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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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CHARLESTON, ILL. (April 9, 1986) -- St. Louis, Mo. native GERALD JONES has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball for Eastern Illinois next fall.

The 5-10, 150-pound point guard was the "catalyst" for Vashon High School's incredible 31-1 team that won its second consecutive Class 4A state title. The two-year starter—and three-year letterman—helped to lead Vashon to an 86-12 three-year record, two state titles and one state runner-up honor.

The cat-quick play-maker was the team's third-leading scorer with a 10.8 average. He averaged seven assists a game as a senior and led the area in assists and steals. Jones scored a career-high 23 points against University High as a senior.

He was named to the first-team All-Public High League squad last season while also receiving first-team all-city and all-district accolades after a banner senior campaign. Jones also was tabbed to the second-team all-state and third-team all-metro by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

"Gerald is an exceptional player...and more importantly...a tremendous individual," notes EIU head coach Rick Samuels. "He is a good scorer and a leader on the court. Gerald is a true point-guard that can also shoot the ball when needed. He comes from a highly-regarded program that is known for producing fundamentally-sound players. I'm really excited about Gerald's choice."

"I think Gerald made a good choice in deciding to go to Eastern Illinois," explains Vashon head coach Floyd Irons. "He is a good leader with a tremendous amount of potential and poise. Gerald was our point guard but he also could've scored a lot more if we really needed it. I'm sure Eastern Illinois will do a lot for Gerald in the next four years."

Jones was honored as the St.Louis area Player-of-the-Week three times as a senior. He is an excellent student and wants to major in business at EIU.