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12/12/1986 - Football Successful Season Detroit Players

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Panther Sports News

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Dec. 12)

Ht 3

CHARLESTON, IL--Eight DETROIT AREA football players are members of Eastern Illinois University's football Panthers who remain as Illinois's most successful NCAA I-A or I-AA team over the past several years.

Four from KING HIGH SCHOOL are ROY BANKS, ROD REYNOLDS, KEVIN HUNTER AND RAY BROWN, three from CHADSEY are DAVID YOUNG, DIMITRI STEWART AND ALTHA PATTON and from MACKENZIE is DUWAYNE PITTS.

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 ON THE DETROIT ATHLETES:

ROY BANKS, senior wide receiver, was recently chosen 1st Team All-America for I-AA by Kodak/American Football Coaches Association . . . holds EIU school records for career catches (184), yards (3177) and TD receptions (38) . . . he is only the fifth I-AA receiver to top 3000 yards in a career . . . this year he caught 53 for 1014 yards and 11 TDs . . . it's the second time he has been over 1000 yards in a year . . . the other was as a sophomore when he set a school record with 1269 yards . . . he and slotback CALVIN PIERCE combined for 5806 career yards, the most ever by two I-AA receivers . . . he's also a three time 1st Team All-Conference.

ROD REYNOLDS, redshirt freshman cornerback, was chosen 2nd Team All-Gateway Conference as he tied for the league lead with seven pass interceptions . . . he also was T9th in the I-AA with seven interceptions . . . season stats are 35 tackles, a fumble recovery and two forced fumbles . . . twice picked segment 'Player of the Week' and once named the team's Defensive 'Player of the Week'.

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DUWAYNE PITTS, junior running back, earned his third letter as he rushed for 476 yards and caught 24 passes for 151 yards . . .in the second game of the year he ran for 158 yards vs. Northeast Missouri but a sprained ankle slowed him the remainder of the season . . .his three year totals are 1818 yards rushing which puts him No. 5 on the all-time EIU list . .he's caught 113 passes for 859 yards.

KEVIN HUNTER, junior cornerback, played in nine games finishing with 22 tackles and seven passes knocked down . . he earned a second letter.

RAY BROWN, redshirt freshman linebacker, saw limited action in four games.

DIMITRI STEWART, ALTHA PATTON, DAVID YOUNG are freshmen who were redshirted this year therefore so no playing time.