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11/16/1982 - Undefeated Panthers Receive Bid

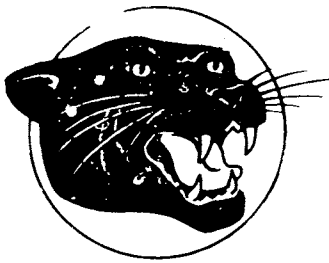
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Panther Sports News

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Nov. 16, 1982
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's undefeated Panthers have received a bid to the NCAA I-AA 12-team national tournament.

EIU, who finished the regular season at 10-0-1 and ranked No. 4 in the national poll, were one of the six teams notified Monday however sites and pairings will not be announced until Sunday (Nov. 20) when the remaining six teams are selected.

The top four seeded teams will receive a bye and not play until the quarterfinals on Saturday, Dec. 4. The remaining eight will compete in first round games on Saturday, Nov. 27. The finals are Saturday, Dec. 18 at the Pioneer Bowl in Wichita Falls, Texas.

"Obviously this is what the team and staff has worked so hard to achieve, and now we're very elated to accomplish the first step in our goals," said Coach Darrell Mudra.

"We've thought all along we're deserving of a post-season bid and now we're anxious to prove it however we're still the new kid on the block compared to several other teams who have been I-AA contenders for the past several years," said Mudra.

"At this point we are hopeful of playing the first game at our place since I suspect we'll be an underdog against whoever we meet . . . we can use this time off to our advantage. We'll try to get as much film as possible and go from there with the normal game preparation."

EIU was chosen as an independent. Five conference champs have qualified, Boston University of the Yankee Conference, South Carolina State of the Mid-Eastern Conference, Jackson State of the Southwestern Conference, Eastern Kentucky University of the Ohio Valley Conference and Louisiana Tech of the Southland Conference.

Two other conference champs from the Big Sky and Southern will receive automatic berths along with four independent/at-large entries.

This is only the second season in I-AA for the Panthers, who previously were national champs and runners-up in NCAA II in 1978 and 1980, respectively.

EIU FOOTBALL
ADD 1

This year's team was led by a tenacious defense that ranked No. 2 in scoring with just 8.8 points allowed and recorded a school record 71 quarterback sacks.

Quarterback Jeff Christensen (Gibson City) threw 21 touchdown passes and 2270 yards averaging just over 200 yards per game. His favorite receiver, Jerry Wright (Chicago-Collins), who started just the last seven games, caught 29 for 709 yards and seven touchdowns.

Halfback Kevin Staple (Markham-Thornwood) became the sixth Panther to top 1000 yards rushing in a single season gaining 1012. He also caught 25 passes for 198 yards and returned two kickoffs for 36 yards to account for 113 yards per game all-purpose running.

1982 EAST ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FINAL FOOTBALL STATISTICS (10-0-1)

RUSHING	G	ATT	GAIN	LOST	NET	P/GAME	P/CARRY	TD	LONG
Kevin Staple	11	229	1127	115	1012	92.0	4.4	10	88(YSU)
Wes Nixon	7	92	389	38	351	50.1	3.8	2	31(ISU)
Darryon White	11	59	254	16	238	21.6	4.0	1	34(WSU)
Tyrone Davis	9	39	191	14	177	19.7	4.5	1	15(SWMO)
Jeff Christensen	11	68	170	195	-25	-	-	1	31(ISU)
Pat Blair	8	4	36	5	31	3.9	7.7	-	15(AKR)
Jerry Wright	11	2	-	10	-10	-	-	-	-
Booker Brown	8	7	53	3	50	6.2	7.1	2	29(KSU)
Gary Bridges	10	7	35	7	28	2.8	4.0	-	9(KSU)
Reggie Drew	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EIU TOTALS	11	508	2255	403	1852	168.4	3.6	17	88(YSU)
OPPONENTS	11	464	1615	733	882	80.2	1.9	6	33(SIU)

PASSING	G	CPL	ATT	INT	YDS	PCT	P/GAME	P/CPL	P/ATT	TD	LONG
Jeff Christensen	11	153	301	14	2270	.508	206.4	14.8	7.5	21	75(SWMO)
Gary Bridges	10	1	8	2	10	.725	0.9	9.0	1.1	-	9(KSU)
EIU TOTALS	11	154	309	16	2280	.498	207.2	14.8	7.4	21	75(SWMO)
OPPONENTS	11	134	299	19	1717	.448	156.1	12.8	5.7	5	45(ISU)

PASS RECEIVING	G	REC	YDS	P/CATCH	P/GAME	TD	LONG	TEAM TOTALS	EIU	OPP
Wes Nixon	7	15	207	13.8	29.6	2	30(WSU)	First Downs	197	162
Kevin Staple	11	25	198	7.9	18.0	3	33(ISU)	by rushing	102	65
Roger Holoman	11	21	376	17.9	34.2	2	42(SWMO)	by passing	91	78
Darryon White	11	19	217	11.4	19.7	1	52(ISU)	by penalty	4	19
Jim Schmidt	9	13	154	11.8	17.1	2	18(WSU)	TOTAL OFFENSE	4132	2599
Jerry Wright	11	29	709	24.5	64.4	7	75(SWMO)	per game	375.6	236.3
Dirk Androff	11	5	35	7.0	3.2	3	11(WSU)	total plays	817	763
Pat Blair	8	18	288	16.0	36.0	1	26(ISU)	yds. p/play	5.0	3.4
Tyrone Davis	9	4	24	6.0	2.7	-	8(SIU)	PENALTY/YDS	76/764	58/478
Reggie Drew	9	3	48	16.0	5.3	-	30(SWMO)	FUMBLES/LOST	25/14	27/19
Roy Ellis	1	1	7	7.0	7.0	-	7(WSU)			
Booker Brown	8	1	17	17.0	2.1	-	17(KSU)			
EIU TOTALS	11	154	2280	14.8	207.2	21	75(SWMO)			
OPPONENTS	11	134	1717	12.8	156.1	5	45(ISU)			

PUNTING	G	NO	YDS	AVE	RET	NET	AVE	LONG	SCORE BY QUARTERS						
Don Manzke	11	65	2595	39.9	123	2472	38.0	63(YSU)	EIU	64	101	64	74	-	303
EIU TOTALS	11	65	2595	39.9	123	2472	38.0	63(YSU)	OPP	17	44	10	26	-	97
OPPONENTS	11	89	3110	34.9	296	2814	31.6	66(YSU)							

RETURNS	G	KO	YDS	AVE	TD	LONG	PT	YDS	AVE	TD	LONG
Wes Nixon	7	8	184	23.0	-	43(NEMO)	5	60	12.0	-	41(WSU)
Darryon White	11	2	34	17.0	-	18(WIU)	-	-	-	-	-
Randy McCue	11	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	0.3	-	1(UNI)
Kevin Staple	11	2	36	18.0	-	18(YSU)	-	-	-	-	-
Gary Bridges	10	4	88	25.3	-	31(SWMO)	5	44	8.8	-	15(KSU)
Brian Newby	8	-	-	-	-	-	3	-4	-	-	-
Charlie Person	11	-	-	-	-	-	25	162	6.5	-	38(UNI)
Booker Brown	8	6	88	14.7	-	23(WSU)	-	-	-	-	-
Chris Nicholson	11	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	10.0	-	10(WSU)
Roger Holoman	11	1	17	17.0	-	17(IND)	-	-	-	-	-
Dan Fallon	11	-	-	-	-	-	1	20	20.0	-	20(WSU)
Robert Williams	11	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3.0	-	3(ISU)
EIU TOTALS	11	23	447	19.4	-	43(NEMO)	44	296	6.7	-	41(WSU)
OPPONENTS	11	54	1020	18.9	-	38(IND)	27	123	4.6	-	12(ISU)

SCORING	G	TD	PAT/K	PAT/R-P	FG	SAF	POINTS
Kevin Staple	11	13	-	-	-	-	78
Wes Nixon	7	4	-	-	-	-	24
Darryon White	11	2	-	-	-	-	12
Dave Strauch	11	-	30-37	-	13-20	-	69
Jeff Christensen	11	1	-	-	-	-	6
Dirk Androff	11	3	-	1	-	-	20
Jerry Wright	11	7	-	-	-	-	42
Tyrone Davis	11	1	-	-	-	-	6
Jim Schmidt	9	2	-	-	-	-	12
Pat Blair	8	1	-	-	-	-	6
Booker Brown	8	2	-	-	-	-	12
Roger Holoman	11	2	-	-	-	-	12
Team	-	-	-	-	-	2	4
EIU TOTALS	11	38	30-37	1	13-20	2	303(27.5 ppg.)
OPPONENTS	11	11	10-11	-	7-13	-	97(8.8 ppg.)