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03/14/1983 - Golf Opens Season Soon

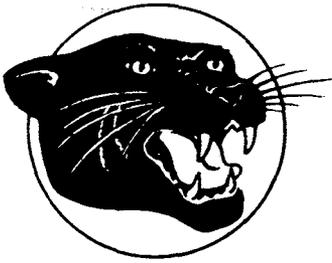
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Panther Sports News

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March 14, 1983
LS-Hometowns

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University has five returning lettermen but only two seniors on its ten-man Panther golf team that will soon open the 1983 spring season.

EIU will host Southern Illinois-Carbondale in a dual match at the Mattoon Country Club on Friday, March 21. The major meet will be the Mid-Continent championship on April 29-30 in Springfield, MO.

Mike Wendlandt (Woodstock), a sophomore, enters the spring as the No. 1 golfer after a strong fall season averaging 76 and being team medalist in three of six matches.

Seniors Mark Ferris (Charleston) and Kevin Strothmann (Mt. Vernon-Rend Lake CC), a two year letterman, are cinch starters. Brent Herrin (Harrisburg), a transfer from Ole Miss, is eligible and indications are that he will be in the top four.

Lee Cody (Eldorado), who sat out last fall, and Jim Jensen (Girard) both started last spring but neither has a lock on being in the top five this spring.

A freshman, Ron Huffman (Carpentersville-Dundee), was the No. 4 golfer last fall and team medalist in one tournament and will present a strong challenge to the veterans.

Other squad members are sophomore Jay Lavick (Godfrey-Marquette), freshman Dave Ransom (Carol Stream-Glenbard North) and sophomore Doug Wilmert (Lincoln-Gibson City).

"Our objective is to finish higher in the conference race and get a couple players to score among the top 10 in the league meet," said second year coach Kevin Anglin.

That's a tall order since the Mid-Continent has expanded from four to eight teams. Western Illinois is the defending champ.

"We're going to be better simply because of our experience plus the new people are better than we've had walk-on in the past. Also, our athletic training staff set up a weight program which should improve the strength in our forearm and wrist . . . we're hoping to see some benefits from that.

"I think we finally realized we were capable of playing well when we beat Illinois last fall . . . that really helped our confidence."