

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

1982

Press Releases

12-8-1982

12/08/1982 - Taylor and Bridges Defensive Standouts

University Marketing and Communications

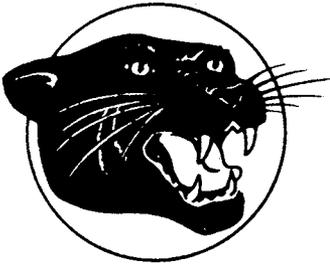
Follow this and additional works at: https://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1982

Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "12/08/1982 - Taylor and Bridges Defensive Standouts" (1982). 1982. 625.

https://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1982/625

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Press Releases at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1982 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.



Panther Sports News

Dec. 8, 1982

3

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

DAVID KIDWELL, *Sports Information Director*

OFFICE: (217) 581-2920

HOME: (217) 345-4166

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Two former Arizona Western CC athletes, Reggie Taylor (Apopka, FL) and Gary Bridges (South Belmar, NJ-Manasquan) were defensive standouts for one of Eastern Illinois University's greatest ever football teams.

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.

Taylor, a 5-10, 190 junior linebacker, missed two games with a broken hand but still ended up with 75 tackles in nine regular season games. He had 41 solo tackles, eight quarterback sacks and two tackles for loss.

Possibly his greatest contribution was in the Jackson State playoff victory when, with the score tied in overtime, he sacked the Tigers quarterback forcing a fumble to end a scoring threat. EIU kicked a field goal on its first possession for the dramatic victory.

Bridges, a 5-11, 175 junior cornerback, had 28 tackles including 17 solos, two QB sacks, three pass interceptions and blocked a field goal and punt.

"Both of these young men stepped into our program last spring and proved they could help us immediately. Our defense was ranked No. 2 in the nation in points allowed (8.8) and Reggie and Gary played an integral role in our success," said Head Coach Darrell Mudra.

"Reggie was an aggressive player whose speed allowed him to cover the play from sideline to sideline while Gary was possibly the fastest player on the team . . . a great natural athlete who had to make a difficult adjustment to corner after playing quarterback in JC," said Mudra.

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