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# Panther Sports News

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CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University's football Panthers, who won the Mid-Continent Conference and reached the NCAA I-AA tournament, dominated selections to the All-MCC team.

Six offensive players and seven defensive players were named to the First Team with the three top awards also going to the Panthers.

Senior halfback Kevin Staple (Markham-Thornwood), who led the league in rushing (91.6) and all-purpose running (104.7), was named the offensive 'Player of the Year'.

Senior defensive tackle Chris Nicholson (Waukegan-East/DuPage CC) was chosen the defensive 'Player of the Year' and Al Molde was named 'Coach of the Year'.

Staple rushed for 3296 yards in his career and closed with back-to-back 1000-plus seasons getting 1008 this fall. Nicholson led the defensive unit with 60 solo tackles, 8 1/2 QB sacks, nine tackles for loss, four fumble recoveries and two pass interceptions.

Molde, the first year coach, directed the club to a perfect 3-0 league mark, the fourth straight year EIU has either won or shared the MCC title. Eastern lost a first round NCAA I-AA playoff game, 16-13, in double overtime at Indiana State last Saturday, and finished 9-3 overall.

Other First Team offensive picks were wide receiver Jerry Wright (Chicago-Collins), tackle Alvin McMurray (Chicago-Dunbar), guard Kent Lawrence (Coal Valley-Moline), fullback Wes Nixon (Lorain, OH-Illinois Valley CC), and kicker Henry Castellanos (Lawndale, CA-El Camino CC).

Defensive selections to the First Team were end Greg Duncan (Miami, FL-Killian), linebackers Ortega Jackson (Washington, DC-Woodson), Tyrone Covington (Chicago-Morgan Park), and Reggie Taylor (Apopka, FL-Arizona Western CC), and defensive backs Gary Bridges (South Belmar, NJ-Manasquan/Arizona Western CC) and Robert Williams (Chicago-Dunbar).