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Daily Eastern News: Feburary 06, 2014

Eastern Illinois University

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SNOW DAZE

Check out a photo page of Eastern students embracing their day off by playing in the snow on campus.

Page 3



LEADING THE PACK

Men's basketball senior forward Sherman Blanford is this week's Top Cat as named by *The Daily Eastern News*.

Page 8



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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Thursday, Feb. 6, 2014

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 98 | NO. 95



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Harold Groff, a Charleston resident, shovels the snow off his driveway Wednesday. The Eastern alum, who graduated in 1970, said the piles of snow in the Charleston Square left over from plow and shovel jobs are the highest he has seen in a long time.

Students take advantage of snow day

By Jack Cruikshank

Administration Editor | @JackCruik

Camielle Freeman had never built a snowman before.

But, with school closed on Wednesday and with the mission "to brighten someone's day," Freeman, a senior elementary education major, called her friend, Amanda Herdegen, also a senior elementary education major, to play outside.

The two ultimately decided to build the snowman in the Tundra.

"We want students to say, 'Look at that cool thing,'" Freeman said.

To complete the snowman, the two added sunglasses and a blue wig similar to what President Bill Perry wears during the Eastern football games.

"We just want to brighten someone's day," Herdegen said.

However, while some students like Freeman and Herdegen were building the snowman, other students took the day off to catch up – or continue with – their exercise program.

During Wednesday's snow day, the Student Recreation Center had an uplift of attendance from its normal operations – even with snow blanketing the ground.

Although the university was closed Wednesday, students made it a mission to trek through snowdrifts and snow piles across campus to lift, run and generally exercise at the Rec.

In fact, because of the snow day, Brandon Deroshia, a professional intern working at the Rec, said it was busier compared to most days.

Mike Miceli, a junior kinesiology and sports studies major, said the cold does not bother him and he continues his habit of working out.

SNOW DAY, page 5

Erratic winter may bring worse spring

Staff Report

The weather is continuing to fluctuate violently up and down with continuous snowfall and temperatures expected to drop drastically in the coming days.

Throughout Tuesday and

Wednesday, Eastern saw a little less than 8 inches of snowfall with winds averaging at 14 mph. It is rough and expected to get worse starting Wednesday night with the temperature dropping below freezing and continuing into Thursday.

It has been a bad winter, but the upcoming seasons might be just as extreme and terrible if not worse.

While the erratic temperatures and heavy snowfall have been the talk of much complaining on campus, Eastern climatologist,

Cameron Craig said spring might be riddled with frequent storms and uneven weather.

He said the jet stream is still very active with cold temperatures moving south and warm temperatures moving up.

WINTER, page 5

Grounds crew working double shifts, battling conditions

By Michael Spencer

City Editor | @tmskeeper

Stepping into the Facilities, Planning and Management building Wednesday was like walking into mission control.

Extra warm-weather clothes and snack food covered the tables in the deserted FPM building as 13 of the grounds crew personnel were deployed across campus.

In all, 350 acres surrounding more than 100 buildings had to be serviced by the FPM employees after Tuesday's winter storm, which dropped about 10-inches of snow on Charleston. Scott Hall, the superintendent of grounds, sat at his desk having just come in from clearing sidewalks.

Hall said the biggest challenge his crew has faced in clearing the snow after Tuesday has been the layer of ice that formed beneath the frozen powder.

"Each snow is just a little different," Hall said. "Part of the thing we're dealing with for this snow was we had ice the other day and it melted and it's been cold enough that its all refrozen so there are some spots out on campus that are very slick right now."

Greg Lee, an equipment operator for the FPM, said slick surfaces made mov-

ing the snow particularly treacherous.

Lee had just returned from clearing the loading docks at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Wednesday. Lee said he and the rest of the FPM workers began work on campus at 4 a.m.

Staying focused is a challenge when working double shifts on consecutive days. Lee said small naps allow him to stay on the job.

"Whenever we have a break I try to catch a little cat nap," Lee said. "A 10-15 minute nap tends to put me back in order."

Hall and the rest of his employees spent Tuesday night in Lawson Hall after working a 15-hour day.

Mark Hudson, the director of housing and dining, said the grounds crew is housed on the conference floor, which is typically reserved for university guests and food service employees. They are also provided with food from the dining halls.

"They're working 12 and 14-hour days and working really hard so we want to make sure they have a place to take a break and get some good food and get back at it because obviously their work serves everybody," Hudson said.

Safety is the primary concern for the



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

An Eastern groundskeeper plows the sidewalks on campus to clear the pathways for students to walk through campus. The groundskeepers are currently being housed in Lawson Hall's conference hall because of the 12-14 hour shifts they have been working.

FPM team but long hours and treacherous conditions make safely completing tasks difficult.

"This is a stressful environment and

nobody wants to have an accident," Hall said. "You're constantly alert and constantly on edge."

But with classes canceled Wednesday,

the job of the FPM becomes considerably easier.

GROUNDS, page 5

Local weather

TODAY FRIDAY



Partly Cloudy
High: 7°
Low: -5°



Partly Sunny
High: 14°
Low: 8°

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

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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Charleston prepared for snowstorm

By Jarad Jarmon
Associate News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

Despite the slippery, dry snow constantly blanketing the roads on Tuesday and Wednesday, accidents in Charleston have not increased.

Deputy Chief David Chambers said the weather has not done much to create a spike in accidents. The past couple of days have not been riddled with car accidents.

He said, at least with Charleston, accidents as well as crime is pretty normal no matter the weather.

"You're always going to have a certain number of accidents, in any kind of weather, but we haven't had an uncommonly high amount," Chambers said.

He added there have only been a few minor car accidents during the snowstorm. "The flavor of the town doesn't change just because the weather changes," Chambers said.

Assistant Fire Chief Steve Bennett said this time around, he believed people were prepared and stayed cautious because they had not been called for any weather related accidents. He said other than the normal routine; firefighters are going about doing their regular business.

"We haven't really seen an uptick in cold weather emergencies," Bennett said. "After that last storm, I think people kind of prepared themselves and have been better."

In the last storm, firefighters opted with public works to get to accidents or fires out in the country where a lot of snow accumulated. They would call someone to clear a path for the fire trucks.

It is an emergency plan especially in situations where an ambulance is needed.

Despite the lack of accidents in this weather, Bennett and Chambers both said it is still important to stay cautious.



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Anna Percival, a senior communication studies major, has her car towed Wednesday on Lincoln Avenue. The car was about halfway through a turn when the car died and would not start again.

Bennett said snow, especially dry snow, still creates a higher risk for people driving.

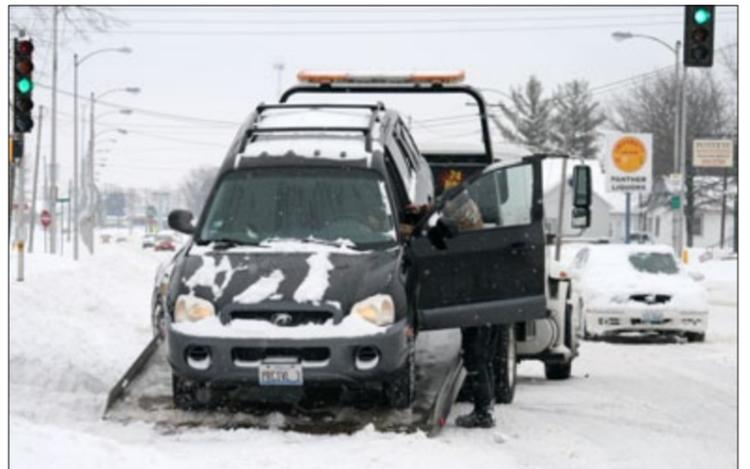
He said to stay in as much as possible and to slow down as much as possible.

"If you don't have to go anywhere, don't go anywhere," Bennett said.

Chambers added it is important to slow down long before approaching an intersection. He also said to make sure the car has more than a half tank of gas to prevent getting stranded in the middle of nowhere.

Bennett said it is a good thing there has not been many accidents because of the snow.

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



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Percival's car is towed on Lincoln Avenue. Percival said she drove from her apartment, located across the street. When she tried to make a right turn, she said her car died because of the cold weather.

Local alcohol sales benefit from snow day

By Dominic Renzetti
Editor-in-Chief | @domrenzetti

Despite Eastern canceling classes, the snow day didn't stop local bars and liquor stores from putting up weekend-like numbers on Tuesday.

Deteriorating weather conditions on Tuesday caused Eastern to cancel all classes after 12:30 p.m. before finally canceling all classes for Wednesday. Several inches of snow blanketed the campus, sending students out of lecture halls and into barstools.

"Definitely there was a lot of excitement," said Chris Clayton of the Panther Paw Bar and Grill. "I probably had about 40 phone calls yesterday asking are we going to be open, are we going to do trivia – our normal thing."

Clayton said the Panther Paw Bar and Grill, located at 1412 Fourth Street, said it felt like a weekend night.

"It was a good night, we had fun. It was a blast," he said.

For Ike's, located at 459 Lincoln Avenue, opening early was the perfect opportunity for when Eastern decided to call off classes at 12:30 Tuesday.

"It was just kind of good timing," said owner Andrew Phipps. "We were opening up that day at 11 (a.m.) anyway, so it was just being available to them really. That was it."

Phipps said his bar's close proximity to campus was something that helped bring in business on the snow day.

"Obviously, we're close enough on campus where people are still able to walk," he said. "It was good."

Clayton said that with some of the other bars being closed, it brought more people into the Paw.

"I know some of the other bars did close, at least some of the up-town bars did, I was told," he said.

K.C. Victor, the manager at Gateway Liquors, located at 102 Lincoln Avenue, said the snow day

brought in more business than usual.

"I'd say probably four times as busy than what we usually are," he said. "We had to bring in backup."

Victor said the store was seeing sales uncommon for the average Tuesday.

"We were along the lines of weekend sales," he said. "It was definitely a lot busier."

With snow days at Eastern being a rarity, it appeared students were in the mood to celebrate, he said.

"I know one of the big reasons (students came out) is that Eastern never cancels school," Victor said. "I think it was more of a celebration than it was the usual social events."

Clayton said he was hoping there wouldn't be any trouble with all the students out.

"My fear was people might do something stupid and Eastern would regret canceling class," he said. "They don't usually cancel classes."

To date, Eastern has canceled

class because of weather only a few times: in January 1977, February 1982, February 2007 and most recently in February 2011.

"I just think people get excited more or less just about being able to have the day off, and I think that's what really contributed to it, knowing they didn't have to go to class or work or anything like that because of the snow," Phipps said. "It made people want to get out and about."

Victor said he's unsure if Gateway will see similar numbers the rest of the week like he did on Tuesday.

"It's hard to tell, really. It just depends on if people are ready to booze or not," he said.

Eastern has not, as of press time, made an announcement regarding Thursday's classes. Snow is not in the forecast, but temperatures are expected to drop into the single digits.

Dominic Renzetti can be reached at 581-2812 or dcrenzetti@eiu.edu.

Pick up tomorrow's edition of *The Daily Eastern News* to read all the latest in news, sports and features!

Students enjoy day off with snowball fight



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Students tackle one another in the snow Wednesday at the intramural fields across from Taylor Hall. The ambush occurred after a snowball fight students organized to celebrate a snow day and try to enjoy the cold weather.



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Above: Christina Tortorici, a junior clinical laboratory sciences major, carries a large portion of snow to her friends to help build a snow fort Wednesday at the intramural fields. **Right:** A group of students climb a mound of snow on their way to the intramural fields, where they engaged in a snowball fight. The students were all members of the Christian Campus House and had planned the snowball fight in advance.



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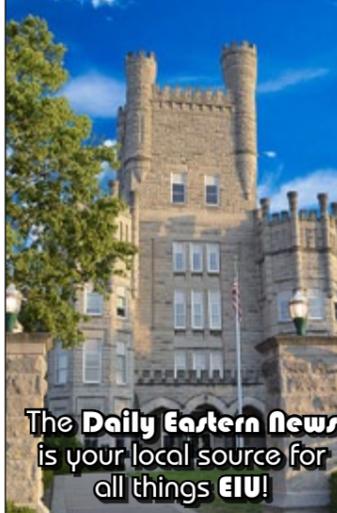


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STAFF EDITORIAL

Embrace your snow day, Eastern

It looks like our prayers were answered. We hoped, we wished and hash tagged away last week, only to be shut down. This time, everyone looked out the window Tuesday afternoon had to know it was coming, especially those in Old Main.

Eastern finally gave students a half a day of canceled classes on Tuesday and a full day off on Wednesday. With snow piled up to our knees, it seemed like there really wasn't a choice.

Whatever you did to enjoy your snow day on Wednesday, lets hope you did it well, because even though we're crossing our fingers for maybe an extra day, we all know class will still probably be back in session on Thursday.

For students, consider yourself lucky. One, that you didn't have to walk to class Wednesday morning, but two, because you're now a part of a prestigious club of Eastern students to have been granted a snow day.

A big thank you to Eastern for unclenching its fists and letting us all stay inside Wednesday. The decision to cancel school was undoubtedly the right move. Snow made it incredibly difficult to walk through campus, even with the work of the grounds crew. For commuter students, it would have been a nightmare trying to drive on the snow covered, icy roads.

Students, don't get too comfortable though. Like it's been said, there's a good chance of class for Thursday and the forecast doesn't seem to show anything as bad as Tuesday or Wednesday, so don't be surprised when the little box on the top of Eastern's website is orange, not red.

No matter what the decision is, remember to use your best judgment and discretion when going to class. Don't do anything that's going to put you in harm's way. If you're afraid to drive on the roads, find a ride, or another route to class, but don't do anything that you might end up regretting. Towing your car out of the ditch isn't worth it and neither is rear-ending someone after you slide on ice.

So be thankful that you're one of the select few that got to enjoy the day off because it might not happen again for a while.

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

Quote of the Day

"Time flies over us, but leaves a shadow behind."

--Nathaniel Hawthorne

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Getting enrollment back up



ALEX FINLEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Hoffman influenced my career

The job of an actor is to take a role on paper and bring it to life in the most honest and realistic way possible. When an actor makes people believe and understand a character, they have accomplished their goal. The late Philip Seymour Hoffman always excelled at each role he played. Hoffman made his outstanding career out of playing unconventional characters.

One of his most iconic roles he played is Lester Biggs in "Almost Famous." "Almost Famous" will forever be one of my favorite films. A film indulged in sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll managed to maintain an overwhelmingly honest outlook on what it is like to be a writer.

The protagonist is a young man who is given his first shot at writing an article for a rock 'n' roll magazine. It is his mentor, Biggs, who is the one that guides him through this journey. Biggs is self-described as being uncool, but being uncool is what makes him so cool. He has this unique insight on the world that only a



Jessica Kozik

writer could have.

Writers are forced to examine their inner thoughts much more rigorously. As Hoffman's character says, "The only true currency in this bankrupt world is what we share with someone else when we're uncool."

Being comfortable enough to not hide our true selves is the only way we can create art. As he goes on to say in the film, "Great art is about conflict and pain and guilt and longing and love disguised as sex, and sex disguised as love..."

Our conflicts, our struggles, and our battles are what lead us to create some of the most beautiful things in the world. From misery, we sprout beauty.

Hoffman captured the essence of a writer. Hoffman's performance made me want to have a career as a writer. It is exhibited in the movie the writer's duty, which is to be the observer, the one who analyzes the circumstances in the most revealing of lights. This is no easy task. It is easy to be bias when writing and to ignore the facts.

Writers can sometimes lean too much towards writing what people want to hear, instead of the truth. I would say to any writer out there, take Lester Biggs' advice, "Be honest, and unmerciful."

Jessica Kozik is a freshman journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or DENopinions@gmail.com.

What are you thinking, Zimmerman?

I remember in the early 2000s when VH1 was on its nostalgia kick, basing a good portion of its programming on celebrities relevant in the 70's, 80's, and 90's. They had entire block of television dedicated to talking about the fads of the past decades, they got your favorite 80's bands back together (who didn't want to see A Flock of Seagulls play again?), and they even got some of your favorite sitcom stars of the 90's back into shape on celebrity weight loss competitions.

Other networks followed suit, with FOX premiering "Celebrity Boxing" in 2002, pitting stars of yesterday like Greg Brady and Danny Partridge against each other inside the squared circle in a battle to determine who knows what other than some cheap publicity.

I'm fine with Greg Brady getting wailed on by Danny Partridge for no apparent reason. These were people that entertained us and made us laugh. That's why they're celebrities, and that's why it's OK for them to do ridiculous things. It's entertaining. We'll watch. I always wondered if the nerdy kid from "Saved By the Bell" could fight anyway.

But, celebrity boxing is now making a comeback in perhaps the worst way possible with George Zimmerman planning to step into the



Dominic Renzetti

ring for who knows what reason. Zimmerman, who was found not guilty of second degree murder and manslaughter in last July's Trayvon Martin case, said he plans to take up boxing in his latest effort to profit off his "celebrity."

You'd think someone in Zimmerman's situation would want to lay low following everything that happened last summer, but here we are. Possible opponents for Zimmerman include hip-hop has-beens DMX and The Game. Neither have had any notable hits in years, but both are eager at the chance to land one on Zimmerman, in what is perhaps the most disheartening publicity stunt in recent years.

Danny Partridge and Greg Brady were trying to get some cheap publicity off their names as child actors. Zimmerman is trying to get his off gunning down an unarmed teenager. DMX

and The Game are trying to get their names out there off slapping around this same guy, and it makes them no better for it. As much as people would love to see some sort of retribution or justice come Zimmerman's way, there probably isn't a worse way than something as ridiculous celebrity boxing.

Is knocking down Zimmerman in a boxing match really going to heal the wounds of Martin's family and friends? Are they really going to say, "Wow, DMX, your left hook in the third round really did it for me. This is what America needed.?"

The real way to move forward after the death of Martin isn't through celebrity boxing, but to make sure it never happens again. It involves pushing for a re-evaluation of our legislature regarding things like defining self-defense and taking a closer look at gun control. It involves opening up the conversation about the way certain people view others based on stereotypes. It's going to take all that and probably a lot more, but what it definitely doesn't need is a boxing match.

Dominic Renzetti is a senior family and consumer sciences major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or dcrenzetti@eiu.edu.

NCA committee to review budgeting

New processes, planning will be focus of meeting

By **Kylie Dawkins**
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

The North Central Association committee will be reviewing processes that Eastern uses in planning budgets at 7:30 a.m. Friday in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Bridge Lounge.

The accreditation committee will be focusing on the fifth criterion of the NCA self-assessment phase, which includes resources, planning and institutional effectiveness.

The NCA is the university's accrediting body, meaning that without their approval Eastern would not be able to award degrees.

Each criterion has a separate sub-committee chairpersons. This criterion's co-chairmen are Mike Maurer, the university director of planning, budget and institutional research, and David Boggs, a business professor.

The resources, planning and institutional effectiveness discussion will review how the university's budget and procedures are sufficient enough to improve the school's quality of education, mission and any future challenges it might face.

Bob Augustine, the dean of the graduate school and a co-chair of the NCA committee, said along with Maurer and Boggs, several faculty members who specialize in budgeting and finance will be attending the meeting.

The goals for the NCA are to chart progress over the past decade, identify areas for improvement, and to remain current and competitive in higher education, according to the Eastern's **NCA website**.

The process the NCA goes through consists of every university department conducting self-assessments, doing a review of those assessments and then giving suggestions for how to improve the results.

The co-chairs of the NCA committee, Augustine and Jeff Stowell, a psychology professor, invite students and people from the community to attend the meeting to give their input.

"This is a big place," Augustine said. "It's hard to know all the different things that they want; these first Friday seminars ensure that anybody who wants to can come and say 'Do

you have this in the report?' or 'I have a question about this criteria.'"

If someone says they have a problem or would like something to be highlighted in the report, he or she should come discuss it with the group.

The group will then have to see if they've already covered it, or if it's something they've missed. If it's something they've missed, the committee will have to look for evidence backing up the individual's statements.

Friday will be the last of a series of five meetings discussing each of the five criteria. Eastern's NCA web page states the five accreditation criteria are: mission; integrity: ethical and responsible conduct; teaching and learning; quality, resources and support; teaching and learning; evaluation and improvement; and resources, planning and institutional effectiveness.

After each meeting, the committee writes reports regarding their assessment results for the criterion being covered in that meeting.

"Eastern really has a lot to be proud of."

-Jeff Stowell, psychology professor

Then in the following NCA meeting, the group analyzes the proposed revisions and will then present the changes to the whole university for review.

Issues brought forward as a part of these assessments include studies involving online learning capacity. These studies helped develop future online learning classes.

Another area studied is integrative learning tactics. This studies how students are learning in classes and how to relate those goals to everyday lives.

An example of this is the business department allowing students to use real money to invest in things, and learn real-life tactics and lessons.

Stowell said he is very happy with how the entire university has come together with these issues.

He said there have been quick responses, and an open discussion about shortcomings and strengths.

"Eastern really has a lot to be proud of," Stowell said.

Kylie Dawkins can be reached at 581-2812 or kadawkins@eiu.edu.



Check out a photo gallery from the snow day at:
dailyeasternnews.com

DOMINIC BAIMA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Camielle Freeman and Amanda Herdegen, both senior elementary education majors, stand back and look at their finished snowman Wednesday in the field east of Thomas Hall.

» SNOW DAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The cold doesn't matter," Micali said. "We still come out to work out."

Marcus Banks, a freshman kinesiology and sports studies major, said he went to the Rec because Wednesday is his normal day off for football practice, despite the growing snow.

"If you just walk fast, you'll get through it," said Banks, describing walking through the thick snow and frigid weather.

Banks also said he was happy because classes were canceled. He added it gave him more of an incentive to go.

Deroshia said when the Rec opened at noon, the counter showing attendance was around 60, but around 2 p.m., 100 students were exercising at the Rec.

"We are happy to accommodate students and give them a safe environment to come work out," Deroshia said.

Mindy Meehling, the office manager for the Rec, said she does not remember a time when the Rec was completely closed.

She said the typical response to cold is to amend the hours of the Rec, which happened Wednesday when the Rec was open from noon until 5 p.m.

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

» WINTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"With an active jet, where you have a trough that brings in cold air and a then you got ridge that brings in warm, we could see a pretty active severe weather season," Craig said.

He added during the past few years, we haven't seen very active seasons but it may change this year.

Like in winter we could see temperatures fluctuate and storm systems move in quickly. There could also be tornado activity throughout.

Craig said this all depends on the jet stream though. If the jet stream becomes less active, weather

will normalize and calm down.

"That's a long-term situation," Craig said. "Based on what we have experienced now, that will probably hold true for the next couple of months."

Craig also said the winter is not over yet though. It is still in its adolescent phase, and we will not be fully into winter until later in February. Eastern students should expect to see more of what has happened: continuous snowfall and drastic weather changes.

» GROUNDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"One of our biggest challenges when school is in session is dealing with cars in parking lots," Hall said, adding that an empty parking lot can be cleared of snow two times as quickly as one that is full of cars.

When classes are canceled, students are more likely to stay off the sidewalks, making it easier to clear paths so that the campus can be re-opened and students can return to class.

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

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Panthers, Skyhawks set for rematch

By Anthony Catezone
Sports Editor | @AnthonyCatz

Don't call this a redemption game for the Eastern men's basketball team.

At least that is how coach Jay Spoonhour views Eastern's rematch with Tennessee-Martin at 7 p.m. Thursday in Lantz Arena.

The Skyhawks defeated the Panthers 84-77 on Jan. 23 in Martin, Tenn., and it was the third most points Eastern has surrendered this season.

"We have to worry about the technical part of it rather than the emotional part of it," Spoonhour said. "The word 'redemption' has too much emotion to it."

The Skyhawks erased an 11-point deficit with a 50-point second half where they shot 60 percent from the field and 6-of-8 from 3-point range.

"Containment got us beat last time," Spoonhour said. "We just can't let them drive it past us like we did."

Eastern, now at 5-5 in the Ohio Valley Conference and second in the west division, will try to avoid all emotion it can when it hosts Tennessee-Martin, the OVC's second worst team at 2-7 in conference play.

"We can be as fired up as we want, but that can only get us so far unless we actually guard," Spoonhour said.

Tennessee-Martin has four quick guards who are as good as any in the OVC, which caused fits for Eastern's size-dominated lineup, Spoonhour said.

Sherman Blanford, Chris Olivier and Josh Piper, who are all 6-foot-7 or 6-foot-8 forwards, are forced to guard smaller, faster guards against the Skyhawks, and Spoonhour is forced to play different matchups.

"It's hard for (Blanford), (Olivier) and (Piper) to guard a 6-foot-1 guard and that causes us to lose the height advantage inside," Spoonhour said.

Blanford, Olivier and Piper are three of Eastern's top six players in minutes per game.

But Tennessee-Martin's guard combo of Terence Smith, Mike Liabo, Marshun Newell and Dee Oldham combine for 46.3 points per game — more than half of the Skyhawks' 73.1 points per game.

Those same four guards dropped 59 points on the Panthers in their matchup just four games ago.

Smith and Liabo scored 19 and 20, respectively, on a combined 14-of-26 shooting. Liabo also scored 16 of his game-high points in the Skyhawks second-half comeback.

But all of that culminates into the last game, something Spoonhour said does not relate to Thursday night.

"We don't bring up stuff like that," Spoonhour said. "This is simply a game we have to win."



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior forward Chris Olivier makes his way to the basket in a game against Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville Saturday in Lantz Arena. The Panthers beat the SIUE Cougars 76-70.

Anthony Catezone can be reached at 581-2812 or ajcatezone@eiu.edu.

Eastern aims to continue strong shooting

By Bob Reynolds
Staff Reporter | @BobReynoldsDEN

The Eastern women's basketball team has been on an offensive tear as of late, averaging 77.5 in its last two games.

The Panthers scored 84 points in a loss to Tennessee-Martin and shot their best shooting percentage of the season at 60.4 percent.

In Saturday's game against Southern Illinois-Edwardsville, the Panthers scored 71 points and shot 34 percent from the floor, but 44 percent from the 3-point line.

The offensive tear has come with the help of the Panthers' top three players, Jordyne Crunk, Sabina Oroszova and Katlyn Payne.

Crunk has accumulated 19 assists in Eastern's previous two games.

Oroszova has scored 45 points in her last two games on 18-of-30 shooting. Payne has scored 51 points in the last two games and shot 13-of-24 from the 3-point line.

The Panthers are currently tied with Morehead State for the eighth and final playoff spot, but would lose the tiebreaker because Morehead State defeated the Panthers on Jan. 4, 75-

64.

Around the OVC

Tennessee-Martin is 10-0 in OVC play and holds the No. 1 seed.

The Skyhawks have a 17-6 overall record and have scored 100 points in five games this season.

Eastern Kentucky is currently the No. 2 seed. The Colonels have the best scoring defense in the OVC, only giving up 64 points a game.

Tennessee-Martin's Heather Butler, Belmont's Taylor Mills and Edwardsville's Micah Jones re-

ceived Adidas player of the week honors.

Butler, who leads the conference in scoring, scored 44 points in Monday's game against Eastern Kentucky on 12-of-19 shooting.

Belmont has won three games in a row and Mills has led her team with an average of 12 points during the previous week. She averages eight points on the season.

Eastern will play Southeast Missouri at 4:15 p.m. Saturday in Lantz Arena.

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

Track, field compete at Notre Dame Meyo Invite

By Blake Nash
Staff Reporter | @DEN_Sports

Even though the weather might have changed its routine, the Eastern track and field teams will head to South Bend, Ind., this weekend to compete in the Notre Dame Meyo Invitational.

This is the second straight two-day meet for the Panthers and it presents a challenging adjustment to their team, said coach Tom Akers.

"Road meets are always challenging, namely being away from Eastern," he said. "Waiting around all day to compete can be exhausting in itself or leave the athlete sluggish because they've been nap-

ping all day long."

Despite visiting one of the more prestigious campuses in the country, Akers said this will be more of a business trip for the Panthers.

"For most of the team it will be from the facility to the hotel and back," Akers said. "Our middle and long distance runners will probably get a cool down run through the campus."

The Panthers come into this meet with three of the top 10 pole vaulters in the nation: Peter Geraghty (ninth), Mick Viken (eighth), and Jade Reibold (fourth).

Viken and Reibold currently rank No. 1 in the Ohio Valley Conference. Reibold will return this

weekend after sitting out the last two meets because of a slight injury, Akers said.

Several of other teammates have found their way to the top of the OVC, as well, including the reigning OVC Male Athlete of the Week Calvin Edwards.

His 200-meter dash time of 21.62 last week ranks first in the conference. Edwards currently ranks 29th in the nation in the 200m dash.

Jonathan Boey also ranks first in the OVC and 23rd in the nation in the 60m dash. Both Ryan Ballard and Kristen Paris currently rank first in the OVC's 800m dash.

This meet will be an open invitational and is ex-

pected to feature Division I teams from across over the country.

"The Loftus Center is a great facility and the excellent completion should help us get better performances," Akers said. "We'll need to be in the right frame of mind as competitors and hopefully our younger athletes will not take on the role of spectators."

Friday's portion of the meet is scheduled to begin at approximately 3 p.m. with the women's pole vault, while Saturday's is scheduled for 9 a.m., beginning with the women's 3,000m race.

Blake Nash can be reached at 581-2812 or banash@eiu.edu.

Big man on campus

Blanford breaks out during senior season

By Anthony Catezone
Sports Editor | @AnthonyCatz

Even fatigue will not get forward Sherman Blanford out of the game anymore — he is just too valuable.

Try to argue with Eastern coach Jay Spoonhour that the lone senior on the Eastern men's basketball team should have rested for just one of the 35 minutes he played in the Panthers' 76-70 win over Southern Illinois-Edwardsville Saturday.

"I'm counting on him every single game," Spoonhour said. "Talk about a heck of a game for him."

Blanford's stat line: 24 points (career high), 13 rebounds (season high), four steals, two blocks and a 9-of-14 shooting performance.

Oh, and one breakaway dunk that awoke Lantz Arena unlike any other this season.

The 6-foot-6, 215-pound forward shot 6-of-7 in the second half against the Cougars to score 18 of his game-high 24 points. He also collected nine offensive rebounds that were part of his game-high 13.

All of which was accomplished in a game with Ohio Valley Conference tournament implications — a game which propelled Eastern to the second seed in the west division.

Name a plausible explanation that Blanford should have played a second less than his career-high 35 minutes against Edwardsville.

Can't think of one? No worries — neither can Spoonhour.

"I take him out almost always because of fatigue — that's it," Spoonhour said. "He gets tired, but (against Edwardsville) I just couldn't take him out; he was doing too many things right."

Doing too many things right appears to be the trend for Blanford in just his second season with the Panthers.

Since entering OVC play, where the Panthers are 5-5, Blanford is averaging 14.5 points per game — ranking 15th — and 8.5 rebounds per game — ranking fourth.

The Philadelphia native is averaging four more points and two more rebounds than last season, when he was named to the OVC All-Newcomer Team.

He has scored double figures in 14 out of the



SAJJAD ABEDIAN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior forward Sherman Blanford dunks during a game against Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville Saturday in Lantz Arena. Blanford averages 12 points per game, with an average of seven rebounds each game.

22 games this season and recorded a double-double in five of those games, three such performances coming in the Panthers' last six games.

"I just keep doing what I do: I rebound, I play hard and I get buckets," Blanford said. "It's nothing more than that."

It was guaranteed that Blanford would have a much bigger role this season and it has proven true.

"He's the quarterback of the whole thing," Spoonhour said at the beginning of the season. "That's an odd situation for a forward to be that guy, but that's the situation we're in."

But more importantly, Blanford has filled the shoes Spoonhour has expected him to.

After all, Blanford is the only senior on Eastern's roster, and just one of four returning players. But he said he knows the role he plays to the

younger players on the roster, which is to lead by example.

"I'm just doing what I'm asked to do," Blanford said. "Me being the only senior and a leader, I can't make too many mistakes."

Anthony Catezone can be reached at 581-2812 or ajcatezone@eiu.edu.

Eastern introduces 2014 football recruiting class

By Aldo Soto
Assistant Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

Eastern football coach Kim Dameron announced his first recruiting class less than a month after being hired.

The Panthers added 15 new players to the roster, including two junior college transfers.

Eastern will begin its season Aug. 28, when they play the Big 10's Minnesota in TCF Bank Stadium.

Dameron said he is excited about the recruiting class and for the future of the program.

"We addressed some needs that going forward we needed to address," he said. "We feel we signed a really athletic class and one that will reap benefits for EIU football for years to come."

Quarterbacks

Jeremy Joseph from Lee-Scott Academy, stands at 6-feet, 6 inches, verbally committed to San Diego State and announced it through his Twitter account on Jan. 29. Within the week the quarterback from Auburn, Ala., then changed his mind and committed to Eastern.

During his senior season, Joseph passed for 904 yards, throwing nine touchdowns and rushing for 483 yards and scoring seven rush-

ing touchdowns.

Joseph was a three-year starter, earning All-Area first team honors in his senior year.

JoWahn Brown, who is another high school quarterback, also signed with Eastern. Coming from Thornton High School in Chicago, Brown was named first team All-Southwest Suburban Red selection and was named to the Sun Times' Top-100 list.

During his senior season with the Wildcats, he passed for 1,855 yards and threw 16 touchdowns.

Brown also rushed for 487 yards and scored six rushing touchdowns. Although he was a quarterback in high school, Brown is listed as an athlete in Eastern's roster.

Offensive Linemen

Austin Askin is 6-feet, 7 inches tall, making him the tallest offensive linemen in Dameron's recruiting class. Askin, who is a native of Louisville, Ky., attended Saint Xavier High School, where he played both guard and tackle during his career.

Ben Jones hails from Ocala, Fla., where he went to Belleview High School. Jones was a three-year starter during high school playing tackle. In his senior season he earned Florida Football Magazine All-North Central Region honors.

Rivals.com also rated Jones a two-star offensive line prospect.

Kevin Pickett is a native of Cincinnati, where he played on the offensive line on his team that reached the second round of the Ohio Division I State playoffs in both of his last two years.

Louis Vailopa is the fourth offensive lineman that signed with Eastern. Vailopa earned first team All-State honors as a senior at offensive guard at Saint Louis High School in Honolulu. He was also named second team All-ILH as a junior.

Secondary

Eastern signed three safeties in Bradley Dewberry, Jonathan Draper and Wilbert Vails.

Draper comes in as the most heralded of the three, as he was part of a 14-0 Crete-Monee team that won the IHSA Class 6A state championship during his junior year. Draper.

DySaun Smith also signed as a defensive back. Smith played at Lake Cormorant High School in Lake Cormorant, Miss.

Smith also played in special teams and as a kick returner he had a 98-yard kick for a touchdown during his senior season. He was also named second team All-Region.

Linebackers/Defensive Ends

Brandon Mathews and Tony Bradford were the two linebackers to join Eastern. Mathews attended West St. John High School in Edgard, La., where he helped the team advance to the Louisiana Class 1A state semifinals as a junior and senior.

Bradford helped North Gwinnett High School reach the Georgia Class 6A State Championship game as a senior, but was limited to seven games during his senior year because of injuries.

Anthony Love Jr. is a defensive end from Romeville, where he went to Romeville High School. Love was an IHSA Class 6A All-State selection after earning Southwest Prairie Conference Defensive MVP honors as a senior.

Junior College Transfers

Thomas Coronado and Antoine Johnson are transfers from Fresno City College and Nassau Community College, respectively.

Coronado is a defensive end, while Johnson is a cornerback. Johnson has two years of eligibility left along with Coronado.

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