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### 12/11/1986 - EIU's Football Panthers Remain as State's Most Successful I-A or I-AA Team Ehmke, Tillotson, Rhea

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# Panther Sports News

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Dec. 11)

Hts 2

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 SPECIALISTS:

EL CAJON, CA (VALHALLA/GROSSMONT CC): RICH EHMKE, junior placekicker, was named 2nd Team All-Gateway Conference ...he was EIU's No. 2 scorer with 7.6 ppg kicking 47-50 extra points and 12-18 field goals. . .he was 1-3 beyond 50 yards, and that was a Gateway Conference and EIU school record 58 yarder to beat Northern Iowa on the last play of the game. . .he was 5-7 from 40-49 yards, 0-2 from 30-39 yards, 5-5 from 20-29 yards and 1-1 under 20 yards.

EL CAJON, CA (VALLEJOY/GROSSMONT CC): STEVE TILLOTSON, junior punter, averaged 38.6 yards with a long of 68. . . 20 of his 39 punts were between 40-49 yards. . .also 16 of the 39 landed inside the opponents 20 yard line.

CERRITOS, CA (CERRITOS CC): GREG RHEA, senior cornerback, returned 35 punts for a 5.5 p/return average. . . he returned 13 kickoffs for 233 yards, 17.9 p/return. . .for the second straight year he started at left corner and finished with 30 total tackles, three pass interceptions, four passes deflected, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery.