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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's basketball recruiting success has resulted in high acclaim from veteran prep observers of the annual recruiting wars.

For instance, the Chicago Sun-Times, in its annual assessment of which colleges fared best, rated Eastern Illinois No. 10 among Midwest schools (see enclosed article).

"In a surprise, Eastern Illinois crashed the top 10 ahead of Bradley, Northwestern and Chicago Circle," says a Sun-Times article by prep sports editor Taylor Bell and college writer Bob Pille.

The Panthers rated higher than any other Illinois university with the exception of the Fighting Illini. Eastern was also ahead of three other Big Ten teams, Michigan State, Wisconsin and Ohio State.

"We worked the midwest area hard . . . particularly the Chicago area," said second year coach Rick Samuels. "We didn't branch out this year at all. Eastern has an outstanding reputation throughout the midwest and the move to Division I has helped the cause.

"I think people are recognizing what we're doing here . . . they know we're a Division I school now, and had a winning record last season." The Panthers were 14-13 winning eight of their final ten to post a ninth straight winning season."

"I'm excited about our recruits but don't want to put excessive pressure on them. But all will press for playing time as freshmen. We had a lot of success and hope it continues."

The four recruits are 6-11 Kevin Duckworth of Dolton Thornridge, 6-6 J. T. Coleman of Chicago Heights Bloom Trail, 6-5 Tim Wyss of Cissna Park and 6-6 Jeff Hippen of Chadwick