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10/04/1983 - Football Goes For Fourth Consecutive Win

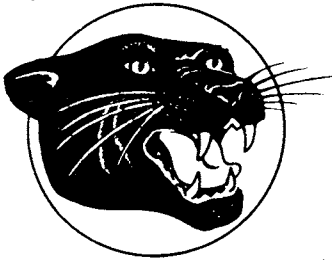
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Panther Sports News

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Oct. 4, 1983
LS-AS-FB STATE
-FB OPP 232

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's football Panthers go for their fourth consecutive win Saturday (Oct. 8) playing their second straight Ohio Valley Conference opponent, the University of Akron.

Game time is 6:30 CDT at Akron's Rubber Bowl. It's the third time the Panthers will play on artificial turf and second night game of the season.

EIU is 4-1 having disposed of Grand Valley State (35-21), Northeast Missouri (42-0) and Youngstown State (21-20) the past three weeks.

Akron, which popped into the national rankings with three straight season opening wins over Kent State (13-16), Eastern Michigan (13-0) and Western Kentucky (14-13), have lost two straight.

Those two were both OVC games, 10-5 to defending national champ Eastern Kentucky and 26-3 to Middle Tennessee State.

EIU quarterback John Rafferty (Mt. Carmel) is coming off his first 300 yard passing day as he completed 21 of 36 for 307 and three touchdowns.

Wide receiver Jerry Wright (Chicago-Collins), who caught only five passes in the first three games, now has 20 in the last two for 318 yards. Altogether Wright has caught 25 for 429 yards.

"Rafferty is simply becoming better and better each game," said coach Al Molde. "He's more poised, hangs tough in the pocket and can recover and think on his feet when adjustments are needed on the field."

Defensively the Panthers will likely be without their leading tackler, linebacker Tyrone Covington (Chicago-Morgan Park), who sustained a severe arm injury.

"Covington's loss is a severe blow because we're already hobbled so much on defense. I know it's frustrating for Cal Jones (defensive coordinator) because besides developing a game plan it seems each week he has to fill holes and shift people to get the best 11 on the field."

-more-

THE GAME: Eastern Illinois University (4-1) at University of Akron (3-2), Saturday, October 8, 6:30 CDT, 34,000 seat Rubber Bowl, Akron.

RADIO: All the action can be heard beginning at 6:15 with the Al Molde show on 50,000 watt WLBH-FM, 97 on the dial, with Ken Wooddell calling the play-by-play and Doug Bock providing commentary.

THE SERIES: Akron leads this brief series, 2-1, winning 17-16 in 1978 and 27-16 in 1979, however EIU won 18-0 last year.

COACHES RECORD: EIU's Al Molde, in his first year at Eastern, is 78-43-6 overall. He's had nine winning seasons and three NCAA playoff teams in 12 years as head coach at Central Missouri State, Minnesota-Morris and Sioux Falls College. He is 15th on the list of winningest coaches among active I-AA coaches.

UA's Jim Dennison, in his 11th year at Akron, is 63-50-2. He is the second winningest coach in Akron history and last year was chosen the Co-Coach of the Year in the Ohio Valley Conference after the Zips second place finish.

LAST YEAR: Before a Homecoming crowd of 10,631, fourth largest ever, the Panthers held Akron to 53 yards rushing and recorded their second shutout of the season. Greg Duncan, earning conference 'player of the week' honors, had nine tackles including five quarterback sacks, two tackles for loss and a fumble recovery. Jeff Christensen threw TD passes of three yards to Dirk Androff and 58 to Jerry Wright. Kevin Staple and Wes Nixon rushed for 65 and 64 yards, respectively.

LAST WEEK: Behind John Rafferty's 307 yards passing the Panthers edged Youngstown State 21-20 holding off the Penguins who scored with 17 seconds left and went for the two point conversion which failed. Rafferty threw three TD passes of 59 yards to Jerry Wright, 54 to Jim Schmidt and 27 to Dirk Androff.

ABOUT EIU: The Panthers allowed 441 yards total offense Saturday of which 211 was rushing. In both instances Youngstown State was the team that previously topped those figures. In 1977 the Penguins had 535 yards total offense in a 52-22 rout, and rushed for 351 yards in a 48-16 victory in 1981. John Rafferty's improvement at QB is particularly evident the past two weeks as he completed 35 of 61 passes with just two interceptions for 517 yards and six touchdowns. Kevin Staple is within striking distance of 3000 yards rushing. He now has 2805, and topped 600 carries with 602, just two shy of Mark Stettner's 604 which is No. 2 on the all-time list. The Panthers are currently averaging 381.4 yards total offense, which is the best pace since the 1978 NCAA II championship team averaged 425. EIU has no favorite quarter in which to score spreading the points out almost evenly, 31, 40, 38, 41.

ABOUT AKRON: The Zips will be without starting quarterback Ken Banks who was injured in last week's 26-3 loss to Middle Tennessee State. Replacing him will be Steve Stams, a 5-11, 165, freshman, who played the latter part of the loss last week completing three of 15 passes and two interceptions for 45 yards. Banks had taken every snap at center up until his injury. Also out is Akron's leading tackler, Ed Grimsley, who suffered a broken elbow last week. Akron is primarily a rushing team led by James Black who is averaging 101 yards a game. Last year, earning all-conference honors, he rushed for 132 per game. His counterpart is senior James Reynolds who has gained 43.4 per contest. However Akron has not scored a touchdown in the last ten quarters. With Grimsley sidelined, Jeff Lake is now the leading tackler with 74.

MOLDE ON EIU: "We've taken what the defense will give us the past two weeks and consequently the passing game has clicked. (John) Rafferty has gained much more confidence in his ability to move the team through the air and both he and the receivers are much more comfortable with each other. Akron's defense is probably the best we've faced since the Southern game . . . they're only giving up ten or eleven points a game and less than 300 yards in total offense so we'll have to work for every yard. We've had some success with big plays the past few games, and hopefully that will continue. The defense has been beset with injuries which makes it difficult to develop a game plan and, at the same time, fill holes and shift people to get your best on the field. However, each week the defense has come up with the big play when needed . . . our turnover margin is about 2-1 in our favor."

MOLDE ON AKRON: "Even though they've lost their quarterback, they have relied primarily on the rush particularly with a talented player like (James) Black . . . if they can get the ball in his hands enough times he's going to cause anyone trouble . . . since our defense is beat up we need to control the football and give these guys some rest . . . even though we scored on some big plays we also had some success sustaining a couple drives against Youngstown and would like to repeat that. Akron's defense is similar to Youngstown so we've had a couple weeks to work against something that is familiar. However we also are playing a night game on artificial . . . even though we've been on it two or three times this year it's not like practicing on it on a daily basis."

MID-CONTINENT STANDINGS:	MCC			OVERALL		
	W	L	Points	W	L	Points
Southwest Missouri	2	0	56-22	4	0	132-34
Eastern Illinois	0	0	-	4	1	150-65
Northern Iowa	1	1	45-61	2	3	88-149
Western Illinois	0	2	35-53	1	4	86-147

OPPONENTS THIS WEEK: Illinois State (3-2) at West Texas State
 Southern Illinois (5-0) hosts Drake
 Grand Valley State (1-3) hosts Ferris State
 Northeast Missouri (1-4) at Southeast Missouri
 Youngstown State (2-2) hosts Western Kentucky (0-4)
 Northern Iowa (2-3) hosts Wisconsin-LaCrosse
 Western Illinois (1-4) at Central Missouri
 Indiana State (3-2) hosts Ball State
 Southwest Missouri (4-0) at Murray State

EIU STARTERS: OFFENSE

SE 9 Jerry Wright (5-11, 170, Jr.) *
 LT 70 Brad Mars (6-3, 310, Jr.) **
 LG 50 Kent Lawrence (6-1, 240, Sr.) ***
 C 68 Teddy Coopwood (5-11, 220, Sr.) *
 RG 79 Mike Kuhn (6-1, 240, Jr.) **
 RT 65 Alvin McMurray (6-2, 260, Sr.) ***
 TE 82 Dirk Androff (6-7, 240, Sr.) ***
 QB 10 John Rafferty (6-2, 185, So.)
 HB 8 Kevin Staple (5-8, 180, Sr.) ***
 FB 3 Wes Nixon (5-7, 170, Sr.) *
 FL 81 Jim Schmidt (5-10, 170, Jr.) *

DEFENSE

LE 66 Greg Duncan (6-1, 205, Sr.) **
 LT 71 Dean Magro (6-0, 235, Fr.)
 RT 76 Chris Nicholson (6-0, 240, Sr.) *
 RE 85 Tom Moskal (6-1, 220, So.)
 SSB 55 Ortega Jackson (6-0, 200, Sr.) **
 ILB 59 Dave Ferguson (6-2, 220, Jr.) **
 WLB 5 Reggie Taylor (5-11, 195, Sr.) *
 LCB 12 Doyle Foster (5-9, 155, So.)
 RCB 42 Gary Bridges (5-11, 180, Sr.) *
 FS 28 Robert Williams (5-11, 190, Sr.) **
 SS 26 Dan Fallon (5-10, 180, Jr.) *

EIU FOOTBALL

ADD 3

PUNTER: 1 Henry Castellanos (5-11, 180, Jr.), 2 Pat Blair (5-9, 185, Sr.)
KICKER: 36 Hector Techera (5-11, 190, Jr.), 25 Dave Strauch (5-9, 185, Jr.)
RETURNS: 42 Gary Bridges (5-11, 180, Sr.), 18 Charlie Person (5-8, 160, Sr.)
8 Kevin Staple (5-8, 180, Sr.)
HOLDER: 81 Jim Schmidt (5-10, 170, Jr.)
LONG SNAPPER: 54 Chuck Bingham (5-10, 220, So.)

* Lettermen on offense and defense

1985 EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL STATISTICS (4-1)

RUSHING	G	ATT	GAIN	LOST	NET	P/GAME	P/CARRY	TD	LONG
Kevin Staple	5	98	537	20	517	103.4	5.3	5	77 (GVS)
Wes Nixon	5	59	237	10	227	45.4	3.8	-	14 (ISU)
Tyrone Davis	5	14	96	-	96	19.2	6.8	-	18 (ISU, GVS)
Roy Ellis	3	11	107	-	107	26.7	9.7	-	22 (NEMO)
John Rafferty	5	26	25	104	-79	-	-	-	8 (YSU)
Sean Payton	2	3	11	-	11	5.5	3.7	1	10 (ISU)
Gary Scott	2	3	1	11	-10	-	-	1	1 (NEMO)
Calvin Pierce	2	1	4	-	4	4.0	4.0	-	4 (NEMO)
Team	-	1	-	16	-16	-	-	-	-
EIU TOTALS	5	216	1018	161	857	171.4	4.0	7	77 (GVS)
OPPONENTS	5	192	706	258	448	89.6	2.3	5	35 (ISU)

PASSING	G	CPL	ATT	INT	YDS	PCT	P/GAME	P/CPL	P/ATT	TD	LONG
John Rafferty	5	75	128	6	958	.586	191.6	12.8	7.5	10	59 (YSU)
Gary Scott	2	2	8	1	32	.250	16.0	16.0	4.0	-	5 (GVS)
Sean Payton	2	1	3	1	60	.333	30.0	60.0	20.0	1	60 (NEMO)
EIU TOTALS	5	78	139	8	1050	.561	210.0	13.5	7.6	11	60 (NEMO)
OPPONENTS	5	66	164	14	855	.402	171.0	12.9	5.2	3	44 (SIU)

PASS RECEIVING	G	REC	YDS	P/CATCH	P/GAME	TD	LONG	TEAM TOTALS	EIU	OPP
Jerry Wright	5	25	429	17.2	85.8	5	59 (YSU)	First Downs	89	75
Wes Nixon	5	14	86	6.1	17.2	3	16 (GVS)	by Rushing	41	26
Dirk Androff	5	7	128	18.3	25.6	1	44 (ISU)	by Passing	43	36
Kevin Staple	5	11	76	6.9	15.2	-	18 (NEMO)	by Penalty	5	13
Pat Blair	5	5	61	12.2	12.2	-	17 (YSU)	TOTAL OFFENSE	1907	1303
Roger Holoman	5	4	50	12.5	10.0	-	27 (NEMO)	per game	381.4	260.6
Roy Banks	1	1	60	60.0	60.0	1	60 (NEMO)	total plays	355	356
Jim Schmidt	5	8	144	18.0	28.8	1	54 (YSU)	yds. p/play	5.4	3.7
Tyrone Davis	4	2	11	5.5	2.7	-	8 (SIU)	PENALTIES/YDS	56/496	37/262
Roy Ellis	3	1	5	5.0	1.7	-	5 (GVS)	FUMBLES/LOST	7/4	16/10
EIU TOTALS	5	78	1050	13.5	210.0	11	60 (NEMO)			

PUNTING	G	NO	YDS	AVE	RET	NET		LONG	SCORE BY QUARTER				
						AVE	LONG		1	2	3	4	
Henry Castellanos	3	20	769	38.5	96	673	33.6	59 (ISU)	EIU	31	40	38	41-150
Pat Blair	4	8	298	37.2	37	261	32.6	51 (GVS)	OPP	7	13	17	28-65
Hector Techera	2	5	161	32.2	3	158	31.6	46 (NEMO)					
Team	-	1	0	-	-	-	-	-					
EIU TOTALS	5	34	1228	36.1	136	1092	32.1	59 (ISU)					
OPPONENTS	5	40	1535	38.4	174	1361	34.0	50 (SIU)					

RETURNS	G	KO	YDS	AVE	TD	LONG	PT	YDS	AVE	TD	LONG
Jerry Wright	5	4	49	12.2	-	18 (GVS)	-	-	-	-	-
Charlie Person	4	-	-	-	-	-	12	57	4.7	-	11 (SIU)
Wes Nixon	5	1	12	12.0	-	12 (SIU)	-	-	-	-	-
Gary Bridges	5	-	-	-	-	-	13	117	9.0	-	18 (NEMO)
Pat Blair	5	1	3	3.0	-	3 (GVS)	-	-	-	-	-
Calvin Pierce	2	1	5	5.0	-	5 (NEMO)	-	-	-	-	-
Kevin Staple	5	2	28	14.0	-	15 (YSU)	-	-	-	-	-
EIU TOTALS	5	9	97	10.8	-	18 (GVS)	25	174	7.0	-	18 (NEMO)
OPPONENTS	5	12	242	20.2	-	30 (NEMO)	22	151	6.9	-	21 (ISU)

SCORING	G	TD	PAT/K	PAT/R-P	FG	SAF	POINTS
Henry Castellanos	3	-	5-6	-	3-3	-	14
Wes Nixon	5	3	-	-	-	-	18
Kevin Staple	5	5	-	-	-	-	30
Dirk Androff	5	1	-	-	-	-	6
Sean Payton	2	1	-	-	-	-	6
Team Safety	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Team	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-
* Chris Nicholson	5	1	-	-	-	-	6
Jerry Wright	5	5	-	-	-	-	30
Roy Banks	1	1	-	-	-	-	6
Jim Schmidt	5	1	-	-	-	-	6
Hector Techera	3	-	14-14	-	0-4	-	14
Doyle Foster	4	1	-	-	-	-	6
Gary Scott	2	1	-	-	-	-	6
Dave Strauch	1	-	-	-	0-1	-	-
EIU TOTALS	5	20	19-20	-	3-9	1	150 (30.0 ppg)
** OPPONENTS	5	9	6-7	1-2	1-2	-	65 (13.0 ppg)

* Intercepted Fumble

** Includes blocked punt in end zone

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>AT</u>	<u>SACKS</u>	<u>TFL (yds)</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>FR</u>	<u>INT/YDS/TD</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>BLOCKS</u>		
										<u>PAT</u>	<u>PASS</u>	<u>PUNT</u>
Tyrone Covington	5	16	32	2½(-20)	2½ (-7)	-	-	1/4/0	-	-	1	-
Dave Fergurson	5	11	23	2½(-24)	½ (-1)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Reggie Taylor	5	19	16	2½(-22)	1 (-1)	-	-	1/6/0	-	1	-	-
Ortega Jackson	5	5	21	1 (-10)	-	-	1	1/5/0	-	-	1	-
Robert Williams	5	20	19	-	1 (-1)	-	1	4/105/0	-	-	1	-
Greg Duncan	5	10	15	3½(-28)	2 (-3)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Chris Nicholson	5	22	14	5½(-32)	3 (-7)	1	3	1/76/1 *	-	-	-	-
Elvin Carmichael	1	1	1	½(-10)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tom Moskal	4	7	14	½(-13)	1 (-2)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Frank Walsh	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dan Fallon	5	6	9	1(-6)	-	-	-	1/0/0	-	-	1	-
Gary Bridges	5	8	6	-	-	-	-	2/31/0	-	-	-	-
Doyle Foster	4	9	8	-	-	-	-	2/38/1	-	-	-	-
Brian Newby	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charlie Person	4	6	3	-	-	-	-	1/12/0	-	-	-	-
Dean Magro	5	7	5	2½(-20)	1 (-5)	1	1	-	-	-	2	-
Ira Thompson	5	4	3½	1(-15)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Robert DeVita	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greg Coopwood	5	1	7	1(-6)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jerry Jackson	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reggie Drew	3	2	2	-	-	-	-	1/2/0	-	-	-	-
Scott Roberts	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pete Schaub	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

* includes 76 yard intercepted fumble

KEY: T(tackles) AT(assisted tackles) SACKS(QB only) TFL(tackles for loss) FF(forced fumble) FR(fumble recoveries)

1983 RESULTS (3-1)

38 7 at Illinois State (6864)
 14 17 at Southern Illinois (12,800 est)
 35 21 Grand Valley State (6400 est)
 42 0 at Northeast Missouri (4000 est)
 21 20 Youngstown State (9400 est)