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11/24/1981 - Football Has Winning Season

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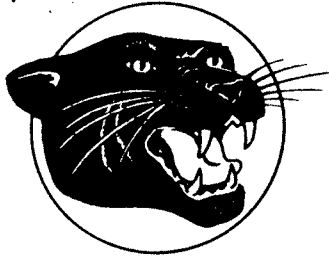
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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920
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Nov. 24, 1981
LS-AS-FB-FB OPP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's football Panthers concluded their first NCAA I-AA year with a fourth straight winning season, the first time in 50 years EIU has accomplished this feat.

Eastern was 6-5 defeating Delaware State 24-16 on the final Saturday to insure the above .500 streak and remain the most successful collegiate football team in Illinois during this stretch.

The Panthers set or tied 16 school records (see attached sheet) and two NCAA I-AA national records with all but a few credited to a prolific passing attack.

Senior Rob Mehalic (Streator-Woodland) set a modern national record, regardless of division, by playing in 49 collegiate games, thanks to two 14-game playoff seasons in 1978 and 1980.

Mehalic finished second in NCAA I-AA national stats with 6.7 catches per game, set a school record with 67 pass receptions this season, wound up No. 2 on the all-time career list with 126 catches and No. 3 in yardage at 1766.

His 14 catches against Delaware State in the final game was a season high for I-AA receivers, set a national record for tight ends and was the second best day in EIU history.

"Rob Mehalic had a great season . . . he had the knack for getting open . . . the great hands and the determination to succeed," said Coach Darrell Mudra who has directed the four winning seasons for a combined 35-14 record.

QB Jeff Christensen (Gibson City), who set six passing records, was 4th in the nation in total offense (238 yards) while halfback Kevin Staple (Markham-Thornwood) was 8th in all-purpose running (rushing, receiving, punt and kickoff returns) with 133 yards per contest. Punter Don Manzke (Normal-University) was 5th in punting at 41.5 yards.

The Panthers' passing offense (257.9) and pass defense (101.4) was ranked 4th and 2nd, respectively, in national stats.

On the negative side Eastern coughed up 56 turnovers (31 fumbles, 25 interceptions) which was just three shy of the national record.

"We're disappointed with the season as a whole . . . the turnovers and inconsistency hurt us, mostly because we were a young team at the skill positions," said Mudra.

"We only lose three starters on offense, but two of those were four year lettermen in Mehalic and Scott Gilleland . . . defensively we lose five so there are some holes to fill, particularly in the secondary," he said.

1981 EASTERN ILLINOIS FOOTBALL RECORDS

INDIVIDUAL

Passing Yardage, Season - 2672, Jeff Christensen

Passing Yardage, Career - 4012, Jeff Christensen, 1980-81

Passes Attempted, Season - 430, Jeff Christensen

Pass Completed, Game - 32, Jeff Christensen vs. Indiana State

Passes Completed, Season - 222, Jeff Christensen

Total Offense, Season - 2626, Jeff Christensen

Pass Receptions, Season - 67, Rob Mehalic

Pass Receptions by a Back, Season - 37, Kevin Staple

TEAM

Passing Yardage, Season - 2837

Passes Attempted, Season - 457

Passes Attempted, Game - 58 (tied) vs. Illinois State

Passes Completed, Game - 32 vs. Indiana State

Passes Completed, Season - 233

Touchdown Passes, Game - 5 (tied) vs. Central State (OH)

Points in a Quarter - 30 (first quarter) vs. Central State (OH)

Turnovers, Season - 56 (31 fumbles, 25 interceptions)

NCAA I-AA National Records

Most Passes Caught by a Tight End, Game - 14 by Rob Mehalic vs. Delaware State

Most Consecutive Carries by Same Player, Game - 11, Tyrone Davis vs. Western Illinois

1981 EA IN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY VARSITY FOOTBALL S TISTICS (6-5)

RUSHING	G	ATT	GAIN	LOST	NET	P/GAME	P/CARRY	TD	LONG
Kevin Staple	9	137	768	68	700	77.8	5.1	3	51(FSC)
Tyrone Davis	11	75	235	6	229	20.8	3.0	8	32(WIU)
Roger Holoman	11	3	28	-	28	2.5	9.3	-	12(DSC)
Keith McFadden	4	30	95	20	75	18.7	2.5	-	15(CSU)
Jeff Christensen	11	63	197	243	-46	-	-	3	25(WIU)
Teddy Coopwood	11	4	13	-	13	1.1	3.2	-	6(NEMO)
Roy Ellis	6	38	140	32	108	18.0	2.8	2	14(CSU)
Don Manzke	11	1	-	10	-10	-	-	-	-
Mark Craighead	4	7	20	25	-5	-	-	-	11(FSC)
Jeff Musgray	7	7	7	11	-4	-	-	-	3(CSU)
Marty Morgan	1	1	1	-	1	1.0	1.0	-	1(FSC)
Ira Jefferson	11	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Booker Brown	4	11	49	-	49	12.2	4.4	-	16(FSC)
Bill Hatfield	1	1	13	-	13	13.0	13.0	-	13(FSC)
EIU TOTALS	11	380	1566	415	1151	104.6	3.0	16	51(FSC)
OPPONENTS	11	541	2094	562	1532	139.3	2.8	15	54(YSU)

PASSING	G	CPL	ATT	INT	YDS	PCT	P/GAME	P/CPL	P/ATT	TD	LONG
Jeff Christensen	11	222	430	22	2672	.516	242.9	12.0	6.2	17	53(CSU)
Jim Molnar	2	1	2	0	30	.500	15.0	30.0	15.0	1	30(CSU)
Mark Craighead	4	7	20	3	106	.350	15.1	15.1	5.3	0	30(CSU)
Eric Treida	2	3	5	0	29	.600	9.7	9.7	5.8	0	13(FSC)
EIU TOTALS	11	233	457	25	2837	.510	257.9	12.2	6.2	18	53(CSU)
OPPONENTS	11	83	193	17	1116	.430	101.4	13.4	5.8	9	64(USD)

PASS RECEIVING	G	REC	YDS	P/CATCH	P/GAME	TD	LONG	TEAM TOTALS	EIU	OPP
Jerry Wright	1	1	5	5.0	5.0	0	5(CSU)			
Roy Ellis	6	1	14	14.0	2.3	0	14(CSU)	FIRST DOWNS	223	143
Roger Holoman	11	40	621	15.5	56.4	8	53(CSU)	by rushing	75	76
Rob Mehalic	10	67	787	11.7	78.7	5	47(DSC)	by passing	137	49
Kevin Staple	9	37	365	9.9	40.5	-	28(FSC)	by penalty	11	18
Pat Blair	4	3	33	11.0	8.2	-	13(SWMS)	TOTAL OFFENSE	3988	2648
Dirk Androff	11	38	472	12.4	42.9	1	30(IND)	Per Game	362.5	240.7
Tyrone Davis	10	2	15	7.5	1.5	-	8(CSU)	Total Plays	837	734
Scott Weber	11	31	383	12.3	34.8	4	23(NEMO)	Yds. P/Play	4.8	3.6
Keith McFadden	4	3	42	14.0	10.5	-	21(CSU)	PENALTIES	84	61
Jeff Christensen	11	1	-9	-	-	-	-	Yds. Penalized	753	461
Teddy Coopwood	10	4	34	8.5	3.4	-	17(CSU)	FUMBLES	49	32
Jim Schmidt	3	4	45	11.2	15.0	-	15(FSC)	Fumbles Lost	31	15
George Stuart	1	1	30	30.0	30.0	-	30(CSU)			
EIU TOTALS	11	233	2837	12.2	257.9	18	53(CSU)			
OPPONENTS	11	83	1116	13.4	101.4	9	64(USD)			

PUNTING	G	NO	YDS	AVE	RET	NET	NET AVE	LONG
Don Manzke	11	52	2157	41.5	182	1975	38.0	67(WIU)
Jeff Christensen	9	3	141	47.0	0	141	47.0	60(WIU)
Team	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-
EIU TOTALS	11	57	2299	40.3	182	2117	37.1	67(WIU)
OPPONENTS	11	89	3188	35.8	241	2947	33.1	58(UNI)

		SCORE BY QUARTERS				
		1	2	3	4	
EIU	108	77	41	24	-	250 (22.7)
OPP	34	46	74	74	-	228 (20.7)

RETURNS	G	KO	YDS	AVE	TD	LONG	PT	YDS	AVE	TD	LONG
Tyrone Davis	11	3	42	14.0	-	20(SWMS)	-	-	-	-	-
Roy Ellis	6	8	108	13.5	-	21(USD)	1	7	7.0	-	7(YSU)
Charlie Person	10	-	-	-	-	-	14	74	5.3	-	11(CSU)
Kevin Staple	9	8	132	16.5	-	50(UNI)	-	-	-	-	-
Kevin Gray	10	6	86	14.3	-	18(FSC)	8	36	4.5	-	35(DSC)
Keith McFadden	4	2	45	22.5	-	38(NEMO)	-	-	-	-	-
David Ferguson	10	1	13	13.0	-	13(FSC)	-	-	-	-	-
Jeff Musgray	7	8	95	11.9	-	13(ISU)	14	124	8.8	-	35(IND)
Del Pittman	4	1	8	8.0	-	8(DSC)	-	-	-	-	-
EIU TOTALS	11	37	529	14.3	-	50(UNI)	37	241	6.5	-	35(IND, DSC)
OPPONENTS	11	35	658	18.8	1	89(DSC)	26	182	7.0	1	60(YSU)

SCORING	G	TD	PAT/K	PAT/R-P	FG	SAF	POINTS
Jeff Christensen	11	3	-	-	-	-	18
Tyrone Davis	11	8	-	-	-	-	48
Roger Holoman	11	8	-	-	-	-	48
Rob Mehalic	10	5	-	1	-	-	32
Dirk Androff	11	1	-	-	-	-	6
Ray DeLong	10	-	27-31	-	5-8	-	42
Roy Ellis	6	2	-	-	-	-	12
Scott Weber	11	4	-	-	-	-	24
Kevin Staple	9	3	-	-	-	-	18
Team	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
EIU TOTALS	11	34	27-31	1-3	5-8	1	250
OPPONENTS	11	28	21-23	4-5	9-14	2	228