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03/07/1983 - EIU Wrestlers

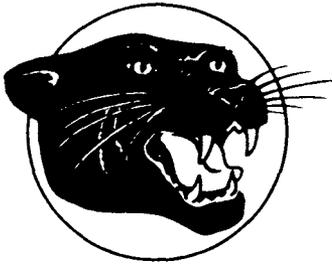
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Three Eastern Illinois University wrestlers, Mark Gronowski (Titusville, FL), Derek Porter (Titusville, FL-Mims) and Jeff Dillman (Joliet-West), will compete for the Panthers in the NCAA National Championship.

The three day finals will be held Thursday through Saturday (March 10-12) at Oklahoma City.

These three seniors, Porter at 126 lbs., Gronowski at 167 and Dillman at 190, rolled to four straight wins and captured individual weight classes recently in the Western Regional to earn the right to advance.

"Realistically I think we can finish in the top 15," says Coach Ron Clinton, who bases that on the ability of each of these three to finish among the top six.

Porter, an 8th place All-American last year, has a 32-4 overall record. Gronowski, ranked 7th in the latest Amateur Wrestling News poll, has a 32-5 mark. Dillman is 23-5.

"I think Gronowski and Porter both have matured to the point where they could be in the top four or five, and Porter might win it because he has had an exceptional year.

"With Gronowski it depends on the bracket he wrestles in . . . there are a couple good ones ahead of him so it matters which round he meets them."

Dillman is no stranger to national competition either, winning national JC titles two years and competing in the NCAA finals as a 167 lb. junior at Nebraska prior to transferring.

"He might surprise some people . . . he's already beaten two wrestlers that are ranked by Amateur Wrestling News, and had just one of his losses at 190.

"I expect all three have a good chance to get seeded but the final decision won't take place until Wednesday evening down there."