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12/01/1982 - Robert Williams Chosen to AFCA All-American Team for NCAA I-AA

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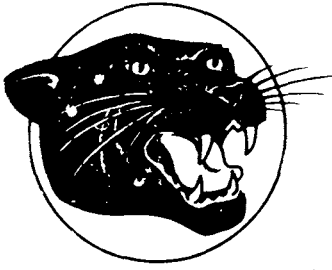
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Panther Sports News

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Dec. 1, 1982
LS-AS-Football State

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Robert Williams (Chicago-Dunbar), Eastern Illinois University strong safety, has been chosen to the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) All-American team for NCAA I-AA.

Sponsored by Kodak, this is the fifth straight year an EIU player has been named to the AFCA team either in I-AA or II.

Williams, a 5-11, 195 junior, has led the Panthers to a 11-0-1 record and quarter-final matchup with Tennessee State Saturday (Dec. 4) in the NCAA I-AA tournament.

He has 59 solo tackles, more than anyone on the team, and 101 total tackles, ranking second on the team. He also intercepted two passes, recovered a fumble and blocked a punt.

In Saturday's 16-13 NCAA I-AA playoff win over Jackson State, Williams had 10 tackles, a tackle for loss, a pass interception and broke up three more pass attempts.

"This is a great honor for Robert. He was the only returning starter in the secondary so not only is he our statistical leader, he provided the leadership and inspiration that made our defense one of the best in the country," said secondary coach Rick Schachner.

"As the only returning veteran the pressure was on him from the first day and he obviously responded, so we're pleased that his efforts have been so recognized."

Previous Kodak All-Americans from Eastern were Kevin Gray (1981), Pete Catan (1980), Poke Cobb (1979), James Warring (1978) and Nate Anderson (1972).

The complete Kodak/AFCA team is as follows:

OFFENSE

Tony Zendejas (PK) Nevada-Reno
Matt Dunigan (QB) Louisiana Tech
Garry Pearson (RB) Massachusetts
Anthony Reed (RB) South Carolina State
Trumaine Johnson (WR) Grambling State
Steve Bird (WR) Eastern Kentucky
Pat Dunsmore (TE) Drake
Charlie Tucker (OL) Austin Peay
Mike Corbat (OL) Harvard
Richard Pelzer (OL) Rhode Island
Walter Tate (OL) Tennessee State
Matt Meares (OL) Western Michigan

DEFENSE

John Rade (DL) Boise State
Jim Ettari (DL) Citadel
Brian Pillman (DL) Miami (OH)
Tony Green (DL) Lafayette
Andre Young (DL) Bowling Green
Gary Reasons (LB) Northwestern St. (LA)
Dave Wolf (LB) Colgate
George Schmitt (DB) Delaware
Leonard Smith (DB) McNeese State
Ernest Gibson (DB) Furman
Robert Williams (DB) Eastern Illinois
John Christopher (P) Morehead State