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The Keep

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Eastern Illinois University

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THE WEEKLY EDITION

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

'TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID'

August 24, 2022

MORE THAN A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

VOL. 107 | NO. 1

NEW YEAR ROLLS IN

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Advice for freshman, pg. 3

First Night brings high energy, competition, pg. 6

Everything to look forward to in *The News*, pg. 4 & 5

Athletes to keep an eye on this season, pg. 8



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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 Virdon, 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.

Comments / Tips

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 Luke Taylor 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 it at the newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

Get social with The Daily Eastern News

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Visit our website: dailyeasternnews.com

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What to do outside of class

Tracking down fun activities can be difficult when you're new in town. The News Staff presents a list of the most popular, underrated or personal favorite activities at Eastern and the surrounding area.

Dining

- **Mi Casa Tu Casa**
Build your own burrito or bowl at this local restaurant. Chips and queso are a must.
- **Revival City Doughnuts**
Check out doughnut flavors you can't get anywhere else. Not an early riser? Get some late night doughnuts on Fridays.
- **Dirty's Bar & Grill**
Burgers, wraps, wings, brunch, bar food... Dirty's has everything.
- **Jackson Avenue Coffee**
Grab one of "the JAC's" unique coffee drinks and enjoy an open mic or band performance.
- **McHugh's**
Get burgers, sandwiches and plenty of fries and choose from a rotating milkshake menu.
- **Casa Del Mar**
Stop in for some classic Mexican food or order on DoorDash.
- **China Cafe**
Order takeout or delivery from this restaurant right next to the square.
- **Kamikaze Hibachi & Sushi**
The restaurant formerly known as "Kasabi Hibachi & Sushi on Wheels" has a brand new location.
- **Zesty Wingz**
Chicken, fish and more, available for delivery.

Outdoors

- **Charleston Lake**
Walk the trails, hang out in the pavilion or by the lake and enjoy the view.
 - **Fox Ridge State Park**
Go camping overnight or just stay for a while to picnic or hike.
 - **Douglas-Hart Nature Center**
Check out the gardens or participate in one of the events in the center.
 - **Sister City Park**
Play baseball, soccer, roller-hockey and more at the new fields.
- In the Area**
- **Breakout Escape Games**
Bring a group and test your puzzle solving skills across the street from Old Main.
 - **Zax Trax**
Head over to Mattoon to go kart and try your hand at axe throwing.
 - **T&J's Mud Hut**
Pick out a ceramic piece and add your own glaze, then come back later to pick up your artwork.
 - **Sirius Unbound**
Stock up on games, collectables, dice and more or join in on a scheduled game.
 - **Lincoln Douglas Debate Museum**
Learn about the local history which has directly affected our campus over the last few years.

- **The Great Pumpkin Patch**

Get in your fall photoshoot and enjoy some baked goods this fall. Various bands will be performing on select dates this fall.

- **Midgard Comics**
Fulfil your superhero literature needs and pick up movies, games and action figures.

On Campus

- **7th Street Underground**
Keep an eye out for open mics and other events in this hidden spot downstairs from the Union Bookstore.
- **EIU Lanes**
Bowl or play pool with friends. Keep an eye out for events to meet new people.
- **Esports Arena**
Play on the consoles or PCs and compete with other gamers in the Student Recreation Center.
- **Secret Garden**
This "secret" spot between the H.F. Thut Greenhouse and the Life Science Building is a great place to take a break between classes.
- **Center for Student Innovation**
Booth Library offers podcasting spaces, 3D printers, gaming computers and more. Students can borrow technology like GoPro cameras, microphones and even a sewing machine.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AUGUST 24-31

WEDNESDAY

SATURDAY

MONDAY

Tusk: The Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute
 7:30 p.m. - Dvorak Concert Hall,
 Doudna Fine Arts Center

THURSDAY

TUESDAY

Council on Academic Affairs
 2 p.m. - Witters Conference Room,
 Booth Library

Charleston Community Band
 7:30 p.m. - Kiwanis Park

Pantherpalooza
 2 p.m. - Library Quad

Literary Divas
 3:30 p.m. - Blair Hall Room 1103

SUNDAY

FRIDAY

WEDNESDAY

**YOUR EVENT
 COULD GO
 HERE!**

Student Government
 7 p.m. - Arcola/Tuscola Room, MLK Jr.
 University Union

**Happy Hacks for More Positivity
 and Improved Well-Being**
 1 p.m. - LifeSpan Center

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

Upperclass, alumni give tips for new students



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Lugging multiple totes into Taylor Hall on Friday afternoon, August 19, 2022, during Welcome Weekend on the Eastern Illinois University campus in Charleston, Ill. with his parents Kobe Jones, a sophomore accounting major, said he is excited for the new semester. He said he hopes to meet new friends and is looking to get involved in campus life.

By Madelyn Kidd
News Editor | @DEN_News

In the midst of the August heat, universities and students are preparing for the fall semester. At Eastern, classes began Monday with an influx of freshmen and transfer students attending for the first time.

Eastern alumni and upperclassmen alike offer advice to new students regarding the dining halls, transportation and academic careers.

Hannah Killough, an alum who studied theatre arts, said freshmen should remember to enjoy their next four years.

"I wish I would have known to really soak it all in," Killough said. "Four years moves extremely fast and college is super fun if you have a good crew along for the ride."

Harper Gerfen, a junior geology major, gave advice to benefit new students' academic careers.

"Biggest advice would be [definitely] connect with your department advisor early on," Gerfen said. "You'll have a better idea of what classes you need to take and build a relationship with more [faculty] members and opportunities early on to help you succeed later in your college career."

By creating connections, Gerfen got the opportunity for an internship this summer.

Sean Haynes, a junior music education major, advised new students to not procrastinate homework; your future self will appreciate it.

"Don't procrastinate," Haynes said. "Everyone says it, and as

someone who does it constantly, you will thank yourself in the past, present and future if you do your homework or projects as soon as possible, but still with efficiency."

Haynes also suggested making friends with people who own their own vehicle.

"Make friends with people who have cars," Haynes said. "A ride is such a valuable resource, even in small campus towns when you need groceries, toiletries or anything at all. Plus, long, late night drives to talk about life can be pretty fun sometimes."

Victoria Bezpalko, a senior public health major, said new students should know that each dining hall has a specific food of focus.

Taylor Dining Hall caters for healthier meal options for breakfast and lunch.

Thomas Dining Hall features pizza and pasta and occasionally Mexican food. Thomas also is the only dining hall to have late-night service for pizza until 1 a.m. Sunday through Thursday.

Stevenson Tower features the Tower Deli for lunch and dinner and the Stevenson Grill offering breakfast foods during brunch. Stevenson, also referred to as Stevo, also offers dinner reservation services on Thursday and Friday nights.

Steve Anderson, an Eastern alum, advised new students to use their dining dollars wisely.

"Don't use up your dining dollars all at once," Anderson said.

Madelyn Kidd can be reached at 581-2812 or at mekidd@eiu.edu.

Campus offers community for new students

By Katja Benz
Reporter | @DEN_News

"Find Your Fit" was the theme of an event hosted Sunday afternoon at spots all around campus to help new students find a community they could connect with on Sunday as a part of Welcome Weekend.

Stephanie Buck, a sophomore elementary education major, was standing behind the Newman Catholic Center table.

She said that when she was a freshman, she sought out the Newman center because it was the right fit for her because of the community it offered.

"I was looking for a community," Buck said. "Just going to college not knowing anyone. I wanted a community and specifically a faith community to kind of keep me on track, keep me accountable. That's something that I found important."

Dean Stout, a freshman engineering cooperative major, was a parent looking for his own fit among other parents. Stout has

a six-year-old son and wants him to be able to find his own fit as his son grows.

"(I want) for him just to be able to do what he wants," Stout said. "He doesn't have to go to work at 16 to help out. He doesn't have to raise his siblings. He doesn't have to. He's not going to have to do all the things that I had to his age. So he's going to be able to start himself out a lot younger than I was able to. I'm 29-years-old and just getting to Eastern. I just want him to be able to do things on his own track and not have to work around everything the way I did."

Serenity Gause, a junior human services major who went to the first generation student group, said that it was easy to make friends and get involved during Welcome Weekend.

"I enjoyed the events because I met a few people during those days," Gause said. "My RA took us out, and I didn't need too many people. But it was so fun."

Aside from the events being



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern's Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. strolls at the New Student Mixer Silent Dance Thursday night in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

fun, they are also about trying to find a student's perfect fit at Eastern. Buck said to go to a place with genuine people that feels like home.

"I would say just find the right group that fits you," Buck said. "Obviously, I'm biased, and I represent the Newman center. But I would just say find a group that represents you and where you feel at home. I think that's really important. I've al-

ways really felt at home at the Newman center. So I think just feeling at home and being around people that you feel comfortable with and that you know are genuine and that are going to lead you in the right direction, because I think just being genuine is the perfect thing."

Katja Benz can be reached at 581-2812 or at kkbenz@eiu.edu.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

In with the new, but we're still the same

I've often joked over the last few years that working at *the News* is my main personality trait. That's only becoming more true this semester.

This place is crazy. Since I wandered in my freshman year and was immediately given a story with no training or any question about my experience, I've been obsessed with the newsroom.

(I promise that's not normal. Some miscommunication happened, but we're now sure to train new writers as needed.)

Back then, I had no intention of pursuing journalism after graduation. Being here, experiencing real local journalism in an educational environment, has completely changed my mind.

Now, I can't imagine spending the rest of my life doing anything else.

All my big life events for the last few years seem to have happened in this newsroom; exactly one year ago, the newspaper was my venue to come out to a lot of people in my life as transgender, and I filled out papers to change my name, start hormone therapy and more while sitting at my



Luke Taylor

desk.

That's something I've been dreaming about since I was a kid and my fellow staff members supported me and celebrated with me every step of the way.

Working as a journalist has also trained me to be more confident, more outgoing, more organized and more involved in my community.

I hope to give back to this publication as much as it has given me over the years.

On a personal level, this effort started last spring as I pushed to develop more podcasts and a newsletter, getting our work to people in new and

different ways.

This year, I hope to continue building on those projects, as well as putting in the work to get more eyes on the content we produce.

If you don't already follow us on your social media of choice, we're probably there!

Our photo staff is killing it over on Instagram and the sports staff has big plans to provide live game updates on Twitter. The news staff usually sees success on Facebook, but we're brainstorming spreading stories to other platforms too.

The staff has even convinced me to start a TikTok.... I guess we must adapt to the times, right?

I hope that video both on that platform and perhaps longer-form content on YouTube will make some of our content more accessible to a wider audience and allow us to delve into types of content we wouldn't otherwise have created.

We have plans to provide a sports podcast, a news podcast and a movie podcast and more with new voices and more guests.

Don't worry- our traditional

news coverage isn't going anywhere.

We'll still provide daily articles, columns and photos on our website alongside the print edition each week.

The world of journalism is constantly changing and as student journalists, we're doing our best to stay ahead of the curve, but the values of *the Daily Eastern News* remain the same.

We'll put in the work to provide our readers on campus and beyond with the news they need and want to read. We'll platform student voices and local issues that may have otherwise not been brought to light.

I have our motto, "Tell the truth and don't be afraid," tattooed on my arm.

Honesty and courage are the values I see reflected across the century of coverage from *the News*, and that's what you can expect to see this year, too.

Luke Taylor is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or at lrtaylor@eiu.edu.

Quote of the Week: "The secret to getting ahead is getting started."

Mark Twain

COLUMN

An editor's plans for the news section and beyond

Hello and welcome back everybody. It's the start of a new school year- my last here at Eastern- and I'm excited to be back.

I'm Madelyn Kidd and this semester I am returning as the News Editor, but in the spring semester I will be the Editor-in-Chief of *the News*.

I am a journalism major with a concentration in public affairs reporting and double minoring in political science and pre-law studies. This is my senior year, and I will be graduating at the end of the spring semester.

I am actually a transfer student from Lake Land College where I worked for the newspaper there, the Navigator. I spent my first year there as a Copy Editor and my second year as Editor-in-Chief.

It was actually my experi-



Madelyn Kidd

ence at Lake Land's newspaper that led to me wanting to pursue a degree in journalism. At the time, I had no idea what I wanted to do.

Last year after I had transferred to Eastern, I spent my first semester here as Managing Editor for *the News* and last spring as the News Editor.

Following graduating from Eastern, I plan to either get a master's degree in journalism, go to law school or get my master's and then also go to law school. I don't have much longer to figure that out, but currently I don't have a plan.

If I do pursue a master's degree, which is the more likely option between it and law school, I will probably enroll in Illinois State University's master's program for a master's in public affairs reporting.

Some fun facts about me are that I prefer TV shows to movies, I love theatre, Taylor Swift and animals, and I commute from home every day. I live about a half-hour drive from campus, but despite the price of gas, I am saving a lot on rent and utilities.

Currently for this semester,

my goals for *the News* include having more feature stories as well as crime and court coverage. This is because features are typically fun to write and get more reads and I enjoy writing about crime and court types of stories.

I also want to work on rebuilding the news staff to have more reporters like we have had in the past. If you are interested in writing news stories, please reach out to *the News* at dennewsdesk@gmail.com or to me.

I am excited to be back after taking the summer off and look forward to covering various events this semester.

Madelyn Kidd is a senior journalism major and can be reached at 581-2812 or at mekidd@eiu.edu.

Editorial Board

Luke Taylor

Ellen Dooley

Madelyn Kidd

Autumn Schulz

Rob Le Cates

COLUMN

A non-journalist writing what needs to be heard

Hello! My name is Ellen Dooley. I am a sophomore special education standard major. I am the opinions section editor. This is my third semester at *the News*. I wrote last school year and even over this past summer.

You may also see me in music ensembles, at the front desk of Andrews Hall, or organizing Residence Hall Association events.

The history of *the Daily Eastern News* runs in my family. Both of my parents went to EIU in the late 80's and early 90's. Well, one music fraternity bonfire and a couple of years later, me and my sibling came along.

While my father attended EIU, he drew cartoons for the newspaper. I recall one about how South Quad seems to turn into a small ocean every time it rains. Funny how 20 years later- nothing changes. So, when I told him I start-

**Ellen Dooley**

ed writing for *the News*, it was clear he was extremely excited.

I started my time at the News as a columnist. I attended Pantherpalooza and met then editor-in-chief, Corryn Brock. It took me a few days to pull the trigger and call her back to talk about writing. I started writing the week after and the rest of it is history.

You may be asking, "an education major is an editor?"

Writing is not for just journalism or English majors. Anyone can write. For me, writing for *the News* is a way to amplify my voice. To amplify my voice about my campus, state, country, and world around me.

I write about what sets my soul and mind on fire.

Before I start a column, I think about what my passions are and what I see in the world around me. I have grown as a writer during my time at *the News*.

My first column was about bikes lanes on Eastern's campus. One of my latest columns during this summer was about the impact of the Texas school shooting. I began to look at the world around me and what settled deep in my mind.

I asked myself, "what needs to be heard?" While not everyone in the world reads my columns, I hope that I at least reach one person.

Although the year has just

begun, I have many plans for this semester and school year. I hope to encourage columnists to speak about what they genuinely care about. I want them to have the courage to speak up about issues and the world around them.

I want to empower these budding and veteran writers to put their best foot forward.

So, cheers! Cheers to a fresh start and new school year. This year you can expect opinions about films, LGBTQIA+ issues, disability issues, educational issues, politics, and philosophy. I am so excited to work with my fellow columnists, editors, and writers yet to come!

As always, we intend to "tell the truth and not be afraid."

Ellen Dooley is a special education standard major. She can be reached at 217-581-2812 or emdooley@eiu.edu.

COLUMN

Looking forward to new kinds of content

You might have seen me on the sidelines at sports games or randomly at student events last year.

Nothing really has changed; you'll probably still see me where I was previously. The only change is that I have a new title.

Being *the News*' photo editor is something I have worked towards since mid-fall last year when I was the assistant photo editor. I then decided that photojournalism was where I would excel and dove in head first.

Coming to Eastern last year as a scared freshman and now, a year later as a sophomore, there is distinctive growth in my ability to take photos and gather stories.

Over the summer, I served as the editor-in-chief for *the News*. While the writing experience was great for me, I definitely know I want to focus on photography. Two of my favor-

**Rob Le Cates**

ite stories from the summer are a gun restriction rally article I wrote and an obituary on a former Eastern dean.

The rally story was great for photos because people from both sides of the conversation showed up and it showed a side of protests and rallies I had not seen before.

The obituary was something I had never written outside of class. There is a struc-

tured how-to guide written in the textbook. When you apply those skills outside of class, it is a little harder. My favorite part of that story is talking with the late dean's wife, who recalled several heart-touching stories of her and her husband.

On to what to expect for the semester, the photo staff will be working with the rest of the staff to contribute and grow *the News*' Instagram @thedailyeasternnews. I highly recommend following it to keep up to date on what's happening if you haven't read our online or print edition.

On there, we will be slightly tweaking what we are currently posting. Instead of just having photos, we will incorporate more video and text slides into our posts.

How often do you read the Instagram caption before swiping through the pictures? If you are like me or my friends,

next to never.

The staff plans to implement slides throughout the post, highlighting information about the story. In addition to Instagram, we will have a Tik Tok, which I'm very excited to see take off.

There we will experiment with reporting news to our target audience, you. We will feature news, tidbits of podcasts that we will record and other fun videos.

Some of my personal goals this semester are to develop at least one long-term photo project, grow our Instagram to at least 1000 followers by December and increase the number of photographers the newspaper has. Here's to an amazing semester.

Rob Le Cates is a sophomore journalism major. He can be reached at 217-581-2812 or at rllecates@eiu.edu.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

DO YOU FEEL PREPARED FOR THIS SEMESTER?

ANSWER THE POLL ON...

dailyeasternnews.com | Twitter: @DEN_News | @thedailyeasternnews

YOU'LL SEE THIS WEEK'S RESULTS IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER!

Last First Night with President Glassman

By Madelyn Kidd
News Editor | @DEN_News

Eastern's First Night of 2022 on Sunday night is marked as University President David Glassman's last First Night before he retires.

The 2022-23 academic year is set to be Glassman's last year as president of Eastern and Sunday night was the first of many last events for Glassman.

"It's really sad for me to think that this is my last first rally," Glassman said. "But this one has really been exciting, a lot of energy, so glad to be here. And I thought everybody had a great time."

Glassman is excited for this year and for classes to start.

"I think this is gonna be a great year now that we've got COVID pretty much behind us, and people are out and they're engaging with one another," Glassman said. "I think it's gonna be a very, very special year."

Vice President of Student Affairs Anne Flaherty said the emphasis on Eastern's marching band for First Night and throughout the year sets Eastern to be different from other institutions.

"I love the emphasis of the marching band and the spirit they bring," Flaherty said.

Flaherty also enjoys the competitions throughout First Night among the students, including musical chairs, a dance off and a tricycle race. Although the mom in her was worried about students getting hurt during musical chairs.

"I was a little nervous about the musical chairs," Flaherty said. "I was worried about students being safe... I went into mom mode. I thought a student was falling and getting hurt, and I wanted to go grab them. But the competition's fine."

Head Football Coach Chris Wilkerson is excited seeing the turnout for First Night and the home games for volleyball and women's soccer games this weekend.



ASHANTI THOMAS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Color guard shows off their skills during the spirit rally to end off First Night on the O'Brien Field.



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

A cheerleader waves to the crowd full of students at the First Night spirit rally on Sunday night.

"It's awesome to see so many of you," Wilkerson said. "I've seen the students come back to campus and watch the other teams working hard and see the soccer team with a big dub today, saw the volleyball gym packed yesterday. You guys are part of the greatest community in the world."

Many students shared Glassman and Flaherty's excitement about the school year starting.

Sheldon Turner, a freshman accounting major, is excited to be getting a higher education.



ASHANTI THOMAS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Students take selfies with and talk to President Glassman about how he was the first person they met on campus at the end of First Night on the O'Brien Field.



ASHANTI THOMAS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

During the First Night spirit rally at O'Brien Field Stadium, from left, Adan Hernandez, a freshman physical therapy major, Billy Torain, a freshman engineering technology major, Da'Sean Roberts, a freshman film and TV production major, and Hunter Soyer, a freshman kinesiology major, all try to catch a t-shirt being thrown into the crowd.

"I feel great," Turner said. "A blessing to be able to get a higher education."

Ka'Davion Coleman, a sophomore accounting major, is ready to start classes.

"[I'm] ready to get back into the motion of the semester betting what flaws I had last year," Coleman said.

Adan Hernandez, a freshman physical therapy major, said he came to First Night to get to know the community.

"I wanted to get to know the

area, the team, the people and see the culture," Hernandez said.

Da'Sean Roberts, a freshman television and video production major, said he came to First Night since it was something to do on Sunday night.

"We ain't been doing much anyway," Roberts said. "So Sunday was really kind of dry, so I came out today. It's kind of nice right now."

Madelyn Kidd can be reached at 581-2812 or at mekidd@eiu.



Special Olympics Family Festival Episode XXXIX: The Return of SOFF

- 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 17, 2022

Volunteer registration forms are available in 1212 Buzzard Hall and must be returned no later than Monday, September 12.

HOSTED BY



Help us spread the word by posting to your social accounts!

Special Olympics Family Festival | @mySOFFtweets, #SOFF2022

VOLUNTEER MEETING

Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 6 PM
in the Buzzard Auditorium.

Five sports to watch on campus this fall

By **Kate Stevens**
Assistant Sports Editor | @DEN_News

As the new school year begins, so does a new sports season. The five sports to tune into this fall season are football, volleyball, cross country, and men's and women's soccer.

FOOTBALL

As the 2022 EIU fall football camp ends on Aug. 21 and the regular football season begins, it brings with it many new faces including the new head football coach Chris Wilkerson. Wilkerson was hired after the Panthers finished 1-10 last season.

The Panthers will kick off their season on Sept. 1 in Dekalb, Ill., where they will face the defending MAC champions Northern Illinois. The first home game of the season will be Sept. 10 against Chattanooga.

There are some returning players to look out for this season: wide receiver Isaiah Hill, safety Jordan Vincent, and defensive linemen Jordan Miles and Tim Varga.

Another player to look out for this season is transfer linebacker Foday Jalloh from Central Connecticut State who was named to the East-West Shrine Bowl Preseason 1000 list.

VOLLEYBALL

The EIU volleyball team finished 11-18, with an Ohio Valley Conference Tournament appearance last season and the OVC predicts that EIU will finish in 6th place in the conference even with the additions of Little Rock, Southern Indiana, and Lindenwood to the OVC.

The Panthers won their exhibition match against Missouri-St. Louis on Sat., Aug. 20, but will officially open their season at the Butler Top Dawg Tournament on Aug. 26 and 27. The first home game will be Sept. 6 against Western Illinois.



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Panther's Jaelin Benefield, a sophomore running back, avoids a Tennessee State player while running the ball at the Saturday afternoon football game. Eastern lost 0-28 to Tennessee State at O'Brien Field.

EIU added six new players to the roster this season and there are several key returning players such as Emily Wilcox, Ella Collins, Ireland Hieb, Summerlyn Smith, Christina Martinez Mundo, and Ashley Sharkus.

CROSS COUNTRY

After a winning season last year, the men and women of the EIU cross country team plans to go full force as key runner Dustin Hatfield returns for his fifth year.

The Panthers will begin their

season at home on Sept. 2 and will run in three other races at Illinois State, Louisville, and Bradley before the OVC championship in late October.

The cross country team lost a key runner in Lindsey Carlson, but both the men and women have added a few runners to the roster for the upcoming season.

MEN'S SOCCER

The EIU men's soccer team is coming off of a 2-12-1 season and are hopeful for a winning season

as they added new head coach Josh Oakley, a Mattoon, Ill., native and a former EIU assistant coach, over the summer.

The Panthers played an exhibition match in Chicago versus University of Illinois-Chicago, leaving with a 0-9 loss against the Flames on Aug. 13. They will begin their official season on Aug. 25 as they head north to Green Bay versus the Phoneix. Their home season opener is scheduled for Oct. 1 as they play Southern Indiana.

A few key players that are set to return for EIU are midfielders Chad Hamler and Julian Smith, defender Brennan Rzewuski, and forwards Prince Okonny, Reed Axthelm, and Maxwell Allen.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

While the EIU women's soccer team finished 4-11-2 last season, the team and head coach Jake Plant are confident going into the 2022 season.

The Panthers lost their first two away exhibition games versus Illinois and Illinois Springfield 0-5 and 1-2 respectively. They found a win at their home exhibition game versus IUPUI 2-1 on Aug. 14. The official season began for them on Aug. 18 as they played their home opener against Valparaiso as they tied the game 0-0. They won their first game 2-0 versus Purdue Fort Wayne on Aug. 21.

The Panthers have depth this season as they have added more players to the squad. EIU has gone with Daniela Bermeo at goalkeeper as she has had a nice showing in the first few matches. Other key returners are forwards Zenaya Barnes, Serra Pizano, and Michaela Danyo, defender Sarah Hagg, midfielders Nicoletta Anuci, Kenzie Balcerak, Amanda DaSilva, and Jenna Little.

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How I fell in love with covering sports at *the News*

Greetings everyone! My name is Autumn Schulz and I will be the sports editor for the 2022-2023 academic year. I am a junior sports media relations major with a minor in history.

I come from a small town in Pike County, Illinois called Barry. Barry is about 40 minutes away from Quincy, Illinois and an hour away from Springfield, Illinois (that is how I explain it to those who ask).

Growing up in a small town with no high school football team to call our own (we co-opped), basketball was the heart of sports for our community.

Therefore, I played basketball and softball from third grade until my junior year of high school, with a year of track sprinkled in-between. When I was not



Autumn Schulz

playing sports, I was watching them.

Growing up, I watched, learned, and loved St. Louis Cardinals baseball. Visiting Busch Stadium III is always a surreal experience for me. As an avid Cardinals fan, I am not looking forward to saying goodbye to Yadier Molina, Adam Wainwright, and Albert Pujols this

fall.

When I do not want to focus on the main core of my favorite baseball team leaving, I turn my attention to the Kansas City Chiefs. The Chiefs are a big deal to me and my family, even though we suffer from heart palpitations when we watch them. My favorite player is (and always will be) the best tight end in the NFL, Travis Kelce. So, if you see a blonde strolling around on campus this fall with a Kelce jersey, it is most likely me.

I started working for The News during the first few months of my freshman year as a sports reporter. Last year, I had the amazing opportunity to be the assistant sports editor under our previous sports editor, Adam Tumino. Working with Tumino cov-

ering mainly football and men's basketball made me fall further in love with sports.

I came into Eastern with tunnel-vision, only wanting to focus on baseball. But the experiences I had pushed me to become a more well-rounded individual.

I will forever be thankful for those late-night game stories and arguments over who was right about which sport that week.

I hope that during my time as sports editor, I not only serve the community of Eastern well, but the community of women who are beginning their career in sports.

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Four athletes to watch this fall

By Autumn Schulz
Sports Editor | @autschulz

The beginning of fall sports on campus is a reminder that there are many things to look forward to in the next four months. Not only are there two new coaching eras, but there are four athletes whose talent is worth taking note of.

Isaiah Hill - Football

Football is one of the two sports this fall season that will enter a new era. Head coach Chris Wilkerson will unleash the new Panther football era on September 1 against Northern Illinois.

The Panthers will be looking to redshirt senior wide receiver Isaiah Hill as a key part of their offense. Hill transferred from South Dakota State in 2019. He was able to play eight games that season. In those eight games, Hill led the team in pass receptions with 58 for 571 yards. He was 31st in the FCS in receptions per game at 7.5 which ranked sixth on the EIU single season list. His performance earned

him a spot on the All-OVC Newcomer Team.

Hill missed all of the shortened 2020 season and the majority of the 2021 season due to injury. Hill was able to return for five games of the 2021 season. Those five games were enough for Hill to earn second team All-Ohio Valley Conference honors. Hill led the team with 39 receptions and 493 receiving yards. He concluded his season with three straight games with 100 or more receiving yards. Hill became the 34th player in school history to pass the 1,000 yard receiving mark for his career and was fourth in the OVC in total receiving yards for the season.



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Redshirt junior wide receiver Isaiah Hill runs the ball at Saturday's football game at O'Brien Field. Hill had 13 catches for 110 yards. The Panthers lost 20-13 to the Racers.



BY ASHANTI THOMAS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern midfielder Chad Hamler races a pair of opponents to the ball in a match against Purdue Fort Wayne on Sept. 7 at Lakeside Field. Hamler had a shot in the game, which Eastern lost 1-0.

Chad Hamler - Men's Soccer

Soccer is the other sport that will be entering another era this fall. Mattoon native Josh Oakley took over as head coach in June. Oakley will kick off the new era on Thursday against Green Bay.

Last season, the Panthers were 2-12-1 overall and 1-5 in the Summit League. This season, the player to watch is graduate student midfielder Chad Hamler. Hamler has improved within the

past two seasons. As a junior, Hamler started all 11 matches and recorded a career-high .556 shot-on-goal percentage and led the team with two assists.

Last season, Hamler started in all 15 matches and was second on the team with 14 shots, including six shots on goal. Hamler's season high for both shots and shots on goal came against St. Thomas.

Summerlyn Smith - Volleyball

The 2022 volleyball team will be searching for redemption this season with the help of senior setter Summerlyn Smith. Last season, the Panthers finished eighth in the conference with a 4-14 record and an overall record of 11-18, earning them a spot in the OVC Tournament. Their first tournament appearance since 2017 would end in a first-round defeat after losing all three sets to No. 1 seed Southeast Missouri.

Smith joined the Panthers from Parkland College where she helped the team win back-to-back Mid-West Athletic Conference champi-

onships. Smith also earned NJCAA All-American honors with 1,080 assists during one of her two seasons and finished her JUCO career with more than 2,000 career assists.

As a junior setter last year, Smith appeared in all 29 matches, earning a first-place spot on the team with 785 assists and 7.20 assists per set ratio. Her season high in assists was 53 against Tennessee State where she also posted six double-doubles and 14 digs. Smith finished third on the team in digs with 183 and was the fifth setter in the conference in assists.



BY MONIQUE PETERSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Summerlyn Smith, a senior setter, regroups with her team after a play during their exhibition game against University of Missouri-St. Louis on Saturday afternoon. Eastern won the match 3-1.



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Fifth-year Eastern Midfielder Amanda DaSilva, number 10, fights Valparaiso players (left) Andrea Garcia a fifth-year midfielder and (right) Peyton Evans a sophomore forward for control of the ball during the women's soccer team's first 2022 season game Thursday. The Panthers and Beacons tied.

Amanda DaSilva - Women's Soccer

Last season, the women's soccer team was 4-11 overall and 2-5 in the OVC, earning them the eighth seed in the OVC Tournament. The Panthers were knocked out in the first round by fifth seed Tennessee Tech.

This season, fifth year midfielder Amanda DaSilva will return for her extra year of COVID eligibility.

DaSilva was named EIU's player to watch by the OVC earlier this month.

DaSilva played two seasons at the University of Evansville before joining the Panthers in 2020. As

a junior, DaSilva played in eight matches and finished the season with three total shots, two of which were shots on goal. Last season, DaSilva played in all 17 matches and was one of the five players to log more than 1,200 minutes for the season. DaSilva played a season high of 100 minutes against Morehead State.

DaSilva finished the season with seven shots, three of which were on goal.

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