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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920 DAVID KIDWELL, Sports Information Director OFFICE: (217) 581-2920 HOME: (217) 345-4166 Feb. 16, 1982 LS-AS-Wrestling-Hometowns

Panther Wrestling Report

THE MATCHES: Eastern Illinois (5-1) hosts Southern Illinois-Carbondale (0-11-1) at 3:30 p.m. Thursday (Feb. 18), Lantz Gym.

Eastern also hosts the University of Illinois (7-7-1) at 7:30 p.m. Thursday (Feb. 18), Lantz Gym.

The Salukis and Illini will compete in a dual at 5:30.

THE LINEUP: 118 Randy Blackman (14-6) 126 Derek Porter (19-3) 134 Bernie Ruettiger (9-4) 142 Rich Brown (10-5) 150 Lester Robinson (10-6) 158 Mike Polz (11-1) 167 Mark Gronowski (9-1) 177 Dennis McCormick (16-6) 190 Geno Savegnago (19-2) Hwt. Rich Magsamen (2-10)

River Grove (East Leyden) Mims, FL (Titusville) Joliet (Providence) Franklin Park (East Leyden/Triton JC) Chicago (Marshall) Riverside (Brookfield) Titusville, FL Springfield (Springfield) Carol Stream (Glen ard North) Elk Grove Village (Elk Grove)

- EIU FACTS: For the first time since the Panthers' dual season began on Dec. 3, Eastern is wrestling injury-free. Randy Blackman has recovered from his shoulder injury and Dennis McCormick proved he was 100% last Thursday when he bounced back from a neck spasm to beat Ball State's Dave White, 30-5. Geno Savegnago, still wrestling with tape around his fingers, is almost completely healthy. The Panthers won their third straight dual Thursday in convincing fashion as they dominated Ball State 36-6. Eastern lost only one match to the visiting Cardinals, that being Rich Magsamen's 19-8 setback. Thursday's two matches will be the Panthers' final ones prior to the Midwest Regional which begins Feb. 26 at Baton Rouge, LA.
- SENIOR FINALE: Making their final home appearance for the Panthers are the following seniors: Randy Blackman at 118, Rich Brown at 142, Lester Robinson at 150, Mike Polz at 158, Geno Savegnago at 190 and Rich Magsamen at Hwt. Blackman, Polz and Savegnago are all All-Americans who have played a major role in EIU's domination of Division II the past few years, and will lead the Panthers into the Division I regional next week.
- SIU-C FACTS: The Salukis are 0-11-1. Tim Dillick at 134 is the top wrestler with an 18-4 record. Southern will compete in the same Midwest Regional as the Panthers next week in Baton Rouge.
- ILLINI FACTS: Illinois, 7-7-1, has just two seniors in the starting lineup. They are Bruce Cochran (158) and Trent Taylor (167) who both finished 4th in the Big Ten last season and qualified for the NCAA I nationals.
- COACH RON CLINTON SAYS: "This is the closest to 100 percent we have been all season. This will be sort of the last hurrah for the seniors, so there will be emotional matches . . . everyone wants to finish on a positive note, and maintain some momentum into the Midwest Regional . . . I'd rather not wrestle twice in one day, but when we get into the regional we'll have to wregtle two or three times a day, so it will be like a regional atmosphere . . . Carbondale's best is

EIU WRESTLING ADD 1

COACH RON CLINTON SAYS: Dillick at 134, but other than him, they really don't (CONTINUED) Dillick at 134, but other than him, they really don't have the overall strength but the Illinois one will be a biggie . . Illinois has a real fine squad, they are well-balanced . . . it will be a good match to end the regular season on."

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