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11/23/1982 - Darrell Mudra Renews Contract

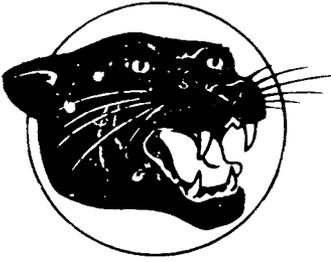
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Panther Sports News

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LS-AS-General

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Darrell Mudra, Eastern Illinois University's most successful football coach in its 83-year history, has signed a contract, effective January 1, to coach the Panthers again next fall, athletic director R. C. Johnson announced Tuesday (Nov. 23).

It will be Mudra's sixth season at EIU, the longest he's ever coached at one institution in 21 years of collegiate football at six different institutions.

"I'm encouraged by the development of our program. We've proven we can successfully compete in I-AA football and with only five seniors graduating the opportunity for continued success is evident," said Mudra.

"We were able to redshirt a number of our best freshmen, and have retained a knowledgeable coaching staff who have displayed excellent teaching skills . . . with these factors in our favor, we're looking forward to the future challenges here at Eastern," Mudra said.

During the past five years the Panthers success is unparalleled among Illinois State universities and ranks among the most successful in the nation.

This year's team has just qualified for the NCAA I-AA playoffs with a 10-0-1 record in only its second year in I-AA. The 1978 and 1980 teams were national champs and runners-up, respectively, in Division II.

Mudra's record at EIU is 46-14-1 with all five years above .500, the first time that has ever happened at Eastern. Overall he has a 156-64-3 record, third best among active I-AA coaches.

"I'm thrilled that Darrell has decided to be with us again next year," said Johnson. "His won-lost record speaks for itself, and his decision to remain here marks our program as one with stability and continuity.

"The University has received an incredible amount of positive recognition due to our success, and this reflects well on Darrell's leadership, organization and coaching ability."