

FORMER PANTHERS IN THE NFL

EASTERN EARNS TITLE OF 'CRADLE OF COACHES' IN THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

From 2006-2008, Eastern Illinois University held the distinction of being the new 'Cradle of Coaches' in the National Football League with three alumni serving as head coaches in the NFL and four more former players serving as assistant coaches.

In 2006 and 2007, EIU was matched with USC and San Diego State as the only three universities with three current NFL head coaches as alumni. In 2008 that number was trimmed down to just USC and EIU having three head coaches. In 2010 EIU once again was the "NFL Cradle of Coaches" as Mike Shanahan took over as head coach of the Washington Redskins.

Former All-American quarterback Sean Payton, Class of 1987, became the newest member of the distinguished club when he was named head coach of the New Orleans Saints early in 2006. He was an All-American quarterback with Eastern from 1983-86, and threw for a school record 10,655 yards. He still holds 11 single game, season and career passing records. In 2006 he was named the NFL Coach of the Year guiding the Saints to the NFC Championship game. In 2009 he led New Orleans to the Super Bowl Championship defeating the Indianapolis Colts.

Brad Childress, a 1988 graduate, was named head coach of the Minnesota Vikings, following the 2005 season. In 2008 Childress led the Vikings to the NFC North Division championship and in 2009 he led the Vikings to the NFC Championship game where they lost to fellow EIU alumnus Sean Payton and the New Orleans Saints. Childress was released from his contract with the Vikings midway through the 2010 season.

Mike Shanahan, Class of 1974, is the most recognized alumni who has served as a head coach. He led the Denver Broncos to a pair of Super Bowl championships in 1998 and 1999. He was a quarterback with the Panthers in the early 1970s, and then returned as offensive coordinator for the EIU team that won the 1978 NCAA Division II National Championship.

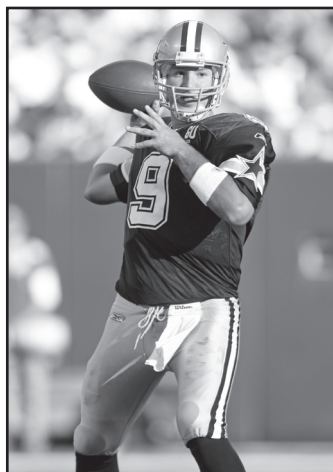
Mike Heimerdinger, Class of 1974, is the offensive coordinator with the Tennessee Titans helping guide the team to a 13-3 record and AFC South Division title in 2008. A former three year letter winner for the Panther baseball team, he still holds the school career stolen base record.

Greg McMahon, Class of 1983, is an assistant special teams coach, with the New Orleans Saints.

John Teerlinck, Class of 1980, is the defensive line coach for the Indianapolis Colts. Teerlinck earned a masters at EIU as an assistant coach for the 1978 NCAA Division II National Championship team.

Eastern Illinois has been an NCAA Division I football program since 1981 but it's relationship with the National Football League dates back to the early 1920's. Lenny High a former EIU Panther football player was a member of the 1920 Decatur Staleys and teammate of George Halas. The Staleys preceded the modern day Chicago Bears with High appearing in one game.

The Panthers have been well represented in the NFL with pro-bowl selections Jeff Gossett (Oakland Raiders) and Tony Romo (Dallas Cowboys) to Super Bowl Champions in Ted Petersen (Pittsburgh).

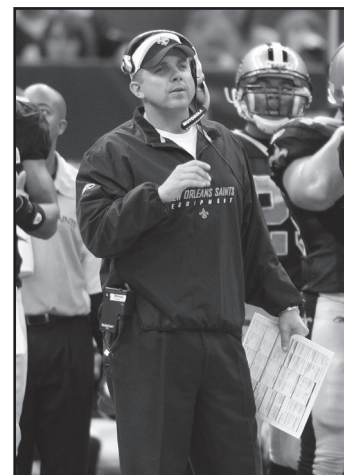


Tony Romo
Dallas Cowboys
Quarterback

Romo was a free agent signee with the Dallas Cowboys in 2003. He started his first game with the Cowboys in 2006 earning All-Pro honors in 2006 and 2007 after guiding the team to back-to-back NFC playoff appearances including an NFC East title in 2007. He was also an All-Pro following the 2009 season.

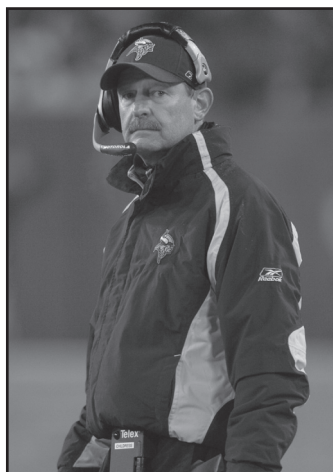
Sean Payton
New Orleans Saints
Head Coach

Payton, a former EIU All-American, was hired by New Orleans in 2006. He made an immediate impact in 'post Katrina' New Orleans guiding the Saints to the NFC Championships game in 2006. He was named the NFL Coach of the Year for his efforts that season. In 2009 he led the Saints to a Super Bowl Championship.



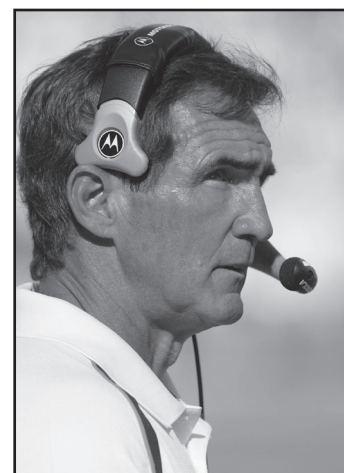
Brad Childress
Minnesota Vikings
Former Head Coach

Childress earned his first head coaching job with Minnesota in 2006 after several seasons as a top assistant in Philadelphia. In 2008 & 2009 Childress led the Vikings to the NFC North title. In 2007 Childress coached NFL Rookie of the Year Adrian Peterson.

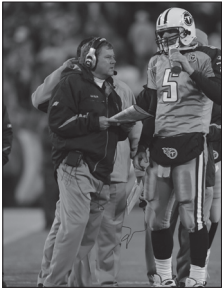


Mike Shanahan
Head Coach
Washington Redskins

Mike Shanahan returned to the sidelines in 2010 as the head coach of the Washington Redskins. Previously he was a two-time Super Bowl Champion coach with the Denver Broncos winning the Lombardi Trophy with Denver in 1998 and 1999. Shanahan was an assistant coach on the Panthers 1978 NCAA Division II National Championship team.



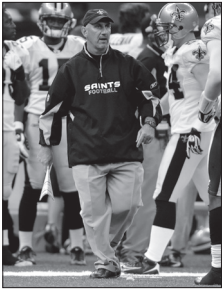
FORMER PANTHERS IN THE NFL



Mike Heimerdinger

Former Assistant Coach Tennessee Titans

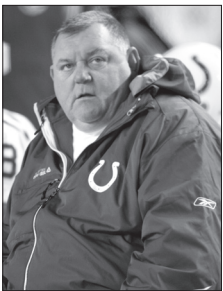
Mike Heimerdinger previously served as the offensive coordinator of the Tennessee Titans. He helped the team win the AFC South Division title in 2008. Heimerdinger played baseball at Eastern Illinois before joining the football coaching profession.



Greg McMahon

Assistant Coach New Orleans Saints

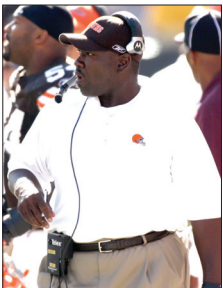
Greg McMahon was promoted to special teams coordinator for the Saints in 2009. He enters his third season with the team. McMahon was a defensive back on Eastern Illinois 1978 NCAA Division II National Championship team.



John Teerlinck

Assistant Coach Indianapolis Colts

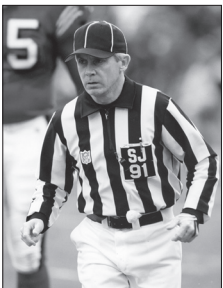
John Teerlinck has been a defensive line coach with Indianapolis for eight years. Teerlinck earned a masters degree at EIU while serving as an assistant for the 1978 NCAA Division II National Championship team.



Randy Melvin

Former Assistant Coach Cleveland Browns

Randy Melvin recently served as the defensive line coach for the Cleveland Browns on Romeo Crennel's staff. Melvin was an All-American defensive lineman at EIU and returned to the college ranks as a coach for the 2009 season.



Ken Baker

NFL Replay Official

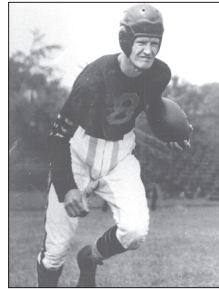
Ken Baker currently works as an NFL replay official after several years as an NFL referee. He worked the 2008 Super Bowl and served one year as EIU's interim athletic director. He is a former Panther baseball player.



Lenny High

Decatur Staleys

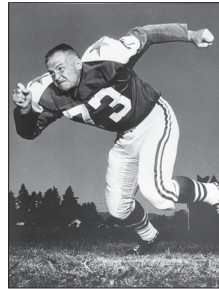
Lenny High was the first EIU player to play in the NFL. He was a member of the 1920 Decatur Staleys appearing in one game at end. He was a teammate of George Halas. The Staleys would later become the modern day Chicago Bears.



Bill Glenn

Chicago Bears

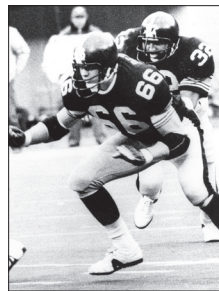
Bill Glenn played quarterback for the Bears in 1944 appearing in four games for the team. He was a two-year member of the team after earning Little All-American honors at Eastern Illinois.



Ray Fisher

Dallas Cowboys

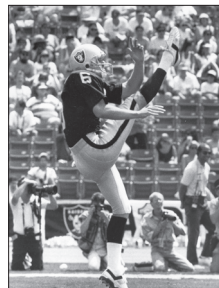
Ray Fisher played tackle for two seasons for the Pittsburgh Steelers. In 1960 he would become an original member of the Dallas Texans playing defensive tackle.



Ted Petersen

Pittsburgh Steelers

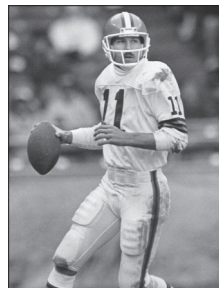
Ted Petersen enjoyed a ten year NFL career playing center and offensive line for Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Indianapolis. He won Super Bowl rings in 1979 and 1980 as a member of the Steelers. He ended his career in 1987.



Jeff Gossett

Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders

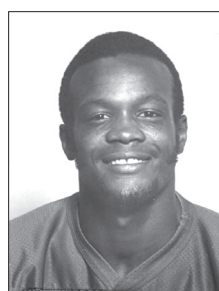
Jeff Gossett had a 15-year NFL career as a punter for Kansas City, Cleveland, Houston and the Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders. He was a Pro Bowl selection in 1991 averaging 44.2 yards per punt. Gossett ended his career in 1996.



Jeff Christensen

Cleveland Browns

Jeff Christensen was active on three NFL rosters as a quarterback for the Cincinnati Bengals, Cleveland Browns and Philadelphia Eagles. He saw action for both the Browns and Bengals ending his career with Cleveland in 1987.

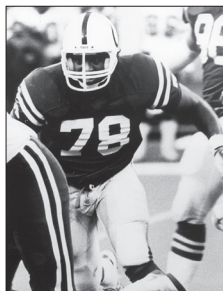


Kevin Gray

New Orleans Saints

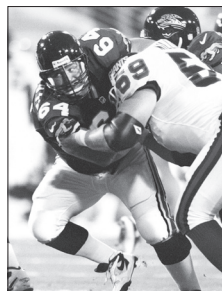
Kevin Gray played one season for the New Orleans Saints as a corner back and special teams player. He appeared in eight games in the 1982 season.

FORMER PANTHERS IN THE NFL



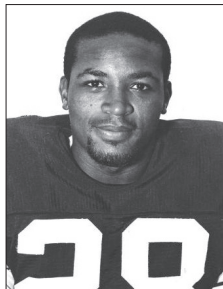
Steve Parker
Baltimore/Indianapolis Colts

Steve Parker played defensive end for the Colts for two seasons. He appeared in 16 games in the teams final season in Baltimore in 1983 and nine games in their first season in Indianapolis in 1984.



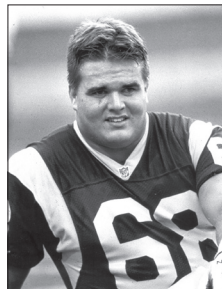
John Jurkovic
Green Bay Packers

John Jurkovic played nine seasons in the NFL as a defensive tackle for the Green Bay Packers (1991-95), Jacksonville Jaguars (96-98) and Cleveland Browns (99). In 1993 he registered 5.5 sacks for the Packers.



Robert Williams
Pittsburgh Steelers

Robert Williams played briefly with the Pittsburgh Steelers appearing in two games during the 1984 season. He played safety and special teams.



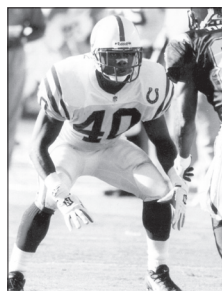
Brad Fichtel
Los Angeles Rams

Brad Fichtel was a two year member of the Los Angeles Rams appearing in three games at center in 1994.



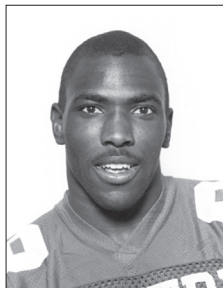
Evan Araposthathis
St. Louis Cardinals

Evan Araposthathis appeared in five games as a punter for the St. Louis Cardinals football franchise in 1986. He averaged 38 yards per punt.



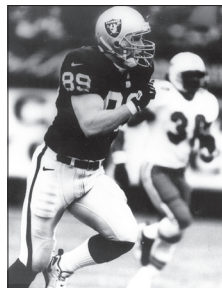
Ray McElroy
Indianapolis Colts

Ray McElroy had a six year NFL career as a defensive back for the Indianapolis Colts, Chicago Bears and Detroit Lions. He played from 1995-98 with the Colts before retiring in 2001 as a Detroit Lion.



Mel Black
New England Patriots

Mel Black was a two-year member of the New England Patriots playing in six games at linebacker and special teams in the 1986 and 1987 seasons.



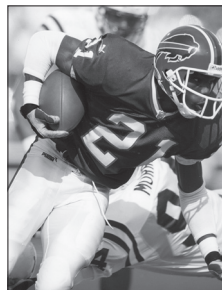
Bob Rosenstiel
Oakland Raiders

Bob Rosenstiel played in four games for the Oakland Raiders in 1997 as part of a two year career at tight end and special teams.



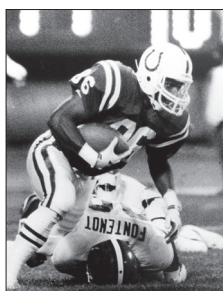
Chris Geile
Detroit Lions

Chris Geile (#71) appeared in three games during the strike season of 1987 playing offensive line for the Detroit Lions.



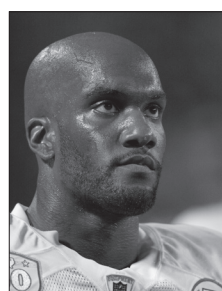
Chris Watson
Buffalo Bills

Chris Watson played four seasons at corner back first for the Denver Broncos and last for the Buffalo Bills from 2000-02. He was on the Detroit Lions roster in 2003 and Green Bay Packers roster in 2004 but did not play.



Roy Banks
Indianapolis Colts

Roy Banks enjoyed a two year career as a wide receiver for the Indianapolis Colts. He played in 15 games in the 1987 and 1988 seasons also seeing time as a kick returner.



Pierre Walters
Kansas City Chiefs

Pierre appeared in four games during his rookie season (2009) with the Kansas City Chiefs and is still on the Kansas City active roster listed as a top reserve at outside linebacker for the 2011 season.

FORMER PANTHERS IN THE NFL

Over the years Eastern Illinois football has sent a number of players on to play in several professional leagues in addition to the National Football League. This page lists former EIU players who have been drafted by the NFL, signed as free agents or appeared in another professional league. Players who appeared in at least one NFL regular-season contest have been listed on the prior pages with the teams they played for.

EASTERN ILLINOIS PLAYERS SELECTED IN NFL DRAFT

• indicates played in NFL game

Player.....	Team.....	Round.....	Year
• Bill Glenn, QB.....	Chicago Bears.....	19th.....	1944
Rob Butler, RB.....	Chicago Bears.....	16th.....	1964
Roger Haberer, QB.....	Chicago Bears.....	19th.....	1966
Nate Anderson, RB.....	Washington Redskins.....	16th.....	1974
• Ted Petersen, C.....	Pittsburgh Steelers.....	4th.....	1977
Tom Pettigrew, OT.....	Los Angeles Rams.....	8th.....	1980
• Jeff Christensen, QB.....	Cincinnati Bengals.....	5th.....	1983
• Roy Banks, WR.....	Indianapolis Colts.....	5th.....	1987
Dave Popp, OT.....	New York Giants.....	7th.....	1989
• Brad Fichtel, C.....	Los Angeles Rams.....	7th.....	1993
• Ray McElroy, CB.....	Indianapolis Colts.....	4th.....	1995
• Chris Watson, CB.....	Denver Broncos.....	3rd.....	1999
Otis Hudson, OT.....	Cincinnati Bengals.....	5th.....	2010

EASTERN ILLINOIS PLAYERS SIGNING NFL FREE AGENT CONTRACTS

• indicates played in NFL game
+ indicates signed to practice squad

Player.....	Team.....	Year
• Lenny High, End.....	Decatur Staleys.....	1920
Ed Soergel, QB.....	Cleveland Browns.....	1951
Lou Stivers, C.....	Detroit Lions.....	1951
• Ray Fisher, DT.....	Pittsburgh Steelers.....	1958
Steve Turk, QB.....	Green Bay Packers.....	1980
James Warring, WR.....	Oakland Raiders.....	1980
Jack Lafferty, C.....	Seattle Seahawks.....	1980
• Jeff Gossett, P.....	Kansas City Chiefs.....	1981
• Kevin Gray, FS.....	New Orleans Saints.....	1982
• Steve Parker, OT.....	Baltimore Colts.....	1983
Dirk Androff, TE.....	New York Jets.....	1983
• Robert Williams, DB.....	Pittsburgh Steelers.....	1984
Jerry Wright, FS.....	Tampa Bay Buccaneers.....	1985
• Evan Araposthathis, P.....	St. Louis Cardinals.....	1986
Tom Moskal, DT.....	St. Louis Cardinals.....	1986
• Mel Black, LB.....	New England Patriots.....	1986
• Sean Payton, QB.....	Chicago Bears.....	1987
• Chris Geile, OL.....	Detroit Lions.....	1987
• John Jurkovic, DT.....	Green Bay Packers.....	1990
Tim Lance, DB.....	Chicago Bears.....	1991
Duane Conway, OL.....	Indianapolis Colts.....	1995
John Moyer, DE.....	Indianapolis Colts.....	1997
• Bob Rosenstiel, TE.....	Los Angeles Raiders.....	1997
Dave Thomas, DT.....	Arizona Cardinals.....	2000
Kourtney Young, DB.....	Detroit Lions.....	2002
Frank Cutolo, WR.....	New Orleans Saints.....	2002
• Tony Romo, QB.....	Dallas Cowboys.....	2003
# Pascal Matla, C.....	New Orleans Saints.....	2006
Kory Lothe, DE.....	St. Louis Rams.....	2006
+ Tristan Burge, SS.....	Green Bay Packers.....	2007
+ Micah Rucker, WR.....	Pittsburgh Steelers.....	2008
• Pierre Walters, LB.....	Kansas City Chiefs.....	2009
Austin Signor, K.....	New York Giants.....	2010
Chris Campbell, OT.....	Green Bay Packers.....	2010

** List includes first team that a player signed a free agent contract with.
Bold indicates player still active in NFL as of July 1, 2011
 # Pascal Matla played in NFL Europe for the 2006-07 season.

EASTERN ILLINOIS PLAYERS IN THE CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Player.....	Team.....	Year
Ed Soergel, QB.....	Toronto Argonauts.....	1951
Poke Cobb, RB.....	Toronto Argonauts.....	1980
Pete Catan, DE.....	Winnipeg Blue Bombers.....	1981
Scott McGhee, WR.....	Toronto Argonauts.....	1981
Kevin Gray, FS.....	Ottawa Rough Riders.....	1983
Sean Payton, QB.....	Ottawa Rough Riders.....	1987
Cameron Brosseau, OT.....	Toronto Argonauts.....	1994
Brad Fichtel, C.....	Memphis Mad Dogs.....	1995
Chris Szarka, FB.....	Saskatchewan Rough Riders.....	1997
Dave Thomas, LB.....	Hamilton Tiger-Cats.....	2002
Kourtney Young, CB.....	Hamilton Tiger-Cats.....	2003
Frank Cutolo, WR.....	Ottawa Rough Riders.....	2003

** Lists first team and year that player appeared in CFL.

EASTERN ILLINOIS PLAYERS IN ARENA FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Player.....	Team.....	Year
Sean Payton, QB.....	Chicago Blitz.....	1987
John Moyer, DT.....	Florida Bobcats.....	1999
Ethan Banning, DE.....	Grand Rapids Rampage.....	2000
Ryan Shuff, OG.....	Houston Thunderbears.....	2000
Phil Taylor, WR.....	Toronto Phantoms.....	2001
Dave Thomas, LB.....	Detroit Fury.....	2001
Anthony Buich, QB.....	Grand Rapids Rampage.....	2004
Nick Allison, DB.....	Orlando Predators.....	2008
Terrence Sanders, DB.....	Arizona Rattlers.....	2010
Mich Rucker, WR.....	Chicago Rush.....	2011

** Lists first team and year that player appeared in AFL.

Bold players were active in 2011 season

EASTERN ILLINOIS PLAYERS IN THE USFL

Player.....	Team.....	Year
Steve Turk, QB.....	Denver Rush.....	1983
Pete Catan, DE.....	Houston Gamblers.....	1983
Scott McGhee, WR.....	Houston Gamblers.....	1984
Kevin Gray, FS.....	Jacksonville Bulls.....	1984
Jeff Gossett, P.....	Chicago Blitz.....	1984
Randy McCue, DB.....	Memphis Showboats.....	1984

The USFL existed as a spring football league started in 1983 in several major markets across the country. It rivaled the NFL in its early ability to sign marquee players to its rosters. The league attempted to go head-to-head with the NFL in 1985 and quickly folded. Pete Catan was an All-League performer in 1984 for the Houston Gamblers.