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09/30/1986 - EIU's Men's Football Ranked Sixteenth in NCAA I-AA Poll

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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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- FB OP. - FB ST.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Sept. 30)

CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University's football Panthers, ranked 16th in the latest NCAA I-AA poll, will host a first time non-conference opponent, Liberty University, Saturday night (Oct. 4). Kickoff is 6:30 CDT at O'Brien Stadium.

The records are reversed for both teams. EIU, which has won three straight, is 3-1 overall while Liberty, an independent, is 1-3.

EIU was idle this past Saturday while Liberty, which is located in Lynchburg, VA, lost to Wofford College, 17-6.

The visiting Flames are a NCAA Division II club but are in their first year of a two year compliance period as they are advancing to Division I-AA in football.

"I think we're anxious to get back to the playing field after being off a week. We had time to enjoy the win over Southern Illinois but now it's time to again to prove we're a quality football team and prove we can maintain consistency," said coach Al Molde.

****GAME NOTES****

THE GAME: Eastern Illinois University (3-1, 1-1) hosts Liberty University (1-3) at 6:30 CDT, Saturday, October 4 at O'Brien Stadium, Charleston.

RADIO: All the action can be heard on 50,000 watt WLBH-FM, 97 on the dial . . . Ken Wooddell calls play-by-play and Doug Bock provides commentary.

COACHES: EIU's Al Molde, in his fourth season, is 24-14 here, 98-56-5 overall in 15 years . . . he has had 12 winning seasons and four NCAA playoff teams coaching at Sioux Falls College, Minn-Morris and Central Missouri . . . he is 0-0 vs. Liberty.

Liberty's Morgan Hout, in his third season, is 9-13-1, and 0-0 vs. EIU.

more

SERIES: This is the first meeting between the two universities.

LIBERTY FACTS: Liberty has a 1-3 record losing to West Georgia (21-17), Mars Hill (15-0), Wofford College (17-7) and defeating James Madison (17-7) . . . besides James Madison, EIU is the only other I-AA team on the schedule . . .the Flames are scoring only 10 points a game and allowing 15 . . .they are getting 263 yards total offense, giving up 352 p/game . . . the leaders are Football News preseason All-American cornerbacks Mark Mathis and Wayne Haddix. . . Mathis had two pass interceptions and recovered a blocked punt in the endzone vs. James Madison . . .linebacker Dwight Jones is the stat leader with 55 tackles . . .QB Paul Johnson threw for 227 yards in the Wofford loss and is averging 168 through the air . . . he has completed 53% of his passes and one TD . . .TE Doug Thompson is the best receiver with 19 for 233 yards and tailback Willie Larkins has rushed for 187 yards, 46.8 p/game.

UPDATING BANKS: WR ROY BANKS (DETROIT, MI-KING) needs just 18 yards receiving to set an all-time yardage record . . . he has 2505, and will be out to eclipse Jerry Wright's 1981-84 record of 2522.

PAYTON'S PLACE: QB SEAN PAYTON (NAPERVILLE-CENTRAL) has 8411 passing yards . . . he needs to average just 227 p/game the remainder of the way to reach 10,000 yards in his career . . .he's also ranked in the top five in two NCAA I-AA categories . . .3rd in passing yards at 1212 and 4th in total offense with 288 yards p/game.

PIERCE'S RECEPTIONS: SLOTBACK CALVIN PIERCE (OAK LAWN-RICHARDS) is No. 4 in NCAA I-AA in receiving yardage with 465, and No. 8 in receptions p/game at 6.5 . . . he's caught 26 this fall and three TDs. . . he's also moving up on some EIU Top Five receiving lists . . . he has 124 career receptions, and needs just three more to become No. 4 . . . his 1894 career yards is just 27 short of the No. 4 spot there, also.

PITTS BACK: FB DUWAYNE PITTS (DETROIT, MI-MACKENZIE), who has been sidelined with an ankle injury since the Northeast Missouri game a month ago, will return to action against Liberty . . . however, JAMES MARABLE (CHICAGO-SCHURZ) will remain in the starting lineup as he is averaging 141 yards all-purpose running.

NCAA I-AA RANKING: The Panthers are ranked NO. 16 in the lastest NCAA I-AA poll released Monday . . .EIU was up to No. 15 in the initial poll but was idle so dropped one notch. . .the only other Gateway Conference team ranked is Northern Iowa, which is No. 10.

| GATEWAY CONFERENCE STANDINGS: | GC | Overall |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Northern Iowa | 1-0 | 2-0-1 |
| Western Illinois | 1-0 | 3-1 |
| Indiana State | 1-0 | 2-2 |
| EASTERN ILLINOIS | 1-1 | 3-1 |
| Illinois State | 1-1 | 1-3 |
| Southwest Missouri | 1-3 | 1-3 |
| Southern Illinois | 0-1 | 3-2 |

GATEWAY TODAY:

EASTERN ILLINOIS hosts Liberty University
Illinois State at Western Illinois
Indiana State at Ball State
Northern Iowa hosts Arkansas-Pine Bluff
Southern Illinois at Kansas
Southwest Missouri hosts Nicholls State

COACH MOLDE SAYS: "Since we've never played this team our impressions are based strictly on what we see on film . . . they have some quickness and a big offensive line . . . what we need to do, though, is to maintain the level of concentration and intensity that we had against Southern Illinois, and work harder on succeeding at what we do best . . . we can't afford to overlook anyone on our schedule, and that's what we'll be emphasizing this week."

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| SE | 80 Willie Cain (6-2, 195, Sr.) * | 13 Mike Milosovic (5-10, 160, Jr.) |
| LT | 78 Chris Geile (6-5, 310, Sr.) * | 63 Dave Popp (6-6, 250, So.) |
| LG | 72 Mark Petersen (6-3, 260, Jr.) * | 66 Bob Benning (6-0, 235, Sr.) ** |
| C | 76 Sean O'Brien (6-1, 275, So.) * | 75 Butch Brzeski (6-3, 250, Jr.) |
| RG | 69 Jim Miteff (6-0, 230, Jr.) ** | 68 Chris Severson (6-3, 250, Sr.) |
| RT | 62 Steve Bonnes (6-3, 270, Sr.) ** | 73 John Valenta (6-4, 250, So.) |
| TE | 40 Derick Wilhelms (6-2, 210, Jr.) ** | 32 Shon McCray (6-2, 255, Jr.) * |
| FL | 2 Roy Banks (5-11, 190, Sr.) ** | 13 Mike Milosovic (5-10, 160, Jr.) |
| SB | 21 Calvin Pierce (6-1, 205, Sr.) ** | 40 Derick Wilhelms (6-2, 210, Jr.) ** |
| FB | 7 James Marable (5-9, 170, So.) * | 20 DuWayne Pitts (5-9, 175, Jr.) ** |
| QB | 18 Sean Payton (6-1, 195, Sr.) ** | 11 Pat Carroll (6-1, 185, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| LE | 67 John Jurkovic (6-2, 260, So.) * | 96 Scott Pilkerton (6-0, 225, Sr.) * |
| NG | 92 Aaron Thomas (6-0, 260, Jr.) * | 57 Jeff Rolson (6-1, 260, So.) |
| RE | 93 Carl Parker (5-10, 230, Jr.) ** | 79 Eddie Doxy (6-1, 265, Fr.) |
| WSB | 97 Rick Ziemann (6-0, 205, Sr.) * | 42 Ray Brown (6-1, 195, Fr.) |
| ILB | 51 Jeff Mills (6-2, 210, So.) * | 59 Bill Cochrane (6-0, 225, Jr.) * |
| ILB | 53 Dan Polewski (6-1, 225, Sr.) | 31 Jerome Covington (5-10, 215, So.) |
| SSB | 45 Mike Briscoe (6-1, 210, Jr.) | 48 Paul Wilson (5-11, 210, Jr.) |
| LCB | 8 Rod Reynolds (5-11, 175, Fr.) | 24 Kevin Hunter (5-9, 165, Jr.) * |
| RCB | 9 Greg Rhea (5-7, 170, Sr.) * | 37 Daryl Holcombe (5-11, 180, Fr.) |
| SS | 42 Bob Bronaugh (5-10, 190, Sr.) ** | 28 Rick Burnett (6-0, 180, Fr.) |
| FS | 22 Darius Shavers (5-6, 150, Sr.) * | 12 Scott Johnson (6-4, 185, So.) * |

SPECIALISTS

Punter - 1 Steve Tillotson (6-1, 210, Jr.) 3 Gordon Acton (6-5, 250, Jr.)
Placekicker - 6 Rich Ehmke (5-10, 170, Jr.)
Kickoffs - Ehmke, Acton
Kickoff REturn - 7 James Marable (5-9, 170, So.) *, 9 Greg Rhea (5-7, 170, Sr.)
Punt Return - 9 Greg Rhea (5-7, 170, Sr.) *
Holder - 11 Pat Carroll (6-1, 185, Jr.)