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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, ILL. (March 19, 1986)--Eastern Illinois basketball player **KEVIN DUCKWORTH** has been selected to participate in the 34th Annual Portsmouth Invitational Basketball Tournament in Portsmouth, Va.

64 top senior collegiate basketball players in the country will take part in the eight-team tournament April 2-5. There will be eight players on each team in the round-robin hoop classic. One of the main purposes of the tournament is to give the NBA scouts more of an opportunity to evaluate a player on his chances to play professional basketball.

The imposing 7-0, 280-pound center averaged 19.5 points and a conference-leading 9.1 boards a game for the 19-13 Panthers. "Sir Duck" was named the AMCU-8 Post-Season Tournament MVP after a stellar 70-point, 28-rebound performance while leading Eastern to second-place in the tournament. He also received first-team all-league honors as a senior.

The Dolton, Ill. senior finished his career as EIU's third all-time leading scorer with 1569 career points while also garnering all-time rebounding honors with 867. Duckworth was named **THE MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER IN THE COUNTRY** by CBS Sports and the National Association of Basketball Coaches after a banner senior campaign.

Many former NBA and collegiate greats have played in the prestigious and oldest of the post-season tournaments. The list includes: Rick Barry (Golden State Warriors), Earl Monroe (NY Knicks) and Dave Cowens (Boston Celtics). The list of current collegiate players who have indicated they play in the Portsmouth Invitational includes: Carl Golston (Loyola), Andre Turner (Memphis State), Wendell Alexis (Syracuse) and Kenny Gattison (Old Dominion).