

1-13-1982

01/13/1982 - Panther Basketball Report

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "01/13/1982 - Panther Basketball Report" (1982). 1982. 370.
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Panther Sports News

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Jan. 13, 1982

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PANTHER BASKETBALL REPORT

THE GAME: Eastern Illinois University (6-7) hosts Delaware State (6-5) at 7:30, Saturday, Jan. 16, Lantz Gym, Charleston, IL.

TENTATIVE STARTERS:

<u>EIU</u>			<u>DELAWARE STATE</u>		
F Jim Williams	6-5	Sr.	F William Hill	6-5	Sr.
F Leigh Hankins	6-6	Sr.	F Albert Anderson	6-4½	So.
F Eddie Jones	6-4	Sr.	C John Wright	6-5	Sr.
G Ricky Robinson	6-6	Sr.	G Jeffrey Gumbs	6-0	Sr.
G Warren Patten	6-11	Sr.	G Wesley Townsend	5-11	Jr.

THE COACHES: EIU's Rick Samuels, in his second season, is 22-18 overall. Delaware State's Ajac Triplett, in his third season, is 29-35.

DSC FACTS: Coming off an 8-18 season, the Hornets are 6-5 behind the all-around play of guard Jeffrey Gumbs who leads in scoring at 17.5, shoots 52% from the field, has over 30 assists and 25 steals . . . also in double figures are two inside players, John Wright and William Hill, at 11.5 and 11.0, respectively, . . . they recently lost to North Carolina A & T, an NIT participant last year, by one point and were defeated by Howard (who EIU lost to 67-65) by 16 points . . . the Hornets are a strong defensive club allowing just 68 points a game while also shooting nearly 50% from the field . . . their biggest win was 67-51 over Youngstown State, a former member of the Mid-Continent Conference . . . this is the first meeting between the two schools although the Panther football team beat the Hornets 24-16 in a season ending game two months ago.

A STREAK: The Panthers have won two in a row with wins over William Penn (67-53) and Campbell University (78-71) . . . earlier this year they had won two straight over Eastern Kentucky and Olivet Nazarene.

ROBINSON'S BEST GAME: All-American Ricky Robinson (Aurora East) broke out of a year long slump by scoring a season high 24 points. He hit 9 of 15 at Campbell, had four assists and four steals at the off guard position.

POOR SHOOTING: Although EIU is 3-3 over the last six games, the Panthers' major downfall has been poor shooting. During this stretch EIU is hitting just 42.2% (159-377) and just twice has managed to connect with 50%.

FT SHOOTING UP: During this same six game stretch the Panthers are hitting 78.5% (84-107) from the line. Kevin Jones (Indianapolis, IN-Kankakee CC) has been the hottest with 82.9% (34-41). Against Campbell EIU set a season high with 86.7% (26-30).

JONES & HANKINS: Kevin Jones and Leigh Hankins (South Beloit) continue to be the most consistent. Jones leads in scoring with a 14.3 average but Hankins has been tops in field goal percentage (54.2%), free throw percentage (81.5%), rebounds (6.1) and the fewest turnovers among starters (23).

RICK SAMUELS SAYS: "Our immediate goal is to reach the .500 mark again . . . we haven't been there since just before Christmas so it would be a nice time to get it in front of the home crowd Saturday night. . . it's difficult to evaluate Delaware State since they don't play too many comparable opponents . . . Howard beat them by 16 and us by two, and then Delaware only lost by one to North Carolina A & T, and they were in the NIT last season . . . so it appears we are both fairly even . . . at least they won't have a size advantage . . . we haven't been able to look anyone in the eye for some time.

"We played well at Campbell . . . much more loose on offense and our 50% shooting was an indication . . . that has been the most disappointing . . . we have been getting good shots but not getting them down, and if we're to do anything we need to shoot well."