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11/10/1980 - Defensive And Offensive Players Of The Week

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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Linebacker Ira Jefferson (Momence) and punter Don Manzke (Normal) earned Eastern Illinois University Defensive and Offensive 'Player of the Week' honors for their efforts in the Panthers' 14-9 victory over Northern Iowa.

The win, EIU's seventh straight, boosted the Panthers to 8-2, clinched undisputed possession of their first Mid-Continent Conference title and took a big step towards clinching a NCAA II playoff berth.

Jefferson had 10 solo tackles, nine assisted tackles, two quarterback sacks, two tackles for loss and a pass interception. "Ira played great . . . Just like earlier in the year," said assistant Jeff Gardner. "He gave us great hustle from sideline to sideline."

Manzke, a sophomore punter, averaged 45.3 yards for 10 punts with several booted into a strong wind. His 78 yarder in the second quarter got Eastern out of a hole when backed to its own four yard line.

"We gave awards to everyone on the punting team," said assistant Chuck Budde, "but Manzke really earned his . . . he had to punt into the wind under a lot of pressure, placed several very well plus we had great coverage which limited any returns."

Don Pittman (Fort Mill, SC) was the secondary 'player of the week' by getting seven solo tackles, a forced fumble and recovery, and knocked down four passes, most coming during a critical fourth quarter.

"Donnie and Wilbert James both played great . . . especially knocking some passes down during some crucial series in that final period," said assistant Rick Schachner.

Charlie Krutsinger (Flora) gets the award for front four play. Krutsinger was in on 12 tackles, had two quarterback sacks including one of UNI quarterback Steve Sandon which forced him to fumble at midfield with just seconds left.

EIU FOOTBALL
ADD 1

"Charlie played his best game . . . if he only got one sack all year, he got it when it counted," said defensive coordinator Chuck Dickerson.

Clinton Davenport (Washington, D.C.-Woodson) was chosen the offensive lineman 'player of the week' by assistant Ray Ogas.

Split end Otis Grant (Des Plaines-Maine North/Wright JC) earned pass receiving honors. He caught the first touchdown, a 58 yard pass from Chuck Wright (Canton) and had four for 102 yards altogether.