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# Panther Sports News

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LS-AS-Hometowns

84

Offensive Line  
(Last in a Series)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's offensive line isn't as experienced as its peers have been the past few years. It doesn't have the size nor strength of the previous two clubs. But new offensive coordinator Joel Swisher says not to count'em out.

"This bunch has recognized the challenge it faces . . . they know they're a question mark but they are developing pride in progressing as a cohesive unit," says Swisher.

"Since the start of fall practice we've been pass blocking better but we still need to develop strength and quickness."

Based on the most playing time, three year letterman Mike Kuhn (Downers Grove-North) is the anchor. A 6-2, 245, right guard, Kuhn has started off and on the past couple years. "Mike knows our offense well and is a good pass blocker who doesn't make mental errors. He still needs to improve his footwork a bit," said Swisher.

Left tackle Del Pittman (Valparaiso, IN) gets the award for being the largest lineman in the camp at 6-3, 275. Just a junior Pittman has lettered two years playing in a reserve role.

Pittman dropped several pounds which Swisher believes will help his lateral movement. "Del has worked hard in the offseason and is exhibiting some real leadership. He's the best pass blocker but could still lose a few more pounds."

The lone juco transfer to crack the starting group is center Tim Wyatt (Phoenix, AZ-Moon Valley/Phoenix CC). "We've been pleased with Tim's progress. He's very intelligent and doesn't get rattled although he does need to add strength (6-0, 235) because a physical nose guard will be a challenge."

Guard Bob Benning (Streator) will team with Pittman on the leftside of the line. A backup at both guard spots last year, Benning "is highly motivated but lacks game experience," says Swisher. "His footwork has improved but he needs to develop strength."

OFFENSIVE LINE  
ADD 1

The No. 1 competition is at right tackle between sophomore Steve Bonnes (Waukegan-West) and Barry Wolfe (Martinsville). Wolfe lettered last year as the long snapper and, according to Swisher, will swing between both tackle spots this fall.

Both are similar in size, Wolfe at 6-2, 250 and Bonnes at 6-3, 245. "Steve previously was with the defense so had to learn a new position last spring but he's very motivated. Barry's one of our better pass blockers . . . we'd like to see him become stronger."

Two redshirt freshmen, Mark Petersen (Momence) and Jim Miteff (Libertyville), are backup guards. Petersen reported back to camp at 6-3, 235, and Swisher sees him at 260 before he graduates. JC transfer Mike Hurley (Rancho Alamitos/Santa Ana CC) is the backup center.

Swisher singled out freshman Sean O'Brien (Joliet-Catholic) as "showing real promise. We have him at tackle now but plan on looking at him at center, too. He's 6-2, 270 and could really give us some much needed depth at those spots."