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Eastern Illinois University

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‘Charleston Rocks’ comes to Buzzard

By: Bailey Flesner

Colorful, hand-painted rocks can be found all over the community because of “Charleston Rocks.”

Emly Fitzpatrick, a junior early childhood education major and member of Sigma Rho Epsilon, said people find the rocks and then post them on the Charleston Rocks Facebook page.

“(People) hide (the rocks) for you,” she said. “Going to the Facebook page is also a good way to get ideas of where to hide your rock or possibly even find one.”

This new activity was brought to Buzzard Thursday evening by Sigma Rho Epsilon, when people came to the building to paint rocks supplied by the organization.

Sigma Rho Epsilon is an honors special education fraternity. This is the first time they have hosted a Charleston Rocks event.

“The people painting the rocks are encouraged to put uplifting quotes on them, or a link to a website,” Fitzpatrick said. “We are just really trying to get special education awareness out in Charleston. It is a good way to communicate with people in the Mattoon and Charleston area, as well as Eastern about special education.”

People of all ages can participate in Charleston Rocks. Rocks can be found all over the Charleston and Mattoon area, but this is not the only place in the country that participates in painted rock events.

Special education professor Stephanie Woodley, the faculty adviser for Sigma Rho Epsilon, said her family went to Florida for spring break last year and they also did a painted rock activity.

“I had never heard of it. My mother-in-law saved an article the local paper wrote about it to give it to me so we could look for rocks around where we staying,” Woodley said.

Woodley said Charleston Rocks is meant to bring the campus community and Charleston and Mattoon communities together.

“I think it is mostly just to put a smile on someone’s face. It’s kind of like a little scavenger hunt for everyone,” Fitzpatrick said. “When you find one it makes you feel a part of the whole thing. I know someone who found a rock at Wal-mart the other day and took a picture of it on the shelf, posted it to the Facebook and hid it again for someone else.”

Fitzpatrick said everyone with an Eastern email was notified of the rock-painting event.

“Turnout was a lot higher than we expected, so we are really happy about that,” she said.

Sigma Rho Epsilon hosts projects for new members every semester and decided to go with this event to unify all of the education majors.

“We try to change it up every semester, but if this continues to be a highly popular thing we could see ourselves hosting something like this again,” Fitzpatrick said.

Michael Gordon, a freshman psychology major, said he heard about Charleston Rocks before but didn’t know exactly what it was until he came to this event. It was a really good time.”

“I would definitely go again,” Gordon said. “I had heard about Charleston Rocks before but I didn’t know exactly what it was until I came to this event. It was a really good time.”

Bailey Flesner can be reached at 581-2812 or bflesner@eiu.edu

Daylight Saving Time ends soon

Staff Report | @DEN_News

The beginning of a new season means that it is time to ‘fall back’ as daylight saving time ends 2 a.m. Sunday.

Clocks will need to be set back an hour.

Daylight saving is observed in about 70 countries, including many in North America and Europe, according to USA Today.

In the article, it stated that the U.S. began daylight saving during World War I as a way to conserve fuel with the Standard Time Act of 1918.

Daylight saving will return Sunday, March 11, 2018.

The News staff can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump tapped James Powell on Thursday to replace Janet Yellen as Federal Reserve chair when her term ends in Feb.

Powell would become chairman when Yellen's term ends Feb. 3.

Unlike the past three Fed leaders, Powell lacks a Ph.D. in economics and spent years working at investment firms. In choosing him, Trump decided against appealing to another term for Yellen despite widespread approval for her performance. The Yellen Fed and its go-slow approach to rate hikes have been praised with helping nurture the continued recovery from the Great Recession.

If confirmed by the Senate, Powell would become chairman when Yellen's term ends Feb. 3.

New GOP tax bill would cut tax rates, breaks

WASHINGTON (AP) — With fanfare and a White House kickoff, House Republicans unveiled a broad tax-overhaul plan Thursday that would touch virtually all Americans and the economy's every corner, mingling fanfare and a White House kickoff, with a White House kickoff, with a White House kickoff, with a White House kickoff.

The measure, which would be the most extensive rewrite of the nation's tax code in three decades, is the prod- uct of a party that faces increasing pressure to produce a persuasive legislative victory of some sort before next year's elections. GOP leaders touted the plan as a sparkplug for the economy and a boon to the middle class and chinted the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The House Republicans' plan, which is the House Republicans' plan, which is the House Republicans' plan, which is the House Republicans' plan, is certain to help Trump and members of his family and Cabinet, among others.

Underscoring problems ahead, some Republicans from high-tax Northeastern states expressed opposition to the measure's elimination of the deduction for state and local taxes. Senate Finance Commit- tee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, who has done a terrific job," in a de- Partement said in a statement posted to its travel state.gov website that registered child sex offenders will no longer be able to get issued smaller travel documents known as passport cards because they do not have enough room to fit the notice.

The changes come in response to a bipartisan call, supported by some Republicans from high-tax Northeastern states, that the measure's elimination of the deduction for state and local taxes. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, who has done a terrific job," in a de- Partement said in a statement posted to its travel state.gov website that registered child sex offenders will no longer be able to get issued smaller travel documents known as passport cards because they do not have enough room to fit the notice.

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The Department of Homeland Security said in a statement that it would begin revoking passports of those applying for a passport for the first time will not be issued one with- out the identifiers, which will be a notice printed inside the back cover of the pass- port book that reads: "The bearer was convicted of a sex offense against a minor, and is a covered sex offender pursuant to U.S. law." The department said in a statement posted to its travel state.gov website.

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New person needed to be Billy the Panther

By Madalyn Schoonover

Contributing Writer | @meschoonover

Eastern’s Athletic Department is looking to hire a new person to be Billy the Panther for the upcoming athletic season.

They are hoping to fill the position by the start of next week. There are currently two students who take on the role, but with a busy sports season starting soon, along with the other events Billy participates in, they want to spread out the games evenly between three Bilies to lighten the load.

“We’re looking for someone that isn’t afraid to stand out,” said Trevor Bittenbender, the graduate assistant of marketing and contact for Panther Athletics. “The person needs to love to give as much as possible.”

Bittenbender spent some time as Billy the Panther himself, and said that while he thinks of himself as an introvert, Billy helped him to open up to his more goofy sides, and gave him a behind-the-scenes look into the world of Eastern Athletics. He said that being Billy helped him to get his foot in the door of the athletic department and gave him a better understanding of the way the events are organized.

“A mascot has to be willing to give it their all, but it comes naturally when you’re Billy,” Bittenbender said.

“So, what exactly does it take to be Billy the Panther?”

According to Bittenbender, the main qualities necessary to be the best mascot include being outgoing, caring, humorous and having a genuine love for Eastern.

“You’ll be giving high fives, taking pictures with kids and playing pranks on fans,” Bittenbender said.

Bittenbender said the perfect candidate must be willing to “give it their all.”

Ryan Alderman, a senior exercise science and pre-med major, has also spent some time as Billy the Panther this year.

“You need to be someone who is laid back and knows how to have a little fun,” he said. “Everybody loves a Billy who is interacting with the fans, playing games with them, pulling pranks, dancing with them, giving hugs and high fives.”

The perfect Billy candidate also needs to have availability for sports games. Women’s basketball kicks off on Nov. 3, with games taking place all the way into February.

“The best part about being Billy is doing some ridiculous thing and everybody laughing and having a good time because of it,” Alderman said. “You won’t find another job where you get paid to dance and have fun, so take advantage of it if you get the chance.”

One of the current Bilies will be graduating this year, so the student chosen to be the new Billy can stay on through the next school year.

Billys are also known for their “goofy sides,” and gave him a genuine love for Eastern. Alderman said. “You won’t find another job where you get to dance and have fun, if you get the chance.”

Tickets are $13 for general admission, $11 for Seniors and $5 for students. Reservations can be made by Doudna Fine Arts Center Box Office at 217-581-3110 or by emailing doudnatin@eiu.edu.

Alana Reinhardt can be reached at 581-2812 or areinhardt@eiu.edu.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS | NEWS

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Sean Says: Blackhawks are a good costume

Halloween is a time to go all out. And as a senior in college, I finally embraced the weekend and actually did this year.

In previous years, I just threw something together last minute and ended up basically just doing the bare minimum. For this year’s get-up, I needed serious commitment from not only myself, but my seven friends who planned on joining in on it.

I spent the last month or so growing out my hair to make it look like Coach Q’s. I tied it back in a bun to make sure that it looked shorter than it was. Problem with that was that my hair hardened because of the spray, and I feared ripping my hair off my head. Everything turned out A-OK in the end. Like I said at the beginning, this took commitment from the top to bottom, and with Dan being a graduate, he made the trip to Eastern for the weekend. That may have been one of the best things for us.

We did not have enough jerseys here to supply the entire team, so he was able to stop at my house, pick up three extra jerseys and sticks for everyone.

The pictures were priceless. So priceless that when I submitted it to the Chicago Blackhawks Store for the Halloween costume contest, I was chosen as a winner and got an autographed puck. I wish I could be Coach Q for one more night.

Who would have thought that going all out on Halloween would lead to a signed puck by a Blackhawk? Even if I was not going to get it, I would do it again in a heartbeat.

Sean Hastings is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or omhastings@eiu.edu.

Progress is a process; take health one step at a time

When I woke up in the morning feeling sleep deprived, my eyelids carry the same heaviness as my heart.

When my deafening alarm blares, I sink into a deep, suffocating sand. I do not face the day as a heart.

“I felt like my heart was burning because of the spray, and I feared ripping my hair off my head,” said Sean Hastings. “I was chosen as a winner and got an autographed puck.”

My room was a blur because my eyes were flooded with sweat. I felt like I was sinking again and I thought my lungs were going to burst. I kept on breathing, but I could not swim through whatever this was. It felt like there was no air.

Progress is a process; take health one step at a time.

When I opened the door, no one was there. It must have been a four-loom, maybe I was hearing things.

As I closed the door, I realized I could breathe again because I was preparing myself to hide for an interaction.

After some deep breathing, I was able to review what I had written, and I felt like I was invading space, even though it is a time.

My mind was in a dark, eerie place I never expected to return to. Somehow a knock pulled me from myself, and I realized I treated my body as if it were a machine.

When we teach medical students, it is easy to think we are broke.

“Many students, upon not being able to afford another cup of coffee at Starbucks or Java, or being able to afford the $100 sweater they had their eye on, will pull their eyes and tell their friends I’m so poor,” said Bee Evert.

“While there are, of course, students who do deal with food insecurity and have trouble making ends meet, there are some who complain about being poor even though they really are not. Not being able to get that caramel macchiato double shot frappuccino-latte is not the same thing as actually being in poverty.”

We can all easily get in a rut by complaining about things like this. At these phases in life, we are losing sight of what is truly important.

“We need to focus on the positive things we have that we are thankful for,” said Evert. “Because of a multitude of reasons, some people do not get to have the same opportunities.”

It is easy to grumble about yet another test, or assignment that we need to do. “At the Daily Eastern News, we are guilty of doing the same. However, this is not only not makes us seem ungrateful, but it also makes it easier for us to become a frustrated mindset. Pretty soon, you are stuck in that rut of constant complaints and constant irritation, and forget to see all of the good the world has to offer. Though it might not seem like there is much these days, life goes on, even in the darkest days. There are always babies being born, or soulmates getting married. Society is getting more accepting, and we are able to communicate better than ever with the help of technology. There are definitely wide-scale and small-scale things to be happy thankful for.”

Even if it is something as small as just barely passing a test you knew you failed, or getting to meet your friend for coffee for the first time in forever, there is always a reason to be grateful. “While it is important to notice the big things and deal with those negative feelings, little positive things are just as important to realize.”

“Remember all of life’s positives,” said Evert. “Happiness is a positive feeling, not a state of mind or soulmates getting married. Society is getting more accepting, and we are able to communicate better than ever with the help of technology. There are definitely wide-scale and small-scale things to be happy thankful for.”

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"We deal with the earth, both sides, and we’ve got the past. We’re trying to shape the future by understanding the present and the past together,” she said.

The geology department has been able to get new equipment through government organizations that order a surplus of equipment and only charge shipping costs. Burns said this helps the department better manage its resources.

The concern for committee members is that the way it is now, their students to provide a highly rated program.

a faculty member could change a program that might affect another department without talking with that department or notifying them. CAA bylines state that if a program update involves another college, the department proposing the changes must go through the dean of the other college, the chair of the specific department and the department’s curriculum chair. Many CAA members brought up that this policy had not been enforced for some time, and that it might not be specific enough to include majors and minors.

The discussion was tabled, with geography co-director Barry Kro.

To improve study habits between every few minutes during the game.

Lee May, a member of the AIR committee, said Survival Bingo was a great way for them to address the issues they focus on most.

"The main benefit is that bingo’s a good, lighthearted, fun thing to do to take your mind off the woes and worries of school,” May said.

Some of the study tips advised students to visit professors during office hours, take a five-minute break every 30 minutes and listen to the proper music while studying.

"Everyone listens to music when they study, but not everyone is making sure they’re listening to appropriate music to increase cognitive development,” May said.

Music should be instrumental, a low volume and have a tempo near 60 bpm. Another study tip suggested students to study in a group, saying “teamwork makes the dream work.”

Christyna De Lude, a sophomore foreign languages major, said she was excited to win the holiday beverage prize basket, which included mugs, hot chocolate and marshmallows.

"I usually never win anything, so this was really nice,” De Lude said.

Avery Norris, a sophomore foreign languages major, said she thought Survival Bingo would be a fun activity to do on her birthday, which was Thursday.

"I ended up winning, and I chose the spa basket because I need the opportunity to relax,” Norris said.

Norris said as she got closer to getting her winning bingo, she could feel the tension building. Allison Koch, a senior kinesiology and sports studies major, and Ashley Ker-

A group of students laugh before playing "Survival Bingo" in Pemberton Hall’s Great Room Thursday.

Students win, learn at bingo

By Travis Moody

Tensions were high as students competed against each other during Survival Bingo Thursday night in Pemberton Hall.

Members of the Academic Initiative and Retention committee read ways to improve study habits between every few numbers during the game.

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### The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz  
No. 0929

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<th>Entry</th>
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<td>Contrail contents</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Attached</td>
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<td>Gabriel García Márquez called him &quot;the greatest poet of the 20th century, in any language&quot;</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Stationary basket attempt</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Puny arms?</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Takes off</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Slightly fermented baked dish</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Appropriate game</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
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<td>17</td>
<td>“The Simpsons” character who claims he can recite pi to 40,000 places</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Sheller’s discard</td>
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### Across
- 1: Type of property, in real-estate lingo  
- 2: Streaming hicups  
- 3: Band of scouts  
- 4: French 101 word, or, with a different meaning, Spanish 101 word  
- 5: Consequently  
- 6: Sushi bar beverage, perhaps  
- 7: M.M.A. stoppage  
- 8: Parent company of Reebok  
- 9: Image on many a rupee banknote  
- 10: Gropper, for one  
- 11: Greatly regret  
- 12: Brand of fruit-flavored hard candy  
- 13: “Call sometime”  

### Down
- 1: Female friend, to Felice  
- 2: Modern transports used while standing  
- 3: “Nothing to get worked up about”  
- 4: Interjects something  
- 5: Words from the chickenhearted  
- 6: _Xra (Coca-Cola product)  
- 7: Ancient Greek city-state  
- 8: Make a right turn?  
- 9: Opposed  
- 10: Onetime presidential candidate with a divinity degree from Yale  
- 11: “The Simpsons” character who claims he can recite pi to 40,000 places  
- 12: Sheller’s discard  
- 13: Cable channel owned by NBCUniversal  
- 14: Sharp  
- 15: Burn a bit  
- 16: Item that names a person holding it when its middle letter is removed  
- 17: Math whizzes, stereotypically  
- 18: Bill of 2015’s “Trainwreck”  
- 19: University department, in course descriptions  

### Puzzle by Damon Gulczynski

Online subscriptions: Today’s puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords ($39.95 a year).

Read about and comment on each puzzle: nytimes.com/wordplay.
Friday, November 3, 2017

Football team with senior day Saturday

By Sean Hastings
Sports Editor|@DEN_Sports

The Eastern football team will honor its 21 senior Saturday for senior day before the Panthers’ game with Eastern Kentucky.

“This senior class has done a great job of leading this football team,” coach Kim Dameron said. “This senior class is the right way. They’ve showed real great leadership.”

He said it is going to be sad to see them leave, but hopefully the Panthers have more than two games left. Dameron noted that this group of seniors have been around for some big wins.

Last year, Eastern beat Miami-Ohio and Illinois State. They were 7-1 two years ago and made the playoffs.

“When this senior class has done a lot,” Dameron said.

The last two losses hurt the Panthers’ chances of getting a playoff berth and their season can be over in three weeks.

Dameron said the Panthers have made too many mistakes this season.

“It’s been that we have to keep the games close and win them close in the end,” Dameron said. “The ones that we’ve let away from us, the reason for that is mostly because of turnovers.

Eastern picked up four wins in a row to start its OVC portion of its schedule, but all came down to the last play.

Even Eastern’s non-conference season opener against Indiana State came down to a Kimberly touchdown pass to Dennis Turner with three seconds left in the game.

“We have to make sure we don’t do things that prevent us from being successful,” Dameron said.

For Eastern this year, Dameron said. “This senior class is the reason we won so many games early close. They just believe and they keep doing the little things the right way. They’ve showed really great leadership.

The Panthers have been without their starting senior kicker since the warmups before the first game of the season. Nick Bruno injured his leg and has not kicked for Eastern this year. And the bad luck continued for redshirt senior Mitch Kimble, who once again, was injured and missed a significant amount of time.

“I feel bad for Mitch because his last two seasons have really been ruined because of injury and he hasn’t been able to show what he can truly do,” coach Kim Dameron said.

Kimble, when he was healthy, showed that he was one of the top quarterbacks in the Ohio Valley Conference.

“The senior class has done a great job of leading this football team,” Dameron said. “This senior class is the reason we won so many games.

One of the biggest losses this season was to Kentucky, who came up short in four of the last five, losing to Tennessee Edna Edwardsville, while Belmont came up short in four of the last five, losing to Tennessee State on Tuesday.

The Bruins can set off a flurry of noise Edwardsville, while Belmont came up short in four of the last five, losing to Tennessee State on Tuesday.

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Volleyball team has another tough road test

By Tom O’Connor
Volleyball Reporter|DBL_Sports

At 6-6 on the season, the Panthers must secure, or otherwise surrender, admittance to postseason play.

Only the top eight teams in the standings enjoy a ticket to the Ohio Valley Conference tournament in two weeks and the Eastern volleyball team, currently seventh among all opponents, will face three playoff hopefuls in a matter of two weeks.

The Panthers played against Belmont.

A year has passed since the two teams clashed against one another, a match in which the Panthers lost 3-1.

With the Panthers on the precipice of tournament play, the team must be on the same page. Coach Sam Wolinski rhapsodized over the Eastern volleyball team’s cohesion, acknowledging the continuity she has witnessed throughout the season, and highlighting her players’ skill at communicating.

“It is not just the same people over and over again,” Wolinski said. “There are others, whether it is on the court or on the bench that are all helping to maintain that energy and that constant communication that we need to be successful.”

After 25 games, eight of them on the road, fatigue certainly has a means of embedding itself into the team’s psyche, especially since the Panthers play the remaining three matches on the road.

“If it is that time of the year where you are worried about the number of jumps a lot of people are taking. You want to manage that fatigue factor,” Wolinski said.

Wolinski said the Bruins tend to play an up tempo style of play and typically run a 5-1 system.

The Blues can set off a flurry behind Arianna Person who, for the purposes of preparing for Saturday’s match, will be on the Eastern volleyball team’s radar. She has been the force behind the Bruins’ offensive prowess, scoring enough points to be third in the OVC.

The Blues bear dominance on the other end as well. As a defensive juggernaut, the Blues hold a .176 opponent hitting percentage, the paradigm of defensive persistance.

“They have seen them on film as a coaching staff so we will kind of get ready for them a little bit more on Thursday, but they have a great outside hitter,” Wolinski said.

Nevertheless, the Bruins struggle to close out sets down the stretch, as they have a record of 3-4 in matches that extend to a fifth set. The Panthers, by contrast, have not lost in such matches.

Eastern enters Saturday coming off a 3-0 loss to Southern Illinois Edwardsville, while Belmont came up short in four of the last five, losing to Tennessee State on Tuesday.

Wolinski said the Bruins tend to play an up tempo style of play and typically run a 5-1 system.

Joe Caputo attempts to sack Jacksonville State’s quarterback in the Panthers’ loss Oct. 21. Eastern hosts Eastern Kentucky this Saturday for senior day.

All season has made do with what it had, and has this as its final chance to play at O’Brien Field in front of the home fans this season. Eastern is 4-2 in OVC play and the Colonels are 3-3. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m. at O’Brien Field.

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THE VEHICLE
A collection of photography, student art, creative writing, poetry, and more! Call (217) 581-2812 for more information.
By JJ Bullock
Assistant Sports Editor | @DEN_Sports

When new Eastern women’s basketball coach Matt Bollant heard the Panthers’ men’s team was hosting a game for charity against the University of Illinois on Friday, he knew he had to get in on the chance to raise money. He just needed to find an opponent.

Bollant gave a call to his former program at Illinois to see if the women’s team would be willing to make the trip with the men. Unfortunately, the answer was no, as the Illini had a game already scheduled with in-state rival Northwestern.

He then turned his attention to Western Illinois, which also was not sure if the potential scoreboard work for it. It was then Bollant reached out to Indiana State, and the game he wanted came together.

“They said pretty much right away, ‘yeah we’ll go with that thing,’” Bollant said. Ticket sales from the game benefit hurricane relief efforts.

From a basketball perspective, the game gives Bollant and the team a good chance to learn about themselves and see if defensively they can play better against the Sycamores than they did last year.

“They gave up 88 points and lost 88-61 to Indiana State last year. Can we be different? They return five really good players, five of their top seven. So, I think Indiana State is going to have a great year. Can we compete, are we at that level yet?”

Bollant said. If there is one area of the game Indiana State can control, it is the frontcourt where the Sycamores feature a dangerous duo of six-foot plus forwards with a knack for scoring and rebounding.

“They think they are going to come in real confident and they return their two best players who are seniors. Ashley Taia and Wendie Bobbitts are really good basketball players and two players that are two of the better mid-major players in the country,” Bollant said. “So, they’re going to come in ready to go and excited for this senior year and anxious to show people that Indiana State can control, it is the frontcourt where the Sycamores feature a dangerous duo of six-foot plus forwards with a knack for scoring and rebounding.

“I think Jalisha (Smith) probably...will be a good job in our scrimmage and she is just such a warrior and plays so hard and ability Jennifer Nehls,” Bollant said. “She is better since I have gotten the job it’s probably the most change. She is going to go from not having to have a great crowd in our game and its exciting to be going to be exciting.”

There is an added element of excitement to the game Eastern does not encounter often. Lancer Arena has sold out for Friday’s games.

“When your first basketball game at SIU is a sellout, not very many people would believe that,” Bollant said. “Obviously, it gives us a great game for the Illini men are a big part of that coming here, we understand that but we are going to have a great crowd in our game and its exciting to be going to be exciting.”

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Women’s basketball hosts Indiana State

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By By J Bollan

Assistant Sports Editor | @DEN_Sports


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Eastern, Illini to square off in sold-out game

By By Sean Hastings

Sports Editor | @DEN_Sports

A Big 10 opponent, thousands of dollars raised for hurricane relief and a sold-out Lantz Arena is what the men’s basketball team’s game with the University of Illinois brings to the table.

The game was scheduled just one week before game day with talks starting Oct. 24. It is an exhibition game for both teams, which gives Eastern a free look at a Big 10 opponent before starting its regular season on the road at Nebraska, another Big 10 team.

Friday’s games, with the women playing before the men, are about raising money for hurricane victims.

Coach Jay Spoonhour said there is no drawback to playing this game and that everything that comes out of Friday is a good thing.

“This will be a really nice thing,” Spoonhour said. “It’s great for the local fans, local Illinois fans get to see some of the best players in the country.”

The Panthers bring back a core group of players with four seniors leading the charge. Terrell Lewis is the longest standing Panther on the roster. Muusa Dama, Montell Goodwin and Ray Crossland all played their first game as Panthers in 2016-2017.

That team was not able to make the tournament, but a rejuvenated squad is ready to get the Panthers back to the tournament.

Eastern brought in a few key pieces to fill the gaps that Eastern had last year. The Panthers brought in players who are able to drive to the basket, and how Spoonhour wants it sometimes, getting fouled.

Lewis would drive last year, but he was not able to draw the fouls. Eastern brought in guys who are able to do that, Spoonhour said.

The Panthers do have a string of shooters who can go off on any given night. Last year when the shooting was there, the Panthers were able to shoot out a win, but the games where it was not, they did not have a driving game to fall back on.

Having both this season gives Eastern a different look. Eastern Kentucky’s coach Dan McHale said Eastern might be the team to beat in the OVC.

The University of Illinois came in with a 20-15 record in 2016-2017 and an 8-10 record inside the Big 10.

The Illini have a new coach in Brad Underwood after he took the reins of the program in March. The women and Indiana State go head-to-head in their charity game 4 p.m.

The men’s team and the University of Illinois have a tipoff time of 7 p.m.

The game sold out in just over 24 hours. The first 450 students wearing blue with a Panther Card will be let in.

The last time Eastern filled the stadium like it has for Friday’s game was in 2014 against Murray State.

The game can be watched at 581-2812 or smathings@eiu.edu.