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# **Panther Sports News**

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LS-Hts 30

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's men's cross country team is hoping to pick up where it left off Saturday (Oct. 27) as the Panthers compete in the Association of Mid-Continent Universities Conference Championship.

The 10,000 meter race is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. at Valparaiso University. Other schools entered are Cleveland State, Illinois-Chicago, Northern Iowa, Wisconsin-Green Bay, Western Illinois and Southwest Missouri.

"We go in as a challenger," said Eastern assistant coach Tom Akers, whose squad was third in the Illinois Intercollegiate on Oct. 13. "Northern Iowa is the king of the hill right now. They won last year and return all but two from that team. "They're definitely the favorite, but we can give them a run for their money."

Akers said his tentative lineup will be senior Nick Whiteside (Mount Vernon), senior Scott Pillsbury (Petersburg-Porta/Lincoln Land), senior Mitch McClure (Paxton/Parkland), freshman Dale Righter (Mattoon), senior Scott Tracy (Northbrook-Glenbrook North), sophomore Jeff Armstrong (Streator/Danville) and freshman Darrin Bishop (Quincy).

Pillsbury was named to the all-conference squad last year after he captured 10th place. He is the third-highest returning finisher of a year ago, with Dan Fick of Northern Iowa coming back as the top returnee. He was second.

"Pillsbury and Whiteside are definitely going to be up there for the individual championship and all-conference honors," Akers predicted.

Listed as alternates by Akers were senior Bruce DeRuntz (Granite City-North/Spoon River), freshman Pete Bojan (Norridge-Ridgewood) and freshman John Healy (Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates).

DeRuntz has not competed in the last three meets because of a back injury. He is listed as questionable by Akers.