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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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Hometowns 18

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's tennis Panthers finished the season with a second place in the Mid-Continent championship.

Eastern was 12-6 in dual meets with five straight season ending victories.

In the league tournament, EIU was the defending champ and had all six singles players in the championship match but won only one therefore placed second with 37 points behind first place Southwest Missouri State's 51.

JAY JOHNSON (Boca Raton, FL-Homewood-Flossmoor), senior at No. 1 singles, had an 11-6 regular season and second place in the conference losing the championship match to Rod Kowis of Southwest Missouri, 4-6, 6-4, 6-7. Johnson won five straight dual meets at the end of the year to post a second straight winning record, and was voted the team's Most Valuable Player. Playing No. 1 singles all four seasons, he concluded with a career record of 36-41. He was second in the league last season and third as a sophomore. He was 9-7 in doubles play this spring also finishing second in the league teaming with Rob Hopkins.

ROB HOPKINS (Mokena-LincolnWay), senior at No. 2 singles, was 10-7 in the regular season and second in the conference losing the championship match to John Isaacs of Southwest Missouri, 4-6, 4-6. He won four of his last five regular season matches to post his winning record and conclude a four year career with a lifetime record of 40-32. He played No. 2 singles the past three seasons and was voted the team's Honorary Captain this spring. He teamed with Jay Johnson at No. 1 doubles and also took second in the conference tournament. During the regular season he was 10-5 with three different doubles partners. During his career he won the conference tournament as a freshman at No. 5 singles and as a junior at No. 2 singles.

SCOTT FJELSTAD (Peoria-Bergan), junior at No. 3 singles, had the team's best won-lost record finishing the year with an 11-5 record and second in the conference tournament. He lost the AMCU championship match to John Steinmeyer of Southwest Missouri, 3-6, 6-7. He won seven of his final eight regular season matches to post the winning record. His three year career record is 35-19 as he has posted the team's best season mark two of his three years. The previous two seasons he played at No. 6 singles. This spring he was 8-8 in doubles play teaming with three different partners and took third in the conference meet competing with John Suter.

JOHN SUTER (Springfield), a freshman, won the AMCU-8 championship at No. 4 singles. He was the team's only singles champ although all six were in the finals. Suter defeated Dauzo Chamberlain of Southwest Missouri in the title match, 7-5, 6-3. During the regular season he posted a 10-7 record winning six of his final eight matches. In doubles play he teamed with four different players to post an 8-5 record and was third in the conference meet at No. 2 doubles. His partner was Scott Fjelstad.

ERIC LAFFEY (Bloomington), freshman at No. 5 singles, posted a 10-6 regular season record and finished second in the conference meet losing the championship match to Jeff Fuchs of Southwest Missouri, 6-3, 6-7, 5-7. He won six of his final eight regular season matches to post the winning record. In doubles play he also took second in the conference teaming with Dan Patrick at the No. 3 spot. Overall he had a 12-4 doubles record, best on the team, competing with four different partners throughout the season.

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EIU TENNIS
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DAN PATRICK (Moline-Blackhawk CC), senior at No. 6 singles, was 10-5 during the regular season and finished second in the conference meet losing the championship match to Scott McClintock of Southwest Missouri, 4-6, 4-6. Transferring last year from Blackhawk CC, this was the first season Patrick was in the lineup. He also teamed with Eric Laffey to finish second in the conference tournament at No. 3 doubles. Overall he had an 8-6 doubles mark teaming with three different partners.

STEVE ALLBRIGHT (Pana), junior at Nos. 4-5 singles, had a 3-3 dual meet record filling in at various times in the lower part of the lineup. He was 5-3 in doubles play with three different teammates at the No. 3 spot.

MARK MATIJASEVICH (West Chicago), freshman at Nos. 5-6 singles, had a 3-0 record playing in the lower part of the lineup on a parttime basis. He was 1-1 in doubles play teaming with Don Carstens at No. 3.