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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University will have nine wrestlers, led by the Ruettiger brothers, Bernie and Mark, competing at the NCAA Western Regional in Terre Haute this weekend (Feb. 24-25).

The Panthers, 4-3-1 in duals, along with 15 other universities will compete for the right to advance to the NCAA nationals at the New Jersey Meadowlands March 8-10.

The regional tournament finals will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday at Terre Haute's Hulman Center. The top three wrestlers in each weight class plus four wild cards will advance to the national finals.

Coach Ralph McCausland said the wrestlers will be seeded at a Thursday night meeting. "I expect Mark (Ruettiger) to be seeded No. 1 at 126 lbs., and Bernie (142 lber.) will be somewhere in the top three."

Bernie has the team's best record, 25-10, while Mark is close behind at 24-13. Ruettiger and heavyweight Duane Clark lead the team with seven pins.

McCausland says Clark also has a "legitimate shot at advancing. There are at least three good heavyweights entered so he's going to have to wrestle exceptionally well."

Dan Sanko, 167 lber. who came off an injury at the semester, is also considered a contender to advance.

Other Panthers entered are Pat Flynn at 118, Paul Cysewski at 134, Ozzie Porter at 158, Dan Noll at 177 and Bruce Hanson at 190.