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11/04/1982 - Basketball Intrasquad Games

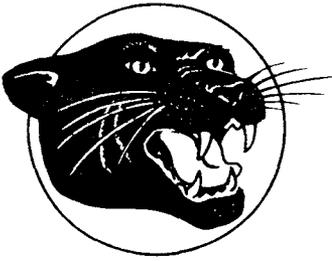
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Panther Sports News

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LS-AS-BB-BB OPP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's basketball Panthers will move their preseason drills out of Lantz Gym to some area communities for three intrasquad games during the next couple weeks.

EIU will play Monday (Nov. 8) at Kankakee Community College, Friday (Nov. 12) at Cumberland High School and Thursday, Nov. 18 at Cissna Park High School.

"We'll be playing different combinations at these games but each time try to narrow in on a top group of eight or nine players," said Coach Rick Samuels.

"Right now it's just too early to determine starters. In fairness to our younger players we're giving them a much longer time to get acclimated to our program before we settle on a lineup."

With only three players back who saw much playing time, seniors Kevin Jones (Indianapolis, IN-Marshall/Kankakee CC) and Kurt Lorenzen (Calumet City-Crete/Monee) and junior Tim Dykstra (Plymouth, IN-LaVille), Samuels admitted he's implementing EIU's game plans at a slower pace.

"The time has arrived, though, for us to pick up the pace, and we told the players that . . . we're going to be putting in a lot of things in a hurry, and that may separate the men from the boys."

Besides the three veterans, Samuels listed several who have indicated they belong in the lineup on a regular basis.

"Of our returning players, both Doug Crook (Vincennes, IN-Lincoln) and Paul Neidig (Poseyville, IN-North Posey) have made tremendous improvement . . . both are playing with greater confidence."

Both are sophomores, Crook a 6-1 guard and Neidig a 6-8 postman, and combined they only saw 80 minutes of playing time last year.

Samuels cited three freshmen, 6-5 Tim Wyss (Cissna Park), 6-11 Kevin Duckworth (Dolton-Thornridge) and 6-7 J. T. Coleman (Chicago Heights-Bloom Trail), as progressing.

"Wyss has been playing solely at the big guard spot, and has done some nice things. He's picked up our game fairly quickly.

"Duckworth is coming along . . . we knew he had a nice touch with the ball in high school and has been able to display that in a more physical setting here," Samuels said.

Coleman, who was almost a one-man show in high school, has taken a little longer to adapt to the more structured college concept but "he plays so hard and goes to the board so hard that eventually, and by eventually we mean here shortly, he'll work his way into playing more . . . we see him as a real asset."

The Panthers will give the home folks a glimpse of the team in a preseason game on Monday, Nov. 22 against the Marathon Oil AAU team from Lexington, Kentucky.

The regular schedule opens on Saturday, Nov. 27 at Purdue with the home season beginning on Thursday, Dec. 2 with Morehead State.