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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Ira Jefferson (Momence), Eastern Illinois University linebacker, has been chosen First Team All-Mid Continent Conference by a vote of the league coaches.

He led the Panthers in nearly every defensive statistical category with 95 tackles including 73 solos, 15 quarterback sacks, 16 tackles for loss and three fumble recoveries.

A four year letterman, Jefferson was picked the MCC Defensive 'Player of the Week' once this season, and team 'Player of the Game' four times.

During his career he had 317 tackles including 180 solos and 26 QB sacks.

"Without a doubt Ira was one of the greatest linebackers to ever play here . . . he was one of our most dependable and aggressive 'backers and it will be most difficult to replace him," said defensive coordinator Rick Schachner.

"Ira's greatest asset was his speed . . . he was able to cover the field from sideline to sideline, and make the big play for us."

EIU finished 6-5 for its fourth straight winning season. During these years Eastern was 36-14, the best collegiate won-lost mark among Illinois state schools.