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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Nine Eastern Illinois University swimmers, including seven returning All-Americans, will represent the Panthers' final participation in the NCAA Division II National Championship this weekend.

Eastern, which moves to the Division I level next season, will compete for a spot in the Top Ten Thursday through Saturday (March 19-21) at Youngstown, OH.

Approximately 40-50 full teams will be represented with the top four spots "already conceded to Oakland University, Chico and Northridge out of California, and Puget Sound," said Coach Ray Padovan.

"Our times are pretty good, and I'll be disappointed if we don't get in that top ten," Padovan says. "I really expect Oakland (Michigan) to run away with it . . . but I think we're definitely one of the top midwestern teams."

EIU's returning All-Americans are Jim Hall, Tom Hussey, Steve Boone, Dave Gibson, Mike Roessler, Ted Soltys and Tim Bird. The other two qualifiers are Al Cymbal and Greg Lanchester.

"Nine is good group to qualify . . . there's a few bringing 15-18 but that's the maximum anyone can have. Plus all of our people also swim individual events which spreads us out a little more. Some have people in relays only. So we should get some people placed fairly high."

The complete list of EIU qualifiers with their events is as follows:

Tim Bird (Evanston-Elk Grove)	100 fly, 400 free relay, 400 medley relay
Steve Boone (Charleston)	100 breaststroke, 400 medley relay
Al Cymbal (Buffalo Grove)	1 & 3 meter diving
Dave Gibson (South Holland-Thornwood)	100 & 200 fly, 400 & 800 free relay
Jim Hall (McHenry)	500 & 1650 freestyle, 800 free relay
Tom Hussey (Charleston)	100 & 200 back, 200 IM, 400 medley relay
Greg Lanchester (Carbondale)	100 & 200 backstroke
Mike Roessler (Lake Zurich-Arlington Hts.)	100 & 200 breaststroke
Ted Soltys (Elmhurst-York)	100 freestyle, 400 medley relay, 400 & 800 free relay