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Panther Sports News

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Dec. 13, 1983
LS-AS-BB OPP-BB

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's basketball Panthers will seek to even their pre-Christmas record at .500 by hosting Montana State Monday night (Dec. 19). Game time is 7:30 CST in EIU's Lantz Gym.

Eastern will take a 2-3 record into the contest after losing 87-79 at Indiana State last Saturday. With final exams this week, the Panthers will not play until the MSU contest.

The visiting Bobcats are 3-2 but compete in the four-team Volunteer Classic at the University of Tennessee this weekend. They meet the host Volunteers Friday and play either Louisiana Tech or Western Carolina on Saturday.

This is the first meeting between these two teams however they will meet again in two weeks when they play in Bozeman, MT on Sunday, January 1.

Jon Collins (East St. Louis-Cahokia), 6-4 sophomore forward, is the top EIU point producer with a 20.6 average, hitting 58.9% from the field.

Tim Wyss (Cissna Park), 6-5 sophomore guard, is also in double figures at 14.0 followed by 6-11 center Kevin Duckworth (Dolton-Thornridge) at 10.6.

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

THE GAME: Eastern Illinois University (2-3) hosts Montana State (3-2) at 7:30 p.m. CST, Monday, Dec. 19 in Lantz Gym Charleston.

RADIO: All the action can be heard live on Mattoon WLBH-FM, 97 on the dial, beginning with the pre-game show at 7:15 p.m. Marc Stuart calls play-by-play with commentary by Dick Vaughan.

TENTATIVE STARTERS:

	<u>EIU</u>		<u>MSU</u>
F 20	Jon Collins	6-4 So.	25 F Chris Brazier 6-6 Sr.
F 52	Dirk Androff	6-7 Jr.	44 F Greg Walters 7-0 So.
C 00	Kevin Duckworth	6-11 So.	31 C Tryg Johnson 6-11 Jr.
G 14	Troy Richardson	6-0 Jr.	30 G Jeff Epperly 6-4 Jr.
G 24	Tim Wyss	6-5 So.	11 G Tony Hampton 5-11 So.

EIU BASKETBALL
ADD 1

COACHES: EIU's Rick Samuels, in his fourth year, is 45-45 overall. He was 16-11, 14-13, 13-18 in his first three seasons, and is a former Iowa State assistant.

MSU's Stu Starner is in his first season as head coach after serving as an assistant at Montana State from 1979-81 and at Minnesota the previous two years.

THE SERIES: This is the first meeting between these two schools. They will also play again in two weeks when they meet in Bozeman on Sunday, January 1.

EIU LAST GAME: The Panthers lost 87-79 at Indiana State. Troy Richardson (Dolton-Thornridge) played his best game getting 18 points, 12 assists. Eastern last led with 13 minutes left in the half at 11-10 and could pull no closer than 82-77 with 1:08 remaining.

COLLINS CONSISTENT: Forward Jon Collins (East St. Louis-Cahokia) has proven to be a consistent 20 point plus scorer topping that figure in the last three games. He has either led or tied for the team high in all five games hitting 17, 18, 26, 20 and 22.

RICHARDSON'S ASSISTS: Richardson's 12 assists against Indiana State was just three shy of the school record 15 set by Randy Coonce in 169 and by averaging five per game the rest of the way could break the school record of 148 set by Derrick Scott six years ago.

DEFENSIVE SHORTCOMINGS: The Panther defense has allowed opponents to hit 50.7% from the field and only Western Illinois has been held under 75 points. This year's squad is giving up 77.8 a game which actually is little different than last year's start when through five games opponents were scoring 76.2 per contest.

ABOUT MSU: The Bobcats, a member of the Big Sky Conference, have everyone returning from a team that was 11-17 overall and 3-11 in the league. However new coach Stu Starner has inserted a couple newcomers in the lineup, 7-0 Greg Walters, a Canadian who was redshirted last year, and JC transfer Tony Hampton, a 5-11 guard. The leading scorer is Chris Brazier, a 6-6 senior, averaging 12 points a game. Also in double figures is 6-4 junior guard Jeff Epperly at 11.8. The center is 6-11 junior Tryg Johnson, who is averaging 9.4, shooting 64% and getting 7.0 rebounds a game. Montana State took a 3-2 record into the Volunteer Classic (Dec. 16-17) beating Wisconsin-Superior, 113-60, and Eastern Washington twice, 64-32 and 74-63. Losses were to Regis College, 50-49, and Gonzaga, 78-68.

SAMUELS SAYS: "We're facing one of the tallest teams on our schedule. That front line goes 7-0, 6-11 and 6-6 which means we are really going to be tested on the boards. It'll be good for us because Illinois-Chicago has the potential to start a lineup that big so this should help us prepare just a little more for the league race. Right now we need to work on defensive fundamentals. We made a lot of mistakes at Indiana State so need to be more disciplined in regard to shutting off the baseline, blocking out . . . basics like that. (Jon) Collins has given us a consistent effort and (Troy) Richardson played real well at Indiana State. A win Monday Night, though, gets us back to .500 and some momentum going into the holiday tournament schedule. Therefore, it's an important game for us."