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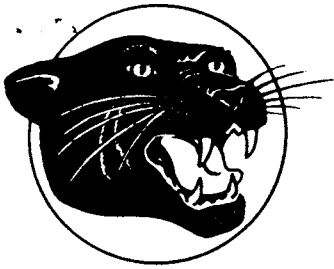
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Panther Sports News

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April 29, 1981

LS-AS-HTs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's young inexperienced offensive and defensive lines will receive a strong challenge from some seasoned alumni in the annual spring football game Saturday (May 2).

The contest will kickoff at 5:30 p.m. at Paris High School. Tickets are priced at \$1.50.

"We're going to play a regular game . . . kickoffs, regulation time . . . the whole thing," said head coach Darrell Mudra.

"We'll go with our best eleven players and see what they can accomplish . . . the alumni should field a talented group so it should be a good opportunity to see what our young people can do."

The Panthers have some veterans at the skill positions but have just two returning starters on the offensive and defensive lines.

Keith Wojnowski (Kankakee-Bishop McNamara) is the lone returnee on defense starting at left tackle. The three newcomers are Randy Harms (Wildwood-Gurnee Warren) at left end, JC transfer Mike Angland (Westchester) and Steve Martin (Schaumburg).

Scott Gilleland (Barrington) is the veteran center. Four new players will flank him, Chuck Van Wagoner (Decatur-MacArthur) and Mike Kuhn (Downers Grove-North) at guard and sophomore tackles Alvin MacMurray (Chicago-Dunbar) and Brad Mars (Marshall).

Jeff Christensen (Gibson City) and Dirk Androff (Decatur-Eisenhower) share quarterbacking duties. The three starting receivers are veteran Rob Mehalic at tight end and yearlings Roger Holoman (Alton) and Tom Park (Akron, OH-Kenmore) at wide receiver.

Running backs are Kevin Staple (Markham-Thornwood) and Teddy Coopwood (Gary, IN-Calumet).

The linebackers offer the three surest starters on the squad, Tom Murray (Arlington Heights-St. Viator), Bill Mines (Washington, D.C.-Woodson) and Ira Jefferson (Momence).

All-American Kevin Gray (Chicago-Hyde Park/Kennedy King JC), who earned his laurels at safety, will move to cornerback. His cohort will be equally talented Wilbert James (Washington, D.C.-Woodson).

Kevin Jones (Springfield-Lanphier), coming off a broken arm, will start at free safety. Robert Williams (Chicago-Dunbar) will fill Don Pittman's vacated strong safety spot.

"We'll probably use about 50-60 players before it's over with . . . but these people have proven themselves this spring and deserve an opportunity to work as a unit," Mudra explained.

"That doesn't mean these 22 will line up against South Dakota next September . . . we're still excited about our incoming recruits and expect them to provide some solid competition when fall practice commences."