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03/17/1986 - Michael Steinkamp To Move Onto Illinois

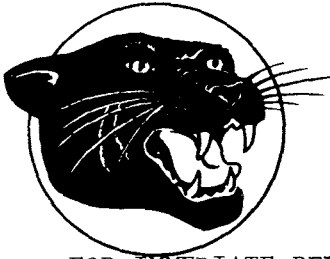
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--(March 17, 1986)--Eastern Illinois University senior Michael J. Steinkamp, a Lincoln High School graduate and a right-handed pitcher for the Panthers' baseball team, has been granted a research assistantship to study physics next fall at the University of Illinois.

Steinkamp, who will graduate from Eastern Illinois on May 10 with a Bachelor of Science degree in physics and a minor in mathematics, said the assistantship will cover tuition and fees and provide a stipend of \$9,000 per school year. In turn, he will be doing fusion and plasma laboratory research 20 hours per week while striving for a doctorate degree.

Steinkamp, who ranked 10th in the Association of Mid-Continent Universities Conference last spring with a 4.86 earned run average while posting a 6-2 record, was recommended for the prestigious award by Eastern Illinois physics instructors Dr. Marvin L. Breig, Dr. A. Douglas Davis and Dr. Leonard Storm.

"Illinois is an outstanding school to study nuclear energy, and it is close to home," said Steinkamp, whose grade point average was 3.60 last fall. His GPA in physics is 3.41 and 3.21 overall.

"I want to be a theoritician more so than an experimentalist. I want to use my physics and math background as much as possible. One of the instructors at Illinois told me it takes between five and one-half and six years to get a doctorate."

Steinkamp credited his father, Jim, and EIU baseball coach Tom McDevitt for helping him realize his potential while not on the pitching mound.

"I've always loved science and how things work," said Steinkamp. My dad is a soil scientist for the government, and he's always kept me interested in nature.

"In high school, I thought life was just baseball. Having 'Skip' (McDevitt) as a coach has been instrumental in showing me how important grades are. A guy with my level of talent has more of a future in academics than baseball. Skip gave me the right attitude, that studying comes first. If it weren't for him, I probably wouldn't

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have been able to do it. He's a promoter of academics."

Last season, Steinkamp tied for second on the squad for victories as the Panthers went 33-14-1 overall and a perfect 8-0 in the AMCU's Gray Division. Eastern Illinois was runner-up in the post-season conference tournament.