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## 11/26/1984 - Cross Country

University Marketing and Communications

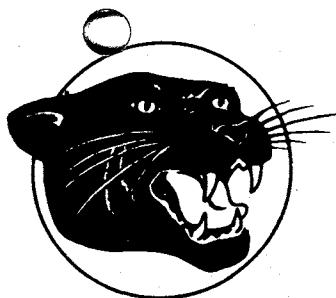
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# Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University men's cross country team finished the season with a 15th place in the NCAA I District IV qualifying meet, and third in the AMCU-8 conference championship.

The following are hometown season wrapups on the top distance runners:

NICK WHITESIDE (Mt. Vernon), senior, won all-conference honors by finishing third in the Mid-Continent meet in 33:01 over 10,000 meters . . . he was EIU's top finisher in all seven meets and took 50th in the NCAA district meet in 31:25.6 . . . he was an unanimous pick for team MVP, and also received his third letter . . . "Nick did an outstanding job," said EIU assistant Tom Akers . . . "One thing we lacked last year was a real solid performer and Nick provided that this fall."

SCOTT PILLSBURY (Petersburg-Porta/Lincoln Land CC), a senior, came on strong in the second half of the season to finish as the Panthers No. 2 runner . . . was all-conference for the second straight year placing fifth in 33:44 over 10,000 meters . . . his best time was 31:36.2 as he took 56th in the NCAA district meet . . . "At the beginning of the year Scott wasn't up there but you knew that you could count on him at the end," said assistant Tom Akers . . . "With Scott and Nick (Whiteside), we had the toughest 1-2 punch at the conference meet so we have some tough shoes to fill."

DARRIN BISHOP (Quincy), a freshman walk-on, moved into the varsity lineup in the fourth meet and had the third best time at the end of the season . . . placed 96th in 32:43.7 at the NCAA district meet over 10,000 meters . . . was 19th in the AMCU-8 meet and 22nd in the Illinois Intercollegiate to earn a letter . . . "He did a super job," said assistant Tom Akers . . . "Darrin told me "I always come on at the end of the season," and he really proved that at the conference meet and district."

SCOTT TRACY (Downers Grove-North), a junior, earned his first letter by competing in all seven meets with a best of 32:44 over 10,000 meters finishing 52nd in the Illinois Invitational . . . "Scott had a pretty good year," said assistant Tom Akers . . . "he ran a lot of personal bests this fall, and made considerable improvement."

MITCH MCCLURE (Paxton/Parkland CC), a junior, earned a letter by competing in all seven meets . . . recorded his best time and place at the Illinois Intercollegiate as he took 15th place in 33:14 . . . "Mitch was voted the team's most improved runner, and should therefore be one of our leaders next year," said assistant Tom Akers.

DALE RIGHTER (Mattoon), a freshman walk-on, ran in all seven meets with a best of 33:34 for 19th place in the Illinois Intercollegiate . . . was chosen the team's Outstanding Freshman . . . "Dale ran into some problems at the end of the season because a lot of pressure was placed on him to be up among the top five (of EIU runners) but overall he did an outstanding job," said assistant Tom Akers.

JEFF ARMSTRONG (Streator-Danville CC), a sophomore, advanced to the varsity in the third meet of the season and responded with a best of 33:35 for 72nd place in the Illinois Invitational . . . also took 20th in the Illinois Intercollegiate in 33:36 . . . "Jeff is another pleasant surprise," said assistant Tom Akers . . . "I didn't know what to expect when Jeff came here" . . . "after a year off, he really came on at the end of the season, and if he continues to make big gains will be a real strong runner for us next year."