

2-18-1981

02/18/1981 - EIUs wrestling panthers

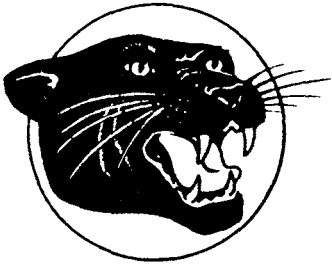
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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "02/18/1981 - EIUs wrestling panthers" (1981). 1981. 429.
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Panther Sports News

Feb. 17, 1981
LS-AS-WR-HT

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's wrestling Panthers take their first step in the 1981 NCAA II wrestling championship by competing in the Great Lakes Regional.

The Panthers, along with approximately a dozen other teams, compete in the qualifying regional at Wisconsin-Parkside in Kenosha all day Friday (Feb. 20).

Based upon their No. 2 national ranking by Amateur Wrestling News, the Panthers would rate a heavy favorite over SIU-Edwardsville, Western Illinois, Moorhead State and St. Cloud State.

"There are 13 teams listed as eligible for this tournament . . . I don't know how many of these will actually field full teams," said Coach Ron Clinton.

The top three wrestlers in each weight class and seven wild cards qualify for the NCAA II National Championship which will be held the following Saturday and Sunday (Feb. 28-March 1) at Cal-Davis near Sacramento.

Clinton's regular lineup will be intact for this meet. The only two question marks are at 150 and heavyweight where Ken Blackman (River Grove-East Leyden) and Kent Lawrence (Coal Valley-Moline) are listed as starters.

"Kenny beat Fred Lindstrom in a challenge match this week . . . Lawrence hurt his foot in the Southern meet last week so we've listed both he and Blair Brown (Dayton, OH), but I imagine we'll go with Kent."

EIU is currently 6-1 in dual meets having disposed of another major college opponent, SIU-Carbondale, 30-11 last Friday. The Panthers' regular season comes to an end with a meet at Illinois Wednesday (Feb. 18).

118 lbs.	Bryan Murphy (LaGrange-Lyons)	23-10-1
126 lbs.	Derek Porter (Mims, FL-Titusville)	27-7-1
134 lbs.	Doug Schafer (Sterling)	8-1
142 lbs.	Bob Ryan (Wooddale-Fenton)	24-9
150 lbs.	Ken Blackman (River Grove-East Leyden)	9-14
158 lbs.	Mike Polz (Riverside-Brookfield)	24-11
167 lbs.	Mark Gronowski (Titusville, FL)	30-5
177 lbs.	Dennis McCormick (Springfield)	3-0
190 lbs.	Geno Savegnago (Carol Stream-Glenbard North)	33-3
Hwt.	Kent Lawrence (Coal Valley-Moline)	0-3