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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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Aug. 12, 1981
LS-AS

DEFENSIVE LINE

(First in a series)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Chuck Dickerson says he loves to coach football.

If that's the case, Eastern Illinois University's assistant head coach couldn't be happier. His teaching ability will receive a supreme test this fall as he must replace three-fourths of a defensive line that for the past three seasons has been the best in EIU history.

Gone are All-Americans Pete Catan and Randy Melvin along with Charlie Krutsinger. The lone starter back is Keith Wojnowski (St. Anne-Bishop McNamara).

Pre-season plans call for him to move a few feet from left defensive end to left defensive tackle, Melvin's old spot.

"We lost nine seniors who had played some on this segment," Dickerson said, "so counting Keith's switch we'll have new faces at all starting and backup positions.

"We're counting on our recent tradition to help us out early until we get some games in . . . we'll stay with the basic 4-3 defense although we won't be as big as we'd like.

"We can't stand in there and blast away as we've done . . . but I think our aggressiveness and quickness will overcome some deficiencies. By the time double sessions are finished, we'll know who can play."

Dickerson is counting on Wojnowski to become the front four's leader. "We moved him inside because we need some experience there plus he's improved his strength and quickness to play there . . . we feel good about him. He had a great technical game in the spring against the alums . . . read blocking schemes very well."

The other inside player listed on an early depth chart is JC transfer Mike Angland (Westchester-Triton JC). "Mike had a great spring, too . . . increased his strength in

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ADD 1

the winter conditioning program and improved his pass rush."

Four underclassmen, Randy Harms (Gurnee-Warren), Elvin Carmichael (Harvey-Thornton), Greg Duncan (Miami, FL-Killian) and Steve Martin (Schaumburg), will vie for the two defensive end spots.

"Right now you could throw a blanket over them . . . it's even tough for me to separate my thoughts about them individually.

"It's a beautiful position for us because we can rotate them and keep a fresh unit on the field . . . unless one or two really emerge head and shoulders above everyone else, all four will play a lot.

"Duncan has the greatest talent but is as raw as a carrot . . . he's fast, quick, and strong. Harms has the best technique and probably got the most playing time last fall.

"Martin and Carmichael are the fastest which is the best asset if we're to succeed with an outside pass rush. As you can see all four have specific talents . . . the double sessions are extremely important for these four," Dickerson emphasized.

The top backup inside will be Dick Essman (Streator-Illinois Valley CC) who transferred from Illinois Valley CC.

"His former coach, Vince McMahon, said he would be a pleasant surprise for us and he was right. He lacked the technical skills to play our style up front but developed fast last spring and that makes him a viable backup for England or Wojnowski."