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03/15/1984 - jon collins

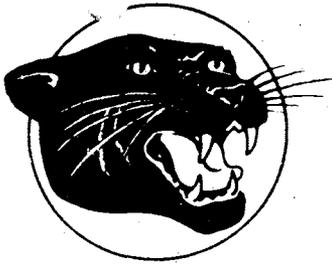
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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

DAVID KIDWELL, *Sports Information Director*

OFFICE: (217) 581-2920

HOME: (217) 345-4166

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Jon Collins (East St. Louis-Cahokia), 6-4 sophomore forward for Eastern Illinois University's basketball Panthers, earned top honors for this winter's team.

Collins was chosen First Team All-Mid-Continent Conference, the league's 'Newcomer of the Year', led in scoring for league games only and was second in overall scoring. He also was picked the team's Most Valuable Player.

Collins scored 513 points, the 15th player in EIU history to go over that figure, which was the 8th best single season effort. He averaged 18.3 in overall scoring and 19.1 in league games.

He was the only Panther to start all 28 contests as Eastern finished with a 15-13 overall record, 7-7 and fourth in the AMCU-8. It's the tenth winning season in the last 11 years for EIU.

"Jon did exceptionally well for us . . . his play was very consistent, and he played within his talents," said Coach Rick Samuels. "We'd like to see Jon become a more aggressive performer but, other than that, just exhibit the normal improvement that goes along with the added maturity."

Collins was in double figures in all but one game and ten times went over 20 points. His 32 against Cleveland State was tops. He shot 51.8% from the field, and 80.9% from the line.