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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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LS-Hts 53

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's baseball Panthers finished the regular season with a 19-11 record and third place in the Mid-Continent championship.

It's the 14th straight season the Panthers have been .500 or above however the first time since 1972 that they haven't won 20 games. But 25 rainouts also contributed to the fewest games played since 1972.

Ten of EIU's top 15 players were either freshmen or sophomores and only two were seniors. For the fifth straight season the Panthers batted above .300 as a team finishing at .312. Defensively they fielded .957, second best in school history.

Eastern swept four of five games against Big Ten teams Purdue and Illinois, split a doubleheader with SIU-Carbondale, won two over Indiana State and were 7-3 against Mid-Continent teams in either the regular season or post-season tournament.

Following are summaries on the best individuals:

BRIAN JONES (Charleston), senior infielder, set EIU career records for most hits with 172 and most at-bats with 521. He also moved up to No. 5 on the career RBI list with 86, No. 2 in runs scored with 136 and No. 4 in doubles with 23. This season he batted .346, fourth best on the team, and led the team in hits (36) and at-bats (104). Consequently he finished his four year career with a batting average of .330. "Brian is as fine a second baseman as I've coached," said Tom McDevitt. "He simply does things right at second . . . good range, throws off balance, head always in the game. If he gets a chance at pro ball his hitting will improve because he's a good bat handler . . . he can bunt, he'll sharpen his hit and run skills and you can't play him too close because he can pull it by you. Right now he just needs to play everyday."

STEVE HALL (Williamsville-Lincoln Land CC), senior first baseman, was third on the team in hitting with a .357 average. He had 35 hits, second on the team, and struck out the fewest times, 10, of any regular. He also fielded .981 making only four errors in 213 chances. His two year career average was .374 with 82-219, 56 runs scored, five homers and 38 RBIs. "Day in, day out Steve was the best hitter on the team. He can hit with power and do it both ways," said Coach Tom McDevitt. "I think he's probably the only player in school history to hit a homer left and righthanded in the same game. He's a much, much underrated player because he's not flashy so you have to watch him everyday. He runs well, hits the low ball well and, I think, if given a chance could step in right now and hit .300 in a rookie or Class A league."

TIM PARKER (Charleston-Lake Land CC), junior outfielder, led the team in batting with a .407 average, and was tops in RBIs with 36, in slugging at .753, doubles with eight and tied in homers with six. His .407 average is the ninth best single season effort in history. He also fielded perfectly committing no errors while handling 37 chances.

TIM TORRICELLI (Springfield), sophomore catcher, had an off-season offensively batting just .157 but fielded .985 making only two errors in 133 chances. Although getting just 11 hits in 70 at-bats he was quite productive as he knocked in 13 runs and four of those 11 hits were for extra bases, three homers and a double. Torricelli's two year average is .234 after hitting .380 as a freshman. "Tim had a tough year at the plate but with some concentrated work during the offseason I'm confident he can bounce back," said coach Tom McDevitt. "Our pitching staff was improved this season, and I'm sure Tim had a role in their success. He's very capable behind the plate."

TERRY MCDEVITT (Charleston-Lake Land CC), sophomore infielder, batted .241 for the Panthers with 21 hits in 87 at-bats. He fielded .897 playing at either shortstop or second base.

MONTY ALDRICH (Louisville-Olney CC), junior outfielder, was second on the team in batting with a .389 average. Aldrich led the team with 33 runs scored, was second on the team with 35 hits, second with seven doubles, second with 22 RBIs and third in homers with five. "Monty is as fine a defensive centerfielder as I've had, and was a solid, consistent hitter all year," said Coach Tom McDevitt. "He led in batting most of the season and didn't drop below .400 until the post season tournament."

BERNARD HOLLAND (Olympia Fields-Thornwood), freshman designated hitter/outfielder, batted .338 and tied for the team high in homers with six. He had 25 hits in 74 at-bats with three doubles, a triple and 20 RBIs. "Bernie could potentially become as fine a hitter as Tim Pyznarski (currently on Oakland A's triple A team). He has great bat speed . . . that really catches your eye. And he hits them as far as anyone I've coached," said Tom McDevitt. "By competing in two sports (football), it makes it difficult to concentrate on one or the other but he's a hard worker, very strong and has good running speed. I'm really anxious to see what he can achieve once he becomes accustomed to college pitching."

MIKE ROONEY (Arlington Heights-St. Viator), freshman outfielder, batted .241 on a parttime basis playing mostly in rightfield. He knocked in 14 extra bases, four homers, one double and a triple.

RICK STERIOTI (Joliet-Catholic), freshman third baseman, started all but two games at third base batting .246 and fielding .892. He had 16 hits in 65 at bats with two doubles and 10 RBIs.

KEVIN SMITH (Peoria-Richwoods), sophomore pitcher/outfielder, proved his worth offensively this year by batting .333. By the end of the season he was the No. 1 rightfielder and hit two homers in the next-to-last game of the season, an 8-6 loss to Northern Iowa. He had a 1-1 pitching record, started five games with a 9.44 ERA in 14 1/3 innings pitched. "Kevin's hitting came along very well towards the end of the year. We used him two ways this season but may have to make a decision on which he'll be, either a pitcher or outfielder. He had good bat speed and those two homers he hit in the same game would've been out anywhere," said coach Tom McDevitt.

MICK FREED (Lexington), junior pitcher, led the Panther mound staff with a 6-2 record and 3.00 ERA in 54 innings. He started eight games, had six complete games and threw two shutouts. In his final three games of the year he only allowed two earned runs. He shutout Western Illinois on one hit, 12-0, then defeated SIU-Carbondale, 4-1, followed by a 5-3 win over Southwest Missouri in the first game of the Mid-Continent tournament. Freed was also used sparingly as a designated hitter batting .333 with two homers and four RBIs. "Mick is an outstanding college pitcher. He throws strikes and has a fine slider." said Coach Tom McDevitt. "He knows how to win and that is extremely important every time you take the mound."

DAVE GOODHUE (Armstrong), freshman pitcher, had a 4-1 won-lost record his rookie season with a 4.12 ERA. He started six games, had one complete game, and one save. He pitched 30 2/3 innings allowing 33 hits, eight walks and 16 strikeouts. The latter part of the season he suffered a groin injury and was able to start just one of the last 15 games, and none in the post-season Mid-Continent tournament.

PAUL SKORUPA (Barrington), sophomore pitcher, played a major role in more victories than any other member of the pitching staff. He finished with a 5-2 won-lost mark and had four saves. The No. 1 relief pitcher, Skorupa appeared in 15 games, started three and all three were complete games. He hurled 43 2/3 innings, second most on the team, recording a 4.33 ERA. He allowed 26 hits, 21 earned runs, walked 40 and struck out 38. "Paul's an outstanding relief pitcher. In fact, he's a better reliever than starter because he likes to get the ball . . . he wants in there and really gets pumped up," said coach Tom McDevitt. "He enjoys the pressure situation and does a good job. The one thing he needs to work on is improving his control."

SAM LIGHT (Bartonville-Limestone), sophomore pitcher, had a 2-2 record appearing in ten games as a reliever. He pitched 20 innings with a 3.60 ERA allowing 19 hits, eight earned runs with only four walks and 14 strikeouts.

JIM WILKINS (Country Club Hills-Hillcrest), sophomore pitcher, had a 1-1 record appearing in eight games, starting four, completing one in 25 2/3 innings. He had a 4.21 ERA allowing 23 hits, 12 earned runs, striking out 14 and walking 14.

TERRY KEIGHER (Joliet-West), freshman first baseman, batted .290 as the backup first baseman. He was 9-31 with three doubles and seven RBIs and fielded .970 handling 64 chances with only two errors. With senior Steve Hall graduating, Keigher will likely move up to a starting position next season.

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FINAL 1984 BASEBALL STATISTICS (19-11)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AVE</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>SO</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>PO</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>FDG</u>
Steve Hall, 1b	.354	28	99	24	35	4	1	3	19	10	8	2-2	195	18	4	.981
Brian Jones, 2b	.346	30	104	22	36	6	1	-	9	15	22	3-5	48	78	9	.933
Tim Parker, of	.407	29	81	25	33	8	1	6	36	16	24	5-5	32	5	-	1.000
Bernard Holland, of/dh	.338	27	74	14	25	3	1	6	20	15	8	1-2	-	-	-	.000
Terry McDevitt, ss	.241	29	87	18	21	1	1	-	11	13	21	2-3	35	61	11	.897
Tim Torricelli, c	.157	26	70	8	11	1	-	3	13	12	5	2-2	116	17	2	.985
Monty Aldrich, of	.389	30	90	33	35	7	-	5	22	11	25	-	46	-	2	.958
Mike Rooney, of	.241	21	58	5	14	1	1	4	14	11	4	-	15	-	1	.937
Rick Sterioti, 3b	.246	28	65	16	16	2	-	-	10	9	16	2-4	16	42	7	.892
Kevin Smith, of/p	.333	22	48	11	16	3	-	2	7	6	4	1-1	27	1	1	.965
Alswin Kieboom, c	.375	7	16	3	6	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	26	1	-	.963
Kyle Knop, c	.200	5	5	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	13	1	-	1.000
Terry Keigher, 1b	.290	14	31	7	9	3	-	-	7	3	7	1-1	60	4	2	.970
Mick Freed, p/dh	.333	14	15	4	5	2	-	2	4	3	3	2-2	7	9	1	.941
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	34	1	.978
EIU TOTALS	.312	30	843	192	263	42	6	31	173	125	151	21-27	647	271	41	.957
OPP TOTALS	.256	30	863	157	221	34	6	21	147	144	117	22-26	642	220	34	.962

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ERA</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>GS</u>	<u>CG</u>	<u>SHO</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>1P</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>ER</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>SO</u>
Mick Freed, rh	3.00	8	8	6	2	-	6	2	54	54	26	18	17	36
Dave Goodhue, rh	4.12	9	6	1	-	1	4	1	30 2/3	33	23	14	8	16
Paul Skorupa, rh	4.33	15	3	3	-	4	5	2	43 2/3	26	25	21	40	38
Sam Light, rh	3.60	10	-	-	-	-	2	2	20	19	9	8	4	14
Mike Steinkamp, rh	8.22	9	4	1	-	-	-	2	18 2/3	30	25	17	16	10
Doug Cooper, rh	2.50	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 2/3	3	1	1	2	3
Jim Wilkins, rh	4.21	8	4	1	1	-	1	1	25 2/3	23	16	12	14	14
Mike Cassidy, rh	0.00	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 2/3	1	1	-	-	-
Steve Culkar, rh	34.61	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 1/3	4	5	5	3	-
Rod Schutt, rh	45.00	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	6	5	2	-
Kevin Smith, lh	9.44	5	5	1	-	-	1	1	14 1/3	24	20	15	11	13
EIU TOTALS	4.84	30	30	13	3	5	19	11	215 2/3	221	157	116	117	144
OPP TOTALS	6.69	30	30	11	3	2	11	19	214	263	192	159	151	125

SUMMARY

HOME: 6-3
 ROAD: 11-6
 NEUTRAL: 2-2
 NCAA I: 14-9
 NCAA II: 2-2
 NCAA III: 0-0
 NAIA: 3-0