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Panther Sports News

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

LS-AS

BB-BB OPP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Feb. 10)

CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University's basketball Panthers will play two AMCU-8 first division teams as they attempt to move in the league standings.

The Panthers will travel to Cleveland State on Saturday (Feb. 14) and then return home to host Wisconsin-Green Bay on Monday (Feb. 16). Game time at Cleveland is 7 p.m. CST and 7:30 p.m. for the UWGB contest at Lantz Gym.

EIU, which snapped an eight game losing streak this past Saturday in a 76-68 win over Western Illinois, is 6-14 overall following an 83-78 loss at Illinois-Chicago Monday. The Panthers are 1-7 and tied with WIU for last in the league.

Cleveland State is in third place in the conference with a 5-3 mark and 16-5 overall. The Vikings downed Western Illinois on Monday night.

Wisconsin-Green Bay is in fourth place with a 5-4 AMCU-8 mark and 10-10 overall.

*****GAME NOTES*****

TIPOFF: Eastern Illinois University (6-14, 1-7) at Cleveland State (16-5, 5-3), 7:00 p.m. CST, Saturday, Feb. 14, Cleveland, OH; EIU hosts Wisconsin-Green Bay (5-4, 10-10), 7:30 CST, Monday, Feb. 16, Lantz Gym, Charleston.

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 six in a row including a 69-52 game at Lantz Gym on January 29 .. EIU leads UWGB, 9-8, but also lost earlier this year at Green Bay, 64-57.

COACHES: EIU's RICK SAMUELS, in his seventh year, has a 103-92 overall record with five of six years above .500 .. he is 2-6 vs. CSU, 7-2 vs. UWGB .. CSU's KEVIN MACKEY, in his 4th year, is 80-33 overall, same at CSU, and 6-2 vs. EIU .. UWGB's DICK BENNETT, in his second year there, is 189-112 overall, 15-33 at UWGB, and 1-2 vs. the Panthers.

more

TENTATIVE STARTERS:

No.	Name	Ht.	Yr.	PPG		No.	Name	Ht.	Yr.	PPG	
12	Cass White	6-4	Fr.	4.1	F	21	Ken Robertson	6-0	Fr.	4.0	
30	Dave Vance	6-6	So.	6.6	F	44	Clinton Ransey	6-5	Sr.	16.6	
44	Vince Macciocchi	6-7	So.	3.9	C	00	Warren Bradley	6-8	So.	6.6	
20	Norm Evans	6-0	Jr.	10.2	G	10	Ken McFadden	6-1	So.	20.7	
14	Tony Hemphill	6-5	Jr.	11.5	G	5	Ed Bryant	5-10	Sr.	6.4	
<u>UWGB</u>											
	F	24	Richard Sims	6-3	Jr.	14.4					
	F	34	Steve Cottrell	6-5	Sr.	7.2					
	C	44	Adrian Bolding	6-3	So.	4.7					
	G	12	Frank Nardi	6-1	Jr.	8.7					
	G	30	Michael Connor	6-2	Jr.	9.5					

CLEVELAND STATE: The Vikings snapped a three game losing streak with a win over Western Illinois on Monday night . . . prior to that CSU had lost league games to Illinois-Chicago, Wisconsin-Green Bay and Northern Iowa . . . Coach KEVIN MACKEY made a lineup change inserting freshman KEN ROBERTSON, only 6-0, at forward and he responded with 11 points vs. Western Illinois . . . KEN MCFADDEN is still No. 2 in the conference scoring race at 20.7 . . . the other player in double figures is CLINTON RANSEY at 16.6 . . . the Vikings are averaging 81.3 ppg while allowing 77.8 . . . CSU's pressing defense has forced opponents into committing 26 turnovers p/game while the Vikings average 14 steals.

WISCONSIN-GREEN BAY: The Phoenix rate as the league's most improved team . . . after finishing last year at 3-11 in the AMCU-8 and 8-19 overall, they are now in 4th place with a 5-4 record and 10-10 overall including five wins in the last seven games . . . they play at Northern Illinois on 2/12 prior to EIU game . . . RICHARD SIMS scored 31 vs. Cleveland State, second most scored by a UWGB player in Division I play . . . he also has over 1150 points, most ever for a UWGB Division I player. . . he's also seventh on the all-time Phoenix scoring list . . . FRANK NARDI topped 120 career steals, most in school history as a Division I program . . . UWGB is allowing only 56.5 ppg, No. 2 in NCAA . . . however, they also are only averaging 58 points a game.

EASTERN ILLINOIS: The Panthers, who had not scored over 70 points for seven straight games, got their offense going a bit when they hit 76 in the win over Western Illinois and 78 in the loss at Illinois-Chicago.. . JAY TAYLOR has come off the bench to get 43 points in the last two games while TONY HEMPHILL has added 35 to spark the offense . . . he had his best game of the year at Illinois-Chicago with 24 points, eight rebounds, eight assists and six steals . . . MIKE WEST, who missed three games with a bad back, has returned to the team and played a few minutes at St. Louis University . . . VINCE MACCIOCCHI has started the last two games so every player but DON PEAHEY has started at least one game.

COACH RICK SAMUELS SEZ: "We have been more competitive in the league games . . . I'm encouraged that the players have not given up . . . that they do want to finish as strong as possible and play the role of spoiler against some of the teams competing for the conference title . . . day in, day out NORM EVANS is still probably our most consistent player but TONY HEMPHILL has played pretty well lately . . . that was the best all-around effort of the year at Illinois-Chicago . . . we'll still probably juggle the starting lineup by going with the players we determine are the most mentally prepared to give us a total effort."