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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY - Charleston, IL 61920
217/581-5981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (April 8, 1987)

LS-AS-Basket.
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CHARLESTON, IL.--BARRY JOHNSON OF NORMAL UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL has signed a national letter of intent to play college basketball at Eastern Illinois University, head coach RICK SAMUELS announced.

JOHNSON is a 6-6 forward who led U High to a 19-6 record and the Cornbelt Conference Championship.

He was both an Associated Press and United Press International Class A First Team All-Stater, a Chicago Sun-Times and Illinois Basketball Coaches Association All-Stater and Cornbelt Conference 'Player of the Year'.

A two year starter for Coach Chuck Gault, JOHNSON averaged 20 points/13.2 rebounds as a senior. He will also play for the Class A North Team in the IBCA summer all-star game.

"Barry was in our summer camp last year and we liked his skills then," said SAMUELS. "He was just 6-4 so has grown a couple inches since . . . we project that he'll still grow another inch or so and become a 6-7 or 6-8 player for us. He just turned 17.

"Right now he shoots well off the break and I believe he will develop into a three point range scorer. If he does grow to 6-7 or so, we think he has the skills to be a big guard and still post up some for us."

"He loves Eastern and wants to come to school here. ..we're confident that type of motivation will help him develop quickly. If he gains some maturity over the summer and improves his strength, we think he can be a positive factor right away," said SAMUELS.

GAULT, his high school coach and a 1976 EIU graduate, said there were a "ton of schools after BARRY. He and his family and I all wanted

more

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to make sure he'd go where he could be happy and could play. If he applies himself, he can achieve whatever he wants to.

"He is a tremendous jumper and a deadly shooter from 15-18 feet. His scoring, though, was probably pretty balanced both inside and outside. He also has an extremely quick first step to the basket."

GAULT said JOHNSON was a class officer all four years and "probably was the most popular person in school."