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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

DAVID KIDWELL, *Sports Information Director*

OFFICE: (217) 581-2920

HOME: (217) 345-4166

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--The Eastern Illinois University men's swimming team can legitimately be described as a veteran group. To put it simpler, last year's group returns en masse.

That has prompted Coach Ray Padovan to say, "I expect us to be a little better than last year."

He'll find out how much beginning Friday, Nov. 4 when the Panthers open the 1983-84 season with a dual meet at Butler University. Then it's a month off before opening at home December 9 with Ball State.

Although still fairly young, the Panthers are led by five seniors. They are three year letterman and backstroker Greg Lanchester (Carbondale), captain and freestyler Robin Walker (Kankakee-Eastridge), freestyler Mark Waks (Buffalo Grove-Harper CC) and divers Kurt Simons (Arlington Heights-Buffalo Grove) and Mike Schulewitz (Palatine-Harper CC).

Junior Greg Freebeck (South Holland-Thornwood) is the only returning swimmer who won two events, the 500 and 1650 freestyle, in the Mid-Continent championship. He also took first in the 1650 in the perennially strong Midwest Swimming Championship.

Other AMCU returning champs are Mark Davis (Clinton, IN) in the 100 free, Miguel Carrion (Quito, Ecuador) in the 200 back and Steve Burggraff (Lakewood, CO) in the 400 IM.

Junior Chris Hooley (Rockford-Guilford) is the top diver after setting school records in both the one and three meter event. He qualified for the NCAA Division I zone qualification meet before being eliminated.

EIU was second to Southwest Missouri in the Mid-Continent and Padovan foresees a similar close race in '84. "I think it will be another toss-up. We should've won last year but had a poor first day. Western will also be in the running . . . they appear to be improved."