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07/01/1986 - Three Football Players All American

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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, ILL (June 27, 1986)--Eastern Illinois seniors SEAN PAYTON (Naperville/Central), ROY BANKS (Detroit, MI/King) and CALVIN PIERCE (Robbins/Richards) were recently named to the The Sporting News 1986 Pre-season All-American teams.

Payton--a record-setting quarterback--has passed for more than 7100 yards in the past two seasons for the Panthers. The 6-1, 200-pounder holds virtually every EIU passing mark and is setting his sights on a few national standards. He can become only the fifth player in NCAA history to eclipse the 10,000-yard mark. The pilot of the "Eastern Airlines" passing attack completed 256 of 494 passes for 3146 yards and 22 TDs as a junior.

Banks is the deep-threat in the Eastern scheme of things. The Motor City wide receiver has 131 career receptions for 2163 yards and 27 TDs in just 23 games. He has scored a TD one every 4.85 times he has caught a pass throughout his career. Banks like Payton is a two-time Associated Press honorable mention All-American as well as a two-time all-league pick.

The "bull" of the talented corps of EIU receivers is Pierce. The 6-2, 200-pounder was second on the team with 60 receptions a year ago. Actually a slotback, Pierce registered 900 yards and four TDs for Eastern last season. He tied for 22nd in the country in 1-AA in receiving last season and was often considered one of the toughest players in the conference to bring down. Pierce has 98 career catches for 1429 yards over the past two seasons.

Eastern opens up its fourth season under Al Molde August 30 when the Panthers travel to Gateway Conference-rival Illinois State for a night game.