

9-23-1981

09/23/1981 - EIU Cross Country Team

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "09/23/1981 - EIU Cross Country Team" (1981). 1981. 260.
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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

DAVID KIDWELL, *Sports Information Director*

OFFICE: (217) 581-2920

HOME: (217) 345-4166

Sept. 23, 1981
LS-AS-Hometowns

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Following last Friday's disappointing setback to Purdue, Eastern Illinois University's cross country team will attempt to regain the spotlight as it travels to Kenosha, Wisconsin to run in the 3rd annual Mid-American Championships.

Approximately 25 teams are expected to take part in the 12:45 p.m. Saturday (Sept. 26) trot, of which, Eastern will be among the favorites.

Last year, the Panthers captured the title and according to Panther coach Tom Woodall, Eastern should once again be fighting for the No. 1 position.

"We ran up against a very fine Purdue squad last Friday, but our kids really didn't run as well as they can," Woodall said. "This weekend I expect our kids to rise to the occasion . . . we have had some super workouts this week so we'll be prepared to go after them this weekend."

If Eastern is to defend its title, it will have to overcome a tough Missouri club, which Woodall said may be considered the favorite.

"Missouri finished second to us last year and always has a fine squad . . . we will also have to be prepared for South Dakota State . . . they too are always tough," Woodall said.

To combat its stiff competition, Eastern will rely on the steady running of junior Perry Edinger (Mattoon).

"Perry was our top runner last Friday . . . he has shown a lot of courage in our first three races and has run very competitively," Woodall said.

The Panther mentor will also look for strong support from his other junior front-runner, Tim Warneke (Park Forest/Crete Monee).

"Tim has been running well, but he is still a much better runner than he has shown thus far," Woodall said. "He needs to develop a bit more consistency."

While juniors have been leading the Panther attack, seniors Terry Donahue (Downers Grove) and Mike Beresford (Danville) will be called upon for much needed leadership, Woodall said.

"Donahue and Beresford can provide the leadership to this team if they will assert themselves . . . we need to get them up there in the front more often," Woodall said.

"We need to perform well because we didn't last week," the coach said. I have every confidence that we can improve and come together as a unit."