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10/16/1984 - EIU Panthers Aim To Snap Losing Streak

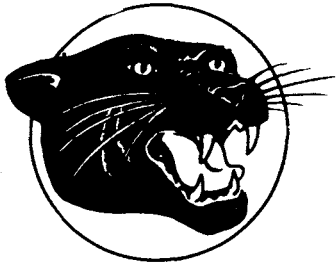
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Panther Sports News

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LS-AS-FB STATE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's football Panthers will attempt to snap a two game losing streak as they open Mid-Continent Conference play at Western Illinois Saturday (Oct. 20). Game time is 1:30 in Macomb.

Eastern dropped under .500 at 3-4 after losing to Southern Illinois, 48-40, last Saturday. The Leathernecks, off to their best start in several seasons, are 4-1-1. In their most recent outing WIU downed Drake, 37-20.

This game will also pair two of the highest scoring NCAA I-AA teams in the nation. WIU is averaging 31 points a game while Eastern is just under 30 a contest, both near the top ten nationally.

The Panthers will need a strong defensive effort, something that has been lacking the past four weeks, as opponents have averaged 38 points and 424 yards with EIU losing three of the four games.

Two injured offensive players, tackle Del Pittman (Valparaiso, IN) and slotback Jim Schmidt (DeKalb), are expected to be able to play but since their backups performed admirably last Saturday the staff may not switch back.

Redshirt freshman Mark Petersen (Momence) was chosen the offensive 'lineman of the week' and receiver Scott Sanderson (Pittsfield), a converted tight end, came in to catch four passes for 57 yards and a touchdown.

* * * * * GAME NOTES * * * * *

THE GAME: Eastern Illinois University (3-4) at Western Illinois University (4-1-1), 1:30 CST, Saturday, Oct. 20, Hanson Field, Macomb.

RADIO: All the action can be heard on 50,000 watt WLBH-FM Mattoon beginning with the Al Molde pregame show at 1:15 . . . Ken Wooddell calls play-by-play with Doug Bock providing commentary.

L J FOOTBALL
ADD 1

SERIES STANDING: WIU leads the series, 30-16-4, however EIU has won four straight and five of the last six games . . . prior to that, though, Western had won every game from 1969-77 except for a 3-3 tie in 1975.

LAST YEAR: The EIU defense limited WIU to just 170 yards total offense as the Panthers prevailed, 20-0 . . . WIU was intercepted four times with linebacker Ortega Jackson picking off one and returning it 32 yards for a fourth quarter 10-0 lead . . . Jerry Wright ran 21 yards for a TD on an end around . . . Kevin Staple ran for 141 yards.

COACHES RECORD: EIU's Al Molde, in his second season, is 3-4 this fall, 12-7 overall at Eastern and 87-49-6 (63.2%) in his 14th season . . . he's had ten winning seasons and four NCAA playoff teams as head coach at Central Missouri, Minn-Morris and Sioux Falls . . . he's 2-2 against teams coached by WIU's Bruce Craddock who previously was at Northeast Missouri when Molde was at Central Missouri.

WIU's Bruce Craddock, also in his second season, is 4-1-1 this fall, 7-9-1 overall at Western and 31-28-1 overall in six years of coaching . . . he was 24-19 in four years at Northeast Missouri, and took the 1982 team to the NCAA II playoffs.

WIU FACTS: The Leathernecks are off to their best start since the 1976 team was 4-0 . . . that also was the last winning season at WIU . . . this fall the 'necks have downed Central Missouri (37-22), Southern Illinois (34-24), Youngstown State (48-15) and Drake (37-20) while tying Southwest Missouri (13-13) and losing to Northern Iowa (30-17) . . . a loss for WIU would almost clinch last place in the Mid-Continent while a victory would give them at least second place . . . the defense has picked off 19 passes, more than any team in I-AA, with DBs Don Ferguson and Bruce Fenza getting five and four, respectively . . . all-american nose guard Chris Gunderson (6-0, 23) leads the front four . . . QB Mark Bloom has completed nearly 60% of his passes for 11 TDs with receivers Ken Huddleston (24 for 367) and Mark Searcy (22 for 256) tops in that department . . . two running backs, Craig Taylor and Jeff McKinney, have 312 and 307 rushing yards, respectively.

MCC HONORS PAYTON: EIU QB Sean Payton (Naperville-Central), who has thrown for over 300 yards in six of EIU's seven games, was chosen the Mid-Continent Conference Offensive 'Player of the Week' after completing 27-54-3 for 384 yards and four TDs in the 48-40 loss to SIU . . . Payton now has 2268 passing yards this season, just 405 shy of setting a single season record which is 2672 by Jeff Christensen in 1981 . . . he's moving up in several other single season categories ranking No. 2 in pass completions (168), No. 3 in TD passes (17) and No. 4 in total offense (2173).

WRIGHT UPDATE: Wide receiver Jerry Wright (Chicago-Collins) should also break one of the oldest records on the books this Saturday as he closes in on the career pass receiving yardage mark of 2197 set by Willie White (1970-73) . . . Wright has 2157, just 41 shy . . . he also has 124 career catches, just three short of moving ahead of Rob Mehalic into the No. 2 spot, also behind Willie White's all-time best 164.

MORE ON PAYTON: There have been 14 games in which an EIU quarterback has thrown for over 300 yards, and Payton can lay claim to six of those efforts . . . this fall he had 384, second best ever, against SIU, 345 vs. Illinois State, 326 vs. Northeast Missouri, 325 vs. Grand Valley, 323 vs. Indiana State and 313 vs. Ferris State.

NCAA I-AA STATS: EIU is still the nation's No. 2 passing team with a 353.6 average, No. 15 in total offense at 401.4 per game and No. 18 in scoring at 29.7 . . . Sean Payton is No. 2 in total offense at 310.4 yards, and his 2268 passing yards is the second most thrown . . . Jerry Wright is No. 3 in pass receiving with 8.3 catches per game and Roy Banks is No. 11 at 6.3 . . . Banks' 824 yards is also the second most in the country and is 10 TDs is third among pass receivers.

MCC STANDINGS:	MCC W-L	Points	Overall W-L	Points
Northern Iowa	2-0-0	54-27	5-1-0	207-102
Western Illinois	0-1-1	43-30	4-1-1	183-127
Southwest Missouri	0-1-1	23-37	4-2-1	156-118
Eastern Illinois	0-0-0	-	3-4-0	207-193

OPPONENTS THIS WEEK: Grand Valley (0-6) at Michigan Tech
Indiana State (6-0) hosts Drake
Northeast Missouri (1-5) at Lincoln
Toledo (4-0-1) hosts Eastern Michigan
Ferris State (1-5) hosts Wayne State
Illinois State (4-2) at Central Florida
Southern Illinois (3-4) hosts West Texas State
Southwest Missouri (4-2-1) is open
Northern Iowa (5-1) at Youngstown State
Western Kentucky (0-6) hosts Eastern Kentucky

MOLDE ON EIU: "We're still making too many mistakes, and it's not just one or two individuals . . . we need to emphasize that each person must concentrate on his assignment . . . even though we talk about being a young team, we're still a pretty good team that's capable of winning ball games . . . I told the team after the Southern game that I was proud of their comeback but that we must not easily accept the losing . . . we've got the conference schedule coming up and that should be enough incentive to come out fired up."

MOLDE ON WIU: "I think everyone thought that Western would be better but I don't know if anyone expected them to be where they are right now . . . their defense is an opportunistic one that has created turnovers, and they've displayed good balance on offense . . . they've spread their running among two or three runners and (Mark) Bloom has done a good job running the offense . . . their all-american nose guard, (Chris) Gunderson, had an exceptional game against us last year and I think our players remember what he did . . . so we need to work hard this week on pass protection so that we can give Payton time to set up."

EIU TWO DEEP:

OFFENSE

TE 21 Calvin Pierce (6-1, 200, Sr.)	32 Shon McCray (6-3, 230, Fr.)
LT 72 Mark Petersen (6-3, 235, Fr.)	75 Del Pittman** (6-3, 275, Jr.)
LG 66 Bob Benning (6-0, 235, So.)	69 Jim Miteff (6-0, 215, Fr.)
C 55 Tim Wyatt (6-0, 235, So.)	65 Mike Hurley (6-0, 235, Jr.)
RG 79 Mike Kuhn*** (6-2, 245, Sr.)	69 Jim Miteff (6-0, 215, Fr.)
RT 62 Steve Bonnes (6-3, 245, So.)	56 Barry Wolfe* (6-2, 250, Jr.)
SE 9 Jerry Wright** (5-11, 175, Sr.)	24 Kevin Hunter (5-9, 160, Fr.)
QB 18 Sean Payton (6-0, 185, So.)	10 John Rafferty* (6-2, 190, So.)
HB 20 DuWayne Pitts (5-9, 170, Fr.)	30 Roy Ellis* (5-9, 175, Jr.)
FL 2 Roy Banks (5-10, 180, So.)	45 Jeff Musgray* (5-9, 170, So.)
SB 81 Jim Schmidt** (5-10, 170, Sr.)	15 Scott Sanderson (6-2, 205, So.)

DEFENSE

LT 85 Tom Moskal** (6-2, 250, Jr.)	70 Derold Walls (6-4, 240, Jr.)
NG 71 Dean Magro* (6-0, 235, So.)	95 Dave Lewandowski (6-3, 260, Fr.)
RT 77 Randy Harms* (6-2, 235, Sr.)	93 Carl Parker (5-10, 225, Fr.)
SSB 44 Al Jennings** (5-11, 190, Sr.)	19 Jon Moore (6-0, 195, Fr.)
ILB 33 Tyrone Covington** (5-10, 210, Sr.)	40 Derick Wilhelms (6-1, 210, Fr.)
ILB 50 Rob DeVita (6-1, 210, So.)	40 Derick Wilhelms (6-1, 210, Fr.)
WSB 48 Ed Nailon (5-11, 190, Jr.)	58 Chris Nelson (6-1, 200, Fr.)
LCB 26 Jerry Jackson (5-9, 180, Jr.)	14 Brian Newby (6-0, 185, Jr.)
RCB 5 James Boyd (5-11, 165, Jr.)	14 Brian Newby (6-0, 185, Jr.)
SS 42 Bobby Bronaugh (5-10, 195, So.)	23 Barry Gravenhorst (5-9, 170, Fr.)
FS 4 Reggie Drew** (6-1, 180, Sr.)	6 Eric Landstrom (5-11, 170, Fr.)

PUNT RETURNS: 9 Jerry Wright, 23 Barry Gravenhorst
KO RETURNS: 23 Barry Gravenhorst, 6 Eric Landstrom
PUNTER: 41 Evan Arapostathis (5-9, 160, Jr.), 46 Brian Necessary (5-11, 190, Fr.)
KICKOFF: 41 Evan Arapostathis
PAT, FIELD GOALS: 1 Steve Berryman (5-11, 145, Jr.)
HOLDER: 81 Jim Schmidt, 15 Scott Sanderson
LONG SNAPPER: 55 Tim Wyatt, 56 Barry Wolfe