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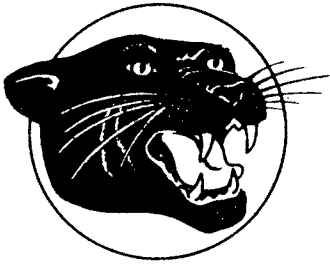
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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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April 21, 1982
LS-AS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--The first of three Eastern Illinois University Blue-White spring intrasquad games will kickoff this weekend.

The Panthers will play Friday (April 23) at Charleston High School, move to Taylorville next Friday (April 30) and conclude at Effingham on Saturday, May 8. All games will begin at 7 p.m.

Coach Darrell Mudra says he will pit the No. 1 offense against the No. 1 defense so as "each unit will receive its stiffest challenge . . . the best against the best at all times."

Mudra's inclination is to keep the squads the same for all three games so as to develop a mini-series effect and add "some competitive fun to the spring workouts."

The offense may have the edge initially since it returns the most experienced players from a 6-5 season. Quarterback Jeff Christensen (Gibson City) was No. 3 in the nation in total offense last year.

Running back Kevin Staple (Markham-Thornwood) was No. 8 in all-purpose running. Roger Holoman (Alton) caught 40 passes as an All-American wide receiver.

The offensive interior, sparked by the play of tackle Alvin McMurray (Chicago-Dunbar), averages over 260 lbs. Plus Mudra cited the play of tight end Dirk Androff (Decatur-Eisenhower) as "exceptional this spring . . . the confidence he gained the latter part of last season is evident right from the start of our workouts."

Androff understudied to EIU's record-breaking All-American Rob Mehalic last season, spelling him on occasion when Mehalic's chronic back injury slowed him some.

Veteran defensive players Keith Wojnowski (Kankakee-Bishop McNamara), Robert Williams (Chicago-Dunbar) and Bill Mines (Washington, DC-Woodson) were top players in their segments, Mudra says.

EIU FOOTBALL
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Also three JC transfers have impressed, according to Mudra. Chris Nicholson (Waukegan-East/Du Page CC) has moved into the defensive line after initially being considered for offense.

Two Arizona Western transfers, Reggie Taylor (Apopka, FL) at linebacker and Gary Bridges (South Belmair, NJ) at safety, have made their presence known.

Eastern has reached the halfway point of its spring practice. The Effingham game on May 8 will conclude the five-week session.