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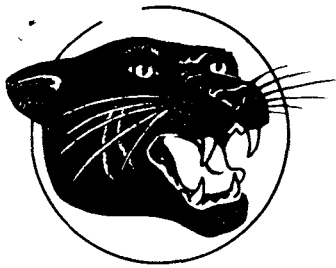
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL (March 20, 1986) - Four of Eastern Illinois' wrestlers ran into some stiff competition at this year's NCAA National wrestling tournament. None of the wrestlers placed in the prestigious event.

"This was the national tournament, and you never know what to expect in this tournament," said Eastern head coach Ralph McCausland.

Two of Eastern's wrestlers were eliminated after the first round. Chris McFarland (East Chicago Heights) and Demetrius Harper (Chicago Heights) both were eliminated after the first day of action.

McFarland drew a tough opponent in Ken Haselrig of Clarion State University. Haselrig was seeded seventh in the tournament. Haselrig defeated McFarland by a narrow 7-4 margin.

Harper was pinned by Jim Nielsen of Idaho State in the first round.

The only Eastern wrestler to advance in the tournament was Ozzie Porter (Chicago). After losing his first round bout to fourth seeded John LaViolette of Oklahoma, Porter came back in the consolation bracket with a 13-6 win over Bob Kuzy of Rider College. In the second round of the consolation bracket, the 167-pounder was beaten by Brad Loyd of Lockhaven College 12-0.

Keith Presley lost his first round match to fourth seeded Adam Cohen of Arizona State. In the consolation bracket Presley was beaten by Alan Richburg of Fresno State 7-4.

"I was a little disappointed by the outcome of the tournament," McCausland said. "I was expecting us to win a few more matches."

"This is a pretty overwhelming tournament, and none of these guys have been here before," said McCausland. "It was an experience I hope they enjoyed. Just being in the national tournament is prestige in itself."

Presley finished the season with a 22-14 record, while McFarland ended his

senior year at Eastern with a 35-5 record. Porter also a senior, finished with a 30-7 record. Harper ended the season at 27-11-3.