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Daily Eastern News: March 18, 2014

Eastern Illinois University

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CONCERT CHOSEN

Country duo Thompson Square will perform at Eastern for this year's Spring concert. Tickets go on sale Monday.

Page 2



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

The Eastern baseball team travels for its 20th straight road game against Southern Illinois-Carbondale.

Page 8

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 98 | NO. 117

Primary polls open for voting

By Michael Spencer
City Editor | @trmskeeper

Polls open at 6 a.m. Tuesday for the 2014 primary that will see a new general assembly representative selected for the 110th district, the slate of governor candidates for the gubernatorial election finalized and the passage or failure of a school facilities tax referendum.

Additionally, local precinct committee members, Republican candidates for the U.S. senate seat and the field of Republican sheriff candidates will be selected.

Polls will close at 7 p.m. with results to come later in the evening.

General Assembly Representative race

The new representative will be selected in the primary from a field of three Republicans who will run unopposed by a Democrat for the general election in November.

Darrell Cox, Kevin Garner and Reggie Phillips will each contend for the spot from similar ideological positions.

On the topic of pension reform, the candidates said the state should hold up its end of the bargain with state employees.

Cox, the out-going sheriff, said that he would support legislation to guarantee pension benefits for current employees but to restructure the plan for all new employees.

Each candidate supports term limits and some form of tax reform that will aim at making Illinois more hospitable to businesses.

Garner, a service manager at LD Mechanical, said a broader application of the sales tax would help share the burden of tax revenues.

Phillips, a local businessman, said he would work to sunset the corporate sales tax to draw jobs to Illinois.

Cox advocates for a forensic audit of the state's finances to make sure that tax dollars are being put to work effectively while seeking a balanced budget which he said is central to his current position as sheriff.

Sales Tax Referendum

Voters will decide whether or not to impose a sales tax Tuesday that would go toward funding facilities projects for schools across Coles County.

In December, the Charleston school board joined others from around the county to propose the tax that can only be used to fund building projects in the Charleston school district.

LOCATION	PRECINCTS
CUSD #1, School Administration Office, 410 W. Polk Ave.	1 & 12
St. Charles Catholic Church, 921 Madison Ave.	2 & 4
Salisbury Church, 2350 Madison Ave.	3, 5 & 13
Masonic Temple, 651 W. Lincoln Ave.	6 & 8
First Baptist Church, 2800 University Drive	10 & 11
Newman Catholic Center, 500 Roosevelt Ave.	14, 15, 18 & 19
University Union, Bridge Lounge, Eastern Illinois University	16 & 17

GRAPHIC BY JOANNA LEIGHTON

Jim Littleford, the Charleston superintendent of schools, said the referendum is something each school is in need of while opposition groups, such as the Coles Citizens for Responsible Education warn that districts would have the chance to increase property taxes if sales tax revenues falls short of the

district's projected totals.

Les Combs, the co-chair for the organization said the referendum offers a "blank check" for property taxes.

Littleford said there is a "cushion" already in place because the district would only be able to dip into

property taxes if revenues missed the projected bond total by 80 percent.

Combs and Littleford both said there is no way to guarantee property taxes would not be needed in the future.

POLLS, page 5

Students lack interest in primary elections

By Jarad Jarmon
Associate News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

Despite the state primaries looming ahead, some students said they lacked interest or knowledge of the candidates or the polls Tuesday.

Some students like Brittany Halliday, a junior special and elementary education major, and Joy Carpenter, a sophomore biology, said they believed the university was in a bubble of sorts, closed off from most politics and news.

"They don't really pay attention to the primaries. I know I don't," Carpenter said.

Halliday agreed. She said students are focused on schoolwork and their lives on campus.

"We are in such a small bubble that we don't realize how much it impacts us," Hal-

liday said. "We are so concerned about our grades, our midterms and our finals."

Elizabeth Romang, a freshman undecided major, said this is one of the reasons students, including herself, have not been paying attention to the elections. Coming right off of midterms, it hasn't crossed many of the student's minds, she said.

Carpenter also said an expected lack of student voter turnout may be because of the lack of education at the school. She said she has not seen many talking about it on campus.

Jessie Kulek, a junior history major, agreed. She said while there have been registration drives presented across the campus, she has not seen much else on campus to notify the students of the coming primaries and elections.

Student Body President Kaylia Eskew said

there is not much excuse to be uninformed, though.

"I think we are all adults and students kind of need to take responsibility and really need to reach out and do their own work," Eskew said. "No one is going to spoon feed you."

Halliday said while it is important to vote, she hopes students and community members in general do not go to the polls blindly. She said if she didn't have her dad inform her of the candidates and their stances she would not vote. She added she did not want to vote for someone who would ultimately be against her interest.

Despite student apathy towards voting, Kulek said it does not have anything to do with the person's age. Even though much of her generation has not proven themselves, there are still a lot who are active and vote.

"I don't think it is true that young people don't care," Kulek said. "I have a lot of friends who are very active in sharing their views on Facebook."

She added many of her friends have supported specific mayors during the election in 2013.

While there is a lack of interest in voting, many students still find voting important but find their lives too busy to focus on the issues and make an educated decision. Romang said it still affects the students whether they believe it or not, they just do not see it as a task worth their time.

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

Local weather

TODAY WEDNESDAY



Sunny
High: 57°
Low: 41°



Sunny/Windy
High: 47°
Low: 32°

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

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"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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Thompson Square to headline 2014 spring concert

Tickets go on sale Monday for students, March 31 for public

By Bob Galuski
Managing Editor | @BobGaluski

The husband and wife duo, and current American Country Music Vocal Duo of the Year winners, Thompson Square will be featured for Eastern's spring concert.

The concert will be at 8 p.m. April 24 in Lantz Arena, with the doors opening at 7 p.m.

Tickets go on sale Monday for students with an ID. Tickets are \$20 for students. The general public will have to wait until March 31 to buy tickets — at \$23. The tickets are available at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Ticket Office or on the website.

Thompson Square, which is composed of Kiefer and Shawna Thompson, received the Country Music Association award, "Vocal Duo of the

Year" in 2012 and the same award from the AMC in both 2012 and 2013.

The duo's breakthrough hit "Are you Gonna Kiss Me Or Not" has more than two million in sales, was the No. 1 Digital Soundscan Single for five weeks in a row, the No. 1 Country Ringtone for 12 consecutive weeks and the Most Played Song at Country Radio in 2011. Other singles Thompson Square have released are "I Got You" and "Glass."

Thompson Square turned out a No. 1 gold selling single, "If I Didn't Have You," along with its current Top 25 single, "Everything I Shouldn't Be Thinking About," both from the album, "Just Feels Good."

Shawna Thompson said in a press release the album is a compelling view of a relationship that offers no distinction between personal and the professional.

"Much more than the first record, 'Just Feels Good' explains exactly who we are," she said in the release. "This is a very personal record."

The stop at Eastern is part of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Thompson Square's Just Feels Good Tour.

The 2014 spring concert follows up last year's spring concert that fea-

tured "American Idol" winner Phillip Phillips.

Bob Galuski can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

Council to examine synthetic drug ordinance

By Michael Spencer
City Editor | @tmskeeper

In an attempt to combat the usage of synthetic drugs in Charleston, the Charleston City Council will examine an ordinance Tuesday that would create a more effective way to address the issue.

Mayor Larry Rennels said the state legislation regarding synthetic drugs, which are sometimes referred to as K2 or herbal incense, is too specific to adequately guard against the use of these products.

The problem is the companies that produce and package the manufactured cannabinoids can alter their compounds incrementally to skirt the scope of the law, Rennels said.

"They make a slight change to the chemical formula and you cannot prosecute because it is not the variety the law says," Rennels said.

By passing a more stringent ordinance, Rennels said, the city aims to make it more difficult for synthetic drugs to be sold and used in Charleston.

The move comes just a week after Coles County passed a similar ordinance and Rennels said Mattoon is likely to pass their version of the code in the near future.

Rennels said the use of synthetic drugs is on the rise in Charleston, adding that the individual who crashed into the front gates outside Old Main last October was under the influence of the type of drugs this ordinance is designed to address.

The council will also vote to place the city budget for FY2015 on file for the public's examination. Expenses for the city are expected to run about \$25 million, a figure Rennels said is on par with past years.

"The budget pretty well flows right

out of our five-year planning retreat," Rennels said. "Anything that we tweak there gets reflected in the budget."

Little is planned to differ from last year's budget, as no new expenses will significantly impact the total spent by the city.

The budget will be up for review for the next month.

Rennels also said he expects the amendment to the city's alcohol ordinance to pass. The measure, which would extend the duration of special alcohol licenses from one day to two days, has been on file since March 4 and neither Rennels nor the council members have heard anything either in support or opposition of the ordinance.

A resolution extending an intergovernmental agreement between Charleston and Taylorville will also be put to a vote.

If passed, the city would continue

to take on the ambulance insurance billing for Taylorville. Charleston already handles this service for several other towns in central Illinois, such as Kansas whose intergovernmental agreement was most recently extended.

"The problem with ambulance billing is it requires specific software," Rennels said. "It is constantly in a state of flux. There is always an update to the software, new training and things like that. Unless you handle a relatively large volume, it costs you more than you can afford."

Charleston employs one part-time employee to handle ambulance billing and charges a fee to cities that outsource the process.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at City Hall.

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

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BLOTTER

20-year-old charged with DUI

- A domestic disturbance was reported at 4:48 a.m. Sunday at the University Apartments. This incident was referred to the Office of Student Standards.
- Marshall Hill, 20, 192 N. Greenwood Ave., Kankakee, Ill. was arrested at 1:10 a.m. Monday at 2100 4th St. He was charged with DUI-drugs, possession of 10 to 30 grams of cannabis, and was released at 5:01 a.m. after posting 10 percent of the \$3,000 bond. Jeffrey Broger, 18, 1248 Raymond St., South Elgin, Ill. was also arrested at 1:13 a.m. at the same location. He was charged with possession of 10 to 30 grams of cannabis and released at 5:22 a.m. to the custody of Coles County Sheriff's Office pending \$1,000 bond.



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Ultimate Frisbee team overcomes roster challenge

By Chris Widdel
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

It was one of the longest weekends they endured.

After leaving after a day of classes at 1 p.m. and driving nearly 5 hours to Lexington, Ky., they turned around to play on an early Saturday morning with only 11 players available, followed by another nearly 5 hours back to Eastern.

And after two days of "grueling" matches of ultimate Frisbee, the team was exhausted.

However, the tournament yielded well for Eastern's registered student organization.

The team finished eighth out of 20 teams at the tournament, which includes teams from states such as Kentucky, Illinois and Kansas.

Alex Castillo, a first year graduate student, and his fifth year on the team, said he would describe it as a combination of "brotherhood and dedication."

Eastern's team has to compete in at least 10 games in a season to be eligible to any post-season play. Rankings are decided off of conference play and tournament play. The team has to pay annual fees and raise money in order to play in these tournaments. To keep everything running costs around \$250 to \$400 per tournament. This includes a hotel to stay the night and gas to drive down to their tournaments. The team has to drive to every tournament that they play in, so their weekends can get pretty long for them, Castillo said.

Ultimate Frisbee is a game with no referees and the players make all the calls.

The main characteristics of the



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Steve Langyher, a senior history major, looks for an open teammate during a practice scrimmage with the EIU Ultimate Frisbee Club on Tuesday. The weather, while cold, provided a change of scenery for the club while normally plays indoors.

game build on sportsmanship and fairness. Eastern's team practices four times a week, in the Lantz Fieldhouse or on the intramural fields. Ultimate Frisbee goes up to 13 points per game, and a regulated Craft Disk is needed to play.

The club goes all school year long, and while the fall is not as competitive, it's mostly pre-season games and encouraging new players to play the game, Castillo said. Practice is mostly outside, unless weather is an issue dur-

ing the fall. The spring is the regular season for the sport. And it is during that time the team competes against schools such as the University of Illinois, Purdue University, Northwestern University, and the team's self-proclaimed rival Loyola University.

"We are one of the top programs in Illinois," Castillo said, even though the team does not have the same amount of players such as other schools.

"We don't attract other many mem-

bers because people don't fully get the game and that Eastern's team is pretty good," Castillo said. "We compete against the best teams and we put up a fight against them."

Castillo said this was evident when they faced Carleton College's team. Carleton College is one of the best schools for the game, but Eastern was able to put up a fight and bring it to overtime.

"We need players, and all I give you is to play in two tournaments and

you'll be hooked," Castillo said.

Castillo said any person is welcome to join. He said all people have to do is get into the flow of the game and have the endurance for the entire game. But above all, Castillo said, they need dedication.

The next tournament for the team is Saturday and Sunday.

Chris Widdel can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

Faculty Senate to review CAA syllabus policy

By Jarad Jarmon
Associate News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

The Council on Academic Affairs representatives will present changes and updates proposed to the syllabus policy for Faculty Senate to review at their meeting at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Booth Library Conference Room.

Rebecca Throneburg, a communication disorders and sciences profes-

sor, and Stephen Lucas, the secondary education department chair, will explain what and why policy changes have needed to be made to the existing policy, which has not been updated since 1995.

Throneburg said a "controversial" change they are looking at is having departments and department chairmen actively reviewing how their college is writing their syllabus. It is un-

reasonable that the policy had not been even looked until now, Throneburg said.

"Colleges should decide what works for them and a time for review," Throneburg said.

In the current syllabus, nothing states there should be frequent reviews of the outline or requirements for the syllabus.

"It is good to have more clarifica-

tion on what makes a good syllabus," Throneburg said.

Grant Sterling, the philosophy department chair, said after doing an assessment of where students were succeeding or not succeeding they noticed there were correlations with the syllabus' received. He added there was a "big difference" if a professor added the university learning goals to syllabus.

This is one of the proposed requirements for a syllabus.

Sterling said senate elections will also be discussed. The elections will take place March 25, he said. They will review what the requirements are to be elected.

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

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Use your right to vote in election

Eat your vegetables, get eight hours of sleep, wash behind your ears, change your underwear, and vote.

Our democratic duty is frequently filed away next to the myriad of other things that we are supposed to do as responsible adults.

And it is frequently neglected in much the same way.

Tuesday's primary election is directly relevant to college students at Eastern and across the state.

The local race for the General Assembly representative will pit three candidates who will represent the identity of Charleston and thousands of others across the 110th district.

For better or for worse, that cross section of the Illinois population includes each and every Eastern student for at least nine months out of the year.

The person voters select at the polls today will directly influence the laws and taxes we are subjected to.

All achievements and shortcomings of the politician we elect will reflect on those who live here.

Additionally, a referendum is on the ballot that will raise the sales tax by one percent and while groceries, medical supplies and items registered with the state will not be effected, everything else students purchase will be.

The money collected from that increase would go to fund facilities building projects in local school districts.

On the pamphlets passed out by the local school district in support of the referendum, Eastern is cited as an important source of revenue for the estimated \$2 million per year the district expects to earn from the referendum.

According to the Illinois Department of Revenue, two of the three lowest months of sales tax revenue in 2013 for Charleston came during the summer months when the student population is at its smallest.

Therefore, students should participate in the decision to pass or fail the measure.

Those local issues, in addition to the governor's primary, the U.S. House and Senate primary and the sheriff race are all on the table.

So even if you do not eat your vegetables, get eight hours of sleep, wash behind your ears or change your underwear today, go vote.

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

Quote of the Day

"Exchange ideas frequently."
- James Cash Penney

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It was blue all along



JOSH WILLIAMS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

St. Patrick's Day full of falsities

How's having a hangover on a Tuesday? Given that St. Patrick's Day was an excuse to go to the Panther Paw and drink green beer or green shots on a Monday, the aftereffect must be comparable to what some people did on spring break.

St. Patrick's Day was always a loophole to wear green wigs to school back in the day, but it wasn't until recently that the common belief of what St. Patrick's Day included was false.

It started with a Sunday article from the *Huffington Post* that linked me over to a Cleveland radio station that discussed ten things most folks do not know about St. Patrick's Day.

Maewyn Succat is the man that we know at St. Patrick. He was born in Great Britain before he was kidnapped by Irish marauders. Where he was enslaved was where he figured out his religious beliefs. When he escaped, he headed back to Ireland to try to convert people to Christianity.

Our proclaimed Irishman is not Irish. The color green that we associate the hol-



Kyle Daubs

iday with is another falsity. He actually wore the color blue.

I can't complain, since the great St. Patrick wore my favorite color, but all those times that I was pinched for not wearing the color green means that I can seek retribution with a kick to the shins.

Another interesting fact is that the United States has more Irish than Ireland itself. According to the article, the 2003 US Census recorded that 34 million Americans had Irish ancestry. The population of Ireland is just about four million people.

Those parades that are always a fun treat for the family didn't start in Ireland either.

The first parade was in the United States in New York in 1762 when Irish soldiers marched through to celebrate their religious feast day and their Irish ancestry.

The first parade in Ireland was not until 1931 in Dublin.

In reality, St. Pat's gives us Americans a reason to get drunk and listen to Dropkick Murphys and jam out.

Do not let all this information stop you in the future years from having a successful holiday. It hasn't stopped celebrating other holidays. I mean what is exactly Unofficial's prime purpose?

I just find it interesting when we discover information that we thought was true all our lives to be false in just mere seconds.

Hopefully, I just didn't ruin your day like the time I found out that most of what happened in the movie "Rudy" didn't happen either.

Kyle Daubs is a special education major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or DENopinions@gmail.com.

Don't blink; you might miss life

Everyone should travel abroad. Everyone. As soon as possible.

I recently completed an Alternative Spring Break to San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico. During that week, my group from Eastern and I worked in a daycare for underprivileged children in a poverty-stricken area of the country.

While I have been studying Spanish, I am far from fluent. I consider myself proficient enough to survive in the country, but when native speakers are talking fast, I, at times, had no idea what they were saying.

That was my biggest fear going down there-- that I would not be able to understand the children and all would be futile.

However, throughout the week, I learned using the language of love and kindness to these deserving children can transcend any language barriers that may be preventing verbal communication.

While it might have been nice to communicate fluently, I was able to play, laugh, go to parks, and have an all-around awesome time while truly appreciating the different culture.



Jack Cruikshank

While it sounds clichéd, I went in with the attitude of, "I have so much more than these people, they must live a life that is less happy than mine is."

Instead, I now have a culture appreciation for the area. Instead of being amazed and looking down on them, saying, "I have wi-fi, cable and 24/7 social interaction," I now appreciate the 24/7 joy and love of life I saw in the children at the daycare I was working in.

Even though I was unable to understand everything the children said, I was able to communicate love to them, and that was the most important.

Among the many excuses I've heard lim-

iting one's ability to travel abroad are complaints of a lack of time, a lack of money and, basically, a lack of motivation.

Not enough money? Save up, and if you don't go to complete "touristy" places, it's not that expensive anyway.

Not enough time? That's the exact reason you need to get out of America: to see other cultures and realize you don't have to live life worrying about every little thing at every second of your life.

Don't know another language? Don't worry about that. This week I realized everyone can communicate the language of love, no matter what language you speak. It was amazing to play with those children even when I had no idea what they were saying at times. They simply wanted attention and love.

Just do it.

You can thank me later.

Jack Cruikshank is a freshman political science major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or DENopinions@gmail.com.

Game Club shuffles between JAC and County Market



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The Game Club, an organization composed of Charleston residents, plays cards Monday at Jackson Avenue Coffee. The group meets twice a week at County Market and the JAC to play card games and modern board games. Last week, the group traveled to Champaign to meet with other gamers and play against each other.

» POLLS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Governor race

Republican primary front-runner Bruce Rauner has led the race for the party nomination behind a campaign focused on a balanced budget and limited government spending. The venture capitalist has also had

the help of \$6 million of his own money to spend on the race.

He will be competing Tuesday with Kirk Dillard, Dan Rutherford and Bill Brady.

Dillard will seek to cut taxes to make Illinois more attractive to busi-

nesses and supports cutting state-employee's pension to create savings for the state.

Rutherford takes an equally fiscally conservative stance while touting his years of experience working in Illinois state government.

Brady is also out to help job growth and has said he would stand against a progressive income tax because of its impact on small businesses.

With a win on Tuesday, each candidate will be out to unseat Gover-

nor Pat Quinn, who has been in office since he took over for Rod Blagojevich in 2009.

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

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Geraghty finishes 11th at nationals



EMILY PROVANCE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern senior pole vaulter Peter Geraghty runs to make his jump at the Eastern John Craft Invite on Jan. 25, 2014. Geraghty came in 11th place at nationals Saturday.

By Blake Nash
Staff Reporter | @DEN_Sports

Peter Geraghty stepped on to the indoor track floor at the University of New Mexico as a shining example of the great tradition of Eastern track and field.

Geraghty, a former Division III All-American at North Central College in Naperville, made his debut at the national championships in his first and only year as a Panther.

“Peter did a great job for being with us for such a short time,” Tom Akers, Eastern director of track and field, said. “Being a national qualifier for the NCAA indoor meet is an exceptional accomplishment.”

Heading into the meet, the senior ranked 13th on the national entry list, beating out his All-American teammate Mick Viken, who did not receive an invite. Fellow Eastern pole vaulter Jade Reibold also received an invitation to the meet, but decided to tend to a nagging injury, rather than compete.

“Coach Kyle Ellis has done a great job with all of our vaulters,” Akers said. “It was a shame that Jade wasn’t healthy enough to vault and Mick has done such great things. It was depressing he did not qualify.”

Ellis, a former Eastern track and field athlete himself, set the school re-

cord for the pole vault, which was later, tied by Viken with Geraghty joining the duo, tying the record this season.

Geraghty said Ellis’ accomplishments factored in to his decision-making, about coming to Eastern and also the ability to compete under the tutelage of Ellis.

“Kyle was a great athlete here and we’ve always been pretty tight throughout my career,” Geraghty said. “It was a little difficult getting the paperwork established for my transfer, but it looked like a great fit for me, so I decided to come here and fly high.”

Geraghty faced the biggest challenge of the year in the form of the nation’s best pole vaulters, including Akron’s Shawn Barber, who took home the top prize. Geraghty faced some trouble with the mark of 17-feet, 8.5 inches, as did most of the other competitors.

It took Geraghty several attempts, and several opponents had already conquered it, but he eventually he was able to slay his giant for the evening, taking 11th place overall. He finished tied with Texas A&M’s Chase Wolfe.

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

2014 Eastern Outdoor Track Schedule

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
MARCH 29	SOUTHERN ILL. INVITE	CARBONDALE, ILL.
APRIL 3-5	EIU BIG BLUE CLASSIC	CHARLESTON, ILL.
APRIL 11-12	WKU HILLTOPPER RELAYS	BOWLING GREEN, KY.
APRIL 18-19	VANDERBILT INVITE	NASHVILLE, TENN.
APRIL 22	EIU TUESDAY TWEENER	CHARLESTON, ILL.
APRIL 22-26	DRAKE RELAYS	DES MOINES, IOWA
MAY 2-3	OVC CHAMPIONSHIPS	EDWARDSVILLE, ILL.
MAY 10	EIU LAST CHANCE	CHARLESTON, ILL.
MAY 16	LOUISVILLE TWILIGHT	LOUISVILLE, KY.
MAY 29-31	NCAA WEST REGIONAL	FAYETTEVILLE, ARK.
JUNE 11-14	NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS	EUGENE, ORE.

Men’s tennis team earns split in conference

By Aldo Soto
Assistant Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

The Eastern men’s tennis team had one singles match left to win if it wanted to earn a weekend split in its Ohio Valley Conference season openers.

After losing 4-3 to Morehead State Saturday, Eastern’s Rui Silva closed the door on Eastern Kentucky at the Greg Adams Tennis Center in Richmond, Ky., on Sunday.

The Panthers had lost their first three singles matches on the afternoon and were in danger of falling to 0-2 in the OVC before they stormed back to defeat the Colonels 4-3.

The afternoon began with East-

ern winning two of the three doubles matches, earning it a team point.

The duo of sophomore Moritz Kandt and freshman Grant Thompson locked the doubles point for the Panthers, as they defeated Florian Graskamp and Sebastian Mueller 8-7 (5).

Needing only a split in the singles matches, the Panthers fell behind losing at the No. 1-3 flights.

Then came two victories by sophomore Robert Skolik and senior Kevin Bauman at No. 4 and 6, respectively.

It came down to the racket of Portugal’s Silva, who delivered a straight-set win over Mueller 6-4, 7-6.

Eastern men’s tennis coach Eric

Stark said he was extremely proud of the entire team and especially Silva.

“I couldn’t be more proud of Rui today,” Stark said in a press release. “He earned the win despite playing in a hostile environment where he took the match under high pressure.”

Eastern snapped a three-match losing streak with its win against the Colonels and evened their OVC record to 1-1.

Saturday’s match

The Eastern men found themselves in the same position as the Eastern women’s tennis team Saturday, winning the doubles point, but just like the Panther women the men fell 4-3 in their OVC opener.

The loss for the Eastern men put their overall record at 3-5. The Morehead State Eagles on the other hand continued their winning ways, improving to 5-2 on the season with their first conference win.

Robert Skolik and Kevin Bauman were the two victors in singles play for Eastern, hitting past Nick Mercer and Gabriel Ruiz, respectively.

Both Panthers had to fight back from 7-6 losses in their first set, as Skolik came back to win 6-4, 6-1 in his final two sets for the match win.

Bauman tussled until the bitter end of his match, ultimately winning the decisive third set 11-9.

Morehead State secured its win with singles victories by Jack Swindells, Giovanni Samaha Ji Hoon Heo

and David Clifford.

All four wins for the Eagles came in straight sets.

Stark said the Panthers’ play declined after winning two doubles matches.

“We came out (Saturday) and played some great doubles, but our level dipped a bit in singles,” he said.

The Eastern men continue conference play Saturday against Tennessee Tech and will join the Panther women at Daring Courts Sunday, when both teams host Jacksonville State.

Aldo Soto can be reached at 581-2812 or asoto2@eiu.edu.

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Sherman says so long, Eastern

By Anthony Catezone
Sports Editor | @AnthonyCatz

Regardless of how south the Ohio Valley Conference reaches, everyone became familiar with the name Sherman Blanford this season.

"I don't know how many of y'all paid attention to it, being up north like we are," Eastern coach Jay Spoonhour said to reporters, "But this guy here, he played his tail off — he's been unbelievable — for the last month."

The 6-foot-6 Blanford sat at the press table on the right-hand side of his head coach in a press conference that followed a 79-61 loss to Southeast Missouri in the first round of the Ohio Valley Conference tournament on March 5, in Nashville, Tenn.

Blanford, a transfer from Marshalltown Community College in Iowa last season, felt a similar feeling before, as the No. 7 Panthers also lost to the No. 6 Redhawks in the first round in 2013.

However, the 2014 loss left more anguish, as it was the last game of Blanford's collegiate career.

"Being my last season, I just wanted to give everything I had," Blanford said. "The last month I have just been getting after it really hard, all my effort."

And his effort was apparent, as the Philadelphian finished his senior season with a remarkable stretch run unlike any other in recent memory.

Blanford led the Panthers with 14.5 points and eight rebounds per game while shooting 51.8 percent from the field on his way to earning second team honors by both the OVC and the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

But the last 10 games for the Panthers are where he shined, averaging 21.1 points and 11.8 rebounds while shooting 54 percent from the field, numbers that make an argument for first team honors.

"My teammates did a good job finding me when I was open; I did a good job capitalizing on my opportunities," Blanford said of his

last season.

Perhaps his last game as a Panther, the loss to Southeast Missouri, mirrored his last season, in the sense that in the second half, he "turned it up."

In the first half against the Redhawks, Blanford was 2-of-8 from the field with just four points and three rebounds with Eastern trailing 39-27 at halftime.

But Blanford said he was trying to look for the basket too often, losing focus on his most appealing characteristic to coaches — his play beyond the stat sheet.

"I didn't think I played well at all in the first half," Blanford said. "Shots weren't going my way, but I could've done more energy-wise and on defense."

Blanford did not want his last game to be overshadowed by his first-half performance.

"I had to get my mind right, come back in the second half and play my heart out," he said.

He answered with 18 second-half points and did the best he could to mount an Eastern comeback, keeping the second half marginally closer, at 40-34.

In defeat, Blanford finished with team highs in points (22) and rebounds (eight) while shooting 8-of-10 from the free throw line.

But as a typical Blanford performance, it was off the stat sheet where he once again excelled.

"Everybody judges their game by how many points they have, but (Blanford) can do so many things that he doesn't need to do that," Spoonhour said.

After all, Blanford held Jarekious Bradley, the OVC's third best scorer at 19.6 points per game, to nine points for just the third time all season. Bradley also fouled out after playing 14 minutes.

No matter how well Blanford plays, though, it always begins with rebounding for Spoonhour.

"Last year, (Blanford) would think he had a good game if he scored a lot of baskets — and he might have — but this year, when shots weren't necessarily falling, he'd go get 13 or 14 rebounds," Spoonhour said. "Rebounds are just as important as points."



DOMINIC BAIMA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior forward Sherman Blanford hugs Reggie Smith, a red-shirt junior guard, after Blanford finished his last game as an Eastern Panther. Blanford finished his Eastern career at the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament in Nashville, Tenn. at the Municipal Auditorium. Blanford made the Second Team All-OVC this year.

Blanford's 7.2 rebounds per game for his career lands him at 11th all-time on Eastern's list, just behind the late Kevin Duckworth (7.3).

Blanford compiled 14 double-

performances in his two-year Panther career, six of which came in the last 10 games of this season.

"He's my height, no matter what we list him at," Spoon-

hour said. "He isn't 6-foot-6, and he's getting double doubles every night."

6-foot-6 or not, Blanford still leaves big shoes to fill.

Panthers travel for 20th straight road game

By Aldo Soto
Assistant Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

After starting the season with 19 straight games played out of state, the Eastern baseball team will finally play in Illinois, but the Panthers have to endure one more road game before they play at Coaches Stadium.

In-state foe Southern Illinois-Carbondale will host Eastern on Tuesday afternoon.

This week is an opportunity for the Panthers to get healthy again without missing any Ohio Valley Conference games, as Eastern will play host to IPFW, starting Friday.

Eastern coach Jim Schmitz said small tweaks in the arms of pitchers Christian Slazinik and Jaden Widdersheim and a hurt ankle from starting second baseman Mitch Gasbarro, would be able to get more rest during the week.

Gasbarro turned his ankle Friday night against Austin Peay, forcing him out of the lineup in Saturday's double-header. The sophomore infielder is questionable for Tuesday's matchup against the Salukis.

Slazinik last started on March 9, against Southern Illinois-Edwardsville, but only lasted 1.1 innings. On March 11, the lefty pitched one inning in relief against Vanderbilt. Schmitz said both Slazinik and Widdersheim, who was scheduled to pitch Saturday against Austin Peay, are dealing with early-season fatigue on their arms.

"It's not anything serious, but it's too early in the season to have them go out there when they're feeling a little soreness, a little tightness in their arms," he said.

Slazinik has pitched 14.1 innings in five appearances this season, four of which being starts. The red-shirt junior is coming off

Eastern Illinois vs. Southern Illinois- Carbondale

4-15, 2-4 (OVC)

10-8, 0-0 (MVC)

TUESDAY MARCH 18 | 4 P.M.

RICHARD "ITCHY" JONES STADIUM | CARBONDALE, ILL.

a 2013 season, when he only threw one pitch in his very first start before missing the rest of the year with injuries.

Schmitz said he is being cautious with the pitchers because he does not want to rush them back in a week that has the Panthers playing non-conference opponents.

Right now Schmitz and Eastern pitching coach Jason Anderson are pondering who will be the Panthers' third starter, with Joe Greenfield being a possibility, Schmitz said.

"Coach Anderson and I talked a long time about it this morning and we have not come up with an

answer yet," Schmitz said Monday. "We talked about Greenfield going back to starting. To be honest, I don't know, is the answer right now."

But for Schmitz, Tuesday's game against the Salukis will give him an opportunity to see more pitchers perform, which could fill in as the third starter.

One of the pitchers Schmitz will get to see early is freshman right-hander Jake Haberer, who has appeared in seven games this season, starting one game against Louisville on Feb. 25.

The right-hander has a 0-1 record with an 11.74 ERA.

Haberer will face a Southern team that is coming off a 2-1 series win over the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

After losing Friday's series opener 5-1, the Salukis bounced back sweeping the Saturday double-header against the Illini, winning 6-5 and 3-2.

Southern's projected starter against the Panthers is red-shirt freshman Connor McFadden, who has a record of 1-1 with a 7.07 ERA.

Last season the Panthers hosted Southern, beating the Salukis 11-7.

Eastern's long awaited home opener is nearing, but first comes a 4 p.m. start time Tuesday at the newly renovated Richard "Icky" Jones Stadium in Carbondale.

Aldo Soto can be reached at 581-2812 or asoto2@eiu.edu.