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## 03/04/1982 - Panther Wrestling Report

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# Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

DAVID KIDWELL, Sports Information Director

OFFICE: (217) 581-2920

HOME: (217) 345-4166

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LS-AS-Wrestling  
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## PANTHER WRESTLING REPORT

**THE TOURNAMENT:** Eastern Illinois University will wrestle in the NCAA Division I Championship Thursday through Saturday (March 11-13) at Iowa State University's Hilton Coliseum in Ames, IA.

### NATIONAL QUALIFIERS:

118	Randy Blackman	17-3	River Grove (East Leyden)
126	Derek Porter	25-3	Mims, FL (Titusville)
142	Rich Brown	16-7	Franklin Park (East Leyden/Triton JC)
158	Mike Polz	17-2	Riverside (R.-Brookfield)
167	Mark Gronowski	15-1	Titusville, FL
177	Dennis McCormick	21-6	Springfield (Springfield)
190	Geno Savegnago	24-3	Carol Stream (Glenbard North)

**EIU FACTS:** The Panthers head into the finals after their most impressive outing finishing second in the NCAA Midwest Regional . . . this is the most wrestlers EIU has ever advanced to the Division I finale . . . Porter, Gronowski and McCormick each won their weight class in the regional while Blackman and Savegnago were second . . . EIU was second to Mid-Continent Conference comrade Northern Iowa . . . in its most recent publication, Wrestling USA ranked the Panthers 8th in the nation . . . Amateur Wrestling News had EIU 20th entering the regional . . . Savegnago was ranked No. 4 in the nation while Gronowski and Porter were both in the top ten.

**NCAA I CHAMPIONSHIP EXPERIENCE:** Six of the Panther qualifiers have previously wrestled in Division I action through qualification in Division II championships . . . the six are Blackman, Porter, Polz, Gronowski, McCormick and Savegnago . . . this will be the 4th appearance for Savegnago who has been an All-American all three years . . . last year he finished 3rd in the nation . . . he is going for his 7th All-American award counting his Division II honors . . . it is the second time around for the other five who did not place at Division I.

**COACH RON CLINTON:** "Last weekend's performance was simply outstanding . . . we wrestled to our ability . . . we really didn't upset anyone . . . we just wrestled to our capability . . . we are not only physically 100% but mentally, too . . . doing well at the Midwest Regional really gave a lot of credibility to our program in the eyes of the Division I schools there . . . our men are excited about what's happening and it's become a matter of holding them back so they don't drain themselves emotionally before the championship . . . we could conceivably finish in the Top 10 at the tournament . . . our strongest bet is Geno (Savegnago) and Mark Gronowski . . . Gronowski is as hot as any wrestler at 167 so he has as good a shot as anyone to win or at least place in the top four . . . our Division I experience is really showing through . . . it's just a matter of who wants it the worst."