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08/24/1983 - First Football Game Approaches

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Panther Sports News

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Aug. 24, 1983
LS-AS-FB STATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Two-a-days are completed and Eastern Illinois University's football team closes in on game week for its opener against Illinois State.

The Panthers will play at ISU on Saturday, Sept. 3, so have about ten sessions left to develop the game plan.

"Right now I'm pleased with both the offense and defense but here at the end of double sessions the injuries are starting to nick us," said coach Al Molde.

"Nothing serious . . . just the nuisance type of thing that comes from the dog days of practice. Rest a few guys for a bit and we'll be OK next week."

Molde says who will start at quarterback is "still somewhat unclear. The gap between Gary Scott (who came in No. 1), John Rafferty and Sean Payton has narrowed so any one of those three could start, and I suspect more than one will play in the opener."

The rest of the offensive starters is unchanged except junior Jim Schmidt (DeKalb) has moved ahead of Roger Holoman (Alton) at flanker.

"Teddy Coopwood (Gary, IN-Calumet) is still the No. 1 center but Del Pittman (Valparaiso, IN) has moved into the backup role and there's some doubt as to who will start there," Molde said.

"Bernard Holland (Olympia Fields-Thornwood) looked real good at halfback in our scrimmage last Saturday. He's a natural . . . almost a duplicate of (Kevin) Staple in that he can run through tacklers and get that tough yardage."

Frank Walsh (Chicago-Brother Rice), who sat out last year, has stepped ahead of Tom Moskal (Lake Zurich) at defensive end, moving All-American Greg Duncan (Miami, FL-Killian) back inside.

"This makes us more solid and gives us some depth with Walsh improving so much. And now Pete Schaub (Lisle-Benet) is coming back from an injury so our defensive line situation is better."

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EIU FOOTBALL
ADD 1

David Fergurson (Alton), who missed spring ball with a back injury, is healthy again and has established himself at inside linebacker with Tyrone Covington (Chicago-Morgan Park).

Sophomore Doyle Foster (Detroit-King) is listed ahead of veteran Charlie Person (Chicago-Dunbar) at cornerback.