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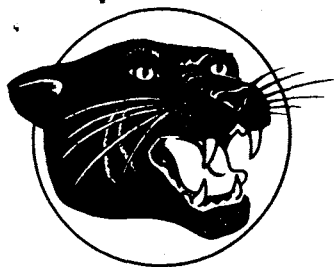
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Panther Sports News

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April 14, 1981
LS-AS-Baseball

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University baseball coach Tom McDevitt expected outstanding performances from a handful of returning veterans for 1981, and that is what he has received.

But it has been the steady play of some unlikely heroes which has boosted the Panthers to their finest start since 1976.

The Panthers will put their 15-6 record and eight game winning streak on the line with nine games in six days including a pair of doubleheaders with SIU-Edwardsville, Saturday and Sunday (April 18-19) at Monier Field.

Junior All-American Tim Pyznarski (Chicago Ridge-Marist) and Matt Cimo (Lockport-Joliet Catholic), with .529 and .449 batting averages respectively, "continue to hit the ball hard," said McDevitt.

But the play of freshmen Kevin Seitzer (Lincoln), Brian Jones (Charleston) and Rich Lambert (Troy-Triad) along with senior non-letterman Gerry Schlechte (Stewardson-Lake Land CC) is what has sparked EIU this spring.

Seitzer, flirting with the .400 mark, "has been an outstanding surprise as a freshman," said McDevitt. "I didn't expect him to hit this well right away.

"Brian Jones is doing a fine job at shortstop," said McDevitt. Jones has played a key part in helping the Panthers to improve last season's .924 fielding average.

The third freshman starter for the Panthers, Lambert, has played well in left field according to McDevitt. "All three are hitting the ball extremely well."

Schlechte threw only nine innings in 1980 but has come back this spring to win all three of his starts with complete games while fashioning an 0.80 earned run average.

"All Gerry needed was a chance to pitch," said McDevitt. "He has worked hard and pitched excellent ball. He has earned everything he's got."

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EIU BASEBALL
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Schlechte's improvement has provided depth on the pitching staff behind senior standouts Elliott Skorupa (Barrington) and Randy "Max" Weibel (Oconomowoc, WI-Triton JC).

McDevitt is "very pleased" with the performance of those two for 1981. Weibel has averaged better than a strikeout an inning while winning three games. Skorupa has won all three of his decisions including two by shutout.