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Panther Sports News

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LS-Baseball

35

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, ILL (June 18, 1986)--Eastern Illinois baseball player BERNIE HOLLAND was killed Saturday morning in a one-car crash on I-72 near Route 10 on Piatt County.

The Olympia Fields, IL native was en route to a Central Illinois Collegiate League baseball game in Bloomington when the accident occurred. Holland--21-years old--played for the CICL's Springfield Rifles and won the league's Triple Crown a year ago while hitting .410 with 11 home runs and 57 runs batted in.

"Bernie was a class person," explains EIU head baseball coach Tom McDevitt. "As a person, you couldn't ask for a finer young man. He always was able to adjust to certain situations and I never saw him without a smile on his face. There was no way you couldn't like him. Bernie was a fine young man in every way, shape and form."

Holland came to Eastern Illinois on a football scholarship after graduating from Thornwood High School. He rushed for 164 yards and caught four passes as a freshman before having a series of knee injuries that curtailed his football career."

"There won't be another one like him (Bernie)," states Springfield Rifles head coach Claude Kracik. "He was a gentleman, a scholar, a polite individual. He always had a smile on his face. If the world was full of Bernard Hollands, it would be one hell of a place."