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Daily Eastern News: Feburary 18, 2014

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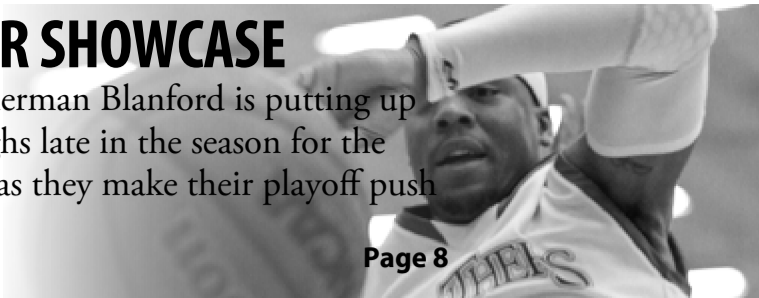
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FROM SOUTH AFRICA, TO EASTERN

Grammy Award winning group, Ladysmith Black Mambazo will take the stage of the Dvorak Concert Hall of the Doudna Fine Arts Center Wednesday.
Page 3



SENIOR SHOWCASE

Senior Sherman Blanford is putting up career highs late in the season for the Panthers as they make their playoff push
Page 8

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014

“TELL THE TRUTH AND DON’T BE AFRAID”

VOL. 98 | NO. 102

Open house almost breaks record, despite weather

By Jack Cruikshank
Administration Editor | @JackCruik

Nearly 500 students attended Monday’s combined open house for new prospective students as well as already-admitted students.

Lou Hencken, the interim director of admissions said while the exact tally was not complete as of press time, between 475 and 500 students attended the event, with an additional approximate 700 guests of the students, which included family and friends.

Despite the weather, those 500 came to review the campus, with many of them spending Sunday night in the area in order to avoid the freezing rain, which plagued Eastern Monday morning.

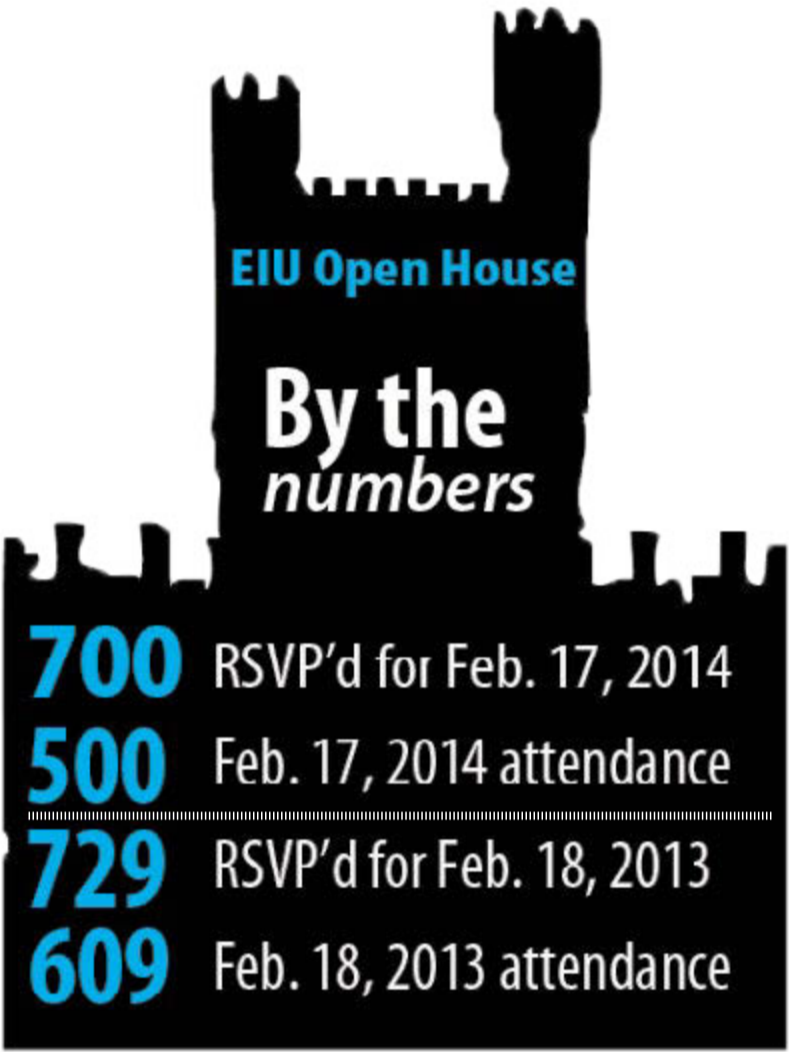
“We were pretty pleased. When I got up this morning, I remember thinking, ‘You are going to see a grown man cry in Old Main,’ but people came down and everybody at the university, and I really mean this – they cooperated,” Hencken said.

Hencken said people from admissions, marketing, the Doudna Fine Arts Center and the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union all worked collectively to make the event a success, all things considered.

Hencken said by Sunday night, 700 students had sent RSVPs saying they would come, but the weather caused many to cancel.

Nonetheless, Hencken was excited for the turnout.

“I was very pleased,” Hencken said. “If there is one word I can say to the



GRAPHIC BY JOANNA LEIGHTON

campus, it is thank you for the cooperation. From people clearing streets for us to university police, the entire campus came together for this event.”

Karenlee Spencer, the special events

coordinator for the office of admissions, said the record number of students for an open house was 600 students “a couple years ago.”

OPEN HOUSE, page 5

Potential students reflect on campus visit

By Kaylie Homann & Megan Ivey
Staff Reporters | @DEN_News

Jordan Bates, a prospective student from Rockford, is the kind of student Eastern hopes to recruit through Monday’s open house.

Bates, a senior at Rockford Christian High School, said she has been admitted to Eastern, but has never visited the campus and has yet to decide if she is attending.

Despite being unsure if she is attending, Bates said she would rather apply and then see the school.

She said she didn’t want to visit a school just find out later she wasn’t accepted.

With decreasing enrollment, this group of students—those who have been accepted into the university – is vital to raise the numbers for the next school year.

Bates said she had heard about Eastern through a family friend. She is hoping to major in special education.

“I just really wanted to (visit Eastern),” said Omar Mughrabi, a high school senior from Rantoul, “I like how friendly everyone is.”

Becky Nelson, another prospective student and a current high school senior from Taylorville, Ill., the day provided a chance to tour Eastern as well as interview for the Presidential Scholars Award through the Honors College.

She said she thought the interview went well overall, and she said she did “the best I could.”

After the interview, she took the time to tour the campus, and participate in the admission’s office’s scheduled events for the day.

Nelson said she thought it was important to look around all of the campuses she has applied to, which include Illinois State, Western Illinois, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville and Purdue.

She said she is still deciding between Eastern and Purdue.

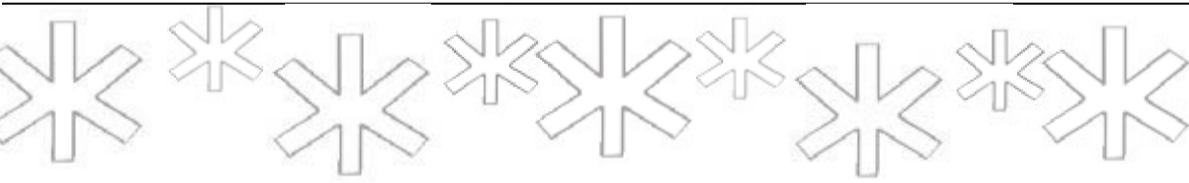
The students showed enthusiasm in visiting campus and in being one of about 12 students to attend a classroom experience with Eastern sculpture professor Jeff Boshart.

Boshart showed students a different side to the university. He said his classroom is different from a traditional learning setting.

“We are different here,” Boshart said. “We’re not about taking notes. We make art.”

Boshart told the prospective students that it is important to “think outside the box.” He encouraged them to engage in their profession, whatever their profession may be.

Kaylie Homann & Megan Ivey
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Wintry mix encases campus

Grounds crews busy, unable to comment

By Michael Spencer
City Editor | @tmskeeper

Campus was clad in ice and slush Monday as a wintry mix forced students – both current and prospective – to take caution navigating from building to building.

Cameron Craig, a geology professor and meteorologist, said 0.2 of an inch of ice coated the sidewalks and streets around campus as freezing rain fell throughout the morning and into the afternoon.

The National Weather Service station at the Coles County Memorial Airport reported light to moderate freezing rain from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

More than 600 prospective students were on hand Monday as a

part of Eastern’s open house, an aspect that Jeff Cross, the associate vice president for academic affairs, said was considered by the administration.

“We had a number of guests on campus and we were concerned about them being able to get to the venues they needed to get to safely as well,” Cross said.

Sheila Baker, the medical director for the university’s health service, said there were half a dozen students that reported to the on-campus clinic while others called in to ask questions about treating minor injuries from falling.

Baker also said only a small portion of those who might have fallen Monday reported anything.

“We probably aren’t seeing all of the people that have slipped and fell,” Baker said. “I would say it is a weather related event and it is causing some problems.”

Baker added that she had avoided venturing outside because of the

conditions.

Cross said Monday’s conditions were to be expected during the winter months, but that caution is as important, as always.

“There were some icy conditions; that goes along with the winter,” Cross said. “Whether it’s a sunny day or a snowy day, people need to exercise caution.”

Facilities, Planning and Management crews started work in the early hours of the morning Monday and worked through the day to keep campus conditions safe.

Scott Hall, the superintendent of grounds for Eastern, was not available to comment Monday and those who were available in the Facilities, Planning and management office declined to comment, stating only that they were too busy coping with the weather.

Cross said the question of whether or not campus was safe Monday is not cut and dry.

WINTRY MIX, page 5

Director candidate to participate in forum

By Jack Cruikshank
Administration Editor | @JackCruik

The Admissions Office will be presenting a candidate for the director of Admissions position at an open forum at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Arcola-Tuscola room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

The candidate, Ryan Cockerill, is the current director of admissions at Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill.

Lou Hencken, the interim director of admissions, said the open meeting will act as a forum for anyone on campus to meet the candidate and ask questions of him.

Hencken said usually what happens is the person starts off by telling those in attendance a little something about themselves, and then there is an opportunity for questions from the audience.

“It is an opportunity for people to meet the candidates and find out about their views on the position,” Hencken said.

Cockerill met with Hencken over a dinner interview after touring cam-

pus Monday.

Throughout the day Tuesday, he is scheduled to meet with the director search committee, which is chaired by Regis Gilman, the dean of the school of continuing education.

The open forum is scheduled to last an hour, at which time Cockerill will meet with Blair Lord, the provost and vice president for academic affairs, as well as Mary Herrington-Perry, the vice president for academic affairs.

Cockerill received a master’s degree of arts in communication studies from Northern Illinois University in 1996 after receiving a bachelor’s degree of science in Speech Communication from Southern Illinois University in 1992.

Directly before his time as director of admissions at Lewis University, he acted as the associate director of Freshman Admissions from 2002 to 2008.

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

Local weather

TODAY WEDNESDAY



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Low: 27°



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

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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Resurrecting 2Pac



CHYNNA MILLER| DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eric Echols, a junior communication studies major, talks about the effects of poverty on the black community during Ressurrection: The Politics of 2Pac, hosted by the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. in the Phibbs Lecture Hall on Monday.

City council to vote to waive lime bid

By Michael Spencer
City Editor | @tmskeeper

In what is expected to be a brief meeting, the city council will examine a resolution that will waive the bidding process for the purchase of lime used by the water treatment plant.

The city determined that only one vendor is available for the purchase of lime in the Charleston area. Therefore, the council must nullify the bidding process.

"Lime is something they use out at the water treatment plant and they have shopped around over the

years and they have found there's really only one supplier that supplies the lime that meets their requirements," said Mayor Larry Rennels.

The funds for the purchase of lime have already been budgeted.

Lime is used to soften and adjust the pH balance of water to make it less corrosive.

Additionally, the council will examine a resolution that will authorize the contract for janitorial services.

"We're rehiring the same company that's been doing the janitorial services so there's nothing new

there," Rennels said, adding that there will be continuity in the contract so there will be no changes there either.

The council will also approve the comptrollers report and vote on a raffle license for the Charleston Community Theatre's 50th anniversary celebration scheduled for later this month.

The meeting will take place 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

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

BLOTTER

3 day weekend brings on crime

• At 8:48 p.m. on Thursday, a domestic dispute was reported at Lawson Hall. This incident was referred to the Office of Student Standards.

• At 1:08 p.m. on Friday, a hit and run was reported to have occurred in the W-Lot. This incident is under investigation.

• At 10:18 p.m. on Sunday, a cannabis complaint was reported in Thom as Hall. This incident was referred to the Office of Student Standards.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ladysmith Black Mambazo, led by Joseph Shabalala (center), consists of members Albert Mazibuko, Msizi Shabalala, Abednego Mazibuko, Sibongiseni Shabalala, Thamsanqa Shabalala, Thulani Shabalala, Ngane Dlamini and Russel Mthembu. The group will be performing at the Dvorak Concert Hall of the Doudna Fine Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo to perform, 1 night only

Staff Report

African rhythms and harmonies will blend with Christian gospel music when three-time Grammy Award winners Ladysmith Black Mambazo steps on stage. Performing at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Dvorak Concert Hall of the Doudna Fine Arts Cen-

ter, the concert will only be one night. In addition to the concert, there will also be a screening of the Academy Award nominated documentary, “On Tiptoe: Gentle Steps to Freedom.” The documentary recounts the story of an all male choral group from South Africa. The film will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday and is included in the price of admission for the concert. Tickets for the concert are \$20 for all admissions and cover the cost of the documentary. Ladysmith Black Mambazo was formed in 1964, but gained recognition after being featured on Paul Simon’s Grammy Award winning album “Graceland” in 1986.

Influenced by different styles, including American pop, do-wop and gospel – all mixed with the traditional African sound – the group also has ties with the late Nelson Mandela. Dan Crews, the director of patron services, said the group accompanied Mandela to his Nobel Peace Prize presentation in Oslo in

1993. They also performed at his inauguration the following year. They were the last performance at the memorial concert for Mandela. Ladysmith Black Mambazo’s performance is part of African-American Heritage Month and is sponsored by Eastern’s Department of Africana Studies and the International Center for Global Diversity.

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Quote of the Day

“Choose your love. Love your choice.”

- Thomas S. Monson

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Walking can be dangerous



JOSH WILLIAMS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

STAFF EDITORIAL

Weather still presenting issues

Just when we thought we were done with the snow and maybe starting to head toward spring, it looks like winter just isn't done with us yet.

On Monday, we (and about 600 of our open house guests) saw a mix of freezing rain, sleet and snow again hit the Eastern campus.

A look at the forecast shows some higher temperatures in our future, but it might not be time to start celebrating just yet.

The rising temperatures will likely cause the snow to melt, bringing more slushy and wet conditions to our already weather-beaten campus.

When traveling to and from class in these conditions, the same advice applies.

Be sure to keep an eye on Eastern's official website and social media accounts for updates on class status, and perhaps maybe even an announcement of the inevitable, a

canceled class.

When deciding to head to class, always use your best discretion in deciding if you should or shouldn't go.

If you can't make it to class, an email to your professor should suffice, as long as you aren't consistently missing classes and the weather is at a level that warrants caution in traveling.

You can never be too prepared for your walk across campus.

Make sure your shoes are thick enough to withstand walking through slush and water, and will keep you warm when the temperature starts to drop.

It can't hurt to even pack an extra pair of socks or two in your backpack, especially if you live far off campus and might not be able to head back to your place to change for an extended period of time.

One of the great things about Eastern is

how small and compact it is, allowing students to be able to cut through buildings to get from place to place.

This will not only keep you out of the cold, but keep you dry and keep your body safe from slipping on the ice.

If you do see someone slip on the ice, be a good person, help them up, ask them if they're OK.

Don't just be "that guy" and laugh at them as they try to pick themselves up off the cold, wet ground.

You never know when that person might be you, and you won't want to be the person being laughed at.

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

Selflessness turned into selfishness

After St. Louis Blues' forward T.J. Oshie scored the clinching goal in the United States' shootout win over Russia on Saturday, reporter Dejan Kovacevic of the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review asked him what it felt like to be called a national hero. Oshie responded saying, "The American heroes are wearing camo. That's not me."

Kovacevic's tweet of Oshie's quote has 2,300 retweets, and it should. It's a great quote from a great player who just played probably the most memorable game of his life, and through this, on the world's biggest stage, Oshie still won't accept the title bestowed on him of "hero." It's a nice story about being humble and not letting these titles go to your head.

A much more troubling story is how the Internet has taken Oshie's quote and stacked it next to Seattle Seahawks' corner Richard Sherman's post-game interview from the NFC championship game win over the San Francisco 49ers in a blatant attempt at some not-so-thinly-veiled racism.

The point I guess they're trying to get across here is that hockey is a "classy" sport full of "classy" (AKA, mostly white) athletes,



Dominic Renzetti

compared to the NFL, full of "thugs" and hardened criminals (AKA, black people).

This certainly is not to say that there are not upstanding hockey players, and this isn't to say that there aren't players in the NFL with criminal records because there certainly are. This an unnecessary need to take a great moment in American sports history and flip into something that says "these people" are better than "those people."

The Twitter account @CauseWereGuys, which boasts in its bio line to be the "official page for all guys on Twitter," put up a similar photo after the Oshie quote that went viral, showing Oshie's quote and an indirect quote from LeBron James (hey, another black player!) about how he "loves to be a

game hero that everyone looks up to." The tweet has 14,000 retweets.

This is way more than Kovacevic's original quote. Granted, @CauseWereGuys has a few more million followers than a columnist from Pittsburgh, but the point still remains the same.

Some people are terrible and have to turn Oshie's moment of essentially saying, "it's not about me," into something that they can throw into someone else's face and say, "look at us, we're so much better."

It's unfortunate that Oshie's selflessness has been twisted and turned into something very selfish by others.

Next time, why don't you just come out and say you don't like black people, rather than hide behind someone else's "class" to show how "civil and upstanding" you are. Little do these racist people know, statements like this are already helping the rest of us weed you out of the discussion.

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

RHA delegates bring home most IRHA awards

By **Jarad Jarmon**
Associate News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

Delegates from the Residence Hall Association attended the Illinois Residence Hall Association conference during the weekend sweeping the awards given out near the end of the conference.

Announcing what was gained from going to the annual conference will be the focal point of the RHA meeting at 5 p.m. Thursday in Lawson Hall.

This year's delegation won seven awards, which broke a record for how many awards the RHA has received at the conference. Last year, they won six awards setting a record then.

They won a slew of awards including the Student of the Year award given to Kadie Peterson, a junior family and consumer sciences major, and the Rookie of the Year award given to RHA Secretary Katie Mokry. Molly Ferris, a psychology major and another delegate, won National Residence Hall Honorary Member of the Year.

From the bids for nomination, Peterson and Mokry proved themselves

“They usually get most spirited delegation and when they won, they were all looking at us across the banquet”

-Christina Lauff, RHA national & Illinois communications coordinator

by staying involved and always helping.

Mokry said it was a big surprise to both Peterson and her. They were not aware they were bid on.

The RHA also won the Best Large Banner award, the Most IRHA Points Award (given when delegates mention the conference periodically) and the most spirited delegation, which became a surprise to both the Eastern delegates and the Western Illinois University delegates.

Christina Lauff, the RHA national and Illinois communications coordinator, said it was a fun competition between the two groups of who would win. Eastern delegates were sure Western would win.

“They usually get most spirited delegation and when they won they were all looking at us across the banquet,” Lauff said.

She said they were very quiet when Eastern received the award. In fact, Lauff said after receiving a couple of awards, most of the people stopped cheering from monotony.

Lauff, said RHA members sent 17 people, 13 of whom were RHA delegates to represent Eastern. The other four were advisors and communication coordinators.

RHA President Patrick Morrow said he was shocked they received so many awards especially with the young delegation that attended. Other than a few, many of the delegates had never been to the conference or any like it.

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

» OPEN HOUSE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“The numbers we had are remarkable, considering the fact that we’ve had this state-wide winter weather advisory,” Spencer said. “We know that if this were tomorrow when it is supposed to be sunny, we would have major numbers.”

Hencken said his office will send letters to all students who attended as well as those who did not, informing them of the university’s next major

open house event, which will happen on March 29.

A new program for this open house was 13 sessions where prospective students could sit in on a mock course presented by certain professors from a variety of departments.

The groups were divided up into groups of 15-20, and Hencken said it was an “exciting” thing when the students were able to interact more personally with the faculty members.

“My goal was if we had 300 people registered, I was going to be excited. If we had 300 people who came, I was going to consider this to be a very successful event. I would say it was a much bigger success than I had anticipated.”

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

» WINTRY MIX CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



OLIVIA S. DIGGS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
A squirrel climbs an icy tree outside of Buzzard Hall on Monday. According to Wunderground.com, the high in Charleston was 34 degrees and the low was 24 degrees.

“It’s a hard question to answer,” Cross said. “What does safe mean? Does it mean there’s absolutely no hazard of slipping or falling? Well that wasn’t the case, we all know that.”

Ultimately, Cross said conditions were safe.

“If people used their discretion and were cautious, could they safely negotiate the campus?” he said.

“I believe that that was the case.”

Temperatures are expected to increase as the week progresses. Craig’s forecast for the next two days predicts highs of about 40 degrees while even higher temperatures are expected for Thursday.

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

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August: 3 BR apt, 820 Lincoln Ave, All appliances and dishwasher, water & trash pd. 348-7746, www.CharlestonILApts.com

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4 BR, 2 BA duplex, 1 blk. from EIU, 1520 9th St. Stove, fridge, microwave, dishwasher, W/D, trash pd. 348-7746, www.CharlestonILApts.com

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For rent

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3/7
NO CAR? No problem! 1 & 2 person rentals. Quiet building near McAfee, Lantz. \$400/person plus utilities. Jim Wood, Realtor, www.woodrentals.com, 345-4489.

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3/7
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3/7
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3/12
Fall 2014 1 bedroom, 1 bath apt. east of campus - all inclusive plans available! rcrRentals.com or 217-345-5832

3/28

For rent

Fall 2014: 2 bedroom duplex east of campus - all inclusive plans available! rcrRentals.com or 217-345-5832

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Johansmeier honored; Barton ruled out at Arkansas

By Aldo Soto
Assistant Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

After picking up a 5-1 win against No. 14 Louisiana-Lafayette Friday, Eastern sophomore Jake Johansmeier was named Ohio Valley Conference Pitcher of the week.

The right-hander pitched into the seventh inning of Eastern's season-opener and was charged with one run during his six-inning outing.

Johansmeier had four strikeouts and gave up three hits to the Ragin' Cajuns, as he used off-speed pitches throughout the game.

Louisiana-Lafayette did not get its first hit of the game until the fifth inning against Johansmeier.

Eastern's win was its first over a top-25 ranked opponent since Feb. 28, 2012, when the Panthers beat Louisville 3-2. Louisville was also ranked No. 14.

Minor setback

Red-shirt senior pitcher Troy Barton made his return to the field for the first time since May 2012. Following a missed 2013 season because of Tommy John surgery, Barton pitched two innings in Eastern's series finale Sunday against Louisiana-Lafayette.

After 42 pitches and four runs allowed, (one earned) Barton was taken out.

A week before his start, Barton suffered a minor injury during practice, Eastern coach Jim Schmitz said.

Schmitz said Barton landed odd off the mound and had pain in his lower back, resulting in a back spasm.

Although Barton said he accomplished one of his goals of returning by opening-day this season, it was disappointing to leave after two innings Sunday, when the pain in his back returned.

"In the first inning I kind of felt something in (my back) and I just went out there for the second," he said.

As Eastern played in its last game of a four-game series, Barton said he went out to pitch in the second inning because the Panthers' bullpen was depleted after playing three games in two days.



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore Jake Johansmeier pitches against Murray State on April 5, 2013 at Coaches Stadium. The Eastern baseball team opened its season with one win and three losses against No. 14 Louisiana-Lafayette in Lafayette, La., over the weekend.

"I needed to try and eat another inning, but the (back spasm) did act up," Barton said.

After missing all of last year, Schmitz said he would be extremely cautious with Barton and this recent injury.

"Our plan right now is to give him the weekend off," Schmitz said. "I want to make sure that he is healthy. I don't want to go to Mississippi State with another maybe. I want him to pitch at Mississippi State and really see what we can get out of him."

Schmitz said pitching coach Jason Anderson suggested giving Barton an inning against Arkansas in one of Eastern's three games starting Friday,

but added that it would be unlikely. Barton said the pain is in his lower-left side of his back and would see a doctor Tuesday to find out more information.

Schmitz ejected

Trailing Louisiana-Lafayette 1-0 in the top of the eighth inning, Eastern had runners at first and second with two outs. Right-handed batter Matt Dunavant pinch-hit for Jason Scholl — a lefty.

After working a full count against Cajun pitcher Matt Hicks, Dunavant was called out on strikes by first-base umpire Jeremy Hayes, who ruled that Dunavant did not hold his swing.

Eastern coach Jim Schmitz sprinted out of the dugout and was immediately ejected by Hayes, before Schmitz reached the grass on the playing field.

Schmitz said the umpires did a great job during the weekend, but Saturday's 1-0 loss for Eastern was affected, specifically by the third-strike call on Dunavant.

"I thought their umpiring was superb — I really mean that except for one guy," Schmitz said. "He looked like he was 15 years old. I don't want to get tossed that doesn't do much for the team and I'm running out there and he throws me out before I'm even on the turf."

Eastern would have had the bas-

es loaded with its best hitter in Caleb Howell due up at the plate if Dunavant would have reached with a walk. Instead, he was called out on strikes and the Panthers lost the game by one.

"(Hicks) is throwing sliders hard in the dirt and Dunavant isn't swinging," Schmitz said. "He checks his swing and has a great at-bat. We have the bases loaded with Howell coming up — why wouldn't you be mad. A base hit wins you the game 2-1."

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

Eastern men's tennis team improves to 3-2

By Aldo Soto
Assistant Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

The Eastern men's tennis team defeated Dayton 4-3, Sunday at the Five Seasons Tennis Club in Dayton, Ohio.

With the victory, the Panthers extended their winning streak to two and improved to 3-2 on the season.

The Eastern men shutout the Flyers in doubles play, winning all three doubles matches.

The Panthers had to go to two tiebreakers in the No. 1 and 3 doubles matches, respectively to win.

Senior Kevin Bauman and freshman Grant Thompson won the No. 1 doubles match, 6-5 (3) defeating junior Aidan Koross and sophomore

Bernardo Sanson.

At No. 2 doubles, sophomores Ryan Henderson and Rui Silva beat senior Andrew Hanley and junior Josh Malyon by a score of 6-3.

Wrapping up the overall team point in doubles play for Eastern was sophomore Moritz Kandt and junior David Constantinescu. They went into a tiebreaker, but were able to come away with the win, beating freshman Andy Druffel and junior Colin Bernier 6-5 (4).

Eastern coach Eric Stark said he saw a better performance in doubles play compared to the team's match against Ball State on Feb. 8.

"Our ability to play big points is really coming along now," Stark said. "We had a similar situation last week

against Ball State and couldn't convert. This week we definitely improved."

In singles play, Eastern split the six matches, but the three wins were enough to get the 4-3 match win.

Kandt, Henderson and Thompson picked up the singles wins for the Panthers in No. 1, 2 and 4 singles matches.

Kandt won in straight sets 6-5, 6-0, beating Koross, while Thompson also won his match in straight sets 6-1, 6-2 over Sanson.

Thompson defeated Malyon 6-5, 6-1.

Stark said the team's recent success goes back to the Panthers' trip to Michigan State on Feb. 1, when the men learned what it meant to com-

pete at a high level.

"The whole team learned what kind of focus and intensity that we need to have not just in matches, but practice as well," Stark said. "That focus of never taking a single point off is something that they're taking to heart."

Despite the win, Stark said he would still like to see more consistency in singles play. Other than their 9-0 win over Saint Francis on Feb. 9, the Panthers have not won more than three singles matches this season.

"I feel that we're a little bit short in some areas in that consistent play from everyone," Stark said. "We saw against Ball State and Michigan State the type of balls that we hit. We could hit with anyone out there. It's just are

you doing the things you should in situations."

The men's team will be in action starting at 1 p.m. Saturday against Southern-Illinois Carbondale.

The Eastern women's tennis team was scheduled to play Friday in Evansville, but the match was postponed because of weather conditions hindering travel for the Panthers.

At 3-0 on the season, the women's team is working on a make-up date to play against Evansville later in the spring season.

The Panther women play against Bradley, at noon on Friday in Peoria.

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

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STANDOUT SENIOR SEASON | Blanford sets career highs in consecutive games

By **Anthony Catezone**
Sports Editor | @AnthonyCatz

Sherman Blanford has a short list of things he can't do for the Eastern men's basketball team.

But for the first time in the senior forward's career he won Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Week.

another level with our point guard out," Blanford said in a press release.

But such dominance wasn't seen in just that one game for Blanford. He followed his career performance with 26 points and eight rebounds in a 72-60 loss to Murray State.

But such dominance from Blanford goes even further than just the



SHERMAN BLANFORD

"I just keep doing what I do: I rebound, I play hard and I get buckets."

-Sherman Blanford, senior forward

PREVIOUS THREE GAMES

78

POINTS

35

REBOUNDS

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

And Blanford did exactly those three things.

He averaged 29 points and 13 rebounds in two games last week while also shooting 60 percent from the field and a perfect 14-of-14 from the free throw line.

Blanford achieved all of this despite the Panthers posting a 0-2 record at Austin Peay and Murray State.

He began the week by recording career highs in points and rebound in a double-double performance with 32 points and 18 rebounds in an 88-83 loss to Austin Peay Thursday.

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

Blanford knew he had to step up in a game that had Eastern's Reggie Smith on the bench for its entirety because the star point guard and leading scorer was out past curfew the night prior.

"I just knew I had to step up to

past week.

He appears to effortlessly outdo himself with each week, each game for the Panthers.

In three of the last four games, Blanford has reset his career high in points with 26, 30 and finally 32 coming against the Governors.

He has also scored 20 or more points in the last five games, where he has averaged 26.5 points, 11.2 rebounds, and two blocks per game while maintaining a 61 percent shooting percentage from the field and 83 percent from the free throw line.

Blanford has climbed into the top-10 in scoring in the Ohio Valley Conference, where his 18.1 points per game ranks seventh, also where his 9.1 rebounds per game ranks third in the conference.

While leading one of the most miraculous personal stretches of an Eastern player in recent memory, Blanford simply sees his performance as doing his job.

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

But no matter how much the



DOMINIC BAIMA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sherman Blanford, a senior forward, is fouled during the game against the Southeast Missouri Redhawks on Saturday, Feb. 8, at Lantz Arena. The Panthers take on the Belmont Bruins on Thursday in Nashville.

6-foot-6, 215-pound forward denies his dominance, the history of the Eastern's men's basketball program will continue its argument —

he is the first Panther to garner the weekly honor since Dec. 5, 2011 when Jeremy Granger was recipient.

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

Panthers win first OVC road game of season

By **Bob Reynolds**
Staff Reporter | @BobReynoldsDEN

The Eastern women's basketball team won its first road game in Ohio Valley Conference play this season Monday, beating Austin Peay 65-63 in Clarksville, Tenn.

The Panthers shot 62.5 percent in the second half, leading them to the victory.

Eastern improved to 11-13 overall and 6-7 in the OVC with the win.

The Panthers passed Austin Peay in the standings and now sit in seventh place in the conference with three games to go.

Also, with Morehead State winning Monday, a loss for the Panthers would have meant they were on the outside looking in of the OVC tournament.

In the second half after Jordyne Crunk hit a jumper to cut the Austin Peay lead down to three, the Governors went on a 7-0 run to give them their largest lead of

the game at 10.

Morgan Palombizio ended the Governors' run after she hit a three-point field goal.

Crunk then made a jumper, which was followed by an Erica Brown lay-up and free throw that cut Austin Peay's lead down to four with a little less than nine minutes remaining.

Crunk connected on another jumper to give the Panthers their first lead since early in the first half at 57-56 at the 6:29 mark of the second half.

The Governors regained the lead at 61-60 with 3:41 left in the second half, when Tiasha Gray hit a layup.

Gray ended the game with 24 points on 9-of-23 shooting from the field.

After Palombizio hit a layup to give the Panthers the lead back with 3:14 remaining, Sabina Oroszova hit a layup of her own to put the lead back up to three with a 1:50 to go.

EASTERN ILLINOIS VS. AUSTIN PEAY



11-13, 6-7 (OVC)

65-63



9-18, 6-8 (OVC)

DUNN CENTER | CLARKSVILLE, TENN.
NEXT GAME | @ BELMONT
2 P.M. SATURDAY

Gray hit a layup to cut the Panther lead down to one, but that is as close as Austin Peay would get, as she would miss a 3-point shot as time expired.

Oroszova led the Panthers with 24 points on 11-of-18 shooting, as Austin Peay struggled to guard her throughout the game.

Eastern coach Debbie Black said it was the first time in a while that a team did not double-team

Oroszova.

"They were really soft on her," she said. "I think that is because the last three or four games our forwards have really proved they could score and we just took advantage of that."

Palombizio had the game of her life, Black said. The freshman scored 11 points and collected eight rebounds.

She also shot 3-of-5 from the

field, which included 3-of-3 from the 3-point line.

Crunk finished with 14 points on 5-of-14 shooting from the floor.

Eastern shot 49 percent for the game and 60 percent from the 3-point line.

The Panthers will have four days off before heading to Belmont for their Saturday OVC matchup.

The Panthers and Bruins square off at 2 p.m. in Nashville.

Following the game against Belmont, Eastern has just two remaining games in the regular season.

The Panthers will take on Tennessee-Martin at 7 p.m. on Feb. 27 in Eastern's final home game at Lantz Arena.

Eastern will end its season against Southern Illinois-Edwardsville on March 1 on the road.

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