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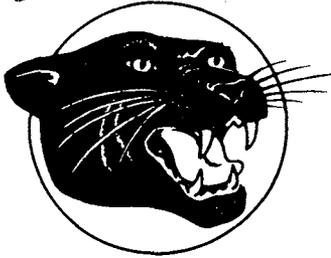
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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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LS-AS-General

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University will honor ten of its greatest athletes, coaches and area citizens by inducting them into a newly formed EIU athletic Hall of Fame early this fall.

Two of the ten will be honored posthumously, Charles Lantz and Glen Hesler. The remaining eight charter members are John Craft, Jim Johnson, Tom Katsimpalis, Ike Kennard, Pat O'Brien, Marty Pattin, Ray Suddarth and Walt Warmoth.

Selected by an EI Lettermen's Club committee, they will be honored at the Panthers 1982 opening football game on Saturday, September 4.

A brunch will be held that morning where they will be officially cited for their accomplishments, and then introduced during halftime ceremonies at the EIU-Illinois State game that afternoon.

"The committee did an excellent job in honoring these ten charter members. They picked athletes and coaches from all eras and also cited friends of the university whose contributions exemplified the traditional community support for EIU athletics," said Athletic Director R. C. Johnson.

"As we move into a new era of Division I athletics, it's time we honored those people who contributed greatly to the successful tradition established during this century. This will be an annual event, conducted by the lettermen's organization, with ceremonies taking place at the first home football game each fall," Johnson explained.

Selected as 'friends' of the university are Hesler, Kennard and Warmoth. Hesler, a former top executive with Quaker Oats, in 1973 was one of five initial designees for a Distinguished Alumni Award, and was a prime mover in the establishment and success of the Panther Club fund raising organization. He also was a two year letterman in football and track during the 1923-24 seasons.

Kennard and Warmoth, both leading businessmen in the immediate campus vicinity, have provided personal and financial support for EIU athletics for over three decades.

Craft, Johnson, Katsimpalis, Pattin and Suddarth were cited for their athletic accomplishments. Craft, currently EIU women's track and cross country coach, formerly held a national record in the triple jump and placed 5th in the 1972 Munich Olympics.

Johnson, now an EIU dean in student personnel services, was a starter for the Panthers famed 1951-52 basketball team that was undefeated in the regular season and finished 24-2. He also is a former sprint record holder in track.

Katsimpalis, EIU athletic director from 1959-74, is now an instructor in the physical education department. He was an All-American basketball player and center on that '51-52 team, and once held single season and career scoring records.

Pattin, who just finished his first season as head baseball coach at the University of Kansas, won over 100 games pitching for five American League teams over 13 years. He played in both a World Series and All-Star game. During the early 1960s he was an All-American for the Panthers, once leading the nation in strikeouts.

Suddarth, a retired Fairfield businessman, earned letters in four sports for the Panthers of the late 1930s, excelling in football and basketball.

Lantz and O'Brien served Eastern as members of the coaching staff. Lantz, the university's first athletic director, held that post from 1911-52. He coached football, baseball and basketball from 1911-35 when he relinquished the football and basketball duties.

O'Brien, who joined the faculty shortly after World War II, coached football, track and cross country plus serving a period as head of the physical education department during his 27 year tenure. His 1968-69 cross country squads and 1974 track team won national championships.