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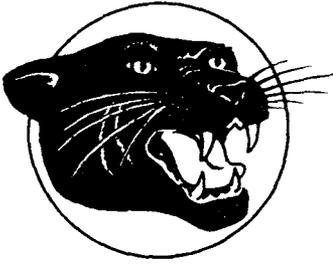
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Panther Sports News

Aug. 12, 1982
LS-AS-FB STATE

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DEFENSIVE LINE
(SECOND IN A SERIES)

CHARLESTON, IL--All-American Keith Wojnowski (St. Anne-Kankakee Bishop McNamara) keeps alive a growing tradition of outstanding Eastern Illinois University defensive linemen.

In the mid-1970s defensive tackles Wayne Ramsey and Alex Russell earned All-American honors followed by the outstanding duo of Pete Catan and Randy Melvin, key figures in the championship seasons of the late '70s.

Now Wojnowski, a 6-2, 230 senior AP Honorable Mention choice and first team all-conference selection, is a dominant force in the EIU defensive scheme.

'Wojjo' may not have Catan's QB sacks nor Melvin's record number tackles but this has not deterred new defensive coordinator and line coach Cal Jones from describing Keith as "the greatest player I've worked with."

That is quite a statement since Jones has been affiliated with several 'big-time' programs such as Minnesota and Florida State.

"Keith has great quickness, agility, work habits and is strong on technique . . . only thing he lacks is weight and could be a bit stronger."

Last year Wojnowski started at left tackle but this fall will move back outside where he started as a sophomore on the 1980 NCAA runner-up team.

In 1981 he had 75 tackles including a quarterback sack, nine tackles for loss and a fumble recovery. His sophomore season he had 35 tackles and six QB sacks.

At the other end will be Randy Harms (Wildwood-Gurnee Warren), a 6-2, 205 junior, who started several games last fall although hampered by injuries.

"Randy lines up for every down," says Jones. "He's kinda small for the position but a fierce competitor."

Three people, Greg Duncan (Miami, FL-Killian), Woody Shaw (East St. Louis-Senior/Illinois Valley) and JC transfer Chris Nicholson (Waukegan-East/DuPage CC), are competing for the three inside spots.

Duncan, a 6-1, 210 junior, started all but one game last year shuttling between left end and right tackle. "Greg has good quickness but needs to work on conditioning," Jones said.

Shaw, 6-0, 220 senior, also started several games early and originally was slated to move to middle linebacker where he worked all spring. However, latest plans call for him to remain up front.

"Woody's a very strong player and with some work on technique can be a good front liner for us."

Nicholson, 6-0, 260 junior, who transferred last spring from DuPage CC, also was shifted to the defensive front after playing on the offensive line most of his career.

"Chris was a pleasant surprise this spring because he's at a completely new position. He has great leverage but needs to work on technique," Jones said.

"Overall, I think we'll be tough inside and, of course, Wojo is our leader . . . not only on the line but the defense as a total. Again, we are faced with not much size or strength so we'll be emphasizing our quickness."

Top backups are sophomore Frank Walsh (Chicago-Brother Rice), senior Dick Essman (Streator-Illinois Valley CC), senior Mike Angland (Westchester-Proviso West/Triton JC) and junior Greg Coopwood (Gary, IN-Calumet).

Walsh has the most experience after starting one game and appearing in several others so is likely to be one of the first off the bench.