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12/11/1986 - EIU's Football Panthers Remain State's Most Successful I-A or I-AA Team Jurkovic, Thomas, Parker

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Panther Sports News

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

Hts 6

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 OFFENSIVE

LINEMEN:

WAUKEGAN (WEST): OT STEVE BONNES, 6-3, 270, senior offensive tackle, was chosen 2nd Team All-Gateway Conference, the second time in three years he has received this award . . . BONNES is a three year letterman who has started for three seasons on the offensive line . . . four times earned segment 'Player of the Week' honors this year, most on the team.

JOLIET (CATHOLIC): SEAN O'BRIEN, 6-1, 275, sophomore center, was named Honorable Mention All-Gateway Conference . . . a two year letterman who has also been a two year starter . . . twice this year he was picked the segment 'Player of the Week'.

LIBERTYVILLE: JIM MITEFF, 6-0, 230, junior offensive guard, was named Honorable Mention All-Gateway Conference . . . has started for 2 1/2 years earning three letters.. .three times this year was chosen the segment 'Player of the Week'.

MOMENCE: MARK PETERSEN, 6-3, 260, junior offensive guard, earned his second letter starting on the leftside for the second straight year . . . twice was picked segment 'Player of the Week'.

PLEASANTON, CA (AMADOR VALLEY/CHABOT CC): CHRIS GEILE, 6-5, 310, senior offensive tackle, earned his second letter starting on the leftside for the past two years.

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LIBERTYVILLE: DAVE POPP, 6-6, 250, sophomore offensive tackle, started three games in midyear in place of the injured Chris Geile . . . earned his first letter and is the heir apparent to replace Geile next fall .. .was chosen the segment 'Player of the Week' against Winona State.

STREATOR: BOB BENNING, 6-0, 235, senior offensive guard, earned his third letter playing in a backup role . . . he was one of 11 players on a veteran team to earn a third letter.

CHICAGO (LANE TECH/TRITON CC): BUTCH BRZESKI, 6-3, 250, junior center, was utilized in a backup role as well as serving as the long snapper on all kicks ... earned his first letter.