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Panther Sports News

Jan. 21, 1982
LS-AS-FB

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Ten junior college football transfers, seven of whom are defensive players, have enrolled for spring semester at Eastern Illinois University, head coach Darrell Mudra announced.

"We lost over half of our defensive starters so we needed to fill some holes . . . we think we accomplished this with several of these people," said Mudra.

"Fortunately we were able to enroll them for spring semester so they will have the benefit of spring practice and an opportunity to learn our system before the intense workouts start in the fall."

The ten are:

Kevin Baer	6-0	170	DB	Illinois Valley CC (Metamora HS)
Gary Bridges	5-11	175	QB	Arizona Western CC (Asbury Park, NJ- Manasquan HS)
Reggie Drew	6-2	180	WR	Triton CC (Mascoutah HS)
Jeff Lyons	5-10	205	LB	Joliet JC
Dave Maxwell	5-11	180	DB	Illinois Valley CC (New Carlisle, IN-New Prairie HS)
Chris Nicholson	6-1	250	DT	DuPage CC (Waukegan-East HS)
Wes Nixon	5-8	170	RB	Illinois Valley CC (Lorain, OH-Senior HS)
Bill Roscoe	5-9	180	DB	Iowa Central CC (New City, NY- Ramapo HS)
Jeff Smithern	6-2	205	LB	Harper CC (Buffalo Grove HS)
Reggie Taylor	6-0	195	LB	Arizona Western

Baer, Maxwell and Nixon played for IVCC's Midwest Bowl champs who finished 10-2 and 5th in the nation.

Baer was a First Team All-Stater who set a school record with 19 interceptions, 13 as a sophomore. He prepped at Metamora playing on three IHSA Class 3A state tournament teams, and participated in the East-West summer all-star game.

Nixon, a second team all-stater, rushed for 1001 yards while Maxwell, also a second team all-stater, intercepted 12 passes in two seasons.

Drew was a wide receiver for Triton's 10-3 team last fall, and earned several prep honors for Mascoutah's 1979 Class 3A state champs. He set an IHSA championship game record by catching six passes for 115 yards.

Smithern was a JC all-stater at linebacker for Harper in both 1979-80 while sitting out last fall. He was an HM all-stater at Buffalo Grove HS.

Roscoe was an all-conference cornerback and two year starter at Iowa Central in Fort Dodge, which was 9-1 and 4th in the nation his frosh season.

Nicholson, who the Panthers originally started recruiting out of Waukegan East HS, was a two-year starter at DuPage at fullback/defensive end but will most likely be shifted inside to defensive tackle.

Lyons, a linebacker at Joliet the past two seasons, prepped at Wilmington HS where he was all-conference fullback and linebacker and team MVP.

Taylor and Bridges competed for Arizona Western which was 8-1-1 and ranked 7th in the nation last fall.

Bridges was a Grid Wire HM all-american quarterback who rushed and passed for nearly 1200 yards in an option attack. He prepped at Manasquan HS in Asbury Park (NJ) earning all-state honors.

Taylor was also an honorable mention all-american at outside linebacker and team's leading tackler. He prepped at Apopka, Florida which is near Orlando.