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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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Jan. 26, 1981
LS-AS

PANTHER BASKETBALL REPORT

THE GAME: Eastern Illinois University (9-7) hosts Southwest Missouri State (4-12) at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 26 at Lantz Gym, Charleston, IL.

TENTATIVE STARTERS: EIU

SMS

F Ricky Robinson	6-6	Jr.	F Joe Ward	6-4	Jr.
F Ricky Serkin	6-5	Jr.	F Kenny Sams	6-8	Jr.
C Jeff Jacob	6-7	Sr.	C Ed Liliensiek	6-10	Sr.
G Vincent Smelter	6-1	Fr.	G Mark Bailey	6-4	So.
G Rico Ellis	6-2	Sr.	G Mark Lance	6-1	Jr.

THE SERIES: Southwest Missouri leads the series, 5-3. In 1978-79 the Bears were the only team to defeat EIU at home, 68-67. Last season EIU won here 71-61.

THIS SEASON: SWMS downed the Panthers, 71-67, at Springfield in early January. EIU shot only 36% in that game. Ricky Robinson and Rico Ellis scored 20 and 15 points, respectively. Trailing by two, Robinson and freshman Tim Dykstra missed baskets with eight seconds left that could have sent the game into overtime. Joe Ward made two free throws at the buzzer to account for the four point margin.

THE COACHES: Eastern's Rick Samuels is in his first year. Southwest's Bob Cleeland, a former assistant under Eddie Sutton at Arkansas, is also in his first season.

EIU FACTS: The Panthers have won three straight, downing Youngstown State, 72-70, Saturday . . . Robinson (Aurora East) hit a career high 30 points . . . exactly half of EIU's games have been decided within the final seconds . . . the Panthers are 4-4 in these close ones . . . this is the final game of a four game home stand . . . EIU travels to Illinois State Saturday but then returns home for four more within a nine day stand.

SWMS FACTS: Southwest has not won a road game in nearly two years covering 21 games . . . the last road win was 2/19/79 at Pittsburg State . . . after playing the first nine games of the season with the closest final margin 16 points in either victory or defeat, the Bears have now had five of their last seven decided by seven points or less . . . Joe Ward averages 14.5 and Mark Bailey is at 10.9 . . . SWMS will have a definite height advantage with Liliensiek at 6-10 and Sams at 6-8 . . . this is the final game of a four game road streak for SWMS . . . they played at Southeast Missouri on Monday night . . . Saturday night they lost a conference game at Missouri-Rolla, 68-54, and are 2-4 in the Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association . . . besides EIU, other wins came at home over Valdosta State, Northwest Missouri and Northeast Missouri.