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## 10/13/1980 - Defensive And Offensive Players Of Week

University Marketing and Communications

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# Panther Sports News

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LS-AS-Hometowns

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Two veteran seniors, defensive tackle Randy Melvin (Aurora-West) and flanker Scott McGhee (Palos Heights-Sandburg), have been named Defensive and Offensive 'Players of the Week' after Eastern Illinois University's 40-15 win over Central State University Saturday.

The victory, Eastern's third straight, boosted the No. 8 ranked Panthers to 4-2 entering Mid-Continent Conference action at Western Illinois Saturday.

Besides these two, other segment 'Players of the Week' were Alonzo Lee (Washington, DC-Dunbar) at linebacker, Don Pittman (Fort Mill, SC) at strong safety, Ira Jefferson (Momence) for specialty teams, George Tuzil (Schaumburg) at center and quarterback Chuck Wright (Canton).

Melvin, a 5-11 honorable mention All-American, had 10 solo tackles, two assists, four tackles for loss and a quarterback sack.

"Randy had an excellent game . . . he only played a little over two quarters but he ate that guy (CSU quarterback Mike Greenlee) up," said defensive coordinator Chuck Dickerson.

McGhee caught six passes for 79 yards, a 19 yard touchdown reception, and was selected the game's Outstanding Offensive Player by the Ohio Prince Hall Shriners, who sponsored Saturday's game at Central State.

"Scott did his usual great job . . . he shook off some heavy coverage to get open," said offensive coordinator Dennis Shaw. "Plus he gave us pretty good field position on a punt return or two."

Tuzil, the starting center for the second straight game in place of injured Scott Gilleland, had his "best game . . . he did an outstanding job on their noseman," said line coach Ray Ogas.

"George is getting better with each game now that he's had a chance to play . . . when Gilleland gets healthy we should be very strong at that position."

Wright threw two touchdown passes Saturday completing seven of 13 passes while sharing duties with Jeff Christensen (Gibson City) again.

"Chuck threw long very well . . . both TD passes were on the money," Shaw said. Wright's pass completion percentage moves toward the .500 mark. He stands at 45.4% with 45 of 99 for 608 yards.

Lee earned the linebacker award by picking up nine tackles and three 'hurries' for rushing the passer, according to Coach Jeff Gardner.

"Alonzo was bearing down on their quarterback all day . . . a couple of our interceptions were due to Alonzo's pursuit because he just threw the ball up for grabs," Gardner said.

Pittman, the secondary's 'player of the week', benefited by picking off one errant pass and returning it 55 yards for a touchdown. He now has five interceptions for 109 yards and the one touchdown.

Jefferson earned his specialty player honor by blocking a punt in the first quarter and leading the unit in tackles.