

3-11-1983

03/11/1983 - Kevin Duckworth

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "03/11/1983 - Kevin Duckworth" (1983). 1983. 461.
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March 11, 1983
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's Kevin Duckworth (Dolton-Thornridge) has established himself as the Panthers starting center for the next three years.

The 6-11, 290 freshman started 29 of EIU's 31 games averaging 9.6 points and six rebounds a game. Eastern finished with a 13-18 overall record and second place in the Mid-Continent with an 8-4 mark.

Duckworth was more impressive in league play averaging 10.3 points and an even ten rebounds. He was a consistent shooter hitting 53% in both league and overall games.

He scored in double figures in seven of the last nine games with single game highs of 18 points and 18 rebounds.

"Kevin's improvement was evident throughout the season but it was most obvious in his stamina and strength," said Coach Rick Samuels.

"I thought his stats were good for a freshman, and indicate he can be a dominant player around the basket. He needs to make progress in all areas but that's normal for a freshman. We'd really like to see him go out next year and maintain his intensity and defensive effort for a full 40 minutes."

The Panthers began the year 0-12 but bounced back to win 13 of the final 19 and surge to second place in the AMCU. EIU shot 50% from the field in all games, and 52.5% in conference action.