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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Defensive lineman Chris Nicholson (Waukegan-East), 6-1, 250 transfer from DuPage Community College, has enrolled at Eastern Illinois University for spring semester, head coach Darrell Mudra announced.

Nicholson, who started every game the past two seasons at DuPage, played tight end, fullback and defensive end for the Chaparrals who were 4-6 in '81.

He prepped at Waukegan East where he was an all-conference fullback and defensive tackle, and finished third in the '80 state wrestling tournament as a heavyweight. His record was 37-1.

"We tried to recruit Chris out of high school so have followed his progress on the junior college level . . . we're pleased he has decided to enroll here and glad we could get him in this spring," said assistant head coach Chuck Dickerson.

"Coming in this spring gives a player an opportunity to learn our system and an advantage over people entering in the fall when workouts really heat up."

Eastern is going for a fifth straight winning season, unprecedented in school history. The Panthers were 6-5 in their initial season in NCAA I-AA last fall, and are 36-14 the past four years, the most successful collegiate football program in Illinois during this stretch.