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11/11/1980 - Soccer Receives Bid To Play In Pokemon

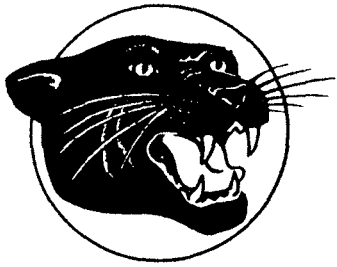
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Panther Sports News

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LS-AS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's No. 6 ranked soccer team has received a bid to play in the NCAA II tournament.

The Panthers will travel to Lock Haven (Pa.) State to play the nation's top ranked NCAA II team on Saturday (Nov. 15) in the Mideast-Midwest Regional.

The winner of that game will play at Missouri-St. Louis, 12-2, the following Saturday, Nov. 22.

Eastern, runner-up last year in NCAA II, is 11-4 with four straight wins. Lock Haven is 16-0 and, although rated No. 1 nationally, is seeded No. 2 behind UMSL in this region.

Four regional winners will converge on Miami, FL Thanksgiving weekend, November 28-29, for the finals.

"Lock Haven was a national power in Division III and decided to make the move to Division II this year," said EIU coach Schellas Hyndman. "I think out of 24 people voting, 22 or 23 named them No. 1.

"Therefore regardless of whom they've played we'd be foolish not to respect a 16-0 record. Going out there makes it more difficult to win, so right from the start we have to play'em tough."

The Panthers are led in scoring by freshman Damien Kelly (Dublin, Ireland) with 13 goals. Twice this season he had three goal games.

However, Hyndman has developed a strong team concept with 11 different players notching goals this fall.

Defensively Eastern has shutout seven opponents this season while only being blanked twice. The Panthers hold a 42-15 edge in scoring.

Other tournament teams are Tampa and Florida International in the South Regional, Seattle Pacific and Chico State in the West Regional and Hartford, Marist and Southern Connecticut in the East Regional.

Eastern and Southern Connecticut were chosen as the At-Large representatives. The tournaments should be wide open this season since two time defending champ, Alabama A & M, opted for Division I status this fall.