# Eastern Illinois University The Keep

February 2014

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## Daily Eastern News: Feburary 05, 2014

Eastern Illinois University

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Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2014

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 98 | NO. 94

## In This Issue



### SHORTAGE OF SALT

The City of Charleston is currently dealing with a depleting amount of salt during the inclement weather.

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### WHAT'S STILL OPEN?

Even though Eastern is officially shut down, different areas on campus still remain open, even with different hours.

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### HERE COMES THE PAYNE

Red-shirt junior guard Katlyn Payne now holds Eastern's all-time single season 3-point record.

### PAGE 8



AMANDA WILKINSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Mike Ragsdale pushes Shawn Ragsdale down a hill to sled Tuesday in Kiwanis Park. Shawn Ragsdale said they wanted to take advantage of the snow, but it was too powdery on Tuesday afternoon.

# Weather closes university

By Jack Cruikshank Administration Editor | @JackCruik

Eastern has canceled all classes Wednesday for the first time since Feb. 1, 2011 because of in-

In addition to canceling classes on campus after 12:30 p.m. Tuesday and all of Wednesday,

the whole university is closed as well. On Tuesday, the university closed at 2:30 p.m. officially, with President Bill Perry sending his staff home at that time.

Perry said the combination of high winds and snow accumulation, expected to be within 6-8 inches overnight, contributed to closing the uni-

This is the toughest winter since I've seen here," Perry said. "In addition to the snow we

with the current snow.'

Perry said that while he has the final decision for closing the university, he has delegated the control of closing classes to Blair Lord, the vice president for academic affairs. "As the act of canceling classes has a strong

academic aspect, I have deferred to the provost," Perry said. "The policy (for weather closures) states that only essential personnel need to show up."

Since classes are canceled, Perry said individual professors have the option of holding an additional meeting with students to make up for the lost day, but stressed that it is entirely up to the individual professors.

In order to decide whether to cancel classes and ultimately close the university Wednesday,

have already, it is going to be hard to keep up he met with a committee that is tasked with providing Perry with recommendations from various people.

Weather conditions continued to deteriorate, so I met with the committee and they recommended very strongly to close the university," Perry said.

The committee includes the President's Council, Grant Sterling, the faculty senate chairman, and Kaylia Eskew, the student body president.

"I advised (Perry) that I had had a number of students emailing me saying that they were concerned about being penalized for classes and they didn't know if they could get there safely," Eskew said.

She added Thursday the weather should be

WEATHER, page 5

# Students react to class cancelations

By Michael Spencer

City Editor | @tmskeeper

The announcement that afternoon classes would be canceled Tuesday and all day Wednesday spread quickly across campus as students generally agreed that it was the correct decision.

The buzz that normally occupies Martin Luther King Jr. University Union turned to a persistent din as students discovered they would not be required to return to class after lunch.

Students listed a number of reasons as to why

they felt the decision was justified, like commuters that have to brave the roads, the intensity of the snowfall and the city's lack of road salt.

The Charleston Police Department released a statement Monday announcing that they would begin mixing salt and sand to combat Tuesday's storm after two shipments of salt failed to arrive and reserves have run low.

"I think it's great that they're canceling class because last night the police department talked about how they don't have enough salt to clear the roads," said Carrie Klaphake, a collegiate student affairs graduate student. "I think it is unsafe for students to be on the roads but also I feel that faculty and offices should also be closed too."

Commuters were also at the forefront of students' justification for canceling class. Samantha Potter, a freshman elementary education major, said it all comes down to how far one must travel.

"I think they should have canceled because it's gotten really bad outside," Potter said. "It depends on how far your classes are."

**CLASS** page 5

# UPB members discuss closing meetings

By Jack Cruikshank

Administration Editor | @JackCruik

At the meeting Friday, members of the Council on University Planning and Budget expressed a desire to close certain meetings to the public.

James Tidwell, the chairman of the journalism department, said the CUPB cannot close the meetings, as they are not discussing specific personnel or other exemptions to the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

"As a standing committee under the President, (the CUPB) is a public body as mentioned by the Board of Trustees," Tidwell

Tidwell, who has authored a book on Illinois media law, continued there are no reasons he could think of which would allow the CUPB to close any of its meetings, including meetings of subcommittees.

Allen Lanham, the dean of library services and the chairman of the CUPB, said legal counsel is being consulted about the matter.

Lanham said he hopes not to close anything, but he expressed concerns about how members could openly talk about "delicate topics" if the meetings are being reported on by media.

CUPB, page 5



Chance of snow High: 27 Low: 5°

Chance of snow High: 12° Low: 4°

For more weather visit castle.eiu.edu/weather.

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# Local weather City salt supplies dwindle

**By Morgan Murray** Staff Reporter | @DEN\_News

Charleston Police Department announced that road salt reserves are low and the street department will begin mixing salt and sand to combat Tuesday's winter storm. Curt Buescher, the director of Public Works for the city of Charleston, said the reason for this is because of their supplier.

"I don't know about an official shortage, but there is something obviously going on. We have put in two orders in the last six weeks and have not received any salt," Buescher said. "The company Cargill has not given us any information at this time." Buescher added the city budgeted for the salt for this year, but it is simply a matter of receiving what Public Works paid for.

The shortage has forced workers to find alternatives to road salt. Buescher said that they still have 150 tons of salt left but based on the city's current situation, they will proceed as if no more salt will be delivered this

Starting Tuesday, the city will begin mixing sand and salt together to



**DION MCNEAL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS** 

President Bill Perry sent an email out at 2:42 Tuesday, letting students know that EIU will be closed until Thursday. However, essential services such as residence halls, dining services and the University Police Department will remain open.

preserve the reserve supply. If conditions worsen, the city will be forced to only use salt on intersections and

The streets will be plowed as usual but salt will not be applied to the roads until the storm passes. "We ask that motorist please be patient and drive carefully since driving conditions will be difficult... due to this shortage of salt," Buescher said. Buescher said there will be no difference in the sidewalks and roads on cam-

Last winter the public works department used approximately 650 tons of salt and spent \$42,000. Thus far this year they have already spent \$35,200 and used about 550 tons. As a result of the extreme cold temperature, Buescher said they are expecting a lot more potholes.

"We will have additional pot hole repair crews out as necessary. Once again, we ask the motorists to be careful and patient and report any significant pot holes to the Street Department at 345-5811," Buescher

> Morgan Murray can be reached at 581-2812 or at mnmurray@eiu.edu.

# routes in

By Michael Spencer

City Editor | @tmskeeper

Mayor Larry Rennels announced at the City Council meeting Tuesday that emergency snow routes will be in effect until the roads are cleared of snow.

Snow routes are clearly marked along the side of the respective streets. Those who do not remove cars from the road could be towed by the city.

We felt that there was enough snow that we really needed to get cars off the streets," Rennels said.

Rennels also commented on the issue of road salt shortages. The city has begun combining salt and sand but it will only be applied to intersections and

He added that Cargill, the compa-

ny that supplies the area with salt, transports the mineral north on the Mississippi River with barges that are currently locked in thick ice blocks on the river. No alternative means of transporting the salt is available.

There were 150 tons of salt as of Tuesday, Rennels said that number has probably decreased.

On the council's official business, the council approved the medical marijuana moratorium, which was placed on file for public inspection at the last meeting.

The moratorium will place a oneyear restriction on applications for marijuana dispensaries while the Illinois Department of Public Health finalizes the regulations for the law, which went into effect Jan. 1.

First drafts of the restrictions have been issued already, though they have not been approved. Among the regulations suggested are

mandatory background checks, fingerprinting and a \$150 annual fee in order to receive a identification card. The council also voted to abate the

taxes on the water treatment plant and the Rotary Community Aquatic Cen-

The bonds for those two facilities are paid for out of supplemental funds instead of taxes collected from the city. Rennels said the only bond whose tax was not abated was for the Charleston Carnegie Public Library, a measure that was passed via referendum by the Charleston voters.

"There is one other bond that we do

not abate the taxes on them and that is towards the improvement of the library and at the time that one was passed, it was agreed that the tax payers would pay that tax service each year," Rennels

The council also approved a number of re-appointments to the Fire and Police board, the historic preservation commission and the board of zoning appeals and planning.

Four of the seven members of the historic preservation commission were re-appointed.

The council will meet again at 7 p.m. Feb. 18 at City Hall

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

# Weather delays Charleston school

#### By Dominic Baima & Michael **Spencer**

Charleston High School and Middle School students waited up to 40 minutes for their buses to pick them up after being dismissed an hour early because of deteriorating weather conditions Tuesday.

Superintendent of Schools Jim Littleford said, "(The buses are) running eford to parents.

behind because of the weather."

"We told (the bus drivers) to be careful out there so if they run a little bit later we certainly understand

Charleston High School and Middle School dismissed an hour early, 2:20 p.m. and 2:25 p.m., respectively, according to an email sent by Littl-

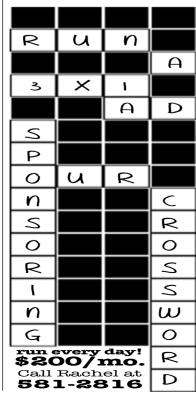
Students waiting for buses passed the time by playing in the snow and huddling together in groups.

The last bus arrived at 3:00 p.m. and picked up remaining students.

Bunched together, while waiting for the buses, the students yelled and complained about the temperatures. Shouts of "It's cold," and "I'm freezing" were heard near the bus loading

Parents of students in the Charleston CUSD #1 were sent an email at 12:40 p.m. Tuesday that stated that all schools in the district would close one hour early. The email then stated the dismissal time for each school.

> Dominic Baima and Michael Spencer can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com





WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5, 2014
THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

# Guide to what's open during Eastern's snow day Eastern is shut down, but certain buildings remain open



Student Recreation Center: Noon - 6 p.m.

**Booth Library: Normal hours** 

Dining Halls: Normal hours

EIU Lanes: Noon - 7 p.m.

Muslim Journeys Discussion: Canceled

Intramural sports: Canceled

Java Beanery & Bakery: Closed

Union Bookstore: Closed

Panther Shuttle: Closed

A student leaves Charleston High School shortly after school dismissed early because of deteriorating weather conditions.

DOMINIC BAIMA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS









### **PAWS UP/PAWS DOWN**



**CLASSES:** Classes after 12:30 p.m. were canceled Tuesday. Some students probably enjoyed the off day.



BASKETBALL: Eastern men's basketball team is second in the OVC West, and fifth in the OVC. The team could make the OVC tournament for two years in a row with a strong finish to the season.



world: USA Today reported that cancer cases are expected to rise to 13 million a year in the next decade. compared to the current 8.2 million.



**ENROLLMENT:** Stats showed that Eastern's enrollment was down for the spring semester.



MICROSOFT: Satya Nadella was named the new CEO of Microsoft. Bill Gates stepped down from the position.



FORECAST: Snow is supposed to keep falling down today, while temperature isn't expected to be higher than 25 degrees.

## **Quote of the Day**

"If you do not think about your future, you cannot have one."

--John Gaisworthy

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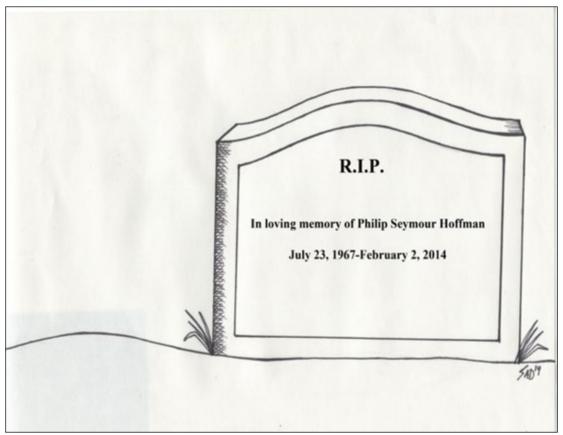


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### FROM THE EASEL



SABRINA ANN DUNCAN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

### **STAFF EDITORIAL**

# Higher learning needs more focus

"Money is tight" is common phrase being used by politicians these days, especially with the unstable economy.

While this is true, it is sad that fairly little of money the state government does have is being allocated to things other than higher schools.

In fact, the Illinois Board of Higher Education is only trying to break even at this point with their budget they hope to pass this year.

Senators need to realize faculty and staff from separate institutions as well as IBHE will be hard pressed to run at the same efficiency with less resources.

Higher education is important and yet schools are finding out they will not be receiving funds promised to them.

These lack of funds are making it so schools have to raise prices to catch up with

the cost to run the school.

These rising costs are making diplomas a luxury not affordable by most, which cannot be the case in this economy.

This is a dangerous time for higher education and it shouldn't be.

At this point in time, most employers hiring will not even look at someone's resume without a diploma to go with it.

To thrive in the long run, Illinois needs to put all its cards on higher education.

While the payoff is not immediate, having a majority of people with a college degree will pay off in the long run.

People are moving out of state to get education. Too many.

Illinois should be a mecca for the scholar looking to learn and get a career.

It especially important because statistics have shown students enrolled in college nor-

mally work in the state their school was.

Illinois needs to retain these students whatever the cost.

As cliché as it may sound, universities are building the future leaders in the state, and there is a major need to have an educated state to be competitive with others.

IBHE shouldn't need to propose a budget, which would essentially have them break

If anything, IBHE should be encouraging major increases in funding with a high success rate.

It is unacceptable to see state funding dwindle for schools in any capacity.

The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of *The Daily Eastern* 

# Hoffman had career to remember

In high school, Philip Seymour Hoffman was interested in acting and attended college to study theater.

During this time, Hoffman was addicted to drugs and alcohol, but would later sober up when he was about 22 years old.

While Hoffman was able to stay sober deep into his 40s, he briefly relapsed in 2013. On February 2, 2014, Hoffman was found dead of a suspected drug overdose, with a needle still stuck in his arm. He was 46.

For a man who never planned to be in show business, Hoffman surely did alright for himself.

Most people will remember Hoffman as Truman Capote, the performance that earned him the Academy Award for best actor. Others will remember him for his work as Father Brendan Flynn in the 2008 film "Doubt" or his role as Lancaster Dodd in "The Master;" where both films earned him Oscar nominations.

Hoffman also had an accomplished career in theatre. In 2012, he was nominated for his third Tony Award.

While perhaps he was never the Brad Pitt, Tom Cruise or George Clooney type, Hoffman had his own style and was known for bringing



### **Mike Wolbers**

something new to each movie, and to each role.

Hoffman did comedy ("Along Came Polly"), he has been a villain ("Mission Impossible III"), extremely emotionally complex characters ("Capote") and has even portrayed a rock journalist ("Almost Famous").

Hoffman once talked about the fact that he was not as good looking as other leading men in Hollywood, but that never seemed to bother him. He relied on hard work and skill as an actor to speak for them self.

The acclaimed actor's résumé was comparable to that of men almost twice his age, and somehow it feels like the best was yet to come.

While Hoffman had a successful career that any actor would have been proud of, it seems that his best work was ahead of him.

When I think about Hoffman's death, I tend to think about other actors who passed away this past year. Actors like Paul Walker and James Gandolfini, both accomplished actors in their own right.

Gandolfini, Hoffman and Walker seemed like they were destined for more greatness. If anything, is true in this world it is that tomorrow is promised to no one.

Hoffman said, "I think you should be serious about what you do because this is it. This is the only life you've got."

While it may seem that Hoffman's life came to an abrupt end, it appears that he was aware of the fact that you have to dive head first into whatever it is you are passionate about.

I have always had the work hard, play hard mentality when it comes to how I live my life, because who knows when your time is up. In terms of life, my advice to you is to dive right on in.

Mike Wolbers is a senior journaliam major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or DENopinions@gmail.com

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS | CAMPUS WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5, 2014

# RHA executive board to propose revised constitution

#### **Staff Report**

The Residence Hall Association representatives will be voting on their revised constitution, which was drafted by the executive board, at their meeting at 5 p.m. Thursday in Stevenson Hall.

The revised constitution has several changes added to it as well as some wording changes to simply or better explain a bylaw.

They simplified the process for someone to fill-in for a representative to vote. Instead of having to fill out a form and hand it to the RHA secretary before the meeting, people will only have to tell the secretary before the meeting when they are a proxy for a representative who cant make it. The proxy will then be allowed to participate in the meeting including

In this new draft, those in Hall Council executive positions will not be allowed to become a RHA executive member. The executive board members terms would also lengthened to one full academic year.

They also put in a provision forcing the executive board to decide options available if an executive member

must step down from their position for unforeseen circumstances. They would then present their options to the RHA and they will then vote and decide how they might proceed.

The community development would also be removed from the constitution because the committee hasn't been used for a while.

The RHA President Patrick Morrow said they will also be reviewing the idea of having MTVu in the dining halls.

While they do not have direct control over whether dining halls have these MTVu TV's playing, Jody Stone, the associate director of Housing and Dining Services resident life wanted to get feedback from the RHA on the subject. Mark Hudson, the director of Housing and Dining Services said they opinion will be taken into consideration, but it does depend on the contract with MTVu.

Morrow said the Social Justice and Diversity Week committee will also be finalizing the event dates for each day after the meeting. He said they need to get moving and finalize things with the week coming up quickly in March.

#### versity is doing its best to maintain roads and pathways, workers do not

want to put down salt or sand before the majority of the storm hits. 'They didn't want to put any sand or anything down until after it hit because it is just going to pile up, which

Eskew also said that while the uni-

makes sense," Eskew said. Eskew said she thinks the closure is the best option to promote student safety.

**» WEATHER** 

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

"These are not highly structured meetings," Lanham said. "It is different, that is why other committees go into executive session. There are things that need to be said that don't need to be highly publicized at that

Lanham said he hopes the matter can be resolved while members of the council can still talk openly

"I'm hoping we don't build this

Around campus, various places plan to be open despite the university closing.

A student leaves Charleston High School shortly after school dismissed early

because of deteriorating weather conditions.

**DOMINIC BAIMA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS** 

It's always snowy in Charleston

The Student Recreation Center plans to open at noon Wednesday and close at 6 p.m.

Booth Library will have normal hours Wednesday.

Java Beanery & Bakery will be closed all day Wednesday, while the dining halls will be open with adjusted menus.

Mark Hudson, director of Housing and Dining, said the Lawson Hall conference floor would be used to house groundskeepers and din-

out of proportion to what is actually

happening," Lanham said. "The pres-

ident is looking for ideas and recom-

mendations from the CUPB on this

matter of the budget shortfall. It's

not that the CUPB has the final say

in what is going to be cut from the

at the request of the President to re-

view program analyses from pro-

Lanham said the CUPB is acting

"There is no preconceived notion

university's budget."

grams around campus.

ing staff that are unable to make it home. He added this was for their safety.

The Food Court in the Martin Luther Kind Jr. University Union will open at 11 a.m. Wednesday.

As well, all intramural sporting events are canceled, with every team receiving a win on their record.

Perry said he hopes to still report to Eastern Wednesday, but he joked that he might have to cross-country ski into the university.

Jack Cruikshank can be reached at 581-2812 or jdcruikshank@eiu.edu.

of what we are exactly going to do with this other than we have split up into subcommittees," Lanham said. "Each of those subcommittees have been given narratives developed by the directors and the chairs of these programs all around campus and we will be reacting to those."

> Jack Cruikshank can be reached at 581-2812 or jdcruikshank@eiu.edu.

### » CUPB

### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

"Members are saying, 'How can we talk openly about these delicate topics when it's going to end up in the paper." Lanham said. "So if you want to cut off conversation completely, let's just do it this way."

Robert Miller, the general counsel for Eastern, said the public body must vote on any business in an open session.

"A public body cannot make a final decision while in a closed meeting," Miller said. "For example, if the body discusses hiring a new employee or buying a piece of property in a closed meeting, they cannot vote on the matter until they return to the regular meeting."

Lanham said he sees CUPB sessions as different than other traditional meetings, as there is no set agenda for the discussions of the cuts within the subcommittees.

about what they think should be cut.

"If you don't feel safe, don't come

to campus," Kalahar said. "It's just

Some students said they were going to use the afternoon and day off to take care of schoolwork while others will focus on more leisurely activities. For Kalahar, it is business as usual.

"I'm still going to be here," Kalahar said. "I'm just going to be doing work. Weather is weather."

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

## » CLASS

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

Some thought the announcement had come too late for commuters who already made the trip to campus Tuesday.

"I'm glad they canceled because

it's going to get really bad, but the people who were commuting were probably already here," said Mackenzie Bumpus, a sophomore dietetics major. Bumpus added she did not think the snow was as severe as the cold that the campus experienced in previous weeks.

The intensity of the snow was

also a factor. Eastern professor and climatologist Cameron Craig said that the rate of snowfall during peak hours Tuesday was roughly two to three inches.

Tyler Kalahar, a graduate student in the collegiate student affairs program said it is ultimately a simple

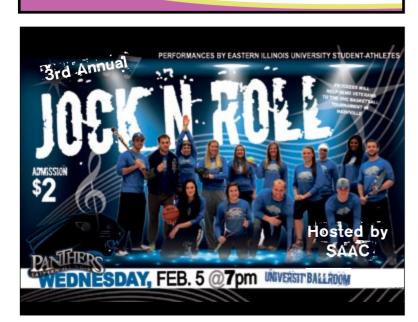
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2/25

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www. Charlest on ILApts. com

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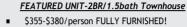
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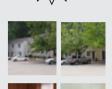
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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5, 2013

# STAT ATTACK



The Eastern softball team has the most experience in the Ohio Valley Conference starting the 2014 season, with nine seniors on the Panthers' roster. Led by pitchers Hanna Mennenga and Stephanie Maday, Eastern has three more seniors than the next highest total in the OVC. The Panthers begin their season Friday in the Illinois-Chicago Rosemont Rumble, which ends Sunday against Western.

# SOFTBALL

Eastern men's basketball forward Sherman Blanford scored a career-high 24 points in Saturday's 76-70 home win against Southern Illinois-Edwardsville. Blanford shot 9-of-14 from the field and made 6-of-8 free throw attempts. The Philadelphia native is second behind Reggie Smith in scoring, averaging 12 points per game for Eastern. Blanford also leads Eastern in rebounds with seven per game.



# MEN'S BASKETBALL



The Eastern track and field team finished its meet at Northern Iowa Saturday with 17 top-three finishes. Sophomore Calvin Edwards led the men's team with two first-place finishes in the 200-meter dash and 400-meter race, respectively. Red-shirt senior Mick Viken won the pole vault competition. Senior Jalisa Paramore had a first-place finish for the women's team in the 60-meter hurdles.

## TRACK & FIELD

The Eastern Women's basketball team is averaging 73.2 points per game in its nine wins this season. In the Panthers' 12 losses, they are averaging 56 points. At 9-12 overall and 4-6 in Ohio Valley Conference play, Eastern sits with the eighth best record in the conference. The Panthers have six OVC games left this season, as the top eight records in the conference make it to the OVC tournament.



## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Red-shirt junior Katlyn Payne broke the Eastern women's basketball single season three-point record Saturday against Southern Illinois-Edwardsvile. Payne curently has 64 three pointers through 21 games.

# THREE PAYNE

# Junior breaks school single season 3-point record

**By Bob Reynolds** Staff Reporter | @BobReynoldsDEN

Eastern women's basketball guard Katlyn Payne did not expect to break any sort of record and had no idea what to expect in the upcoming season with having a new coaching staff.

Before Saturday's game against Southern Illinois-Edwardsville, Payne was tied for most 3-point shots made in a single season with Michelle Lewis, who set the record with 58 in 2002.

At 5:03 into the game, Payne received a pass behind the 3-point line near the baseline from teammate Jordyne Crunk, spotted up and made the 3-pointer to break Lewis's record.

Immediately after making the shot, Payne knew she had to hold her composure, because her team still had a game to win.

"I knew that we needed to win this game," Payne said. "During the timeout, my teammates were really excited, but we also knew we had to refocus.'

One of those teammates was freshman Erica Brown, who was not surprised Payne broke the record.

"Just playing with her for one year, I knew she was a great 3-point shooter," Brown said. "I knew it was coming sooner or later in the season for her to break the record."

Payne said her coach Debbie Black was proud of her for breaking a school record.

"She is always the one telling me to shoot more," Payne said. "Whenever I see a good shot, just let it go. Her confidence in me is tremendous. She believes is in me sometimes more than I believe in myself. I think hearing her say, 'I am proud of you' or 'good job,' means a lot more to me than she realizes."

In about a two-week stretch, Payne struggled to find the bottom of the net.

In five games, Payne shot a combined 5-of-26 (22 percent) from the 3-point range, a drought she said it was extremely frustrating.

"I would call my parents and my brothers in tears," Payne said. "I felt like I was letting my team down, because I feel like I need to help my team and I am not the greatest defender and not the best rebounder.

Panye started to find the bottom of the net in the game against Tennessee-Martin on Jan. 27, where she scored a career-high 26 points on 7-of-16 shooting from behind the arc, where she also tied the program record for most 3-pointers made in a game.

### 2013-14 Season Stats

306

FG SHOOTING | 97-232, 41.8% 3FG SHOOTING | 64-156, 41% **FT SHOOTING** | 48-64, 75% **REBOUNDING** | 35 OFF, 71 DEF

KATLYN PAYNE

But in her record breaking game against Edwardsville, it seemed that every shot Payne took went in.

After hitting that three to break the record Payne would go on to make her next 5-of-7 for the rest of the game.

And suddenly, Payne simply felt her confidence come back

"After those games, the coaches said it was all a mental thing for me," she said. "Once I got my confidence back with the help of my coaches and my teammates, it definitely made a huge impact on my game."

Payne has started all 21 games this season and averages 36 minutes played

The 36 minutes played is about 25 percent more minutes played then she did all of last season and then four times as more as she did her freshman season and with the larger role Black is pushing her to become a leader.

"Coach (Black) reminds me constantly that I am not in the corner shooting this year," she said. "I think coach is doing a good job of preparing me to play a bigger role.'

So far this season, Payne is shooting 41.8 percent from the field and Brown understands how big of a part Payne has been with the wins that they have had this season.

'She contributes a lot of us," Brown said. "Whether it's 3-point shooting or rebounding, she is a very well-rounded player. However she helps us out, she does it well."

Payne credited her successes this season to her dad, who is the athletic director at Elgin Community College. Her dad also played basketball at Southern Illinois-Carbondale.

"He coached me from day one," Pavne said. "He was a high school coach and a college coach, so basically basketball was imbedded in me."

Payne also gave credit to her grandfather, who was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), when Payne was three or four years old.

'I also knew him when he was in a wheelchair and ALS slowly takes away everything, your muscles, your breathing, everything," Payne said. "He decided to go on the ventilator, because he wanted to see his grandkids grow up. He was a big football coach and he kind of lost his dream because of this dis-

Payne's grandfather died her freshman year of high school, following the state tournament — it was then when Payne vouched to her grandfather that she would live the dream he was not

"I'll go back and play college ball and go live out the dream that you never got to have," Payne said.

> Bob Reynolds can be reached at 581-2812 or rjreynolds@eiu.edu.

#### **EASTERN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

**UPCOMING SCHEDULE** 

SATURDAY | FEB. 8

4:15 P.M. LANTZ ARENA

CHARLESTON, ILL.

MURRAY, KY.

SATURDAY | FEB. 15 5:15 P.M. **CFSB CENTER** 

**MURRAY STATE** 

MONDAY | FEB. 17

7 P.M. **DUNN CENTER** 



SATURDAY | FEB. 22

**CURB EVENT CENTER** 

NASHVILLE, TENN.

