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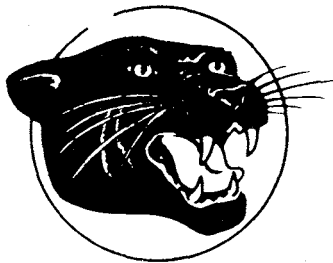
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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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March 5, 1984

LS-Hts 24

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Two Eastern Illinois University wrestlers, Mark Ruettiger (Joliet-Providence) and Duane Clark (Shell Rock, IA-Waldorf JC), have earned the right to compete in the NCAA National Championship.

Ruettiger, a sophomore at 126 lbs., won his weight class with a 3-0 record at the NCAA Western Regional while Clark, a senior heavyweight, took third with a 4-1 record.

It's the first time these two have advanced to the national finals which will be held Thursday through Saturday (March 8-10) at the Meadowlands Arena in East Rutherford, NJ.

Ruettiger will take a 27-13 record into the meet including nine straight victories. He also leads the team with eight pins.

Clark has a 25-14 record and is just behind Ruettiger in falls with seven.

"Mark does have a chance to be seeded," says EIU coach Ralph McCausland. "They seed the top 12, and he's certainly been wrestling well, particularly with his timing.

"Clark has impressed me of late. He's a senior so with his career coming to an end he's determined to do well . . . he's definitely wrestling more aggressively."