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06/02/1982 - Dennis Ward To Play Ball At EIU

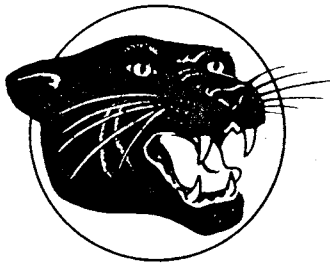
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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

DAVID KIDWELL, *Sports Information Director*

OFFICE: (217) 581-2920 HOME: (217) 345-4166

June 2, 1982
LS-Hometowns

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Dennis Ward, 6-7, 200 postman from Lake Park High School in Roselle, has announced he will play his college basketball at Eastern Illinois University, head coach Rick Samuels said Wednesday (June 2).

Ward averaged 15 points, shot 59% from the field, pulled down six rebounds a game and was a unanimous all-conference selection in the Upstate Eight.

"We are pleased Dennis has decided to enroll at Eastern," said Samuels. "He is a strong young man who had to play center, a position he probably is not best suited for in college.

"We look for him to be a power forward for us. His greatest assets are his determination and hard work."

Ward was also chosen the team's Most Valuable Player, ranks in the top ten in several Lake Park basketball records and was also an all-tournament choice at the Luther North Christmas tourney. Lake Park is coached by Tom Hoder.

Ward's announcement brings to five the number of freshmen recruits lined up this spring. Earlier commitments were received from Kevin Duckworth of Dolton Thornridge, J. T. Coleman of Chicago Heights Bloom Trail, Tim Wyss of Cissna Park and Jeff Hippen of Chadwick.

Eastern, which enters its second season of NCAA Division I competition, was 14-13 last season, its ninth straight winning season.