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## 12/07/1984 - Panther Wrestlers

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# **Panther Sports News**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's Panther wrestlers will face one of the nation's toughest opponent and fellow conference member when they host Northern Iowa at 2 p.m. Sunday (Dec. 9) in Lantz Gym.

EIU is 1-0 in dual meets and has placed high in two tournaments hosted by Big Ten schools. The Panthers were fourth of nine teams in the Michigan State Invitational and 6th out of 18 last week in the Illinois Open.

Northern Iowa, which was ranked 10th in the nation in a recent poll by Amateur Wrestling News, will be in its third meet in four days as it wrestled at Southern Illinois-Edwardsville on Thursday and the University of Missouri on Saturday.

The Panthers are led by 158 lber. Chris McFarland, who has a 10-4 record with two pins. He won the Illinois Open and placed second at Michigan State.

Mark Ruettiger is 10-5 at 134 lbs. with a win in the Michigan State tournament and fourth place in the non-scoring St. Louis Open. The only other wrestler who has placed in two tournaments is 118 lber. Mark Rodriguez who is 7-5 with a second at MSU and fourth in the Illini tournament.

Coach Ralph McCausland says the best matchup will occur at either 158 or 167 depending upon which class Northern Iowa will wrestle All-American Dave Grant.

If Grant goes at 158 he'll meet EIU's best in McFarland or else Ozzie Porter at 167. Porter is third on the team with eight victories.

"McFarland and Porter both have been wrestling well," said McCausland. "Ruettiger had a bad tournament at Illinois but I expect him to bounce back strong. Right now we need to become injury free and get a solid lineup out there . . . we have a lot of nagging injuries that are hindering our progress."