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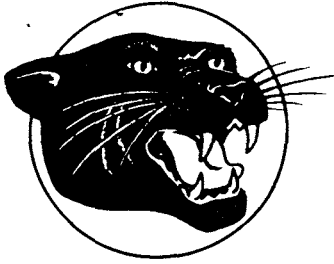
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Panther Sports News

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Aug. 20, 1982
LS-AS-Hometowns

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University soccer All-Americans Damien Kelly (Dublin, Ireland) and Agyeman Prempeh (Kumasi, Ghana) will lead seven returning starters into the '82 season as the Panthers seek to duplicate their amazing '81 campaign.

The Panthers open the season with the annual Miklovic Alumni Game as 3 p.m. Saturday (August 28) at Lakeside Field. The regular season commences with a home contest against Wisconsin-Milwaukee at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 5.

No longer carrying the 'Cinderella' title, the Panthers shocked the collegiate world by finishing 3rd in the nation with a 19-2-2 record in their first year of NCAA Division I competition.

The tandem of Kelly and Prempeh, both just juniors and First Team All-Americans, will form the nucleus for another run at national honors. EIU was the only school in the nation with two First Team All-American selections by the national coaches association.

Kelly, a forward who has been a First Team All-American two years, scored a school record 21 goals last fall, has 34 for his career and is within easy striking distance of Tony Durante's 10-year-old career record 48.

"Damien is one of the best strikers in the nation plus he works extremely hard to get open rather than wait for the play to come to him," says Coach Schellas Hyndman, who gathered several 'coach of the year' honors.

He scored in each of EIU's first 11 games last season, chipped in with six season assists and was named the Offensive 'MVP' in two regular season tournaments.

Prempeh, a mid-fielder and maybe the most naturally talented athlete on the team, may see some front line action in order to take advantage of his scoring skills.

"Agyeman is the heart of the team because he makes things happen," says Hyndman. "He probably is the most marked man on the team . . . many opposing players and coaches consider him one of the best in the country."

Prempeh was third in scoring last fall with eight goals and eight assists prompting Hyndman's comment that "last year he set up a lot of people . . . this year we'd like him to look to score more."

Goalie Eric Hartman (Palatine-Fremd), also just a junior, figures to draw national attention this fall after setting an EIU record 16 shutouts and allowing just eight goals, which is a team record.

"If he can reproduce this past season, we'll be back at nationals," Hyndman predicts. "For someone of his size (6-3), he can cover the low shot extremely well."

Also deserving considerable credit for the defensive exploits are centerback Albert Adade (Kumasi, Ghana) and fullback Randy DeRousse (Granite City-South).

Adade, who earned All-Mideast honors as a freshman, is a solid tackler who "definitely was one of the keys to our getting to nationals," Hyndman said. He was chosen Defensive 'MVP' in two regular season tournaments.

DeRousse, one of just two U.S. starters on the team, is labeled as "one of the most consistent players who also deserves a lot of credit for our shutout record."

George Hough (London, England), a tri-captain along with Kelly and Prempeh, is healthy again which means he will vie for a starting spot up front. "George is the only senior on the squad so his experience is a major factor . . . he's a self-motivated player and in turn that motivates his teammates."

Graham Whitehead (London, England), whose winning goal in overtime against SIU-Edwardsville in the NCAA regional pushed EIU closer to nationals, and Guy Callipari (London, Canada), both sophomores, also return as front line starters.

Aldo Esposito (Edmonton, Canada) should more than adequately fill a mid-field spot vacated by Vicente DiBella's graduation. Esposito contributed four goals and two assists last season but "will concentrate more on mid-field and defense this fall," Hyndman said.