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12/11/1986 - EIU's Football Panthers Remain State's Most Successful I-A or I-AA Team Pierce, Cain, Wilhelms

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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY - Charleston, IL 61920
217/581-5981

Hts 2

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Dec. 11)

CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University's football Panthers remain as the state's most successful I-A or I-AA team over the past several years.

The Panthers reached the NCAA I-AA playoff quarterfinals before being eliminated by Eastern Kentucky, 24-22, recently. EIU concluded with an 11-2 record tying the 1982 team for second most wins in a season, and finished with a No. 3 ranking in the final I-AA poll.

This is the fifth time in the last nine years EIU has been in post season play averaging nearly 9-3 p/year with a combined record of 79-29-1. All nine seasons have been above .500.

Eastern also won the Gateway Conference championship with a 5-1 record, the sixth time in seven years EIU has won a league title.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SEASON WRAPUPS LISTED BY HOMETOWNS ON RECEIVERS:

ROBBINS (OAK LAWN RICHARDS: CALVIN PIERCE, senior slotback, concluded an incredible year by being chosen 1st Team All-Gateway Conference for the second straight season . . .he was No. 2 in NCAA I-AA with 1200 receiving yards . . .led Gateway Conference and EIU in receiving with 65 catches in addition to the yardage . . .set school record with 238 yards vs. Southwest Missouri . . .also had 2nd best single game with 199 vs. Southern Illinois .. No. 2 in EIU career receiving yards (2629), No. 3 in career catches (163) . . .in the two NCAA I-AA playoffs games he caught 19 passes for 326 yards.

CHICAGO (HARPER/EASTERN UTAH CC: WILLIE CAIN, senior split end, caught 28 passes for 460 yards to rank No. 3 on the team with 41.8 yards p/game . . .has been a two year starter and caught at least one pass in the last 17 games . . .best game this year was four for 106 vs. Northeast Missouri . . . two year career stats are 48 catches for 745 yards and two TDs.

FREEPORT: DERICK WILHELMS, junior tight end, earned his third letter starting all but one game at tight end after switching from linebacker . . .caught 18 passes for 343 yards and two TDs.