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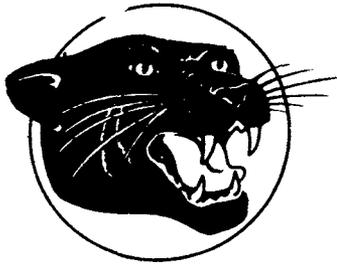
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Panther Sports News

June 20, 1984
LS-AS 65

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University will honor 11 of its greatest athletic personalities by inducting them into the EIU Hall of Fame early this fall.

This is the third group to be honored, and these 11 will join 16 previous inductees.

Those joining this exclusive club are ten former athletes and one coach. They are Roger Dettro, Pete Fenoglio, Harry Fitzhugh, Don Glover, Bill Healey, Neal Hudson, Charles McCord, Andy Meurlot, Jim Phipps, Harry Sockler and Ed Soergel.

Selected by an EIU Lettermen's Club committee, they will be inducted at the Panthers football home opener on Saturday, Sept. 15.

A brunch will be held that morning where they will be officially cited for their accomplishments, and then introduced during halftime ceremonies of the EIU-Northeast Missouri game that afternoon.

"The committee once again did an excellent job in selecting these former Panther greats. They are an elite group spanning several decades of Eastern athletics, and have contributed greatly to the success enjoyed by the University on its playing fields and arenas," said Athletic Director R. C. Johnson.

Dettro, currently a dentist and the mayor of Mattoon, was the starting guard for the Panther basketball team during one of its most successful eras in the early 1950s.

Fenoglio, of Tovey, IL, was an all-conference back for the 1928 undefeated conference football champs, and also lettered in basketball.

Fitzhugh, retired in LaJolla, CA, served as the Executive Secretary of the Illinois High School Association from 1968 until 1978. He coached, taught and was an administrator in the Franklin (IL) school district for 29 years, and lettered in baseball at EIU.

Glover, currently living in Tampa, FL, was a member of the Panthers basketball team from 1947-51, and team MVP in 1948 and 1950. He also lettered in baseball and cross country.

Healey was coach of the Panther cage team during one of its greatest eras from 1947-53. During this time he compiled a 136-41 record winning 76.8% of the games, best of any EIU basketball coach. Six of those teams advanced to the NAIB tournament with the 1951-52 team finishing 24-2, the best won-lost record in Panther history.

Hudson, currently residing in Wheaton, was one of the Panthers most outstanding post World War II athletes earning 11 letters in football, basketball and track. Twice he was team MVP and captain of the Panther basketball team.

McCord, a resident of Chillicothe, is the president of the Amateur Softball Association, the first person from central Illinois to head a national governing sports organization. He has been Illinois ASA State Commissioner for the past 32 years, and earned seven letters at EIU in baseball, basketball and track graduating in 1944.

Meurlot, of Decatur, was a basketball standout for the Panthers from 1926-29 captaining the team his final two years.

Phipps, retired in Lake Havasu, AZ, was a high school baseball coach for over 30 years directing Niles West to the state championship in 1972 and 1975. Phipps is a member of the Illinois Baseball Hall of Fame, was chosen as an EIU Distinguished Alumnus in 1976, and lettered for the Panthers in baseball from 1934-38.

Sockler, living in retirement in Robinson, gained his fame as one of the state's most successful prep football coaches at Western Illinois University's laboratory high school. He is a member of the Illinois Football Hall of Fame, and former EIU quarterback graduating in 1935.

Soergel, who is being honored posthumously, earned ten letters in football, basketball and baseball but gained most of his fame as a quarterback by setting most passing records (since broken) while here from 1948-52. He played for the Toronto Argonauts receiving All-Canada honors as a rookie defensive back. After earning first team All-Army honors during the Korean War, he turned down a contract offer by the Baltimore Colts to enter the coaching field. He died in December, 1975 in Yuma, AZ where he had coached and taught for 14 years.