

3-15-1985

## 03/15/1985 - Strickland

University Marketing and Communications

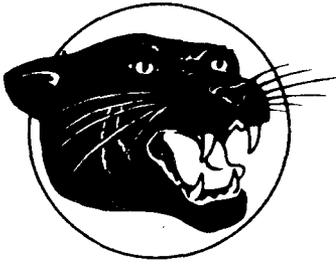
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# Panther Sports News

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Ht 4

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--J. J. Strickland (Mounds-Meridian), 6-4 freshman for Eastern Illinois University's basketball Panthers, appeared in 15 games for the Panthers in a limited role.

He averaged 1.9 points a game with a high of eight against Western Illinois University. Strickland was utilized as a swing player alternating between forward and guard.

"J. J. didn't get a chance to play very often because there were several veteran players in front of him but now that they are leaving we are excited about his future with us," said head coach Rick Samuels.

"Right now he needs to work hard in the summer and accept the challenges presented to him. He likely will be a swingplayer again this coming season backing up two seniors, Jon Collins at forward and Doug Crook at guard, but with five seniors graduating J. J.'s playing time should escalate considerably."

Eastern finished with a 20-10 record, a significant achievement in that it's only the fourth year the Panthers have been a NCAA Division I team. EIU concluded the year with a Mid-Continent tournament championship by defeating Southwest Missouri, 75-64, in the title game.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>G(GS)</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>FGA</u>	<u>FG%</u>	<u>FT</u>	<u>FTA</u>	<u>FT%</u>	<u>REB</u>	<u>PTS</u>	<u>AVE</u>
1985	15	10	19	.526	8	15	.533	4	28	1.9