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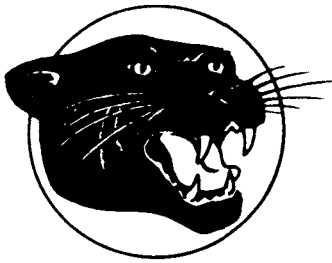
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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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Sept. 7, 1982

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's Panthers avenged one '81 loss with a 27-14 opening win over Illinois State.

They'd like that script to 'play again' as they seek revenge this Saturday (Sept. 11) against Northeast Missouri. Game time is 1:30 p.m. at EIU's O'Brien Stadium.

Last year the Bulldogs upset the Panthers 21-14 and appear more than capable of repeating that victory after downing perennial Division II power Nebraska-Omaha 33-14 in their opener last weekend.

EIU's win can be credited to a much improved ground attack, unusual in the Darrell Mudra era of pass-minded football. Halfbacks Kevin Staple (Markham-Thornwood) and Wes Nixon (Lorain, OH-Illinois Valley CC) combined for a school record 275 yards, most ever by two backs with each over 100 yards.

EIU offensive 'player of the week' was tackle Alvin McMurray who "graded out perfect except for a holding penalty. He had a great game . . . I couldn't find one flaw," said offensive coordinator Chuck Dickerson, who has devised the Panthers' strong Green Bay style sweep game.

The Panthers defense, which held ISU to 40 yards rushing but did allow 206 passing, was led by linebacker Reggie Taylor (Apopka, FL-Arizona Western CC), who had 14 tackles including 10 solos, two quarterback sacks and a tackle for loss.

Both NEMO and EIU can be expected to put the ball in the air more this weekend. NEMO's Tom Hayes threw 40 times for 240 yards and one TD last week.

His No. 1 target is junior All-American Rich Otte, who last year was second in the nation in catches per game with 68. He caught 12 for 136 last Saturday as NEMO played its best opening game since upsetting Northern Iowa at Cedar Falls in 1977.

EIU FOOTBALL
ADD 1

Defensive tackle Ligo Letuli, a 6-2 senior from Pago Pago in the American Samoa Islands, had 11 tackles with three QB sacks, a blocked pass, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery.

GAME NOTES

THE SERIES: It's tied at 5-5. The first meeting was 1952 with NEMO winning 27-19. The two teams have met every year since 1976 with EIU winning three straight before last year's 21-14 NEMO victory.

LAST YEAR: QB Bob Zumbahlen hit Greg Himmelman on an 18 yard TD pass with 5:11 remaining to give NEMO the 21-14 win. Place kicker Dave Austinson added seven points on two field goals of 38 and 40 yards and a PAT. EIU had just 54 yards rushing and turned the ball over five times. Jeff Christensen completed just 15 of 40 passes although did have 238 yards. NEMO only had 25 yards rushing.

LAST WEEK: Kevin Staple's 141 yards and Wes Nixon's 133 led the Panthers to a 27-14 win over Illinois State. EIU rolled up 477 yards total offense of which 314 came on the ground. Illinois State only had 40 yards rushing but accumulated 206 passing. The Panthers did intercept four passes, two by free safety Randy McCue.

Northeast Missouri knocked off Nebraska-Omaha 33-14 as Tom Hayes completed 20 of 40 passes for 230 yards. Rich Otte caught 12 for 136. NEMO was ahead 16-0 after three quarters, and held UNO to just 44 yards rushing. Kicker Dave Austinson set a school record and tied a league record with four field goals of 45 (twice), 40 and 32 yards. Defensive tackle Ligo Letuli had 11 tackles including three sacks, two forced fumbles, one blocked pass and one fumble recovery.

THE COACHES: Darrell Mudra, in his 21st collegiate season and fifth at EIU, is 147-64-2 overall and 37-14 at EIU. He is No. 3 in NCAA I-AA for active coaches with most victories.

NEMO'S Bruce Craddock, in his fourth year, all at Northeast, is 16-17.

STAPLE'S STATS: Halfback Kevin Staple will move into the top five among all-time EIU rushers this Saturday. He currently has 1417 career yards and needs just two more to surpass Dennis Bundy's (1966-68) 1418 figure. Ken Werner (1969-71) is No. 4 on the list with 1526 yards.

TWO OVER 100: Ironically, it's been just two years since the Panthers last had two runners over 100 yards following Saturday's Staple (141) and Nixon (133) show. Staple and Rod Slaughter had 116 and 100, respectively, in a 31-14 win over Illinois State in '80.

EIU FOOTBALL
ADD 2

TOP RUSHING GAMES: The following are the top rushing games in the Darrell Mudra Era:

378 in 39-21 win over Northern Michigan (1979) as Poke Cobb had 215
318 in 35-14 win over Murray State (1978) as Poke Cobb had 202
314 IN 27-14 WIN OVER ILLINOIS STATE (1982)
309 in 58-21 win over Wayne State (1979) as Poke Cobb had
174 and Lonnie Denton 101.
309 in 42-3 win over Butler (1978)
303 in 42-7 win over Illinois State (1978)

OFFENSIVE LINE: It's been well documented that EIU's offensive line averages 6-3, 260 but even when someone leaves due to injuries little is lost in regard to size. Last week Brad Mars (6-3, 305) and Kent Lawrence (6-1, 230) were sidelined but the replacements, Del Pittman (6-3, 280) and Mark Zwilling (6-2, 215), were more than adequate.

1982 EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL STATISTICS (1-0)

<u>RUSHING</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>ATT</u>	<u>GAIN</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>NET</u>	<u>P/GAME</u>	<u>P/CARRY</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>LONG</u>
Kevin Staple	1	24	150	9	141	141.0	5.9	1	20 (ISU)
Wes Nixon	1	22	136	3	133	133.0	6.0	1	31 (ISU)
Jeff Christensen	1	4	38	-	38	38.0	9.5	1	31 (ISU)
Tyrone Davis	1	1	2	-	2	2.0	2.0	-	2 (ISU)

EIU TOTALS	1	51	326	12	314	314.0	6.1	3	31 (ISU)
OPPONENTS	1	35	108	68	40	40.0	1.1	2	9 (ISU)

<u>PASSING</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>CPL</u>	<u>ATT</u>	<u>INT</u>	<u>YDS</u>	<u>PCT</u>	<u>P/GAME</u>	<u>P/CPL</u>	<u>P/ATT</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>LONG</u>
Jeff Christensen	1	10	23	3	163	.435	163.0	16.3	7.1	1	52 (ISU)

EIU TOTALS	1	10	23	3	163	.435	163.0	16.3	7.1	1	52 (ISU)
OPPONENTS	1	16	32	4	206	.500	206.0	12.9	6.4	-	45 (ISU)

<u>PASS RECEIVING</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>REC</u>	<u>YDS</u>	<u>P/CATCH</u>	<u>P/GAME</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>LONG</u>	<u>TEAM TOTALS</u>	<u>EIU</u>	<u>OPP</u>
Darryon White	1	3	103	34.3	103.0	1	52 (ISU)	First Downs	18	15
Kevin Staple	1	2	21	10.5	21.0	-	18 (ISU)	by rushing	14	4
Wes Nixon	1	2	19	9.5	19.0	-	12 (ISU)	by passing	4	11
Jim Schmidt	1	2	15	7.5	15.0	-	8 (ISU)	by penalty	0	0
Tyrone Davis	1	1	5	5.0	5.0	-	5 (ISU)	TOTAL OFFENSE	477	246
								per game	477.0	246.0
								total plays	74	67
								yds. p/play	6.4	3.7

<u>PUNTING</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>YDS</u>	<u>AVE</u>	<u>RET</u>	<u>NET</u>	<u>AVE</u>	<u>LONG</u>	<u>NET</u>
Don Manzke	1	6	239	39.8	23	216	36.0	50 (ISU)	
EIU TOTALS	1	6	239	39.8	23	216	36.0	50 (ISU)	
OPPONENTS	1	9	334	37.1	31	303	33.7	56 (ISU)	

PENALTIES/YDS. 6/61 7/48
FUMBLES/LOST 0/0 0/0

<u>RETURNS</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>KO</u>	<u>YDS</u>	<u>AVE</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>LONG</u>	<u>PT</u>	<u>YDS</u>	<u>AVE</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>LONG</u>
Wes Nixon	1	2	54	27.0	-	33 (ISU)	-	-	-	-	-
Darryon White	1	1	16	16.0	-	16 (ISU)	-	-	-	-	-
Randy McCue	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Gary Bridges	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	21	7.0	-	13 (ISU)
Chris Nicholson	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	10.0	-	10 (ISU)

EIU TOTALS	1	3	70	23.3	-	33 (ISU)	5	31	6.2	-	13 (ISU)
OPPONENTS	1	5	99	19.8	-	28 (ISU)	3	23	7.7	-	12 (ISU)

<u>SCORING</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>PAT/K</u>	<u>PAT/R-P</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>SAF</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
Kevin Staple	1	1	-	-	-	-	6
Wes Nixon	1	1	-	-	-	-	6
Darryon White	1	1	-	-	-	-	6
Dave Strauch	1	-	3-4	-	0-1	-	3
Jeff Christensen	1	1	-	-	-	-	6
EIU TOTALS	1	4	3-4	-	0-1	-	27
OPPONENTS	1	2	2-2	-	-	-	14

1982 RESULTS (1-0)

27 14 ILLINOIS STATE (8200)
 Sept. 11 NORTHEAST MISSOURI
 Sept. 18 WAYNE STATE
 Sept. 25 at Northern Iowa *
 Oct. 2 at Youngstown State
 Oct. 9 AKRON (Homecoming)
 Oct. 16 at Indiana State
 Oct. 23 at Western Illinois *
 Oct. 30 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
 Nov. 6 at Southwest Missouri *
 Nov. 13 KENTUCKY STATE

* Mid-Continent Conference