

3-14-1985

03/14/1985 - EIU BaseBall Panthers

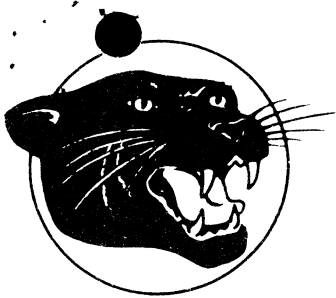
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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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March 14, 1985
LS-AS-Baseball-Hts

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's baseball Panthers, a veteran team with seven regulars and five starting pitchers returning, will open the 1985 season this weekend hosting MacMurray College on Saturday (March 16) and Evansville on Sunday (March 17).

Game time is 1 p.m. at Monier Field, weather permitting, and both are doubleheaders.

EIU, 19-11 last year, will commence soon on an 18-game southern trip (March 21-30) through Florida, Alabama, Tennessee and Missouri as part of the 55-game schedule.

"This club has as much potential as any I've had here," said eighth year coach Tom McDevitt, "but there's still a big difference between potential and finishing with a good record.

"We should again be an excellent hitting team (.312 last year) and have decent depth. We may not have any Nolan Ryans on our pitching staff but we sure don't have any one who is poor."

Among the regulars, the top two hitters, senior outfielders Tim Parker (Charleston-Lake Land CC) at .407 and Monty Aldrich (Louisville-Olney CC) at .389, return along with rightfielder Kevin Smith (Peoria-Richwoods), who batted .333 last season.

Parker also led the team with 36 runs batted in and with only 81 at-bats had the best RBI/at-bat ratio of any player in recent years.

"Tim is simply a good steady ball player who gives 100%," says McDevitt. "Monty is definitely one of the two best centerfielders in the state."

Smith, who will also spot start as a righthanded pitcher, is the regular rightfielder. "His future is in the outfield. He has good bat speed and can run the 60 (first base to third base) in 6.6. Last summer in a Wisconsin college league he hit .399 with 13 doubles, 13 triples and 18 homers."

The infield is led by all-conference shortstop Terry McDevitt (Charleston-Lake Land CC), who batted .241 for the Panthers last spring, but "had a good summer hitting .393 in

a New York college league so I expect him to have a good year for us, too," McDevitt said.

The rest of the infield positions will be filled by new people although two are not new faces. Tim Torricelli (Springfield), who caught last season, will move to third base while Rick Sterioti (Joliet-Catholic), last year's third baseman, switches to second. Kendall Synder (Raymond-Lincolnwood), a transfer from Lincoln Land CC, will be the first baseman.

Torricelli only batted .157 here last spring "but hit .388 which was second in the Central Illinois Collegiate League. Right now I foresee batting him fourth or fifth in the lineup. He played third last summer so the change is not new to him.

"Sterioti is a good double play man and has quick hands . . . in fact, sometimes he's too quick so he needs to relax and probably would make less errors. Second is his natural position, though."

Snyder, a 6-3 junior, is "as good a defensive first baseman as I've had, and he can hit. He's also capable of playing third . . . but first is his true position."

Alswinn Kieboom (Oosterhout-Netherlands), a parttimer last year, inherits the No. 1 catching job with Torricelli's shift to third. "He has quick hands and feet behind the plate . . . and an accurate throwing arm."

Bernard Holland (Olympia Fields-Thornwood), who batted .338 last year as the designated hitter, is slated for that role again. A halfback in football, he was injured last fall and is just coming off knee surgery. "Bernie has major league power . . . excellent bat speed and he can really run."

If everyone remains healthy, pitching should be more than adequately led by the return of four year veteran Mick Freed (Lexington), who led the team with a 6-2 record and 3.00 ERA last spring, and is 11-5 and 3.04 in his career.

"Mick is one of the premier pitchers in the state . . . he simply throws strikes and doesn't beat himself."

No. 2 starter will likely be sophomore Dave Goodhue (Armstrong), who was 4-1 last spring before an arm injury ended his season prematurely. "Dave has a decent fastball and breaking pitch, and a good change."

The top reliever is Paul Skorupa (Barrington), a 6-4 righthander, who has been bothered by a sore shoulder early this season. He appeared in 15 games, most on the team, and had a 5-2 record in '84.

Skorupa also struck out 38 in 44 innings. "He could easily be in the rotation but I think he's more valuable coming out of the bullpen," McDevitt explained.

Two others who figure in the starting plans are junior righthanders Jim Wilkins (Country Club Hills-Hillcrest) and Mike Steinkamp (Lincoln). "Wilkins is the only pitcher to increase his velocity five miles per hour within six months . . . just from last fall to spring. He has gone from having an 81-82 MPH fast ball to 86-87. He has a fine curve and respectable control.

"Steinkamp is just starting to come into his own. He has all the necessary pitches and is taking a more aggressive attitude."

Junior Sam Light (Bartonville-Limestone), who appeared in 10 games last season, will figure into McDevitt's pitching plans, also. "He doesn't seem to do anything but get people out . . . mostly as a reliever. He owns an assortment of pitches and deliveries, and that different delivery makes him difficult to hit."

The top two pitching recruits are Brian Corn (Elgin) and Eric Hillman (Homewood-Flossmoor). "Corn was the best righthanded pitcher I saw last year in Illinois. He has excellent stuff and good velocity, and he's an intense competitor.

"Hillman is 6-8, lefthanded and has as much potential as any player on the squad. When he turns loose of the ball he's already two feet closer to the plate than most pitchers, and that's a big plus. He's likely to be a spot starter."

Another possible starter is Bill Jose (Salem), a transfer from Mineral Area (MO) CC, who was drafted out of high school but did not sign. "He throws hard and if he gains better control will help us."

1985 EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BASEBALL ROSTER

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HT.</u>	<u>WT.</u>	<u>YR.</u>	<u>POS.</u>	<u>B/T</u>	<u>BIRTH</u>	<u>HOMETOWN (High School/JC)</u>
Monty Aldrich	5-9	165	Sr.	OF	L/L	9-16-63	Louisville (Olney CC)
Tim Bogar	6-0	165	Fr.	IF	R/R	10-28-66	Arlington Hts.(Buffalo Grove)
Mike Cassidy	6-1	180	So.	P	L/L	8-26-64	Ottawa
Brian Corn	5-8	160	Fr.	P	R/R	10-17-66	Elgin
Mick Freed	6-3	195	Sr.	P	R/R	12-13-62	Lexington
Dave Goodhue	6-1	195	So.	P	L/R	4-7-65	Armstrong
Eric Hillman	6-8	190	Fr.	P	L/L	4-27-66	Flossmoor (Homewood-Flossmoor)
Bernard Holland	5-10	190	So.	OF	L/L	3-11-65	Olympia Fields (Thornwood)
Bill Jose	6-5	210	Jr.	P	R/R	10-3-64	Salem (Mineral Area CC)
Terry Keigher	5-10	160	So.	OF/1B	L/L	6-16-65	Joliet (West)
Alswinn Kieboom	5-10	170	So.	C	R/R	9-17-64	Oosterhout (Netherlands)
Sam Light	5-10	170	Jr.	P	R/R	3-22-64	Bartonville (Limestone)
Terry McDevitt	5-10	165	Jr.	SS	L/R	4-23-64	Charleston (Lake Land CC)
Tim Parker	5-10	165	Sr.	OF	L/R	12-19-62	Charleston (Lake Land CC)
Jim Prims	6-0	180	So.	P	R/R	5-24-64	Glenview (Maine E./Oakton CC)
Chuck Reno	6-0	170	Jr.	C	R/R	10-6-63	Carbondale (Broward, FL CC)
Mike Rooney	6-0	180	So.	OF	R/R	2-28-65	Arlington Heights (Viator)
Paul Skorupa	6-4	195	Jr.	P	R/R	12-29-63	Barrington
Kevin Smith	6-1	180	Jr.	P/OF	L/L	10-26-63	Peoria (Richwoods)
Kendall Snyder	6-3	200	Jr.	1B/3B	R/R	7-24-64	Raymond (Lincolnwood/Lincoln-
Mike Steinkamp	6-4	195	Jr.	P	R/R	10-26-64	Lincoln land CC)
Rick Sterioti	6-0	165	So.	IF	S/R	6-18-65	Joliet (Catholic)
Tim Torricelli	5-8	170	Jr.	C/IF	R/R	11-11-63	Springfield
Ken Turner	5-9	150	Jr.	OF	R/R	6-17-64	Danville (Lake Land CC)
Jim Wilkins	5-10	155	Jr.	P	R/R	5-27-64	Country Club Hills (Marist)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location: Charleston, IL
 Enrollment: 9908
 Nickname: Panthers
 President: Dr. Stanley G. Rives
 Affiliation: NCAA Division I
 Conference: Association of Mid-Continent Universities (AMCU-8)
 Athletic Director: R. C. Johnson
 Head Coach: Tom McDevitt (seven years, 179-106)
 Assistants: None
 Playing Field: Monier Field
 Sports Information Director: David Kidwell
 Office: 217-581-2920 Home: 217-345-4166

GAME-BY-GAME RESULTS

EIU	OPPONENT	PITCHER OF RECORD
L 0	6 Arkansas (A) I	Mick Freed (0-1) S-CG
L 2	16 Arkansas (A) I	Mike Steinkamp (0-1) S
W 10	3 Northeastern (OK) State (A) NAIA	Sam Light (1-0) R
W 3	2 Northeastern (OK) State (A) NAIA (5 inn.)	Dave Goodhue (1-0) S-CG
W 15	10 Southwest Missouri (A) I	Dave Goodhue (2-0) S
W 12	8 Southwest Missouri (A) I	Mick Freed (1-1) S
L 5	6 Southwest Missouri (A) I	Paul Skorupa (0-1) R
W 8	0 ISU-Evansville (H) II	Jim Wilkins (1-0) S-CG
L 11	12 ISU-Evansville (H) II	Sam Light (1-1) R
W 5	0 Purdue (A) I	Mick Freed (2-1) S-CG
W 4	3 Purdue (A) I	Dave Goodhue (3-0) S
W 4	3 Purdue (H) I (5 inn.)	Paul Skorupa (1-1) S-CG
L 6	9 Illinois (A) I	Paul Skorupa (1-2) R
W 5	4 Indiana State (H) I	Mick Freed (3-1) S
W 7	4 Indiana State (H) I	Dave Goodhue (4-0) S
L 2	4 SIU-Edwardsville (A) II	Mick Freed (3-2) S-CG
W 6	4 SIU-Edwardsville (A) II (8 inn.)	Paul Skorupa (2-2) R
L 0	11 Illinois State (H) I	Jim Wilkins (1-1) S
L 6	9 Illinois State (H) I	Kevin Smith (0-1) S
W 12	0 Western Illinois (A) I	Mick Freed (4-2) S-CG
W 16	13 Illinois (H) I	Paul Skorupa (3-2) R
W 4	1 SIU-Carbondale (A) I	Mick Freed (5-2) S-CG
L 4	6 SIU-Carbondale (A) I	Dave Goodhue (4-1) S
W 9	3 Northern Iowa (A) I	Kevin Smith (1-1) S-CG
W 11	4 Northern Iowa (A) I	Paul Skorupa (4-2) S-CG
W 5	3 Greenville (H) NAIA	Sam Light (2-1) R
*W 5	3 Southwest Missouri (N) I	Mick Freed (6-2) S-CG
*W 9	1 Valparaiso (N) I	Paul Skorupa (5-2) S-CG
*L 6	8 Northern Iowa (N) I	Sam Light (2-2) R
*L 0	1 Southwest Missouri (N) I	Mike Steinkamp (0-2) S-CG

* Mid-Continent Tournament - 3rd