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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's nationally ranked soccer team is awaiting a bid to the NCAA Division I tournament.

The Panthers recently concluded the regular season with a 15-1-2 season record and are ranked No. 5 in the nation by the Intercollegiate Soccer Athletic Association and No. 1 in the midwest.

The NCAA tournament selection committee chooses 20 teams from eight regions so Eastern along with SIU-Edwardsville and St. Louis University are the three likely participants from the Midwest Region, according to EIU coach Schellas Hyndman.

The selections will not be made until Sunday, Nov. 15. First round action will be held Wednesday, Nov. 18 with the four team national finals scheduled for December 5-6 at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California.

"We want to be the No. 1 seed so that we can host that first round game . . . we have had a great season and believe we deserve to host," said Hyndman.

The Panthers set a school record with 16 shutouts this season and concluded with 12 straight matches without a defeat. They also tied a school record for most wins and set a mark for fewest goals allowed, 3.

All-American Damien Kelly came within two goals of a school record. He finished with 18 goals and six assists.

Silvano Corazza is next with six goals and eight assists followed by Agyeman Prempeh with seven scores and six assists. Goalie Eric Hartman was in goal for all the shutouts except one.

During the regular season the Panthers won the Budweiser Tournament at the Air Force Academy, won the Wisconsin-Milwaukee tournament and Governor's Cup defeating SIU-Edwardsville in a shootout after the game officially ended in a 1-1 tie.