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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Two Washington, DC athletes, linebackers Bill Mines (Woodson HS) and Ortega Jackson (Cardoza HS), set defensive records for one of Eastern Illinois University's greatest ever football teams this fall.

The Panthers compiled an 11-1-1 record, ranked No. 5 in the final NCAA I-AA poll, and reached the quarterfinals of the I-AA playoff before Tennessee State eliminated them with a 20-19 loss Saturday (Dec. 4). EIU had won a 16-13 first round game over Jackson State to advance to the quarterfinals.

Mines, a 5-11, 220 senior, picked First Team All-Mid-Continent Conference, set single season and career records for total tackles with 128 and 367, respectively. Of his 128 tackles he had 47 solos, three quarterback sacks, two other tackles for loss, five forced fumbles and one fumble recovery.

Jackson, 6-0, 205 junior, set a single season record with six fumble recoveries. Altogether he had 63 tackles including 26 solos, one QB sack, two tackles for loss, a forced fumble and three interceptions. His nine turnover recoveries was second on the team.

This was the third time in the past five years the Panthers have competed in a post-season tournament. During this stretch, EIU, under the direction of Head Coach Darrell Mudra, has a 47-15-1 record, best among Illinois' seven universities that are Division I or I-AA.