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## 10/06/1980 - Offensive And Defensive Players Of Week

University Marketing and Communications

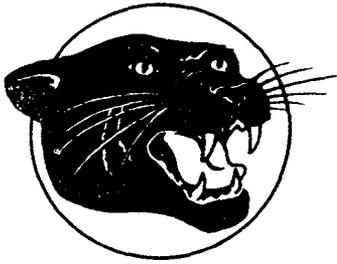
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# **Panther Sports News**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Fullback Rod Slaughter (Detroit, MI-Cass Tech/Iowa Lakes CC) and defensive end Mike Cox (Chicago-Prosser/Wright JC) were named Eastern Illinois University's Offensive and Defensive 'Players of the Week' for their performance in Saturday's 31-14 Homecoming win over Illinois State.

The victory over the Division I-A in-state rivals boosted the Panthers to 3-2 and gave them two straight wins heading into Saturday's (Oct. 11) game at Central State (OH).

Slaughter, a senior who was switched to fullback a week ago, responded with 100 yards rushing on just 18 carries and caught seven passes for 78 yards.

"This was definitely Rod's best ball game," said back coach Chuck Budde. "I think his stats speak for themselves . . . he has responded very well to the move back to fullback."

Cox, who broke into the starting lineup in the third game, had eight solo and five assisted tackles, a tackle for loss and a blocked pass.

"Besides the stats, Mike stopped them on a key third down play when we were only ahead 17-14, and had several other big plays," said defensive coordinator Chuck Dickerson.

"Playing opposite Pete Catan, Mike has had a lot of traffic since people are avoiding Pete's side . . . I think they'll stop favoring his side now."

Linebacker Tom Murray (Arlington Heights-St. Viator) and free safety Kevin Gray (Chicago-Hyde Park/Kennedy-King JC) were also named defensive 'players of the week' at their segments.

Murray was in on eight tackles and "had several good plays," said assistant Jeff Gardner. Gray was credited with 11 tackles including one for loss. "Everyone played pretty well but he was the best of the group," said Rick Schachner, "plus he saved one touchdown getting a guy from behind."

Besides earning honors at fullback, Slaughter was also chosen the receiving corps 'player of the week' by leading the team with his seven receptions, including a 33 yarder.

"Everyone has been covering (Scott) McGhee heavily, so we wanted our quarterbacks to go to the backs more often," said offensive coordinator Dennis Shaw. "They found Rod open and he did a nice job of picking his holes."

Steve Parker (Evanston-Triton JC), who started his first game at offensive guard after previously playing defense, was the line's 'player of the week'.

"Under the circumstances, Steve did a fine job," said line coach Ray Ogas. "For someone who is new to offensive line play and was thrown in as a starter so quickly, we were quite pleased . . . he didn't miss an assignment."

Jim Lyles (Danville-Decatur) was the specialty team's award winner with three solo tackles.