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Daily Eastern News: December 14, 1980

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Eastern News

Special Edition



Although the Panthers did not bring home the Division II national championship title Saturday, these fans demonstrate that they are still loyal

supporters of the Panthers. Students gathered in front of television sets in the residence halls, Greek houses and bars to watch the game. (News photo by Kelvin Blanks)

Few fans view game in local bars

by Yvonne Beeler, Melinda DeVries, Betsey Guzior, Sue Schlanser and Sandy Young

Panther fans gathered in varying numbers at local bars to enjoy their favorite brew while viewing the Division II championship game.

A small but enthusiastic crowd gathered at R. B. Sundowner's Lounge on Lincoln Avenue.

Approximately fifty-five fans, rooting the defensive line and the whole team in general, tried to ensure the crowd of the national championship of its No. 1 ranking as they shouted "E-I-U, Go Big Blue."

Bar-chair quarterbacks evaluated the outcome of the game, stating that the Panthers didn't play as well as they could. Other fans, however, were happy that the Panthers took it through the finals, and showed their enthusiasm for their team as shouts of "Go Big Blue" were heard on the upstairs portion of R.B.'s, where a large television screen was showing the game.

In addition to R. B.'s, reactions to Eastern's loss were reflected in the volume of sounds at Ike's and Marty's. At the game's beginning, chants of "E-I-U, E-I-U" hammered throughout the two bars but when the Panthers were down 21-13 with four minutes left in the fourth quarter, participants began to murmur "It's over, we've lost."

About 75 people went to Marty's to

watch the game and more than 100 crowded in the aisles at Ike's.

However, the fans filing in at Ike's faced a slight inconvenience as the television broke down right before the kick-off.

Senior Janey Feathergill, one of the first in line at Ike's door said, "Everything went black and we were afraid we wouldn't get to see the game."

But the situation was soon corrected when one of the viewers brought in his own TV for the rest of fans.

Optimism ran high at the beginning of the game, even though Eastern fell behind 7-0 during the first quarter.

Reflecting many of the fans' thoughts at that time, sophomore Mark Nagle commented, "I think we'll win it still. We came from behind last week (during Eastern's game against North Alabama) and it just takes a while to get going."

But doubt began to sink in during the second quarter after Eastern fumbled the ball within inches of making a touchdown.

After that play, Eastern alumn Denny Simonton said in exasperation, "Eastern's blowing it by fumbling at the goal line." But he added, "I still think they'll win sooner or later."

By the fourth quarter, the fans began to worry and the laughter and shouting diminished as the fans placed their full concentration on the screens

before them.

With six minutes left to go in the fourth quarter, freshman Brian Frye said with last-minute hope, "We could still do it. If we make a touchdown, then throw it across for an extra two points, we could at least tie." But he added as the clock wound down, making a come-back almost impossible, "Why is everybody so bummed out? I'm just glad we got into the championship at all."

By the final seconds in the game, senior Curt Ames' advice to the disappointed fans was, "drink heavily." But he added, "I still think we had the better team."

After the defeat, former Panther kick-returner Mark Campana said, "The fumbles just killed us. Oh well, maybe next year."

However, though the

disappointment of the crowds was heavy, a feeling of comradeship among the Eastern fans still existed. One fan smiled and said, "Someone just hugged me and I didn't even know who it was."

Unlike R. B.'s, Ike's and Marty's, the uptown bars were nearly empty as only a few students watched the game from either Roc's, Sporty's or Mother's.

Mother's barmaid Diane Ferguson said Mother's did not expect a lot of people until after the game as "most kids stayed home to watch the game and drink since it's cheaper."

Between 15 and 20 Charleston residents watched the game at Sporty's, and only five or six Charleston residents watched the game from Roc's Lounge.

Empty bars portray defeat

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Eastern alums travel 200 miles to view Panthers

page 17

Panthers' lights out; dorm lights turned on

by Sarah Coyle, Peggy McMeen, Jane Meyer and Scott Hainzinger

Although the lights went out on the Panthers as they closed their 1980 football season with a loss to Cal Poly (SLO) in Albuquerque, Lawson Hall residents had power restored to their hall for the first time in 84 hours and just in time to see the game.

Gayle Clark, Lawson Hall counselor, said the electricity in the hall was restored around 11 a.m. Saturday.

"We were pretty sure that the electricians would get the electricity on before the game, but it came pretty close," Clark said.

Clark said the hall had planned to put up signs for the residents, noting other places where residents could watch the game from if the electricity had not been turned on.

"The Triad offered us all three of its lounges to view the game from and we were also going to inform residents that they could view the game in the Union," Clark said.

Clark said many of the residents viewed the game in Lawson's basement although many had made plans to watch the game elsewhere when they thought the electricity would be out.

Clark said residents that did stay in the hall to watch the game gathered in two or three rooms on each floor they were on.

Fifth floor Lawson resident Diane Casey said many of the people on that floor had made plans to watch the game elsewhere but five residents watched the game from her room.

Second floor resident Meg Kylander said she had seven people in her room



Ford Hall residents rejoice over a good Panther play during Saturday's championship game. It was one of the few plays which Eastern's fans could cheer about as Cal Poly/SLO upset Eastern 21-14. (News photo by Kelvin Blanks)

viewing the game. After the game, she said everything in the hall was pretty silent.

At Thomas Hall, residents were equally dismayed over the game's

outcome. As the victorious Mustangs poured onto the field on television to celebrate, discouraged Thomas residents flocked into the hallways to commiserate with their neighbors.

Amid doorslams, armchair quarterbacks expressed their feelings on the game. "How could it happen?" asked one resident.

The first three quarters of the game held the excitement of resident in the Triad.

As Eastern's loss became more recognizable, the cheers and the excitement died down to a few words appropriate to the occasion.

The residents of Weller Hall took personal interest in the game because offensive guard Blair Brown lives in Weller. When Brown threw a block in the fourth quarter, the students jumped up cheering.

The "rowdiness" in Ford Hall dissipated as the game neared its conclusion. Cal Poly flanker Robbie Martin, who dominated much of the Mustang's offensive game, attracted many of the angrier comments. "I'm getting sick of Robbie Martin," one girl commented.

With 1:40 left in the game, a few despondent fans in Ford Hall walked out as the ball sailed over quarterback Jeff Christensen's head while in the shotgun.

When Cal Poly intercepted the ball with 54 seconds left in the game, over half of the students in the lounge left. One die-hard fan said sarcastically, "It's not over yet."

There will be no victory celebration for the Triad residents this year.

Junior Ron Neibert and freshman Pam Collins were "disappointed" at the loss. But their disappointment did not change their plans; they intended to watch the movie "The Rose" no matter the outcome.



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Greek fans proud of Panthers despite loss

by Holly Headland and Andy Robeznieks

As groups of fans huddled around television sets all over campus, many fans congregated at parties and in the Greek houses to watch the ill-fated game.

Over 30 people gathered in the crowded TV room of the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity house. Hats flew at the TV when ever a play or a call went against Eastern.

Proud Eastern fans reacted to the game with tears and remorse.

Sig Tau Mike Haskins said, "It was a lot tougher game this time. Cal Poly has been underrated. I'm still proud of our team, though."

Tearfully sophomore Gayle Nowak said, "I'm upset that they got this far and didn't win the final game. I know they tried their hardest and I'm proud to say I'm from Eastern."

Dave Cook, an alumni from the Delta Chi fraternity said, "In 1978 I was in Texas for the game. If I was in New Mexico I'm sure it would have been an even better game. I'm proud of them."

Cook and a group of 25 to 30 Delta Chis, complete with an ample supply of beer, had gathered in their house to cheer on the Panthers.

Although the women of the Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority didn't match the Sig Taus or Delta Chis in number, their spirit was equal.

"I'm proud of the team and that they got this far. I am especially proud of them that they got this far two times in three years," sophomore Jill Lanman said.

When Eastern still had the lead 13-7 at halftime the streets and town came



Members of the Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority gather in their house living room to watch the championship football game Saturday. (News photo by Andy Robeznieks)

to life for 20 minutes as the fans went out to refill their glasses and stomachs.

The Delta Zeta sorority and the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity congregated around the television set in the Lambda Chis living room. As the score was announced at halftime,

they sang Eastern's fight song and screamed their support for the team.

One of the Lambda Chis, sophomore Pete Ruedi said, "It's the greatest thing that could happen to our college, our being in the playoffs. The team represents us well."

At yet another party, junior Jeff

Peterson said, "We're in the playoffs and I'm estatic but I wish I was in Albuquerque. Watching the game is worth risking finals over."

With 30 seconds left and the TV picturing Eastern cheerleader Vicki Ryherd crying, the atmosphere suddenly turned gloomy.

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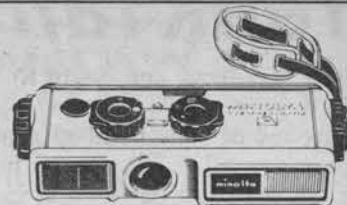
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The omen: Empty bars portrayed coming defeat

Perhaps it was an omen.

The bars which two years ago were filled with Eastern fans watching and waiting for the Panthers to clinch the national title, were ghostly empty Saturday.

It was a half hour before kick-off, and Eastern students could not be found in the bars uptown.

Anticipating that all bars would be filled as they were two years ago, we were not sure which bar to go to first. Mom's was closed, so we made it our first stop.

As we walked in, the only other customers besides ourselves were three students who must have felt pinball was more important than watching the game.

The game had progressed half-way into the first quarter, and Cal Poly had made their first touchdown. Still no one appeared.

Thinking Mom's was not the place to be, we crossed the street to Roc's to check out the crowd.

We shoved open the door just as Eastern gained possession of the ball. Wanting to yell "Go Big Blue," we glanced around the bar hoping to find students to join us. To our dismay, only five middle-aged men sat around the bar talking about this year's corn harvest.

Disappointed in finding no students at Roc's or Mom's, we hiked up Seventh Street towards Sporty's.

But students still were not to be found.

About 15 Charleston residents eased our disillusionment that no one cared whether or not the Panthers won as

Personal file:

Melinda DeVries
and Yvonne Beeler

they loudly cheered for the team's first touchdown.

Wanting to join in the excitement with fellow students, we returned to Mother's, knowing a large crowd must now be there in front of the television.

We ran into Mother's, stopping short inside the door because no students had rushed uptown to celebrate the Panthers' opening points.

Being the only two in Mother's, we asked barmaid Diane Ferguson why no fans filled the bar to watch the Panthers clinch another national title.

"Most kids just stayed home to drink and watch the game, since it's cheaper to drink at home," she said.

With the score 23-13 and a Cal Poly interception just minutes before the end of the game, we knew the end was near for the Panthers.

We were curious to find if crowds would really show up at Mom's after the game since they had not shown up before.

A barmaid put a quarter in the jukebox and Barbra Streisand's voice attempted to erase Eastern's defeat from our minds.

As the jukebox continued to play, we questioned how two separate games, with Eastern vying for a national championship in each, could draw huge crowds one year and only a few stragglers this year.

Perhaps it WAS an omen.

Faithful alums go long way to see Panther game on TV

by Marsha Hausser

Dedication is driving 200 miles to watch the Panthers play on TV.

Two Eastern alumni, Rick Popely, '73 and Mike Cordts, '74, who live in Rochester, N.Y., decided to make a 200-mile trek to Ashtabula, Ohio, the nearest point east where the ABC broadcast could be picked up.

Popely, a former Eastern News editor, said the decision to make the trip was a natural one to make because of the low caliber of Eastern's team in the early 70s. The Panthers were 2-9 in 1973 and 3-6-1 in 1974.

"They hadn't had a winning season the whole time I was

there," Popely said. "They had really rinky-dink teams.

"That's why now we're willing to do this," Popely said. "We wanted to fly to Albuquerque, but it was \$620 from Rochester, so we decided not to bother with that."

Popely said he and Cordts rented a hotel room in Ashtabula to see the game on a color TV. "We could just go to a bar, but I don't know if we could get the people there to watch the game."

He said the two had the day off from their reporting jobs on Rochester's paper, the Democrat and Chronicle, and the opportunity to see Eastern play was one they could not pass up.

No emotion shown in Rathskeller

by Herb Meeker

Though the Rathskeller is on campus, has a six-foot television screen and served food during Eastern's championship game with Cal Poly/SLO, most students were apparently enticed to view the game from "not so dry" haunts to view the game.

About 20 Panther fans made up the group of subdued fans at the restaurant located in the basement of the Union addition.

Jeanne Burns, senior, was surprised that there was not a larger crowd. "I thought we would not be able to get a table," she said.

The Rathskeller served sandwiches during the course of the game and many students took advantage of.

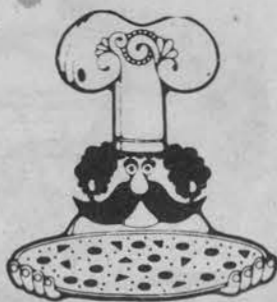
The Rathskeller fans were fairly quiet during the game as some had other things on their minds—final exams.

One Eastern senior said he was more concerned about finals this year than in 1978 when the Panthers won the NCAA division II championship against Delaware University. "In 1978, final exams weren't that important to me, but this year I want to do my best," he said.

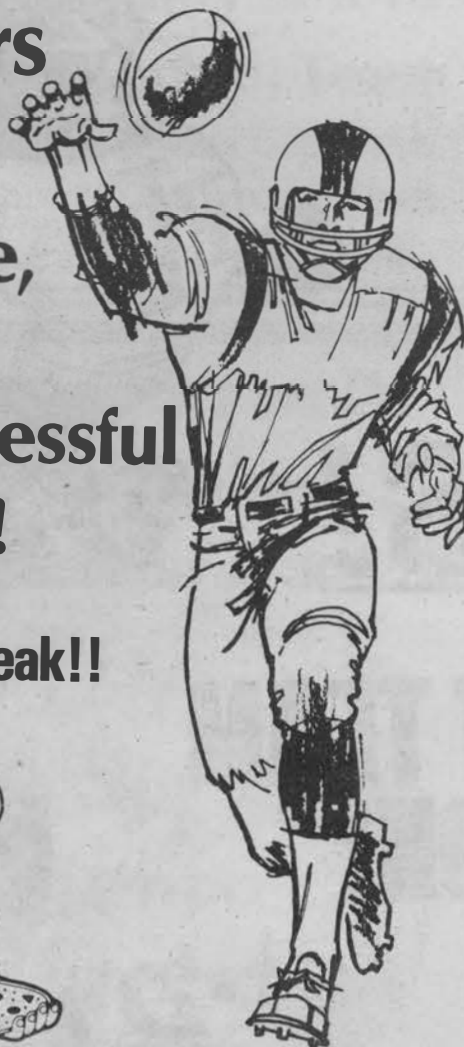
Two freshmen, Randy Martin and Tom Leipzig, said they had planned to attend the championship game in Albuquerque but "finals and 31 hours on the road" prevented them from taking the trip to New Mexico.

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'Home team' supports Panthers

by Sandy Young

How does it feel to be a member of the Panther's football team—but have to watch it on a television screen in Charleston?

Team members who did not travel to Albuquerque commented on cheering the team long distance during Saturday's game.

"I would much rather be there (in Albuquerque), but they didn't pay for us," freshman offensive guard Mike Cuhn said.

"We were kind of disappointed they allotted money for cheerleaders to go before the rest of the team," he said.

But Cuhn added, "Even though we are not going we are part of the team."

Player Matt Abraham said he "has no regrets" on not going to Albuquerque.

"I'm a freshman and the team works with certain players all year and I wasn't really a part of it," he said.

Freshman Mark Roman also said he wished he was with the team.

But he added, "I'm glad we got this far because I think they worked for it and deserve it."

Another game spectator who displayed a big interest in the game was Steve Turk, Eastern's winning quarterback in the Panthers' 1978 championship victory.

Turk, a senior whose eligibility is up, is currently helping to coach the Panthers' quarterbacks.

Although Turk said he would have liked to travel to Albuquerque to watch the team, he added, "I would rather be playing, believe me."

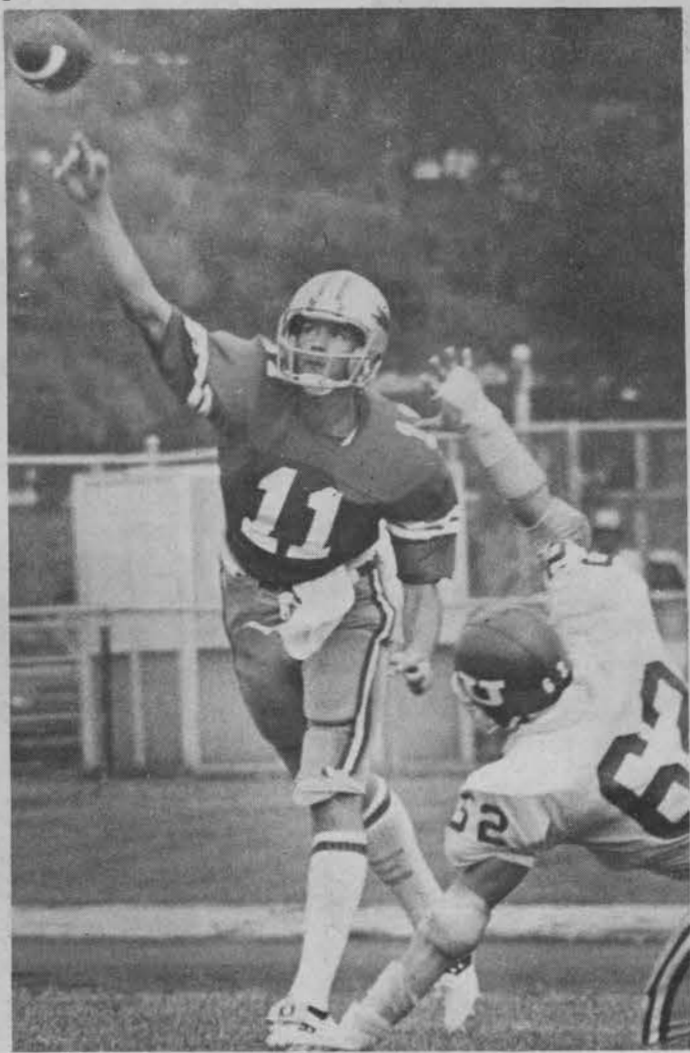
Turk said the 1980 team is of "about even" ability as compared to the 1978 team.

"The defense is better now because they are more experienced. Offense is a little bit better," he said.

Turk added most of the players from the 1978 team have graduated, though a few are still playing this year.

"I'm happy for (Charlie) Krutsinger, (Chuck) Wright and Tom and Mike Murray because they were around two years ago but didn't play on the team," he said.

Turk added, "The best thing about the game is seeing my old pals playing and being in the championship again."



Steve Turk, quarterback of Eastern's 1978 NCAA Division II championship team, was one former Panther who had to resort to watching Saturday's game on television. Turk has helped all season to coach the Panther quarterbacks. (News file photo)

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Panther miracle hopes crushed

by Dave Claypool
Daily Eastern News Correspondent

ALBUQUERQUE—The pacemaker which kept Eastern's cardiac kids alive all season long stoped one beat short Saturday.

In the NCAA's Division II title game at University Stadium, a miracle finish would not materialize as it have in numerous times in the past. Thus, the Panthers settled for runner-up, while Cal Poly/San Luis Obispo took home the prize.

It was a struggle from start to finish, but when the final gun sounded, the Mustangs had won 21-13—ending the Panthers' hopes of its second national championship in three years.

"We didn't play very well today and as it worked out, they beat us," Eastern head coach Darrell Mudra said. "I still believe we are a better team, but it just wasn't meant to be today."

The culprit of Eastern's woes proved to be two things—Cal Poly's flanker Robbie Martin and Panthers' mistakes.

Fumbling the ball twice inside the Mustang four-yard line, the Panthers just could not keep from beating themselves.

The first mishandled carry took place with 1:09 remaining in the second quarter, when runningback Rod Slaughter coughed up the ball as he crossed the goal line.

"I was robbed," Slaughter said. "I was laying in the end zone and the ball came loose. Because I was excited about scoring I let loose of the ball."

"One ref had his hands up in the air (signaling a touchdown) and the other called it a fumble," he added. "I could have avoided it if I had just held on to it a little longer."

Mudra agreed.

"We got a little sloppy carrying the ball down close to the end zone," Mudra said. "That really cost us the game."

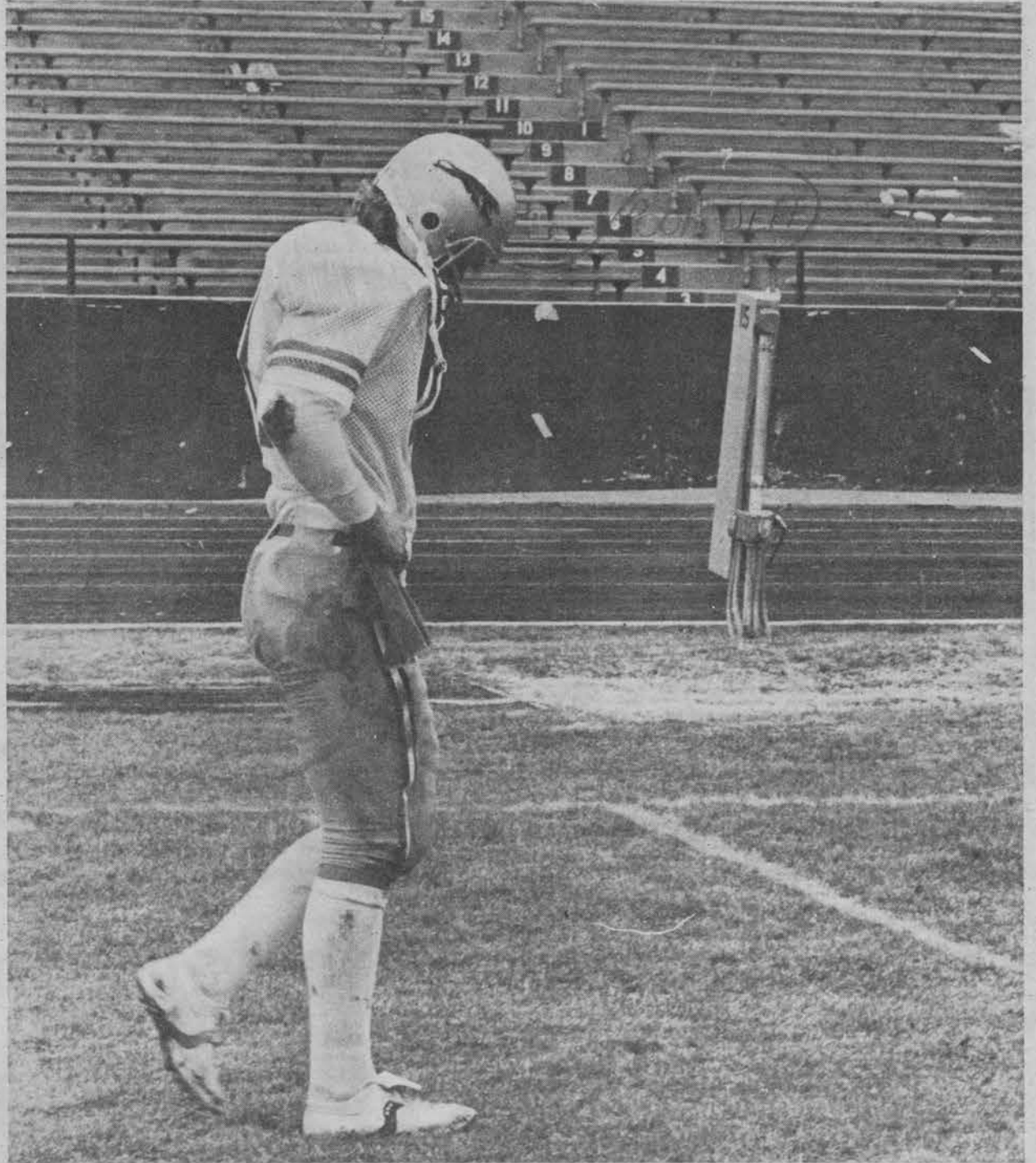
Mudra was also referring to freshman runningback Ricky Davis's fumble on the Cal Poly three yard line.

"I really don't know why we put him in there at that stage in the game," Slaughter said of Davis' only run of the day. "Ricky's been running well lately but when you get down close to the goal line you've got to have your experience in there."

"Coach (Dennis) Shaw thought that Ricky would be more likely to hold on to the ball," Mudra said. "But if we had it to do over, we sure as hell wouldn't put him in there."

But if the Panthers were not beating themselves, Martin was.

Scoring all three Cal Poly touchdowns, the



Kodak All-American was sensational.

Either receiving a punt from Panther Don Manzke or a pass from teammate-quarterback Craig Johnston, Martin was practically unstoppable.

In fact on Manzke's first punt of the day, after Eastern's opening drive fizzled, Martin returned it 42 yards down the left sideline for the initial score—just 1:58 into the first period.

(See FOOTBALL page 8)

Panthers receive small reception

by Melinda DeVries and Jane Meyer

No champagne flowed this time but neither did the tears as the Panthers filed through the doors of the Coles County airport minutes after their 8:15 arrival Saturday night.

Unlike two years ago when the Panthers clinched the NCAA Division II national championship and 1,500 fans packed the airport, a lonely 75 Panther followers cheered the team on its return from Albuquerque.

One of the followers expressed her disappointment in the small number of people who gathered to greet the players when she said, "We couldn't even get in (the airport) when we won in '78. I guess there were about 1,500 people then. We went straight to the Holiday Inn (where a reception was held for the players). I think it is really sad that no one showed up."

Outside, a fan near the fence said to another, "It's a little bit quieter than it

was in '78, huh?"

Expecting a crowd similar that of two years ago, Bob Campbell, Coles County chief deputy said there were 15 county police on hand to control fans.

Campbell said the large number of police were assigned to the airport to eliminate damage that the fans might cause. Two years ago, the airport fence was town down when fans raided the area upon the Panthers return.

The crowd this year, however, was peaceful in greeting the Panthers.

Some fans waited at the fence while the majority remained in the lobby. Many of the fans, which included parents, girlfriends and team followers said they were unsure of how to react to the team when they came into the terminal.

However, fans started clapping loudly and screaming "E-I-U-we're number 1," when quarterback Jeff Christensen came through door

carrying the Division II second place trophy.

As the players continued to file into the lobby, other fans waved signs and shook noisemakers.

Bob Saltmarsh, of Eastern's educational, psychology and guidance department, waved a sign which read, "29 wins 9 losses, '78, '79 and '80—Three fantastic years," on one side and "Thank you seniors and all," on the other.

Saltmarsh said he would have made the trip to Albuquerque had the charter flight not been filled up. His wife, Kay, owner and manager of Arrow Travel which booked the flight, made the trip to New Mexico with some 80 fans.

"I never thought we were going to lose," he said. "I was moved by Alonzo Lee's final attempt to cause a fumble even when most people thought

(See FANS page 4)

Complete coverage of the game and the fans

inside and in Section 2

Championship game sparks extra coverage

by Linda Charnesky

For the fourth time in its 65-year history and the fourth time since it became a daily newspaper in 1973, The Daily Eastern News published a special edition Sunday—this edition covering the football Panthers at the 1980 Division II championship game in Albuquerque.

Daily Eastern News Adviser David Reed said Saturday that following the Panthers to Albuquerque was "a story that had to be covered."

The News ceased publication Friday, until Jan. 13, but the editorial staff decided students would want complete coverage of the game earlier, news editor Marsha Hausser said.

She also said that since a special edition was published in 1978 when the Panthers captured the NCAA Division II title, one was planned last week when the Panthers defeated Northern Alabama on Dec. 6 to advance to the finals.

The News spent roughly \$700 on the

coverage of the game, which included the plane fare of reporter Dave Claypool, who left for Albuquerque on Wednesday with the football team, and photographer Robin Scholz who rode the fan plane on Saturday, Reed said.

The News could not afford to send more than two staffers to cover the game although other members of the staff made the trip by car at their own expense to help cover the game, Reed said.

Despite the fact that only two News staffers went to Albuquerque, there were about 15 reporters and about eight photographers who covered the reaction of students to the game on campus and in Charleston, Hausser said.

She noted that planning ahead for the special edition helped in rounding up enough staffers to cover the game in the city and on campus.

"We did have a meeting to decide who would cover what," Hausser said.

Reed said that since this special

edition was planned a week in advance, production ran a lot smoother than it did in 1978 when the News published its third special edition and first edition ever on a Sunday.

"Last time (1978) we ran out of Sunday papers before noon," Reed said. "We printed 15,000 papers this time and 10,000 last time." An additional 3,500 papers had to be printed in 1978 because no one knew how fast the papers would go, Reed said.

Reed added that enough papers were printed this time so the football players and their families could have copies and also copies could be available for public service purposes.

The advertising revenue generated by the special addition will be about \$1,200 but most of that amount will be used to pay for printing and overhead costs, Reed said.

Chris Goerlich, News advertising manager, said this special edition was the largest of the four special editions

because there was time to plan for it. However, she did say that advertisers did not seem to be quite as receptive as they were in 1978.

"It seemed there was a different atmosphere in the community concerning the championship game in 1978," Goerlich said. "That year (1978) was the first year the Panthers were vying for the national title and it was a new experience for everyone—advertisers included."

On Saturday, Oct. 27, 1973, the News published its first special edition covering the controversial results of the 1973 Homecoming queen contest and on Monday Jan. 17, 1977, the News printed its second edition of the day because the university shut down due to a fuel shortage.

The last special edition was on Sunday Dec. 10, 1978, when the football Panthers defeated the Delaware Blue Hens in Longview, Texas, for the NCAA Division II Championship.

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Martin's surprise catches key Mustang win

by Andy Savoie
Daily Eastern News Correspondent

ALBUQUERQUE—A strong defense and a surprising pass-oriented offense were two reasons Cal Poly/SLO upset Eastern's No.1 ranked Gridders 21-13 Saturday in the NCAA Division II National championship game, Cal Poly/SLO head coach Joe Harper said.

Cal Poly defenders surrendered 350 offensive yards but limited the Panthers' high scoring unit to just two second quarter touchdowns. And Mustang wide receiver Robbie Martin caught scoring passes of 33 and 58 yards to pace his offense.

The wide receiver also scored Cal Poly's other touchdown on a 43-yard punt return. "One of the keys was containing Eastern's very potent offense. They scored 56 points last week so we're happy about that," Harper said.

Harper said Cal Poly did nothing out of the ordinary in stifling the Eastern attack, although two first-half turnovers forced by the Mustang proved to be crucial.

The first turnover came when Eastern fullback Rod Slaughter fumbled into the Cal Poly endzone on a first and goal play from the three yard line.

The score was tied at 7 at the time so the fumble prevented Eastern from moving in front.

The Panthers did manage to capture a 13-7 halftime lead on Slaughter's one-yard run, but frittered away another excellent scoring opportunity in the third quarter.

This time, Ricky Davis fumbled the ball away on a second and goal play from the Cal Poly three yard line.



This was one of many times that fullback Rod Slaughter found himself surrounded by Cal Poly's SLO strong defense during the championship game Saturday. (News photo by Robin Scholz)

"Had they gone in and scored, that's a big difference," Harper said.

Another big difference was Martin, in the gambling Mustang offense utilized because of the Panthers defensive effectiveness.

Eastern limited the Mustangs to just 39 yards on the ground and surrendered only 24 to Louis Jackson,

Division II's leading rusher in 1980 with 1,424 yards.

Consequently the Mustangs abandoned their usual ball control offense and threw to Martin with great success.

The senior wide receiver caught seven passes for 164 yards and two

touchdowns.

"I'm super elated. This is the hardest game I ever played" Martin said.

Of Martin's play, Harper said, "This was not a surprise— "he's done that many times this year. He was fantastic as usual."

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Homecoming in December

Panther fans greeted the Eastern football players as they returned Saturday night. On the left, flanker Scott McGhee talks to a reporter after entering the

terminal at Coles County airport. The youngest Panther fan there was Courtney Titus shown at the right, with her mother Cindy. (News photos by Karen Allen)

Fans

the game was over. It was a bad call to put him out of the game.

"I know we would be very happy to play them three or four more times, but I don't think they would be happy to play us," he added.

One player's girlfriend said that although the team lost, "they are still

winners in our book."

Flanker Scott McGhee, as if he needed to explain why the team did not bring home the first place trophy said to fans around him, "Our luck was running out.

"I'm just glad we got there," he added.

Eastern President Daniel E. Marvin did not wave his hat like he did two years ago, but instead slipped through the crowd only stopping to shake hands with players' families and friends.

Marvin said, "The flight was pretty quiet."

Although no celebration plans were made, Marvin said the players "seriously needed to be recognized."

Student Body President Bob Glover, who traveled with the players, said, "It just wasn't fair."

Marvin said, however, "Being number two isn't all that bad."

from page 1

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Game tempers flare

'We lost our cool, lost our poise'—Mudra

by Dave Claypool
Daily Eastern News Correspondent
ALBUQUERQUE—All season long Eastern's football team has acted like the No. 1 team that it was.

But in Saturday's 21-13 national championship loss to Cal Poly/San Luis Obispo, the Panthers yielded its class actions.

"I am very proud of the accomplishments of this team," Eastern head coach Darrell Mudra said. "But if there is one thing I regret, it's the fact that we lost our cool and we lost our poise."

This lack of "cool" resulted in a number of unnecessary and seemingly embarrassing personal foul penalties—after the game was locked up.

"If there was a disappointing thing about all this it would have to be that our kids lost their heads," defensive coordinator Chuck Dickerson said. "We have been a class organization all year long and now when we get to the end they lose their cool."

One such Panther, whose loss of temperament resulted in penalty yards, was senior middle linebacker Alonzo Lee.

Lee, who was eventually ejected from the game, was furious throughout the contest.

"Alonzo has a cool head," Dickerson said. "And hell, Ira Jefferson never gets as mad as he got today."

One reason Dickerson cited for Eastern's lack of control was Cal Poly's aggressive style.

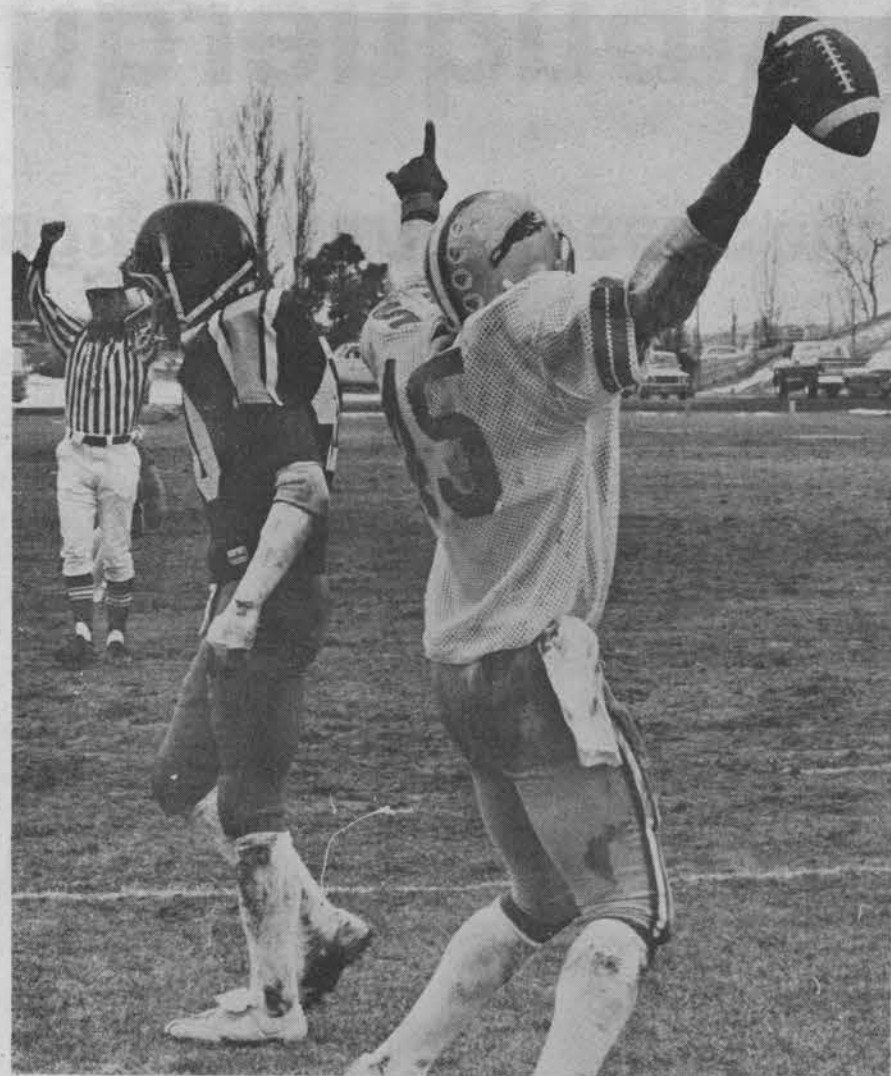
"That's the way they play ball," the coach said. "They will give you a little nudge here and a little nudge there and eventually it will get to you."

"We have aggressive ball players and sooner or later one of them is going to want to pop a guy."

Yet another factor resulting in Eastern's breakdown, according to Dickerson, was the officiating.

"They (Cal Poly's offensive line) were tackling Alonzo when he'd come in after the quarterback," Dickerson said. "And one of them actually hit Ira in the mouth. After a while our kids aren't going to tolerate it."

"We were really getting frustrated," Panther runningback Rod Slaughter said. "It's understandable, but things got a little out of hand."



Panther fullback Rod Slaughter is elated after scoring one of Eastern's touchdowns. Panther coaches said many of the players on the team lost their cool during the game. "We were really getting frustrated," Slaughter explained. "It's understandable but things got a little out of hand." (News photo by Robin Scholz)



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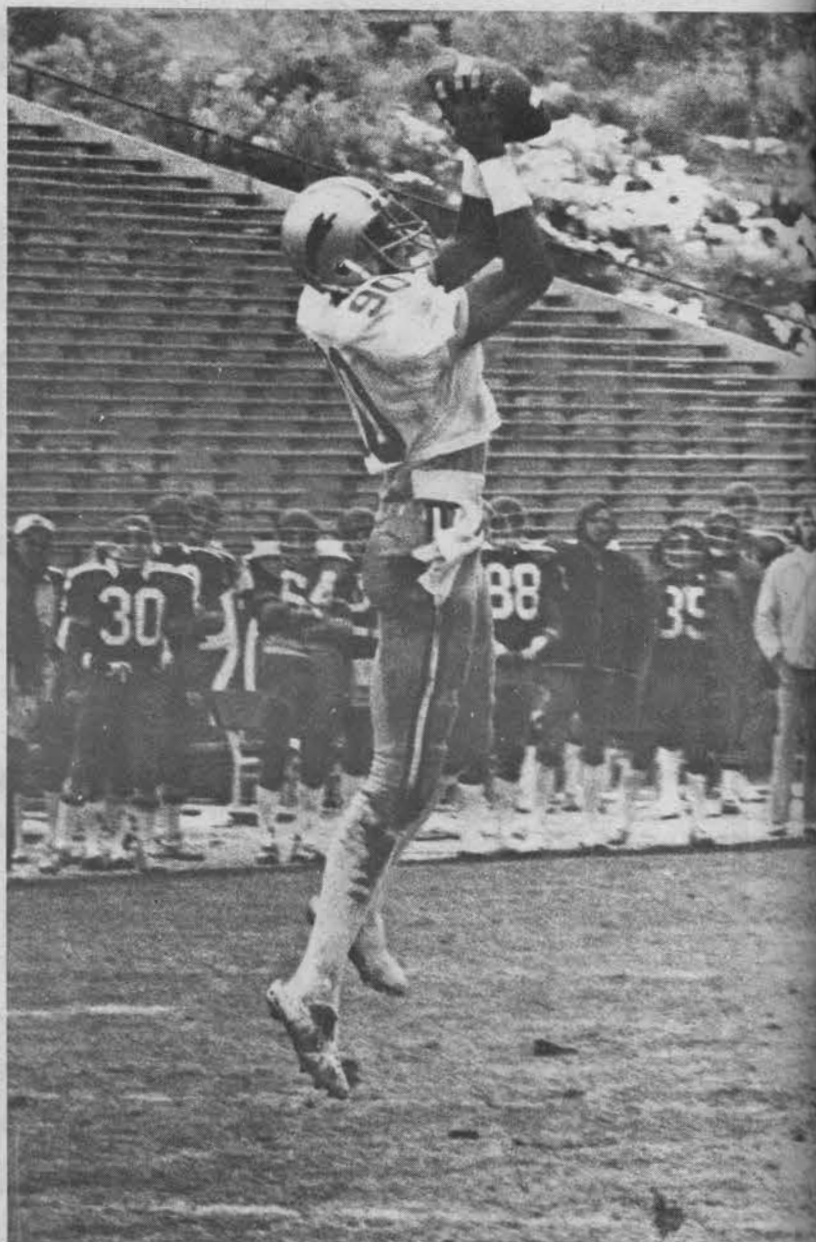
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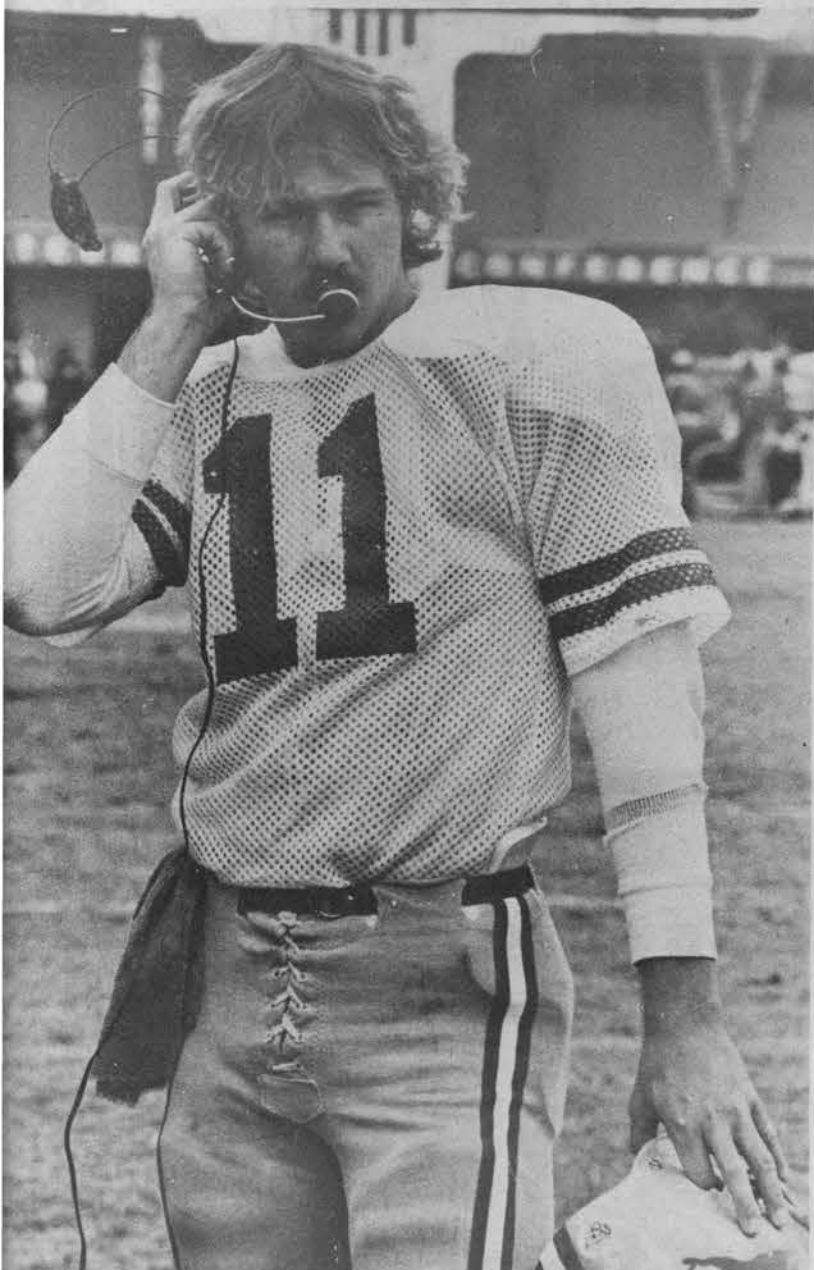
Struggle in Albuquerque

Season climax brings di...



News photos by Robin Scho...

Disappointment as one last comeback fails



The Panthers second try for a national championship was thwarted by Cal Poly (SLO) Saturday as the Zia Bowl drew to a close.

The game and the silence afterward proved to be trying for the Panthers.

Counterclockwise from left, fullback Rod Slaughter, who was named Eastern's Chevrolet Most Valuable player during the game, gains some yardage running against the Cal Poly defense.

Quarterback Jeff Christensen receives instructions from the press box during the game.

Defensive end Pete Catan is consoled by his wife Donna after the 21-13 loss.

Robbie Martin, stalwart of the Mustang offense, runs toward the goal line for another Cal Poly gain.

Panther wide receiver Otis Grant catches a long pass in a Panther drive.

Defensive tackle Charlie Krutsinger is comforted by family members following the loss.

Miracle title escapes, but Panthers still rate

I am as guilty as anyone.

I was one of the thousands of Eastern football followers who took the outcome of the championship game for granted.

Even when there were only two minutes left in the game, I believed that somehow, somehow, Jeff Christensen and Scott McGhee would team up to pull the title game out of their bag of magic tricks.

After all, it's been the Eastern trademark all season long to come back from seemingly invincible odds and win the big game.

I couldn't help remembering the Illinois State victory when the Panthers scored three fourth quarter touchdowns to pull out a 35-20 win.

Or the 35 unanswered points against North Alabama after trailing 24-13.

Or especially the miraculous 35-28 win at Northern Michigan in which Eastern scored 21 second quarter points after falling behind 21-0.

So why shouldn't I have thought we'd win?

But reality hit me and my stomach turned as Christensen threw up a fourth and 26 desperation pass which landed in Cal Poly free safety Chris Jones's arms, with only :50 seconds left in the game.

No miracle finish. No come-from-behind spectacular win. No nothing. Just second place.

Yet, as we all reminisce the Panther fumbles in the end zone and Robbie Martin's incredible running—things that might have been, let's appreciate the successful season we have all witnessed. Let's be thankful for

Behind the byline

Dave Claypool

making it to THE game in Division II.

Sure it's disappointing to go as far as the championship game and fumble away two touchdown opportunities and walk away eight points behind.

But let's all remember that when the 1980 season started, there were 250 schools fighting for one of the two spots to play in the Division II finale and we, the Panthers, were one of the teams that did it.

Not early season favorite Northern Michigan. Not North Alabama, but Eastern. The team which wasn't supposed to have a chance after losing Poke Cobb, James Warring and 20 other seniors.

A team which has relied on an insurmountable desire to be the best, once again, as in 1978.

We must all strive not to let the memory of Albuquerque's Zia Bowl wither away with the tears of finishing second.

There are 248 other schools across the country which would give virtually anything to appear in the title game, and we must be thankful for that chance.

Although this season will probably not be as well remembered as that of two years ago, the miracle finishes and come-from-behind spectaculars will not be forgotten by this Panther football follower—even if we are second best.

Football from page 1

Then in the third and fourth quarters, Martin hooked up with Johnston for scores of 58 and 33 yards through the air.

"He was a tough ball player. He has a lot of speed," Panther free safety Kevin Gray said. "On one of them he made a great catch. On the other I just screwed up. I got burnt."

Gray was the Panther second man who was primarily responsible for stopping Martin.

"Kevin (Gray) didn't play a bad game at all today," Eastern defensive coordinator Chuck Dickerson said. "He (Johnston) was floating the ball up there and Martin had the speed to run under a couple of them. He's so fast that he outran our double coverage.

"When we got pressure on their quarterback they had nothing," Dickerson added. "But in the second half they kept eight men in there to block so we couldn't get to him."

But the Panthers were able to stop the renowned Cal Poly running game and Louis Jackson.

Jackson, also a Kodak All-American and Division II's leading ground gainer, was virtually stifled and could only muster 26 yards in 20 carries.

"We really hammered their running game," Dickerson said. "The 'wild bull' didn't turn out so wild after all."

But stopping the well respected Mustang ground attack was not enough to stop Cal Poly.

However, Eastern did have one bright spot in Saturday's showdown—Slaughter.

Playing in his most well-rounded performance all season, Slaughter scored Eastern's only two touchdowns, picked up 75 yards rushing in 14 carries

and 122 yards in receptions.

"I always seem to play better in the pressure games. I'm a pressure player," Slaughter said. "Today, their linebacker drops weren't all that good and it left me with a lot of running room."

Slaughter's first score came on the initial play of the second quarter—a two-yard run over the middle. That tied the score at seven.

Then with just :59 seconds left in the first half, Slaughter once again scored, this time on a one-yard plunge, giving the Panthers their only lead of the day at 13-7.

But the second half brought nothing but agony to the Panthers as Martin and Johnston's heroics carried Cal Poly to the winners circle.

"We didn't play a very good game today and they were well prepared," Eastern quarterback Chuck Wright said. "Everything we did right during the season went wrong today.

"But it hasn't been a disappointing year at all," Wright continued. "No one expected us to be in the championship game before the season started, so even being No. 2 is quite an accomplishment."

"Everyone is handling the loss well," Slaughter said. "Sure it hurts, but life goes on."

Eastern 0 13 0 0—13

Cal Poly 7 0 14 0—21

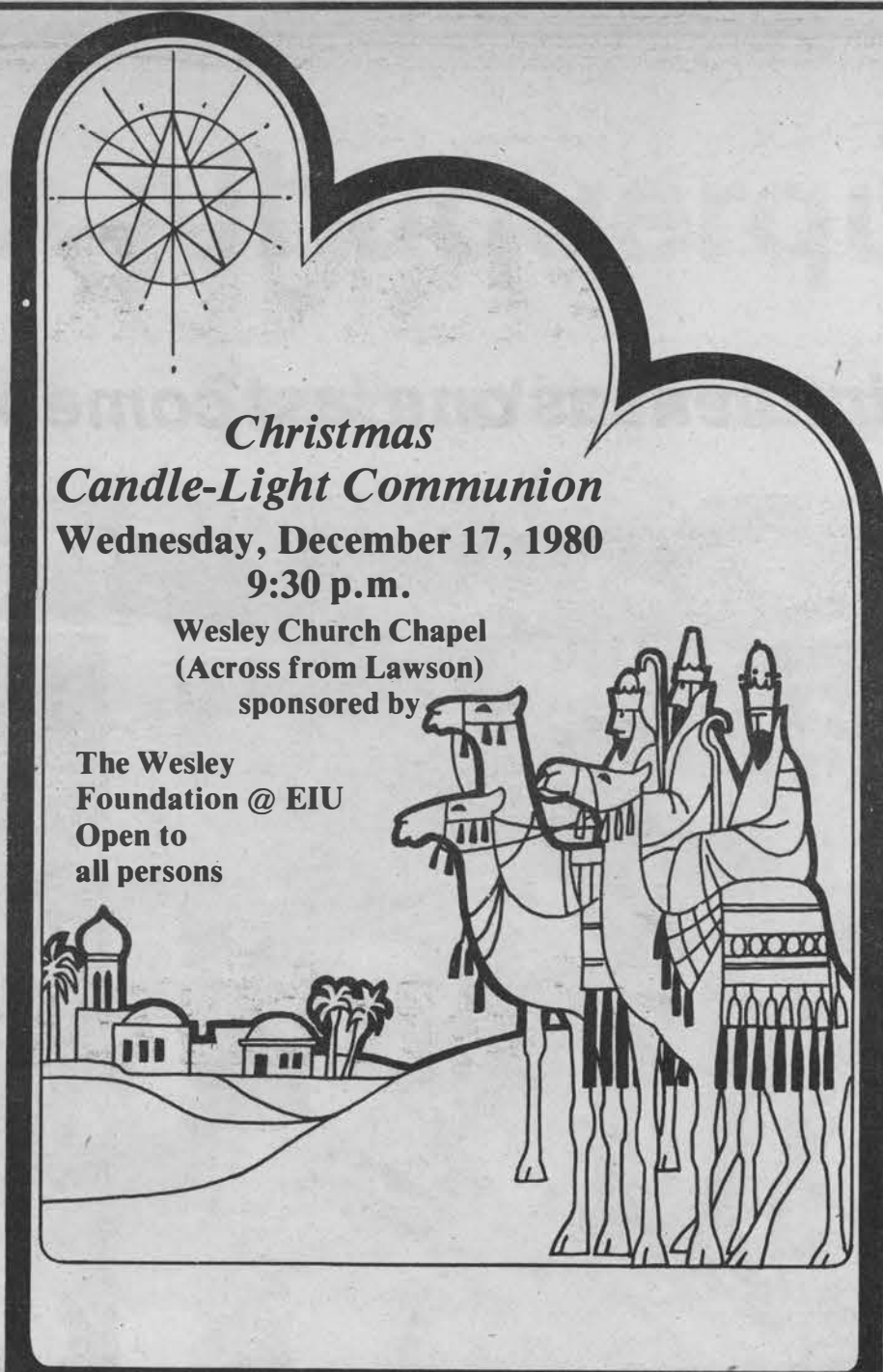
Cal Poly—13:02, first quarter—Robbie Martin, 42-yard punt return (Vessella kick)

Eastern—14:58, second quarter—Rod Slaughter, two-yard run (Delong kick)

Eastern—:59, second quarter—Slaughter, one-yard run (kick failed)

Cal Poly—9:28, third quarter—Martin, 58-yard pass from Craig Johnston (Vessella kick)

Cal Poly—14:02, third quarter—Martin, 33-yard pass from Johnston (Vessella kick)



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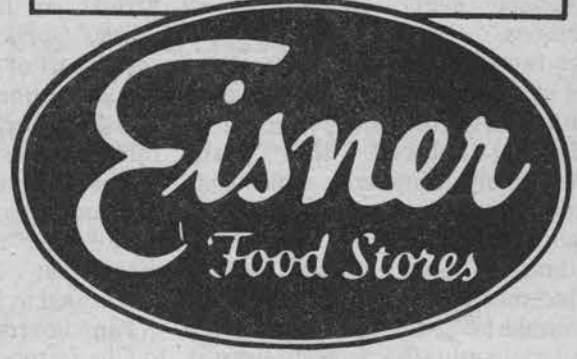
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Fans show no regrets for trip despite loss

by Robin Scholz
Daily Eastern News Correspondent

ALBUQUERQUE—Eighty Eastern fans followed the Panthers to Albuquerque hoping to see them bring home a second national championship, but when the gridders were defeated the fans expressed no regrets that they had made the trip.

"I feel the trip was well worth it—a chance to represent the team and school. It would have been nicer if we could have won, but still..." Eastern cheerleader Bob Grigsby said.

Mrs. James Murray, mother of Michael and Tom of the Panther squad, said "The team worked hard all year, and in our eyes and I'm sure in everyone's eyes, they are all champions."

The fans boarded the plane at the Coles County Airport at 8 a.m. Saturday. A 100-knots per hour headwind delayed the plane approximately 20 minutes, which only served to intensify the nervousness of the fans aboard.

Although most people would imagine that a plane full of Panther fans would be getting psyched for the game by chanting Eastern cheers, the atmosphere was that of a doctor's waiting room—quiet and tense.

Eastern's cheerleaders tried to break the stillness by initiating cheers, but the response from the crowd was minimal.

The plane landed in Albuquerque at 10 a.m. MST. A 10-minute delay while waiting for the buses to arrive broke the ice and excited chatter was heard from the fans.

Eastern President Daniel E. Marvin hosted a reception at the Hilton Hotel for the weary travelers. Coldcuts and

drinks were available for the Panther followers.

Although the Panthers could not connect for a victory, the fans' spirit and enthusiasm never died throughout the game.

Relatives and friends joined the team on the field after the game to share tears and offer congratulations for a season well played.

A tour of Albuquerque for the fans was conducted after the game. As the tour guide tried valiantly to cheer up the crowd by telling stories about adobe brick houses, fans stared blankly out of the bus windows as they relived the last moments of the game.

Spirits picked up however, upon the arrival of the tour buses at Old Town—purported to be the most scenic part of the city.

Indians lined the walkways trying to sell their turquoise jewelry and hand-thrown pottery to passers-by.

The Panther fans were exposed to the true taste of New Mexico when they were given the opportunity to eat dinner at local restaurants that specialized in HOT Mexican food.

Fans boarded the plane to fly back to Charleston at 8 p.m. MST. Despite the Panthers' loss, fans were relaxed and laughter was heard during the entire flight.

Thank-yous were passed to those aboard the flight, and among those was a special thank-you from defensive end Pete Catan.

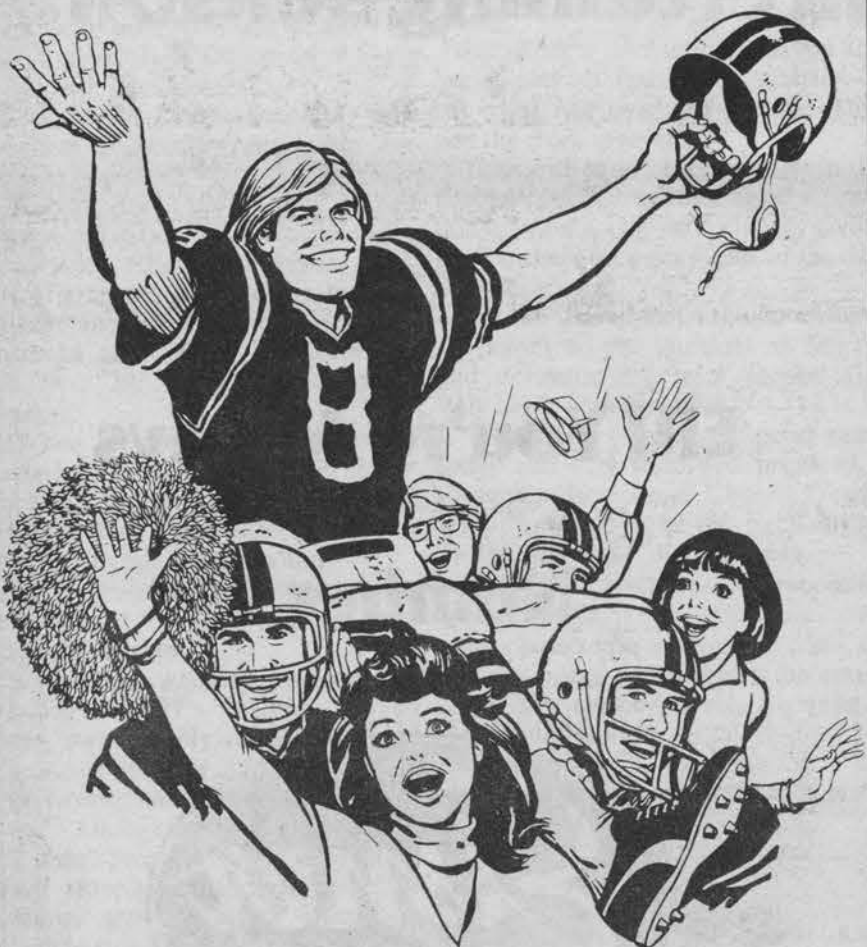
Catan thanked everyone for following the team and added that he was sorry the team had let the fans down.

"But in the end we are all champs," Catan said.



Eighty fans traveled to the sight of the NCAA Division II national championship in Albuquerque to cheer the Panthers on in their bid for the title. Despite the loss, fans that traveled on the charter flight said they did not regret having made the trip. (News photo by Robin Scholz)

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on
finals and have

a great break everyone!

Thompson loses bet with Brown, must pay 10 gallons of gasohol

by Scott Hainzinger

There was more than just Panther pride riding on Saturday's Division II championship game. Ten gallons of gasohol, and Illinois Gov. James Thompson's pride were also at stake.

Governor's aide Jim Skilbeck said Thompson was able to secure a wager of ten gallons of gasohol against 25 pounds of high energy wood pellets put up by California Gov. Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown on the games outcome.

Skilbeck said the wood pellets, a burnable fuel, are the result of biomass conversion experiments now underway in California.

Thompson initiated the wager with Brown since Eastern's opponents in the contest, the Cal Poly/San Luis Obispo

Mustangs, were from Brown's home state.

Unfortunately both Big Jim's pride and the Illinois gasohol supply suffered blows as the Mustangs dropped Eastern 21-14 in an upset victory.

This was not the first time Thompson has placed a bet on the outcome of a Division II championship game in which Eastern has participated.

He made a two to one wager against Delaware Gov. Pierre DuPont when the Panthers took on University of Central Delaware's Blue Hens in the 1978 championship game.

Thompson staked two bushels of southern Illinois peaches against a case of Delaware chickens in that contest.

Basketball loss to Leathernecks a slap in the face to Eastern fans

by Marc Pacatte

The loss by Eastern's basketball team to the Western Illinois Leathernecks Saturday night seemed to be a slap in the face to fans who earlier that day weathered the football Panthers' loss in the NCAA Division II championship.

Perhaps as an indication of the earlier loss, attendance was lower than usual at the basketball game.

An official from the ticket office said the gate

count was "way down" from last year's Eastern-Western game.

The official attendance was about 3,500.

When asked if she thought the football loss had any effect on attendance she said "sure it did. Everyone probably had parties this afternoon" and now they would not feel like coming to the game.

Sophomore Margaret Falconio said she was disappointed that the football Panthers lost

and she added, "I wish we would have beaten Western tonight."

Sophomore Mary Wasmer said she thought people might have been pressured for finals, and coming to the game and yelling was a way to "get some emotions out."

There was a traditional reason for coming to the game too.

Senior Janine Barenz said "Eastern and Western are big rivals. I just wanted to see Eastern win."

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It's basketball season too

Men lose 72-71 in double overtime while...

by Steve Binder

A 25-foot "desperation shot" at the buzzer of double overtime ripped through the net and propelled Western Illinois University over Eastern's cagers 72-71 Saturday night at Lantz Gym.

The climatic finish had approximately 3,000 standing and screaming Eastern fans shocked into silence when Leatherneck guard Jamie Lilly fired a rainbow shot through the bucket to give Western the victory for the first MCC conference game of the season.

"I had time to dribble the ball once so I could see the basket all right. I didn't know whether it beat the buzzer because of the fans but it felt good when I shot it," Lilly said.

The Panthers had taken the lead 71-70 with :08 remaining in the second overtime when Eastern forward Ricky Robinson, assisted by Rico Ellis, sunk an eight-footer in the lane.

Western then called time out to set up the play that killed Eastern's bid for victory over its biggest rival.

Leatherneck center John Seay inbounded the ball to guard Dwayne Banks who was hounded by the Panthers 1-2-2 zone press. Banks spotted Lilly in front of Western's bench and heaved a pass downcourt. The 6-foot 5 Lilly caught the ball, dribbled once, shot over Panther guard Ellis and fell backward to watch the ball swish through the basket.

Shortly afterward the Panthers looked dismayed as head coach Rick Samuels commented on the after effects of what he termed a "desperation shot."

"Basically it was a desperation shot but he did have that kind of range. We can't let a 25-foot shot ruin the rest of our season. Now, we'll have to fight a tough mental attitude because we will be on the road for the next seven games," Samuels said.

"We really did not make any progress. We did not play a better game than we did in the past. We just were not patient enough on offense in the first half," Samuels said.

Nonetheless, the Panther squad did hold the Leathernecks, who have been averaging 90 points a game, to 72 points.

A possible downfall for the Panthers was a frigid 45 percent accuracy mark (9 out of 20) from the free throw line.

"That's not good. I don't know what the cause is. We just have to relax more," Samuels said.

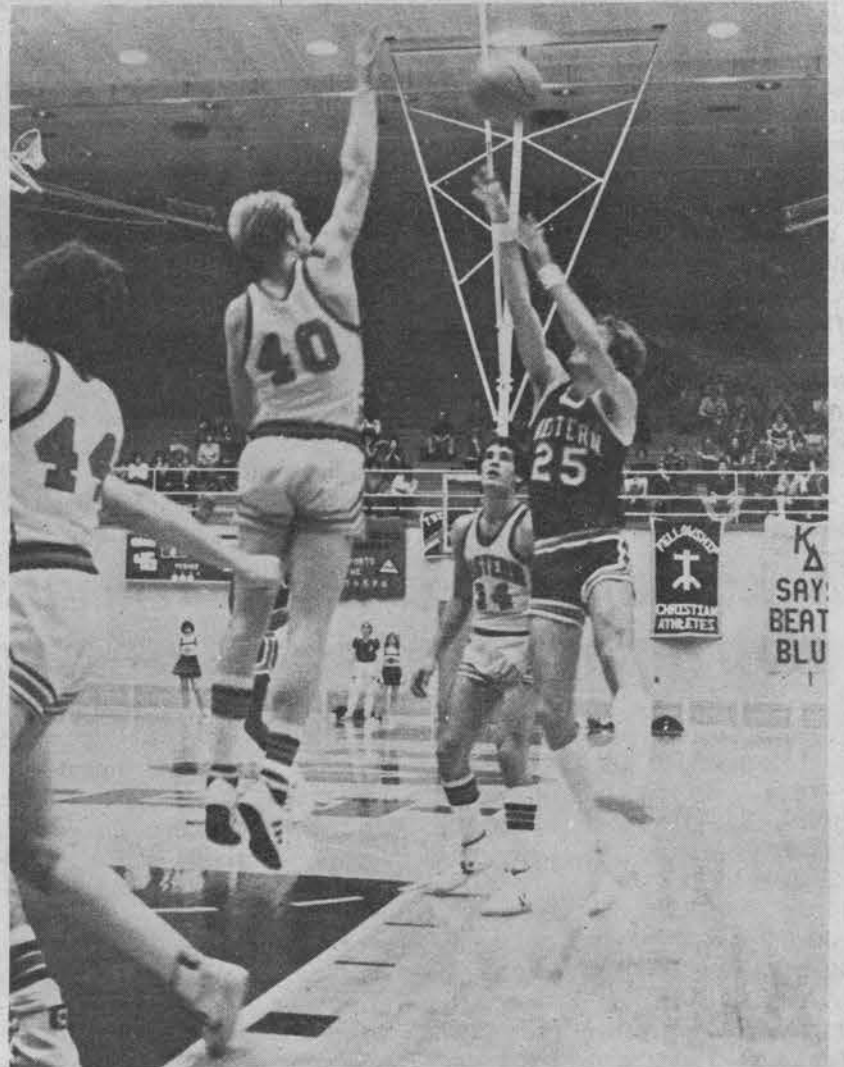
The rivalry between the two teams produced exactly what both coaches predicted, an intense and exciting basketball game.

Eastern quickly jumped out to a 12-4 lead when the Leathernecks tallied six unanswered points.

The Panthers led by a margin no greater than four until Leatherneck reserve guard John Washington checked in with 9:00 remaining in the first half.

Washington sparked Western by scoring seven points, earning two assists and stealing the ball twice to help put his teammates in front 41-37 at the halftime buzzer.

Both teams scored 16 buckets from the field with Western shooting at a 51 percent clip compared to the Panthers 43 percent mark.



Panther forward Jim Williams attempts to block Western's Jamie Lilly's shot. (News photo by Kelvin Blanks)

When the second half began, Panther guard Warren Patten hit on a short jumper and was followed by

a Robinson 10-footer, after which Eastern went cold and Western became hot.

The Leathernecks scored eight unanswered points for a 49-41 lead. Eastern slowly came back to within four, 61-57, with 4:31 remaining.

Eastern eventually took the lead 62-61 on a Jim Williams free throw. Williams led the Panthers in scoring by tallieing a season high 19 points.

Western's forward Joe Dykstra then connected on a three-point play just before Ellis pumped in a 20-footer to tie the game at 64 with 1:51 remaining. Time eventually ran out and the game was sent into overtime.

Both teams came out and played cautiously with Eastern winning the tip and trying to stall for the last shot. However, after Western stole the ball and then an Eastern steal, Robinson missed an eight-footer that proved to be the only shot taken in the overtime period.

Once again time ran out and the game was sent into a second overtime.

This time both teams played more aggressively. "We decided we were going to do something to win the game," Samuels said.

Robinson came alive and scored five of a game total 11 points in the overtime period. He hit on an eight-footer before connecting for a free throw which put the Panthers in front 67-66.

Reserve center Jeff Jacob then scored on a pass from Chuck Turk to put the Panthers up by three.

But Western failed to give up as Dykstra and Banks both scored to put the Leathernecks in front 70-69 with :51 remaining.

Robinson hit again from eight feet to put the Panthers back in front 71-70 with eight seconds remaining, which set up Lilly's final blow to Samuels' squad.

...Women roll to 95-58 victory



Suzette Eschoo puts in two as teammates Linda Ellsworth (30) and Joann Archer (15) ready for a rebound. (News photo by Kelvin Blanks)

by Dan Brannan

Joann Archer poured in 25 points to lead Eastern's women's basketball team to an easy 95-58 over Chicago Circle on Saturday night.

Eastern's women's coach Bobbie Hilke said Chicago Circle's team is down somewhat from last year.

"Chicago Circle defeated us 86-80 last year," Hilke said.

Hilke was very pleased with Eastern's performance in the game.

"We put together two consistent halves, and I felt we passed much better as a team tonight," Hilke said.

Hilke was also pleased with Archer's performance in the game.

"Archer has been a very consistent shooter for us all season," Hilke said.

Linda Ellsworth was Eastern's next leading scorer with 19 points followed by Nancy Kassebaum with 13 and Penny Berg with 10.

"Kassebaum brought the ball down for us real well," Hilke said.

Hilke said she was also very impressed with Berg's play defensively.

"Berg was very impressive for her first start," Hilke said.

Eastern's scoring was rounded out by Angie DePasa with nine points, Kathy Lanter with eight, Jodi Corson with four, Kelly Waldrup with three and Sandy Thorpe, Shelley Thompson and Suzette Eshoo with two each.

"Thorpe also had a real good game defensively," Hilke said.

The Panther women are now 4-4 on the season. They will travel to Milwaukee Dec. 20-21 for the Wisconsin-Milwaukee tournament on Dec. 20-21.