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### 08/05/1986 - Wide Receivers

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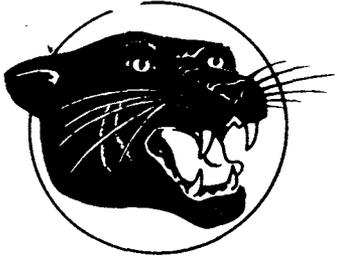
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# **Panther Sports News**

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## WIDE RECEIVERS

(Second in a Series)

IMMEDIATE RELEASE (August 5, 1986)

CHARLESTON, IL.--Gateway Conference coaches certainly respect Roy Banks.

The Eastern Illinois University wide receiver was just one of two Gateway players unanimously chosen preseason all-conference.

That respect also means defensive coordinators will again be challenged to construct alignments to slow EIU's fastest player and, arguably, the Panthers best receiver ever.

Banks, a senior flanker from Detroit (King HS), is a two-time Honorable Mention All-American and all-conference pick. He's also going to break school records in the most accurate measures of pass catching success, that being number of receptions and yardage.

He has 131 receptions, needing just 35 to top Willie White's (1970-73) 164 career mark. Banks is also just 360 yards short of most receiving yardage. Jerry Wright (1981-84) has the record (2522) with Banks at 2163.

His pass catching skills need little comment. He caught 69 for 1269 yards as a soph and then last year was 59 for 817 despite missing most of two games with a broken collarbone.

Timed in 4.47 for the 40, Banks "is the fastest player on the team," says receiver coach Marty Higgins. "He's also worked hard to develop his overall game . . . particularly his blocking skills to help our running game."

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Banks success, though, may depend upon how well QB Sean Payton can find other capable receivers to again keep the defense honest.

A starting point is senior slotback Calvin Pierce (Oak Lawn-Richards, another Honorable Mention All-American who led the Panthers with 900 yards in receiving and was second on the team with 60 catches.

He will also play an increased role in the running game, according to Head Coach Al Molde. "When ball control is in our best interest, people can look for Pierce to run with it more often," he says.

Pierce has played tight end and running back so his versatility will come in handy when the Panthers alternate between a one and two-back set.

The other wideout, Willie Cain (Chicago-Harper/Eastern Utah CC), a senior split end, started some last year catching 20 balls for 285 yards. "Willie has worked hard on the weights, and been one of the most dedicated in the strength program during the offseason," says Higgins, "and he's close to Roy in speed.

"I think our area of concern with him is his consistency but he spent the summer here with Payton, so he's definitely our No. 1 split end coming into camp."

Junior tight end Shon McCray (Springfield-Charleston) has a virtual lock on that position unless some shifting occurs during fall camp.

McCray started eight games there last year catching 19 passes for 221 yards. "Shon came out of spring ball more consistent in both blocking and receiving," said assistant Rob Kuhlman, who coaches this segment.

"McCray has always been a good pass blocker but greatly improved his run blocking."

The ranks thin quickly as no backup has caught a pass. Ray Skinner (Pasadena, CA-Fullerton CC) is projected to help either behind Pierce or McCray, and could also play at wideout.

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"Ray has legit ability," said Higgins. "He's strong enough to play behind Calvin, has the speed to go outside and catches the ball well."

Skinner was in camp last year but suffered a broken collarbone and did not play.

Robert Dixon (Los Angeles, CA-LA Valley CC) and Mike Milosovic (Tinley Park-Andrews) were also on the team last year. Marcus O'Neal (Calumet Park-Leo) is the top frosh recruit.

Two redshirt freshmen tight ends are Brent Fischer (Quincy-Notre Dame) and Pat Munda (Calumet City-Thornton Fractional North). Both are similar in size, Fischer at 6-4, 235 and Munda at 6-3, 235.

"Which backups play will depend upon who steps forward this fall," said Higgins.