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## 01/27/1987 - Basketball Versus Cleveland State

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# Panther Sports News

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LS - AS - BB -

BB OPP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Jan. 27)

CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University's basketball Panthers will host one of the nation's newest powers, Cleveland State University, Thursday (Jan. 29). Tipoff is 7:30 at Lantz Gym.

This is the first of three AMCU-8 games within a five day period as EIU plays at home again Saturday night (Jan. 31) vs. Northern Iowa and then goes to Valparaiso on Monday (Feb. 2).

The Panthers are 5-9 and have lost four in a row with the latest an 87-46 defeat at Southwest Missouri on Monday. Eastern is 0-3 in the AMCU-8.

Cleveland State is 14-2 and has won 11 straight after a win over Valparaiso Monday, and is 3-0 atop the league standings. The Vikings are best known for coming out of nowhere to advance to the final 16 in last year's NCAA tournament.

Going into the season, CSU was ranked in the top 15 in several national publications but as yet have not popped into either wire service poll.

"We have been stressing that we need to be mentally tough and that will certainly be a necessity against Cleveland State since it utilizes that 40 minute pressing defense," said Coach Rick Samuels.

\*\*\*\*\*GAME NOTES\*\*\*\*\*

TIPOFF: Eastern Illinois University (5-8, 0-2) hosts Cleveland State (14-2, 3-0) at 7:30, Thursday, Jan. 29, Lantz Gym, Charleston; EIU hosts Northern Iowa (6-10, 1-3), 7:30, Saturday, Jan. 31; EIU at Valparaiso (10-5, 2-2), Monday, Feb. 2.

RADIO: All the action can be heard live on Mattoon 50,000 watt WLBH-FM, 97 on the dial, with Marc Stuart and Mike Bradd describing the action.

SERIES: EIU trails Cleveland State, 7-4, and has lost five in a row last winning at EIU, 95-81, in 1984 . . . EIU leads Northern Iowa, 18-5, and has won six in a row . . . EIU leads Valparaiso, 9-4, and has won nine of the last 11 with the most recent an 85-65 win at the '85 AMCU-8 tournament.

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**VALPARAISO:** The Crusaders are one of the AMCU-8's surprise teams with a 10-5 record and 2-2 in the league .. Valpo was picked to finish 7th in the conference . . .they have won five of the last seven games and one of the losses was in overtime to Cleveland State. . .there are no seniors on the roster . . .JUNIOR HARRY BELL, working on a third letter, leads the team with 16.2 ppg, 7.9 rpg . . .SCOTT ANSELM is scoring 14.4, 51.9% from the field and 57.6% from 3-point range . . .DAVID MORGAN just fell out of double figures at 9.6 . . . Valpo's defense is among the league's best as they are NO. 1 in FG% defense allowing opponents just 43.4% and No. 3 in scoring defense at 66.8 . . .the Crusaders are going for their first winning season in ten years . . . they play at Southwest Missouri on Saturday (1/31).

**EASTERN ILLINOIS:** The Panthers are attempting to snap a four game losing streak and pick up their first AMCU-8 win. ..Monday's (1/26) loss at Southwest Missouri by 41 points (87-46) was the widest losing margin since Southern Illinois defeated EIU 109-58 in 1961 . . .bright spot is the improved play of TONY HEMPHILL (INDIANAPOLIS-PARK TUDOR) who has five straight games in double figures . . .JAY TAYLOR (AURORA-WEST), who started at Southwest Missouri for the first time in five games, has been in double figures in six straight games he's played . . .he's No. 6 in AMCU scoring at 14.1 . . .HEMPHILL is No. 3 in FT shooting at 81.3% . . .EIU's .437 FG percentage is last in the league ..the Panthers still hold a 38-34 p/game rebounding edge despite SWMO's 34-17 dominance in that department on Monday . . .MIKE WEST (WARRENSBURG-LATHAM) is No. 7 in the conference with 6.4 rpg.

**COACH RICK SAMUELS SEZ:** "Even though we lost the two road games we didn't look as lethargic as we did against Illinois-Chicago . . .but it will be a real battle for us, not only against Cleveland State but against ourselves, because we're playing with the idea that we haven't been able to execute offensively . . .HEMPHILL been's playing hard for us and I thought he did a respectable job defensively on (Winston) Garland at Southwest . . .although we've done a decent job rebounding, Southwest really dominated us . . . we need to get that edge back on the boards, also . . .I think Saturday's opponent, Northern Iowa, is a rapidly improving team but won't have the kind of experience that we've seen lately. . . I also doubt if they will be able to maintain the type of pressure that we've come up against . . . but we need to continue to put a premium on executing."