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12-11-1986

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "12/11/1986 - EIU's Football Panthers Remain State's Most Successful I-A or I-AA Team Bonnes, O'Brien, Miteff, Pertersen, Geile, Popp, Benning, Brzeski" (1986). 1986. 1340.

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Panther Sports News

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Dec. 11), 1986

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 DEFENSIVE LINEMEN:

CALUMET CITY (THORNTON FRACTIONAL NORTH): JOHN JURKOVIC, sophomore defensive tackle, earned 1st Team All-Gateway Conference honors . . .he was the team's No. 4 tackler with 93, led with 13 QB sacks and second with 14 tackles for loss . . .three times he was the team's segment 'Player of the Week' and once earned Gateway Defensive 'Player of the Week' honors.

MARKHAM (TINLEY PARK/MORAIN VALLEY CC): AARON THOMAS, senior nose guard, was chosen 2nd Team All-Gateway Conference . . . Thomas was No. 2 on the team with 102 tackles, and led with 16 tackles for loss . . .four times was the segment 'Player of the Week' . . .his two year totals were 154 tackles, seven QB sacks, 19 tackles for loss and two fumble recoveries.

EVANSTON: CARL PARKER, junior defensive tackle, had 69 total tackles this year to rank No. 6 on the team . . . also had four QB sacks and eight tackles for loss . . . was chosen the Gateway Conference 'Player of the Week' one time . . .three year totals are 157 tackles, 8 1/2 QB sacks, 12 tackles for loss, three fumble recoveries and two forced fumbles.

LAMESA, CA (HELIX/GROSSMONT CC): SCOTT PILKERTON, senior defensive tackle, started five games finishing with 49 tackles, two QB sacks and two tackles for loss.

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FARMER CITY-MANSFIELD: JEFF ROLSON, sophomore defensive tackle, finished the year with 43 tackles playing in every game and starting one . . . also had two tackles for loss and two pass deflections.

ELMWOOD PARK (FENWICK): DAVE LEWANDOWSKI, junior defensive end, earned his third letter as he appeared in every game getting 37 tackles.