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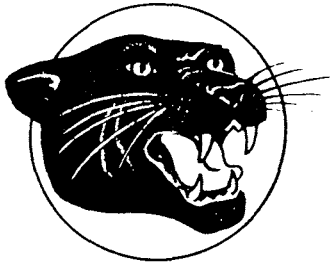
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# Panther Sports News

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Jan. 19, 1981  
LS-AS-WRESTLING

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's undefeated and No. 1 ranked wrestling team will get its toughest test of the dual season Thursday night.

The Panthers host No. 6 ranked North Dakota State, 7-0, at 7:30 p.m. in Lantz Gym.

The Panthers disposed of Purdue and Northeast Missouri and won the Central Missouri State Tournament prior to Christmas. That pushed them into the top spot in the Amateur Wrestling News poll.

"We're nearly at the top of our game . . . we're about two weeks away from peaking. As far as conditioning and technique, we're right on schedule," said Coach Ron Clinton.

"We've got the busiest part of our schedule coming up . . . there's no breaks for anyone as we plan at least two more weeks of serious training," he said.

All-American Geno Savegnago (Carol Stream-Glenbard North) has compiled a 25-2 record at 190 lbs., winning tournaments at Wisconsin-Stevens Point, St. Louis, Illinois, Central Missouri and Arizona and Arizona State during the holiday break.

However Savegnago may move to the vacated heavyweight spot which allows talented freshman Derrick Waldroup (Harvey-Bremen) to go at 190.

"Derrick is too good not to wrestle . . . we'll shift Geno up or down to keep Waldroup in the lineup," Clinton explained.

The seventh year coach also cited the improvement of sophomore 126 lber. Derek Porter (Mims, FL-Titusville).

"Derek has become a dominating wrestler on a consistent basis . . . he has really TKOed some people. He works at such a fast pace he wears them down.

"The refs give his opponents warning after warning about stalling," Clinton said.

"Mike Polz (Riverside-Brookfield) is also coming around. He won at Central Missouri and took second at Arizona . . . he's won something like 20 matches already," Clinton commented.

Following Tuesday's dual with NDS, the Panthers will travel to the Southwest Missouri State Invitational this Saturday (Jan. 24).

Then they return home to face Western Illinois on Thursday, Jan. 29.