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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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Aug. 30, 1983
LS-Hometowns

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Four returning lettermen, John Gassmann (Olney), Bob Beine (Downers Grove-North), Nick Whiteside (Mt. Vernon) and Aaron Shepley (Crystal Lake), will lead a large but young group of Eastern Illinois University cross country runners this fall.

Over 30 runners will join the squad that attempts to move up a notch in the Mid-Continent championship after finishing second to Northern Iowa by one point in '82.

The Panthers will assess their chances better after hosting the annual Panther Open at 5 p.m. Saturday (Sept 3) south of Lantz Gym. The regular season begins with a dual meet at Southeast Missouri on Saturday, Sept. 10.

Gassmann and Beine are the most experienced, each earning two letters. Gassmann was the conference's track champ in the 5000 run last spring and finished second in the 3000 steeplechase. This summer he won the Panther Pant eight mile road race, abbreviated from its usual 12 mile distance due to the excessive heat.

Beine was consistently among EIU's top five last year with his best effort an eighth place finish in the league meet. Whiteside was redshirted last fall after a separated shoulder sidelined him. He lettered two years ago earning all-conference honors with a seventh place finish.

Shepley, a junior, earned his first letter last fall running in all but two races. Juniors Scott Tracy (Downers Grove-North) and Mike Erney (Collinsville) along with sophomores Dan Newman (Elmhurst-York) and Rex Armstrong (Elmhurst-York) figure to crack the top seven. Each ran in at least one varsity meet in '82.

Paul West (Country Club Hills-Hillcrest) and Drew Geisler (Granite City-South), the best milers on the track team, will be joining the distance running group.

An excellent recruiting season was topped by the signing of two Juco standouts, Bruce DeRuntz (Granite City-North) of Spoon River and Scott Pillsbury (Petersburg-Porta) of Lincoln Land. This duo finished one-two in the regional qualifying meet while DeRuntz is also a two-time All-American.

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Incoming freshmen recruits include Jim Barsella, Jeff Fitt, Steve Knapke, Tom Kukowski, Mike Samuel, Ted Thompson and Mike Madix.

1983 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3 (Sat.)	PANTHER OPEN	5 p.m.
Sept. 10 (Sat.)	at Southeast Missouri, Ball State, Arkansas State, ISU-Evansville	2 p.m.
Sept. 16 (Fri.)	PURDUE	4 p.m.
Sept. 24 (Sat.)	Mid-American Championship at Kenosha, WI	Noon
Oct. 1 (Sat.)	at Illinois Invitational	TBA
Oct. 7 (Fri.)	at Notre Dame Invitational	4 p.m.
Oct. 15 (Sat.)	Illinois Intercollegiate at Edwardsville	11 a.m.
Oct. 29 (Sat.)	Mid-Continent Championship at Cedar Falls, IA	11 a.m.
Nov. 5 (Sat.)	INDIANA STATE - EVANSVILLE	11 a.m.
Nov. 12 (Sat.)	NCAA District IV Qualification at Champaign	11 a.m.

1983 CROSS COUNTRY ROSTER

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YR.</u>	<u>HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL/JC)</u>
Rex Armstrong	So.	Elmhurst (York)
Jim Barsella	Fr.	Chicago (Gordon Tech)
Bob Beine **	Sr.	Downers Grove (North)
Paul Beranek	So.	Hoffman Estates (Conant)
Kevin Bohne	Fr.	Manteno
Ron Bonfiglio	Jr.	Glenwood (Homewood-Flossmoor)
Bruce DeRuntz	Jr.	Granite City (North/Spoon River CC)
Pete Dowling	So.	Hanover Park (Hoffman Estates)
Joe Eilerman	Jr.	Highland (St. Paul)
Mike Erney	Jr.	Collinsville
Andy Franklin	Fr.	Villa Park (Willowbrook)
Jeff Fredrickson	Jr.	Bensenville (Oak Park-River Forest)
Jeff Fitt	Fr.	Tinley Park (Andrews)
Jerry Fitzpatrick	Fr.	Charleston
John Gassmann **	Sr.	Olney
Drew Geisler	Jr.	Granite City (South)
Mark Goers	Fr.	Chicago Heights (Bloom)
Mike Hoehne	So.	Hillside (Proviso West)
Steve Knapke	Fr.	Northbrook (Glenbrook North)
Tom Kukowski	Fr.	Lockport
Mike Madix	Fr.	Decatur (Eisenhower)
Matt McClure	Jr.	Paxton (Parkland CC)
Mitch McClure	Jr.	Paxton (Parkland CC)
Dan Newman	So.	Elmhurst (York)
Bill Owens	Sr.	Springfield (Griffin)
Scott Pillsbury	Jr.	Petersburg (P.-Porta/Lincoln Land CC)
Mike Samuel	Fr.	Oswego
Aaron Shepley *	Jr.	Crystal Lake
Bill Skowronnek	Fr.	Streamwood
Craig Stockman	So.	Paxton
Ed Thompson	Fr.	Northbrook (Glenbrook North)
Scott Tracy	Jr.	Downers Grove (North)
Nick Whiteside *	Sr.	Mt. Vernon
Greg Wilson	So.	Terre Haute, IN (West Vigo)
Paul West	Sr.	Country Club Hills (Hillcrest)

* Lettermen