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01/19/1987 - Six Assistant Football Coaches Appointed

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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY - Charleston, IL 61920
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Jan. 19)

CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University football coach BOB SPOO has announced the appointment of his six assistant coaches.

They are JOHN SMITH, who will be the defensive coordinator and coach the secondary; KIT CARTWRIGHT, who is the offensive coordinator with direct responsibility for quarterbacks and receivers; MIKE DEBORD, offensive line; DINO BABERS, running backs; SHELDON HERD, linebacker coach who is retained from the previous staff; and BROCK SPACK, defensive line. SCOTT NOBLE is a graduate assistant with the defense.

SMITH, 35, has been the defensive coordinator at Western Illinois University for the past four years. WIU's defense has ranked among the top 15 I-AA teams in three of those seasons.

He previously was defensive coordinator at Northeast Missouri (1979-82), an assistant at Wisconsin (1975-77), and head coach at Elgin High School (1978). Originally from Sycamore (IL), he is a 1974 graduate of the University of Wisconsin.

CARTWRIGHT, 32, was a Purdue assistant for the previous four years, three of those as receiver coach. He coached at Bowling Green (1979-82) and was a staff member on the '82 Mid-American Conference championship club which played in the California Bowl.

He also served as a parttime coach for a year and half under Joe Paterno at Penn State, was a graduate assistant at Toledo and defensive coordinator at Ohio Wesleyan (1977). He is originally from Toledo, and a 1976 Bowling Green graduate.

DEBORD, 30, has been the offensive coordinator at Fort Hays (KS) State the past two years. An NAIA university, Fort Hays led the nation in passing in 1985 and was second in 1986. DEBORD previously was an

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assistant at Ball State and Franklin College. He was head coach at South Decatur HS in Greensburg, IN from 1979-82, and a 1978 graduate of Manchester (IN) College.

HERD, 26, has coached EIU linebackers for the past four years. He joined the staff in 1982 as a parttime coach after serving as a student coach at Lincoln (MO) University in 1981. A 1980 graduate of Lincoln, he lettered there four years. HERD is originally from Pittsburgh.

SPACK, 25, has been an assistant at Wabash College the past two years. He was an All-Big Ten linebacker and HM All-American at Purdue, lettering four years (1980-83) and co-captaining the team as a senior. He is a 1979 graduate of Rockford East HS.

BABERS, 25, has been a graduate assistant coach at Rose Bowl champion Arizona State the past two years. He was a running back for the British Columbia Lions of the Canadian Football League in 1984, and was an all-conference linebacker at the University of Hawaii (1979-83). He is originally from San Diego.

NOBLE, who will assist SMITH in coaching the secondary, played at Dodge City CC (1982-83) and Western Illinois University (1984-85). He was defensive coordinator at Lewiston High School this past year.