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Panther Sports News

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PREVIEWING THE WEEK (Jan. 8-15)

- Wednesday, Jan. 8 MEN'S BASKETBALL HOSTS BUTLER (7:30 p.m.)
- Friday, Jan. 10 WRESTLING HOSTS MISSOURI, NORTHERN ILLINOIS (7 p.m.)
- Saturday, Jan. 11 Men's Basketball at Northern Iowa (7:30 p.m.)
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HOSTS SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (7:30 p.m.)
WRESTLING HOSTS CENTRAL MISSOURI (1:30 p.m.)
- Monday, Jan. 13 MEN'S BASKETBALL HOSTS WESTERN ILLINOIS (7:30 p.m.)

MEN'S BASKETBALL: The Panthers are sporting a 7-4 record after capturing the title at the Seaside Classic in Hawaii. EIU defeated South Alabama 70-61 in the opening round... and then nipped Brigham Young-Hawaii, 77-73, in the title game. Eastern Illinois dropped a 90-68 verdict at Northeast Louisiana last Saturday night. Senior All-American forward JON COLLINS (E. St. Louis/Cahokia) scored 46 points and grabbed eight rebounds during the two games on the "Islands."

JON COLLINS (E. St. Louis/Cahokia), senior forward, is leading the team in scoring with a 20.4 average. The All-America candidate also is second on the squad in rebounding with a 5.2 average.. He is hitting at a .523 clip from the field and .754 from the charity stripe. Collins scored a season-high 28 points in the Panthers win over BYU-Hawaii.

KEVIN DUCKWORTH (Dolton/Thornridge), senior center, is second on the team in scoring with a 15.6 average. The "Aircraft Carrier" paces the Panthers in rebounding with an 8.3 mark. He scored 31 points and hauled down 18 rebounds during the holiday tourney in Hawaii. "Sir Duck" is hitting .542 from the field and .772 from the line.

DOUG CROOK (Vincennes, ind./Lincoln), senior guard, is the third senior starter in double figures in scoring with a 14.4 average. The consistent performer scored a team-high 20 points in EIU's win over South Alabama. He also scored 16 points a piece in games against BYU-Hawaii and Northeast Louisiana, respectively. Crook is second on the team in assists (33) and first in steals (26).

NORM EVANS (Joliet/Central), sophomore guard, was credited with a season-high 13 points in EIU's win over South Alabama. The team's floor-general is averaging 6.6 ppg while being an impressive third in rebounding with a 3.9 mark. Evans leads the Panthers in assists (36) and is second in steals (24).

DAVE VANCE (Roselle/Lake Park), freshman forward, scored nine points and grabbed seven boards in the Seaside Classic title win over BYU-Hawaii. The high-jumping freshman is bringing down 3.1 rebounds and 3.3 points an outing. Vance is hitting a sparkling .833 from the free throw line.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: The Lady Panthers have run their record to 9-2--including five in a row--with Gateway Conference wins over Wichita State (95-80) and SW Missouri (86-70). EIU is tied for first-place in the league with a 2-0 mark. Against Wichita State, Eastern shot a season-high .679 from the field.

CHRIS ALDRIDGE (Taylorville), senior forward, is leading the team in scoring (19.3) and rebounding (6.5). The All-Gateway Conference selection scored 30 points and tied a school record with 15 field goals in Eastern's 86-70 verdict over SW Missouri. She also had 20 points, nine rebounds and eight assists in the Lady Panthers 95-80 thumping of Wichita State.

MELANIE HATFIELD (Lawrenceburg, Ind.), senior guard, scored a team-high 21 points in EIU's 95-80 win over Wichita State. She is second on the team in scoring with a 15.3 average while also leading the squad in assists (5.6), steals (4.7) and block shots (0.7). The versatile performer had a career-high 12 assists in Eastern's win over SW Missouri.

SUE HYND (Ottawa), senior center, is Eastern's third-leading scorer with a 10.7 average. She had 17 points against Wichita State and came back with an 11-point effort against SW Missouri. "Slender Sue" leads EIU's regulars in field goal shooting with a .511 percentage.

SHERYL BONSETT (Scottsburg, Ind.), freshman guard, is averaging an impressive 8.5 ppg as a freshman. She hit a career-high 19 points in Eastern's Gateway Conference opener against Wichita State. Bonsett canned six of seven from the field and seven of nine from the line. The heady guard is averaging 3.4 assists and 2.7 steals a game.

LISA TYLER (Aurora, Ind./South Dearborn), freshman forward, scored 12 second-half points while lifting the Lady Panthers to an 86-70 win over Gateway Conference rival SW Missouri on Saturday. She is second on the team in rebounding with a 5.6 average. Tyler also is averaging eight points a game while shooting an impressive .507 from the field.