

11-18-1985

11/18/1985 - EIU Football Panthers

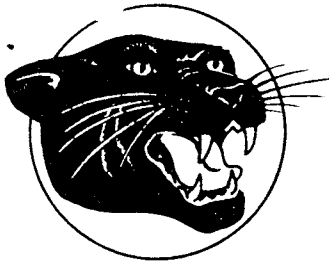
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University's football Panthers remained as one of the state's most successful collegiate teams as they finished 1985 at 6-5 for the eighth straight winning season.

During the past eight years, EIU has recorded a 68-28-1 overall record. The Panthers tied with Western Illinois and Southern Illinois for third place in the initial Gateway Conference season, each with a 2-3 record.

Nine individual records were broken and three tied with junior all-american quarterback Sean Payton (Naperville-Central) setting most of those. For the second straight year he threw for over 3000 yards finishing with 3146.

His most impressive record was for career passing yards as he now has 7199 and is within reach of 10,000, a figure reached by only a handful of collegians.

Payton's record 52nd career touchdown pass led the Panthers to a season ending come-from-behind 14-13 victory over Western Kentucky this past Saturday.

Halfback DuWayne Pitts (Detroit, MI-MacKenzie) just missed the 1000 yard rushing mark finishing at 968 but was the Panthers most explosive all-purpose runner averaging 130 yards p/game.

He set records for pass receptions by a back in a season (65), career (89) and tied his single game record of nine. Just a sophomore, he has 2038 career all-purpose yards, and is destined to become the/^{most}prolific in that department since Poke Cobb's record 6077 (1976-79).

"Our players are winners and were determined to pull that one out at Western Kentucky," said Coach Al Molde. "It was a great way for our seniors to go out.

"We had less than ten seniors on the club so we believe the future of this team is extremely bright. If we can improve on our consistency, we certainly believe we can be a contender for the I-AA playoffs in '86," Molde said.

GATEWAY CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Team	Gateway	Overall
Northern Iowa	5-0	9-1 (hosts Northeast Missouri 11/23)
Southwest Missouri	2-2-1	6-4-1
EASTERN ILLINOIS	2-3	6-5
Western Illinois	2-3	5-5
Southern Illinois	2-3	4-7
Illinois State	1-3-1	6-3-2