

4-1-1986

04/01/1986 - Baseball Wins

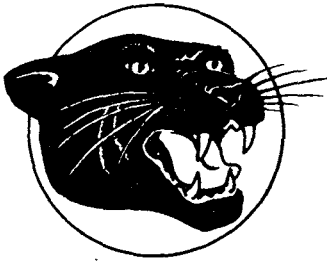
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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

DAVID KIDWELL, Sports Information Director

OFFICE: (217) 581-2920

HOME: (217) 345-4166

LS - A - Baseball

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL (April 1, 1986) --After getting off to a slow start, Eastern Illinois University's baseball Panthers have responded by winning 11 of their last 15 games for an overall record of 12-6 prior to Tuesday's (April 1) double-header against Southern Illinois-Edwardsville.

Eastern began the 1986 season losing two of three games at Murray State, but the Panthers then reeled off five consecutive victories at the West Florida Classic, including three triumphs against Bradley (NOTE: EIU hosts Bradley on Wednesday, April 2, at 1:00 p.m. with a home-opening double-header at Monier Field).

The Panthers have also proven that they can play with some of the top teams in the nation, taking three of four contests at Troy State, which has finished in the top 13 among Division II schools for the past seven years. Eastern lost the opener at Troy State before winning the next three games.

Eastern will battle Purdue on Saturday and Sunday (April 5-6) at Monier Field, with both day's double-headers scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. EIU took three of four games last season against Purdue and was 6-3 against the Big Ten Conference a year ago.

Individually, the Panthers have had several standout performances thus far. Senior outfielder KEVIN SMITH (Peoria-Richwoods) has 28 hits in 70 at-bats for an impressive .400 average to go along with 19 runs and 12 runs batted in. The left-handed batting Smith also leads Eastern with seven doubles and is tied for top honors with four stolen bases. Smith has started all 18 games in center field.

Senior catcher/third baseman TIM TORRICELLI (Springfield) has 21 hits in 57 at-bats for a .368 average. Torricelli is tied for the team lead with 15 RBIs and is tied for third with 14 runs. He has also walked a team-leading 13 times to go along with a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage, handling all 80 chances mainly behind the plate.

Freshman third baseman STAN ROYER (Charleston) has 21 hits in 61 at-bats for a .344 average along with 10 RBIs. Royer, a 10th-round draft choice last year by the Atlanta Braves, has also scored 11 runs and has walked 11 times. He has started every game at

EIU BASEBALL

ADD 1

the hot corner.

Junior outfielder/designated hitter BERNIE HOLLAND (Olympia Fields-Thornwood) is also carrying a big stick. Holland, the Triple Crown winner in the Central Illinois Collegiate League last summer, has 21 hits in 63 at-bats for a .333 average. Holland is tied for top honors with Torricelli with 15 RBIs each, and the former has also scored 15 runs, second among the Panthers.

His record may indicate it, but Eastern's top pitcher this season has been junior right-hander DAVE GOODHUE (Fithian-Armstrong). Goodhue, who ranked 11th in the nation a year ago with a 1.89 earned run average, has an even more impressive ERA this season. He has allowed just three earned runs in 30 innings for a miniscule 0.90 ERA to go along with his deceptive 2-2 record. Goodhue has struck out 23 and walked just six.

Senior right-hander PAUL SKORUPA (Brownsville, TX-Barrington) made his first appearance of the season a very impressive one as he allowed just two hits in a 9-1 victory over Austin Peay State. Skorupa took a no-hitter into the sixth inning while striking out eight and walking three.

Senior right-handers SAM LIGHT (Bartonville-Limestone) and MIKE STEINKAMP (Lincoln) have also helped the Panthers with solid performances on the mound. Light, used mainly in relief a year ago, was the first Eastern pitcher to record a complete game this season as he posted a victory over Tennessee Tech. Light has a 2-0 record and one save to go along with a 2.77 earned run average. Steinkamp leads the Panthers with three victories, and his ERA of 2.80 ranks fourth on the squad. Steinkamp has pitched 25 2/3 innings -- second only to staff ace Goodhue -- while recording 15 strikeouts and seven bases on balls.

Eastern has a team batting average of .312 and a team earned run average of 3.73. The Panthers ranked fifth in the nation a year ago with a 3.45 for 48 games. Eastern has batted .300 or better as a team for the past five seasons.