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08/25/1982 - Receivers

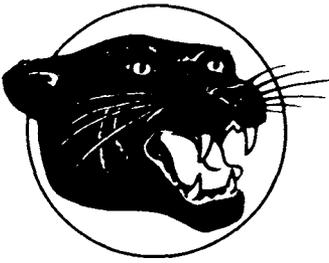
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Panther Sports News

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Receivers

(Last in a Series)

Aug. 25, 1982
LS-AS-FB STATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Tight end Dirk Androff (Decatur-Eisenhower) is the only receiver expected to play every down for Eastern Illinois University this fall.

The two wide receiver spots, split end and flanker, will be divided evenly among four people, Roger Holoman (Alton), Jerry Wright (Chicago-Collins), Jim Schmidt (DeKalb) and Pat Blair (Chicago-Vocational).

That's the assessment of the Panthers' offensive coaching staff. "You could fit all four wide outs under a hat in regards to ability," says receiver coach Chris Peterson, "so I don't anticipate we'll ever have sure starters at those spots."

Androff, though, has little competition at tight end where he caught 38 passes for 472 yards last fall. This season he has the spot all to himself after national record holder Rob Mehalic graduated.

Unfortunately Androff has been sidelined much of the fall with a shoulder injury although is expected back for the Illinois State opener on September 4.

"Dirk's blocking has improved but he still needs to work on agility," offensive coordinator Chuck Dickerson said prior to the start of fall drills. "At 6-6 he's a volatile weapon for us . . . also remember he is a converted quarterback so this is just his second year at tight end."

Holoman, an AP honorable mention All-American who was the only freshman to make the all-conference team, is also the only wide receiver with any experience. He caught 40 passes for 621 yards and eight touchdowns.

The other three, Wright, Schmidt and Blair, caught only eight balls total last fall.

Wright, also just a sophomore, made his presence known in the spring when he caught seven passes for 90 yards. He will alternate with Holoman at split end. "Jerry makes the big play and is as smooth as Roger," Peterson said.

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Schmidt, a sophomore, and Blair, a junior, will be the flankers. "Jim is the most consistent pass catcher we have and runs nice routes. He's only 5-10 but is physical for his size.

"Blair has excellent speed and now that he's been given a good opportunity has made the most of it," Peterson said.