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08/31/1987 - EIU's Football Panthers Feature New Coaching Staff

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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY - Charleston, IL 61920
217 / 581-5981

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (AUGUST 31)

CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University's football Panthers will feature a new coaching staff, new offensive and defensive systems and mostly new players as they open the 1987 season Saturday (Sept. 5) at San Jose State.

Kickoff is 1:30 PDT (3:30 Charleston time) at San Jose's 31,365 seat Memorial Stadium. This is the first meeting between these two universities.

San Jose, a Division I club that won the Pacific Coast Athletic Association last year and drubbed Miami (OH) 37-7 in the California Bowl, is led by Heisman Trophy candidate, Mike Perez, at quarterback.

EIU is a young team with only six fulltime starters back from a team that won the Gateway Conference and advanced to the NCAA I-AA quarterfinals with an 11-2 record.

The Panthers strength will be the offensive line where the five projected starters average 6-3, 263 and have combined to earn 10 letters. Three year lettermen MARK PETERSEN (MOMENCE) and HM All-Gateway JIM MITEFF (LIBERTYVILLE) are the guards, and HM All-Gateway and two year letterman SEAN O'BRIEN is the center.

"I'm pleased with the progress of our players . . . the attitude and morale has been good but we obviously aren't where we want to be yet," said first year head coach BOB SPOO.

"But two-a-days are over so as we get closer to game day I think the tempo and intensity will pick up again."

***** GAME NOTES *****

THE GAME: Eastern Illinois University (0-0) at San Jose State (0-0), 1:30 PDT (3:30 Charleston time), Saturday, Sept. 5, Memorial Stadium, San Jose, CA.

RADIO: All the action can be heard over 50,000 watt WLBH-FM, 97 on the dial, with KEN WOODDELL and DOUG BOCK calling the action.

SERIES: This is the first meeting between these two schools.

COACHES: EIU's BOB SPOO (Purdue '60) is in his first year as a collegiate head coach . . . San Jose's CLAUDE GILBERT has an 18-15-1 record in three years there and is 79-41-3 overall which includes eight years at San Diego State.

SAN JOSE STATE FACTS: Nearly every offensive skill position player returns for San Jose's Spartans who went 10-2 in '86, won the Pacific Coast Athletic Association and downed Miami (OH), 37-7, in the California Bowl . . . QB MIKE PEREZ is a Heisman Trophy candidate after leading NCAA Division I in total offense averaging 330 yards p/game, earning AP HM All-American honors and UPI West Coast Offensive 'Player of the Year' honors . . . slot receiver GUY LIGGINS was sixth nationally finishing the season with a school record 80 receptions for 1116 yards . . . tailback KENNY JACKSON became the fourth player in NCAA history to rush for over 1000 yards and catch at least 50 passes in a regular season . . . all of this firepower resulted in SJS placing No. 1 in the nation in passing (312.5), No. 1 in total offense (481.4) and No. 7 in scoring offense (32.7) . . . PEREZ, though, is the key as he had five games over 300 yards passing with a 1986 NCAA high of 508 vs. Pacific . . . the defense was No. 2 in the nation vs. the run allowing just 66 yards p/game. . . the top three tacklers return in '87 . . . they are rover GREG COX who had 94 tackles, free safety RYAN RASNICK and linebacker BARRY KIDNEY each had 77 . . . the Spartans tallied 65 sacks in the 12 games as they defeated three Pac-10 teams during the year, 21-14 over Oregon, 20-13 over Washington State and 35-14 over California.

PLAYER MOVES: QB PAT CARROLL (DUNDEE) has become the starting flanker with KURT SIMON (MORRIS), a junior transfer from Hawaii, taking over as the starting quarterback. . . CARROLL practiced at one of the wideouts two years ago but has no game experience. . . SIMON was an all-stater at Morris where he led the '83 team to the Class 4A state semifinals.

FEW VETERANS: On EIU's depth chart there are only 15 players listed who saw much playing time last year. . . the two-deep is almost evenly split by class, though, with 12 freshmen, 11 sophomores, 11 juniors and 10 seniors. . . four returning starters are on offense, LG JIM MITEFF (LIBERTYVILLE), C SEAN O'BRIEN (JOLIET-CATHOLIC), RG MARK PETERSEN (MOMENCE), FB JAMES MARABLE (CHICAGO-SCHURZ) . . . three on defense, DT CARL PARKER (EVANSTON), DT JEFF ROLSON (FARMER CITY-MANSFIELD), R.L. REYNOLDS (DETROIT-KING), plus S SCOTT JOHNSON (NEWTON) who was a parttime starter last season.

PITTS BACK IN THE LINEUP: TB DUWAYNE PITTS (DETROIT-MACKENZIE) could be considered a returning starter since he is a three year letterman and the team's leading rusher as a sophomore in '86 . . . he has 1806 career rushing yards, No. 5 on the all-time list, with an excellent chance to finish No. 3.

TEAM CAPTAINS: Three players have been selected as tri-captains for '87 . . . they are PAT CARROLL (DUNDEE), DT CARL PARKER (EVANSTON) and placekicker RICH EHMKE (EL CAJON, CA-GROSSMONT CC) . . . "All three of these athletes are seniors who exhibited exemplary leadership qualities," said COACH BOB SPOO.

NEXT WEEK: The Panthers will be on the road again on Sept. 12 when they play another non-conference game at Northeast Missouri State.

GATEWAY CONFERENCE SCHEDULE: Western Illinois hosts Arkansas Tech
Indiana State hosts Salem College
Southwest Missouri hosts Central State (OK)
Northern Iowa at McNeese State
Southern Illinois hosts Delta State
Illinois State is open

COACH BOB SPOO SAYS: "We're opening up against a quality football team that has some of the nation's top players. The preseason attention they've received is certainly deserved. I think we strengthened ourselves by switching (Pat) Carroll to wide receiver, and I want to say that it was a courageous move on Pat's part to help the team. His unselfishness provides a model for the rest of the team. Carl Parker has also distinguished himself this fall. He has prepared himself over the course of the summer. He's a young man with great personal pride who has been a leader by his efforts."

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

SE	2 Ralph Stewart (6-0, 185, Fr.)	87 Alfredo Kamidoi (5-9, 140, Jr.)
LT	70 Shon McCray (6-3, 260, Sr.) *	79 Brent Fischer (6-5, 270, So.)
LG	69 Jim Miteff (6-0, 235, Sr.) ***	79 Brent Fischer (6-5, 270, So.)
C	76 Sean O'Brien (6-2, 275, Jr.) **	71 Joe Foster (6-4, 235, Fr.)
RG	72 Mark Petersen (6-3, 275, Sr.) ***	66 Steve Saunders (6-4, 260, Fr.)
RT	63 Dave Popp (6-6, 270, Jr.) *	75 Butch Brzeski (6-4, 265, Sr.) *
TE	84 Mike Macek (6-4, 210, Jr.)	85 Pat Munda (6-4, 240, So.)
QB	9 Kurt Simon (6-0, 190, Sr.)	14 Eric Arnold (6-5, 205, Fr.)
TB	20 DuWayne Pitts (5-9, 175, Sr.) ***	7 James Marable (5-9, 180, Jr.) **
FB	7 James Marable (5-9, 180, Jr.) **	19 Ray Brown (6-2, 210, So.) *
FL	11 Pat Carroll (6-0, 180, Sr.) *	3 John Metzger (5-9, 165, Fr.)

DEFENSE

LE	91 Mike Bollan (6-4, 240, So.)	65 Lee Emhoff (6-5, 210, Fr.)
LT	57 Jeff Rolson (6-2, 265, Jr.) *	90 Stan Milan (6-1, 235, So.)
RT	93 Carl Parker (5-10, 230, Sr.) ***	92 Aaron Thomas (6-0, 275, Sr.) *
RE	31 Tom Govan (6-2, 230, Jr.)	95 Dave Lewandowski (6-4, 260, Sr.) ***
ILB	45 Mike Briscoe (6-2, 220, Sr.) *	58 John Noll (5-11, 195, Fr.)
ILB	50 George Boykin (6-1, 210, So.) *	42 Dimitri Stewart (6-2, 210, Fr.)
LCB	28 Dale Lloyd (5-11, 180, Jr.)	22 Altha Patton (5-10, 175, Fr.)
RCB	8 R.L. Reynolds (6-0, 180, So.) *	4 David Swingler (6-0, 195, So.) *
NKL	48 Tim Lance (6-1, 190, Fr.)	34 Ben Stevenson (6-0, 190, So.)
LHB	37 Daryl Holcombe (5-11, 185, So.)	23 Juan Cox (5-8, 160, Fr.)
RHB	12 Scott Johnson (6-4, 200, Jr.) *	43 Mike Howlett (5-11, 170, Fr.)

SPECIALISTS

PLACEKICKER - 6 Rich Ehmke (5-10, 170, Sr.) *
 PUNTER - 1 Steve Tillotson (6-2, 210, Sr.) *
 KICKOFF RETURNS - 20 DuWayne Pitts (5-9, 175, Sr.) ***
 37 Daryl Holcombe (5-11, 185, So.)
 PUNT RETURNS - 8 R.L. Reynolds (6-0, 180, So.) *
 43 Mike Howlett (5-11, 170, Fr.)
 HOLDER - 11 Pat Carroll (6-0, 180, Sr.) *
 LONG SNAPPER - 56 Tod Schwager (6-2, 210, Fr.)
 EXTRA POINT SNAPPER - 14 Eric Arnold (6-5, 205, Fr.)