

11-18-1982

11/18/1982 - Basketball Sneak Preview

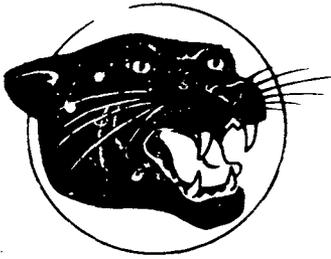
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's basketball Panthers will offer a sneak preview when they host one of the nation's top AAU touring teams, Marathon Oil of Lexington, KY, on Monday night (Nov. 22).

Game time is 8 p.m. in Lantz Gym. This is the only 8 p.m. starting time all year as regular season games will tipoff at 7:30.

Coach Rick Samuels says this contest is "a good measuring stick" to determine his team's progress. Next Saturday (Nov. 27) they open the regular season at Purdue against Russell Cross and Co., last year's NIT runner-up with an 18-14 record.

"I think we're making progress . . . each day we get closer to being ready to play however we want people to remember we have a very young team," said Samuels.

"Marathon Oil is a talented team, probably as talented as Purdue so Monday's game is a good chance to learn something about ourselves because this is the type of team we'll be playing, particularly early in the year."

Samuels says he will start the three seniors for sure, Tim Dykstra (Plymouth, IN-LaVille) and Kevin Jones (Indianapolis, IN-Kankakee CC) up front and Kurt Lorenzen (Calumet City-Crete/Monee) at guard.

Kevin Duckworth (Dolton-Thornridge), the 6-11 freshman, will start in the post and either sophomore Doug Crook (Vincennes, IN-Lincoln) or freshman Tim Wyss (Cissna Park) at the other guard slot.

"Duck's the only big man we've got inside . . . neither Dykstra nor Jones are over 6-4 so we've got to have Duckworth in there," said Samuels.

First ones off the bench are all likely to be inside players, though. They are 6-8 Paul Neidig (Poseyville, IN-Posey), 6-8 Steve Hopkins (Chicago-Kenwood) and 6-7 J. T. Coleman (Chicago Heights-Bloom Trail).

Marathon Oil, which has already played 10-12 games, is led by Poncho Wright, who

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started on Louisville's 1980 NCAA champs. Roger Burkman, a 6-5 sixth man off that Louisville club, will also be here.

Two other players from collegiate championship clubs are 6-8 Don Reese, a member of Bradley's 1981 NIT champs, and 6-6 Bud Greer who started for three North Park teams that won NCAA Division III titles.

"This group has already played Georgetown, North Carolina State and Southwest Louisiana so they not only have talent but are accustomed to playing already this year," Samuels said.