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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EIU BAND SCHEDULES FIRST HOME PERFORMANCE

CHARLESTON, IL.--The Eastern Illinois University Marching Band will give its first local performance of the season at the football game Saturday night, Sept. 19 between Eastern and Illinois State University.

The EIU Band has just returned from Chicago, where the Band and the Pink Panthers Pom Pon squad were the half-time feature of the Chicago Bears-New York Giants football game Monday night (Sept. 14). More than 65,000 fans attended the game. Millions of others watched the nationally televised contest.

"Performing for the Bears game was a great treat," said EIU Marching Band Director Tom Brawner. "For several years Eastern has been honored by being invited to be the guest band at the Bears' regular season home opener. We would like to continue that tradition for years to come."

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This year's band has more than 150 members and according to Brawner "has the potential to be the best band in my three years at Eastern." Brawner directed the Frankfort, Ky. High School Band for 17 years before joining the EIU staff in 1985.

"We are not as large as some college bands," Brawner added, "but we feel we can compare quite favorably in quality to any college band."

Saturday night the EIU band will present a pre-game show, give a half-time program, and will have a short post-game show. "The Eastern band is different than most college band performers since all members memorize the music," Brawner explained. "This can make for a sharper performance and does away with the problem of the wind blowing pages of music across a football field."

Other home performances this fall by the EIU Marching Band include the final display at the Sept. 26 EIU Marching Band contest and home football games Oct. 10 (Western Illinois), Oct. 17 (Indiana State), Oct. 24 (Southwest Missouri), and Nov. 7 (Southern Illinois). In addition, the EIU band will lead the EIU Homecoming parade at 10 a.m. Oct. 17. Each game will have a different show with music before the game, at half-time, and after the game.

Also, the EIU Band will continue a tradition of performing at one or more area high school games during the season. This year the band was at the Villa Grove High School football game last Friday night (Sept. 11) and will present a show at the halftime of the Sullivan (Il.) High School football contest Friday, Sept. 25.