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12/04/1980 - EIU Dominates First Team All Mid Conference

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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University dominated the First Team All-Mid-Continent Conference with ten players being selected by a vote of the coaches.

Defensive end Pete Catan (Penfield, NY) was chosen the 'Lineman of the Year' and free safety Kevin Gray (Chicago-Hyde Park/Kennedy-King) was picked the 'Back of the Year'.

Other defensive first teamers were linebackers Alonzo Lee (Washington, DC-Dunbar) and Ira Jefferson (Momence), defensive tackle Randy Melvin (Aurora-West) and cornerback Rich Brown (Akron, OH-Buchtel).

Record setting wide receiver Scott McGhee (Palos Heights-Sandburg) was one of three offensive First Team choices. The other two were guard Blair Brown (Dayton, OH-Fairview/Iowa Lakes CC) and tackle Clinton Davenport (Washington, DC-Woodson).

Punter Don Manzke (Normal-University), who averaged 40.6 yards, was chosen the league's top player for his specialty.

Named to the Second Team were tight end Rob Mehalic (Streator-Woodland), guard Steve Parker (Evanston-Triton JC), defensive tackle Charlie Krutsinger (Flora) and strong safety Don Pittman (Fort Mill, SC).

Eastern, 10-2 and ranked No. 1 in NCAA II, won the Mid-Continent Conference with a 4-0 record.

The 'Coach of the Year' was Bill Rademacher of Northern Michigan. Northern Michigan quarterback Phil Kessel was the 'Player of the Year'. Western Illinois guard Don Greco was the offensive 'Lineman of the Year' and Robby Robson, Youngstown running back, was the 'Back of the Year'.