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03/04/1982 - Jay Johnson Rob Hopkin To Lead Tennis This Year

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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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March 4, 1982
LS-AS-Hts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Returning starters Jay Johnson (Homewood-Flossmoor) and Rob Hopkins (Mokena-Lincoln-Way) will lead Eastern Illinois University's tennis team this spring.

The Panthers open the season Saturday, March 13 hosting Missouri-St. Louis and Millikin.

Two other lettermen, Bruce Perrin (Country Club Hills-Hillcrest) and Jon Tuft (Peoria-Richwoods), along with JC transfers Rob Maxwell (Olney-Olney JC) and Mark Munie (O'Fallon-Belleville CC), are the next most experienced on the nine man squad.

"We're very green . . . even with the lettermen back we don't have a senior on the team," says third year coach Carl Sexton who has directed the team to back-to-back 11-8 records.

"Right now our goal is to move up a notch in the conference . . . we were third last year. I think Southwest Missouri is the strongest conference team and, of course, Northern Iowa is the defending champ so it will be a challenge for us."

Hopkins has had the most success of all the returnees. Just a sophomore he is expected to move up after winning the Mid-Conference Conference No. 5 singles.

"Rob prepares himself to play as well as anyone on the team . . . he'll be somewhere in the top of the lineup this year," Sexton said.

Johnson, who started a No. 1 singles last season, is unlikely to be unseated from that top position. This past fall he beat Indiana State's No. 1 player which Sexton termed "the best win at EIU in sometime."

Perrin, who missed most of last season due to illness, is needed "somewhere in the lineup because of his experience." Tuft subbed at No. 6 singles and No. 3 doubles last season and Sexton is hoping the "experience he's gained the past two years will allow him to move into the lineup on a regular basis."

EIU TENNIS
ADD 1

Maxwell was the No. 2 singles last year at Olney CC while Munie competed in the state JC tournament at No. 2 singles and No. 1 doubles for Belleville Area College last spring.

Three freshmen are on the team, Scott Fjelstad (Peoria-Bergan), Clifton Graham (Markham-Thornwood) and Ken Holbert (Collinsville).

1982 SCHEDULE

March 13 (Sat.)	MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS, MILLIKIN
March 16 (Tues.)	at Indiana State
March 19 (Fri.)	ROSE-HULMAN
March 20 (Sat.)	at Millikin
March 23 (Tues.)	BRADLEY
March 27 (Sat.)	at Jackson State
March 28 (Sun.)	at Millsap College
March 29 (Mon.)	at Mississippi College
March 30 (Tues.)	at Southeastern Louisiana
April 1 (Thurs.)	at Southern Mississippi
April 2-3 (Fri.-Sat.)	at Belhaven College
April 9-10 (Fri.-Sat.)	at Principia College Quadrangular
April 16-17 (Fri.-Sat.)	ST. FRANCIS, WESTERN ILLINOIS, ST. LOUIS
April 21 (Wed.)	at Rose-Hulman
April 23-24 (Fri.-Sat.)	at Wheaton College Quadrangular
April 28 (Wed.)	DE PAUW COLLEGE
April 30-May 1 (Fri.-Sat.)	PRINCIPIA, BUTLER, EVANSVILLE
May 7-8 (Fri.-Sat.)	Mid-Continent Conference at Springfield, MO

Home meets weekdays at 3 p.m., Saturdays at 9 a.m.