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January 20, 1981
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Vincent Smelter (Macon, GA-Northwest) has moved into the starting lineup for the Eastern Illinois University basketball team.

Smelter, a 6-1 freshman, has started the last five games since injuries have crippled the Panther backcourt. He has appeared in nine games and has averaged 4.9 points per game while shooting 53 percent from the floor.

Smelter's high game was 11 points in a win over Northern Kentucky,

"Vincent has played well considering the situation," said Rick Samuels. "When we lost our two starting guards to injuries, Vincent was force fed into the lineup and responded well to the responsibilities of a point guard.

"He has good court awareness, strong and quick on defense . . . plus he's trying to develop as a floor leader at the same time. It's a tough role regardless of experience, so Vincent has accomplished quite a bit for a freshman."

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.