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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL-- All-Americans Steve Boone and Tom Hussey, both from Charleston, will lead Eastern Illinois University's swimming team in its quest for a traditional spot in the top ten in its final year in NCAA II.

The Panthers, moving to Division I next season, have been in the top ten at NCAA II or NAIA championship events eight of the past 11 years.

Boone and Hussey, along with five other returning All-Americans, provided "the bulk of scoring for our eighth place finish at nationals last year," said Coach Ray Padovan.

"With these people back and some potentially good freshmen, I think we can do well again . . . it's just that we'll be in trouble in any meet which takes depth."

The Panthers open their season in a coed meet at Western Illinois University on Saturday, Nov. 22. The first home meet will not be until Saturday, Jan. 24 against Western Kentucky.

Hussey was an All-American in two events last year, seventh in the 200 backstroke in a school record 1:56.5 and 11th in the 100 back.

Boone was EIU's top individual finisher with a third in the 100 breaststroke in a school record 58.6 seconds.

Senior Mike Roessler (Arlington Heights), destined to earn his fourth letter, was an All-American in both the 100 and 200 breaststroke.

Two other individual All-Americans were butterflyer Tim Bird (Elk Grove Village) and freestyler Jim Hall (McHenry). Ted Soltys (Elmhurst-York) and Dave Gibson (South Holland-Thornwood) earned A-A honors in relay events.

Al Cymbal (Buffalo Grove), who just missed placing in diving, is capable of reaching All-American status, Padovan claims.

Padovan also cited three freshmen as potential consistent scorers. They are Greg Lanchester (Carbondale) in the backstroke, Scott Vick (Springfield) in the individual medley and diver Kurt Simons (Arlington Heights).

Besides a strenuous regular season schedule, the Panthers will compete in the Mid-Continent Conference meet at Macomb in late February, and use that as a springboard for the NCAA II meet at Youngstown State, March 19-21.