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Jan. 21, 1982

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Linebacker Jeff Smithern (Buffalo Grove), 6-2, 205 transfer from Harper CC, has enrolled at Eastern Illinois University for spring semester, head coach Darrell Mudra announced.

Smithern earned all-state honors in 1979 and 1980 at Harper and then sat out last year.

He was an honorable mention all-state and all-area linebacker for Buffalo Grove HS.

"We lost two starting linebackers so it will be quite a battle among several people . . . we're pleased that Jeff could come in this spring so as to benefit from spring practice," said assistant head coach Chuck Dickerson.

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.