-time job, please remember we are still students taking classes and juggling all college throws at us.

As students we are going to make mistakes, the only downside is our homework is on display to the general public. So we ask you to allow us breathing room to address failures and learn from them.

The Editorial Board can be reached at 581-2812.

Editorial Board

Ashanti Thomas

Cam'ron Hardy

Ellen Dooley

Rob Le Cates

Zaria Flippin



BY TYRIQ JOHNSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The men's soccer team will play six consecutive non-conference games and the women's team will play five.

2023 soccer season previews

By Zaria Flippin
Sports Editor | @DEN_Sports
Men's Soccer

The Eastern men's soccer team will play 12 matches at home throughout the 2023 season. This will be the Panthers' first season playing in the Ohio Valley Conference conference, with their former being the Summit League.

The OVC for men's soccer consists of Eastern, Lindenwood, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE), Southern Indiana, Chicago State, Houston Christian University, Liberty University, University of the Incarnate Word and Western Illinois University.

The Panthers played two home exhibition games to kick off their season, where the team tied with the Bowling Green Falcons 1-1 through two overtime periods on Friday evening and lost 4-0 to the University of Illinois Springfield Prairie Stars Monday evening at Lakeside Field.

Starting Aug. 24 the Panthers will have six consecutive non-conference matches at Lakeside Field. Their opponents are the University of Chicago, Governors State, Bradley, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Bellarmine and Wright State.

The Panthers will travel for their last non-conference match on Sept. 19 against the University of Detroit Mercy Titans at Titan Field.

The Panthers are scheduled to play Lindenwood, SIUE, and Southern Indiana two times in the regular season; one game at home and one game away.

The Panthers are scheduled to host Liberty and Chicago State as this will be their only time facing off this season. The Panthers are traveling to play Western Illinois, University of the Incarnate Word and Houston Christian University one time this season.

The Panthers men's soccer team finished their 2022 season with an overall record of 1-12-3 with a 0-7-1 conference record.

Women's Soccer

The women's soccer team is set to play 11 home matches at Lakeside Field throughout the 2023 season. With the addition of Western Illinois to the OVC, conference games will not begin until Sept. 17.

The Panthers' schedule includes three exhibition games and five non-conference games up until their first conference game of the season against SIUE.

The Panthers shut out Parkland College with a final score of 7-0. The Panthers went on the lose the last two exhibition games. IUPUI beat Eastern 1-4, and UIC beat Eastern 0-1.

The Panthers started their 2023 season with a 1-2 loss against Valparaiso on Aug. 17 at Brown Field.

Northern Illinois, Indiana State, Purdue Fort Wayne, Illinois State, and Chicago State are the non-conference teams the Panthers will face for their next five games before conference games begin.

The Panthers are set to compete against every OVC team one time throughout the season: SIUE, Southeast Missouri, Morehead State, Tennessee Tech, University of Tennessee Martin, Western Illinois, Little Rock, Lindenwood, and Southern Indiana.

The Ohio Valley Conference Tournament will start on Oct. 27.

The Panthers ended last season with an overall record of 2-6-8 with a 0-4-4 conference record. The Panthers also made a change this season with a new head coach.

Dirk Bennett has been an assistant coach for women's soccer since July 2019. Bennett was hired as the seventh head coach in program history on Feb. 10.

Zaria Flippin can be reached at 581-2812 or zhflippin@eiu.edu.

Special Olympics Family Festival

Viva La SOFF

Celebrating 40 years of SOFF memories

- Volunteers Needed -

We need volunteers to be a Friend-For-A-Day at Lake Land College from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, September 16, 2023

Volunteer registration forms are available in 1212 Buzzard Hall and must be returned no later than September 11.


Athletes to watch this season

1 GOAL

1 ASSIST

24 SHOTS

0.042 Shooting Percentage



SENIOR

WOMEN'S SOCCER | MIDFIELDER

Cam Korhorn

231 DIGS

2.41 DIGS PER SET

405 KILLS

48 ACES



SENIOR

VOLLEYBALL | OUTSIDE HITTER

Giovana Larregui Lopez

19:17.9 (15TH PLACE)
EIU WALT CRAWFORD

21:58.1 (THIRD PLACE)
OVC CHAMPIONSHIP

22:14.4 (137th PLACE)
NCAA MIDWEST REGIONAL



SENIOR

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Mackenzie Aldridge

62 RUSHING YARDS

853 PASSING YARDS

9 PASSING TDs

5 RUSHING TDs



REDSHIRT JUNIOR

FOOTBALL | QUARTERBACK


Jonah O'Brien

584 DIGS

5.08 DIGS PER SET

1 KILL

26 ACES



SENIOR

VOLLEYBALL | LIBERO

Christina Martinez Mundo

By Zaria Flippin
Sports Editor | @DEN_Sports

Cross Country

Adam Swanson, the fifth-year graduate from Carpentersville is coming back for another season with the Panthers. Swanson was named first-team for the Ohio Valley Conference for the 2022 season of men's cross country.

Swanson competed in all six of the meets in the 2022 season. Swanson finished the OVC 8K race in third place with a time of 25:10.7.

Sophomore Michael Atkins from Wheaton is coming back for another season for the Panthers.

Atkins competed in five of the six meets, missing the Illinois State University Redbird Invite. As a freshman, Atkins was a member of the OVC Championship representing. Atkins finished 17th at the OVC championship with a time of 26:03.1 for the 8K race. Atkins was also part of the NCAA Midwest Regional Championship and finished 136th with a time of 31:48.9 for the 10K race.

Senior Mackenzie Aldridge from Crystal Lake, Illinois is returning for another season of women's cross country with the Panthers. Aldridge was part of the 2022 first-team All-OVC during the 2022 cross-country season.

Aldridge competed in all six of the meets in the 2022 season. Aldridge placed third at the OVC championship and set a personal best 6K time of 21:58.1. Aldridge didn't just set a personal best for the 6K, but she also set a personal best 5K time of 18:37.7 at the Louisville Classic.

Redshirt senior Sarah Carr from Effingham, Illinois is back for another season with the Panthers. Carr was part of the 2022 second-team All-OVC as she represented the Panthers throughout the 2022 season.

Carr competed in all six meets in the 2022 season. Carr placed eighth at the OVC championship with a time of 22:29.9 in the 6K race. Carr's 2022 seasonal best 5K time was 18:24.8 at the Louisville Classic, and her seasonal best 6K time was 21:56.5 at the Bradley Pink Classic.

Football

From Country Club Hills, Illinois, junior linebacker Elijahwah Tolbert will return for another season for the Panthers. Tolbert was named 1st Team All-OVC at the end of the 2022 season.

Tolbert played in all 11 games and made 10 starts. By the end of the 2022 season, Tolbert recorded 70 tackles, including 32 solo tackles. The star linebacker was also named to the Bluebloods' first team from The Bluebloods publication. Tolbert is the only Panther that was recognized for the first team. Tolbert is also one of the 10 Panthers on the 2023 Ohio Valley Conference Pre-season Watch List.

From Kaukauna, Wisconsin, redshirt junior quarterback Jonah O'Brien is coming back for his third season for the Panthers. The quarterback returned to

Charleston in the spring of 2022 from Colorado State after recording only one game for the Rams.

O'Brien played in the first eight games of the 2022 season before suffering an injury that sidelined him for the rest of the season. Before he was done for the season, O'Brien was ranked in the top 25 in the nation in completion percentage at 64 percent with an 87-136 record.

Soccer

From Sheffield, England, Sam Eccles had a good season last year. With last season being his first season as a Panther in the OVC, the 6'1" forward scored five goals and recorded one assist as he took 40 shots. With 11 points for the season, two points for every goal and one point for every assist, Eccles recorded the most points in a season for an EIU Panther since 2014. Eccles' one assist of the season came on a game-winning goal at Purdue Fort Wayne.

Eccles played and started all 16 matches and recorded 1,024 minutes for the 2022 season.

From Plainfield, Cam Korhorn ended the 2022 season with three points from one goal and one assist, Korhorn tied for second on the team with senior forward Serra Pizano for the most points in the season. The 5'6" midfielder started in 13 of the 15 games she played. With 24 total shots taken, Korhorn recorded the second most shots for the Panthers last season with a 0.042 shooting percentage and recorded 985 minutes last season.

Volleyball

Senior Panther Christina Martinez Mundo will be returning for another season at EIU. The 5'6" defensive specialist and libero from San Juan, Puerto Rico was named 2nd Team All-OVC last season.

Mundo was only one of three players to appear in all 32 matches of the 2022 season. Mundo set the second-highest digs per set average (5.08) in school history as well as ranking third in the OVC in digs and digs per set and ranking 23rd in the NCAA in digs per set and 13th in total digs. During the 2022 season, Mundo recorded a career-high of 38 digs on Sept. 2 at Chicago State, and she also recorded her 1,000th assist during the season.

Senior Giovana Larregui Lopez will be returning for another season for the Panthers. The outside hitter from Carolina, Puerto Rico had multiple accolades in the 2022 season, which include 1st Team All-OVC, 2022 OVC Player of the Year, Honorable Mention All-Region, and Honorable Mention All-American.

Unlike Mundo, Lopez appeared in 28 of the 32 matches and made 24 starts. 2022 was Lopez's first year at Eastern Illinois as she transferred from the College of Coastal Georgia. Lopez recorded 11 double-doubles throughout the season, with at least 10 kills and 10 digs.


Zaria Flippin can be reached at 581-2812 or zhflippin@eiu.edu.

15 GOALS

1 ASSIST

40 SHOTS

0.1 Shooting Percentage



SENIOR

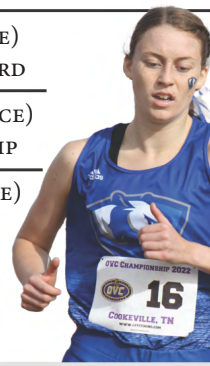
MEN'S SOCCER | FORWARD

Sam Eccles

19:12.2 (12TH PLACE)
EIU WALT CRAWFORD

22:29.9 (EIGHTH PLACE)
OVC CHAMPIONSHIP

22:21.2 (145th PLACE)
NCAA MIDWEST REGIONAL



SENIOR

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY


Sarah Carr

3 INTERCEPTIONS

6 PASSES DEFENDED

70 TACKLES

32 SOLO TACKLES



JUNIOR


FOOTBALL | LINEBACKER

Elijahwah Tolbert

25:32.2 (THIRD PLACE)
EIU WALT CRAWFORD

25:10.7 (THIRD PLACE)
OVC CHAMPIONSHIP

30:30.9 (46th PLACE)
NCAA MIDWEST REGIONAL



FIFTH YEAR


MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Adam Swanson

26:16.0 (15TH PLACE)
EIU WALT CRAWFORD

26:03.1 (17TH PLACE)
OVC CHAMPIONSHIP

31:48.9 (136th PLACE)
NCAA MIDWEST REGIONAL



SOPHOMORE

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Michael Atkins

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