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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Ricky Serkin (Belleville-Althoff) has been a starter for the Eastern Illinois University basketball team throughout the first half of the season.

Serkin, a 6-5 junior, transferred to EIU from New Mexico Community College and started the first eleven games for the Panthers.

Serkin has averaged 6.2 points for the Panthers and ranks third on the team with 4.9 rebounds. His high games were 11 points against Kentucky Wesleyan and seven rebounds against Southwest Missouri.

"Ricky has had several good games but he needs to work on consistency," said first year coach Rick Samuels. "In junior college, he was used to getting fouled a lot . . . now he needs to work on squaring himself to the basket and if he gets fouled, then so much better.

"He's pulled some big rebounds for us . . . he's the type of player that's always around the ball."

Eastern, 7-7, concludes its season with ten of its final 13 games at home with Mid-Continent Conference rival Youngstown State here Saturday (Jan. 24) night.