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02/19/1986 - EIU Mens Wrestling

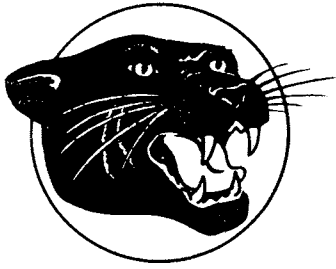
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Panther Sports News

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CHARLESTON, IL--(Feb. 19, 1986)--Eastern Illinois' wrestlers showed they can compete with the best as they defeated Purdue 20-16 in a dual meet Saturday. Now the Panthers have their sights set on the University of Illinois, who they face in a dual meet on Thursday. Eastern now holds a 9-2 record in dual meets.

"Illinois will really be up for us, because it's their last meet before regionals," said Eastern head coach Ralph McCausland.

Eastern's Chris McFarland (158) improved his overall record to 31-2 with a 4-2 decision over Purdue's Dave Lilovich. This was a big victory for McFarland because Lilovich placed 4th in the nation in that weight class last year. "That was a good win for Chris," said McCausland. "It added to what he has gained thus far this season. He had gained composure and he wrestled with confidence," McCausland said.

Tinley Park native Mark Rodriguez wrestled his first match since Christmas break when he suffered an ankle injury. Rodriguez came through with an 8-5 decision in the 118 lb. class.

EIU's heavyweight Demetrius Harper had the whole meet on his shoulders. The score was tied at 16 going into his bout and Harper rose to the occasion scoring a 13-4 win which sealed the team victory for Eastern.

The Panthers aren't looking past Illinois. "We can't think about regionals yet, we have to take one match at a time and then concentrate on regionals," said McCausland.

"Illinois doesn't really have any standout wrestlers, they're pretty well balanced and in shape," said McCausland. "They just keep coming at you."