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## 10/26/1982 - Linebacker Started Every Game

University Marketing and Communications

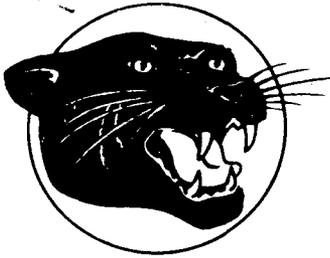
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# Panther Sports News

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University linebacker Bill Mines (Washington, DC-Woodson) has started nearly every game during his four year career but it has taken until midway through his final season to receive his just due.

In 1979 and 1980 Mines was overshadowed by the play of middle linebacker Alonzo Lee and then last year seniors Ira Jefferson and Tom Murray received most of the acclaim.

Now Mines, a 5-11, 220 two-time second team all-conference pick, is the highly regarded leader of EIU's defense, which ranks among the best in NCAA I-AA.

Mines has nearly 350 tackles in his four year career and leads the team with 90 this fall. Four times he has been picked the team's defensive 'player of the game'.

He also calls defensive signals and has switched in midseason from the middle to strong side linebacker in EIU's new eight man front, lining up opposite the two wide receivers.

"I love it," says Mines, of the new alignment. "It frees up the linebackers more and we can get to the ball quicker . . . Big Mac is what the coaches call it. It's a swarming defense . . . the hole is there one second and then just collapses as we fill it.

"There's more pressure on the linebacker because he has more reads but it wasn't that hard to adjust. I'm best against the run which may be why I'm having a good year . . . maybe even better than I anticipated."

Mines top '82 effort was against Northern Iowa when he was in on 18 tackles including two quarterback sacks and two tackles for loss.

As the only returning full-time starter at linebacker, Mines prepared harder than ever last summer. "Each workout we ran 15 350 yard sprints and had to do it under 60 seconds.

"Then Coach (Cal) Jones had a high intensity workout for us . . . all in the

MINES  
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weight room. We only did it for half an hour but I never worked so hard in my life. I think that's why I'm having such a good year . . . the pain in the games is nothing compared to his workouts.

"Also, we're in such good shape we've been able to dominate the fourth quarter . . . we just wear people down."

Mines and Co. will need all four quarters against Saturday's opponent, Southern Illinois University.

"I remember the '79 and '80 games against them down there. We won in '79 but lost the next season but I don't know how they compare to those teams.

"But we can't let them beat us in our own yard. For us, the season is right where we want it to be."