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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY - Charleston, IL 61920
217 / 581-5981

DEFENSIVE LINE

LS-AS-FB-FBOPP

(Sixth in a Series)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL.--"There's not a game or a play where we can let down. We have to play with a lot of intensity and emotion and if we do that, it will make up for any limitations."

Attribute that quote to Eastern Illinois University's new defensive line coach BROCK SPACK, a former All-Big Ten linebacker who expects to see his players literally practice what he preaches.

SPACK believes three of the four positions are filled headed by two year right tackle CARL PARKER (EVANSTON), who "is the leader of our front four," says SPACK.

"He's a little undersized but a tough kid who gets everything out of his ability. He's very quick, good pass rusher and made the adjustment to our new front which requires a different technique."

PARKER, who should earn a fourth letter, tied for 6th on the team last year with 69 tackles and had four QB sacks and eight tackles for loss.

The other inside starter is JEFF ROLSON (FARMER CITY-MANSFIELD), a 6-2, 265 junior who lettered last year as a backup. "Jeff competed in track the past couple springs so he went through spring football for the first time and we were able to see a lot of good things because he never missed practice," said SPACK.

"He's a little short for a lineman but one of the stronger ones up front. He's picked up on the stunts pretty quickly."

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MIKE BOLLAN (VILLA PARK-WILLOWBROOK), 6-4, 242 redshirt sophomore, is running No. 1 at left end. He's coming off surgery which forced him to miss last year.

"Mike is a workaholic . . . always in the weight room. He's the type of player who wants to know what he does wrong in order to improve, and that's what'll make him a great player."

SPACK says there hasn't been anyone grab hold of the starting right end position. AARON THOMAS (MARKHAM-TINLEY PARK/MORAIN VALLEY CC), TOM GOVAN (CHICAGO-LINDBLOM/THORNTON CC) and DAVE LEWANDOWSKI (ELMWOOD PARK-FENWICK) are three upperclassmen competing to fill the slot.

THOMAS, a 6-0, 275 senior, was academically ineligible in the spring after earning 2nd Team All-Gateway honors at nose guard last year. He was No. 2 on the team with 102 tackles including a team high 16 for loss.

GOVAN transferred from Thornton CC last spring. "He has a lot of potential and is probably our best pass rusher although needs work against the run," SPACK said.

LEWANDOWSKI has not practiced due to illness so is dropping behind the others. He's a three year letterman who, at 6-4, 260, is "one of the few who has the size and ability needed to be a true down lineman," according to SPACK.

Two freshmen who have moved into key backup roles are BRIAN CALLAHAN (CHICAGO-GORDON TECH) and JOE REMKE (MARENGO-MARIAN CATHOLIC).