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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY - Charleston, IL 61920
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Dec. 17, 1986)

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CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University is seeking a new football coach.

AL MOLDE, who directed the Panthers into two NCAA I-AA tournaments with a combined record of 32-15 in four years at EIU, has accepted the head coaching position at Western Michigan, it was announced Wednesday, December 17.

In a joint statement, President Stan Rives and EIU Athletic Director R.C. Johnson said, "Al directed the program in a first class manner here, and did a great job with our student-athletes. We are certainly appreciative of what he accomplished, and wish he and his family all the best at Western Michigan."

Johnson said the plan now is to "get the best possible coach as soon as we can . . . hopefully have someone named by early January.

"The job is wide open. Our search committee will involve athletic administrative staff, Lou Hencken (Housing Director) and directors from our Panther Club board," Johnson explained.

"We already have several applicants. Obviously we're looking for someone with previous success and a familiarity with Illinois to aid in the recruiting effort."

EIU was 11-2 this fall, ranked No. 3 in I-AA and advanced to the I-AA quarterfinals before losing, 24-22, to Eastern Kentucky. It's the ninth straight winning season for the Panthers who have compiled the best I-AA or I-AA record (79-30-1) in Illinois during this time.