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12/11/1986 - Football Remains Successful Linebackers

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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY - Charleston, IL 61920
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Hts 5

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 LINEBACKERS:

WINNETKA (NEW TRIER): JEFF MILLS, sophomore inside linebacker, was chosen the team's Most Valuable Player . . .he led the Panthers with 127 tackles and also tops with 39 solos . . .had three QB sacks, five tackles for loss, two fumble recoveries, two pass interceptions and knocked down five passes . . .he is a two year letterman who twice was chosen the team's Defensive 'Player of the Week'

DOLTON (THORNBRIDGE/THORNTON CC): DAN POLEWSKI, senior linebacker, was the No. 3 tackler with 96 total . . . had 31 solos, 65 assisted . . .one QB sack, three tackles for loss, three fumble recoveries . . .was picked the team's Defensive 'Player of the Week' once during the season.

SAN DIEGO, CA (MESA/MESA CC): RICK ZIEMANN, senior outside linebacker, had 61 total tackles . . .he was No. 2 on the team with 9 QB sacks, had four other tackles for loss . . .two year totals were 99 tackles, 13 QB sacks, four tackles for loss and three fumble recoveries.

MINOOKA (JOLIET JC): MIKE BRISCOE, junior linebacker, was chosen by his teammates as the 'Rookie of the Year'. . . he finished the year with 38 tackles, five QB sacks and another tackle for loss . . .he was picked the segment 'Player of the Week' for his performance in the last regular season game vs. Western Kentucky.

LAKE ZURICH: BILL COCHRANE, junior inside linebacker, earned his second letter playing in all 11 games . . .he had 29 tackles and tied for team high with three fumble recoveries . . . he also had two passes knocked down and two pass interceptions . . . twice he was chosen the team's segment 'Player of the Week'.