

# HEAD COACH Adam Cushing



## ADAM CUSHING

Eastern Illinois  
Head Football Coach  
3rd year at Eastern Illinois  
(University of Chicago, 2002)

### Eastern Illinois

- Hired as 25th head coach in program history – Dec. 9, 2018 (enters third season in 2021)
- \* First career win on Nov. 9, 2019 - 49-38 at Tennessee State
- \* Posted 1-11 record, 1-7 in Ohio Valley Conference in first year
- \* Coached nine All-OVC selections (two 1st team, four 2nd team, three All-Newcomer)
- \* Coached three Freshmen All-Americans
- \* Coached one Sophomore All-American
- \* Had biggest Illinois based recruiting class in more than 20 seasons (in 2019)
- \* Team ranked 30th in FCS in total defense in 2019
- \* Team ranked 18th in FCS in fewest penalties in 2019, improved to 5th in the FCS in 2020
- \* Team ranked 1st in FCS in fourth down conversions in 2019
- \* Team ranked in Top 25 in FCS in special teams in 2020 (2nd in kick return defense, 9th in blocked kicks, 22nd in punt returns, 23rd in kick returns)
- \* Team ranked 39th in FCS in rushing defense in 2020, 44th in turnovers gained
- \* FCS Coaches Poll Top 25 voter in 2020
- \* Named to Football Oversight Committee
- \* Career record (2-16, 2-12 in OVC)

### Northwestern

- Coached 15 years on NU Staff, 13 seasons under Coach Pat Fitzgerald
- Team won Big Ten Conference West Division in 2018 (8-1 record)
- Helped coach team to win over Utah in 2018 Holiday Bowl in final game at Northwestern
- Coached Offensive Line for Wildcats since 2009
- Coached Superbacks position in 2008
- Coached Tight Ends & H-Backs in 2005-07
- Served as recruiting coordinator from 2008-10
- Graduate assistant coach in 2004
- Twice named one of Big Ten Top Recruiters by Rivals.com & ESPN.com
- Coached Drake Dunsmore (Freshman All-Big Ten / 7th Round NFL Pick)
- Offensive Line Blocked For Five (5) 1,000 yard rushers
- Offensive Line allowed fewest sacks in Big Ten in 2012
- Coached two selections to the East-West Shrine Game
- Coached Three Academic All-Americans
- Coached Seven All-Big Ten Offensive Line Selections
- Helped coach team to Ten (10) post-season Bowl appearances
- Coached two-time Rimington Award candidate Ben Burkett
- Coached Brandon Vitabile, a finalist for the William V. Campbell Trophy
- Coached offensive line that blocked for NCAA record plays vs. Auburn
- 115 offensive plays in 2010 Outback Bowl
- helped quarterback Mike Kafka set Outback Bowl record
- Coached offensive line unit that ranked in top four in Big Ten

### University of La Verne

- Assistant Coach in 2002 & 2003
- Coached Tight Ends in 2002
- Coached Offensive Line in 2003

### Personal

- Played collegiately at University of Chicago
- Three-time All-University Athletic Association Selection (1999-01) at Tight End
- Helped team win two UAA titles in 1998 & 2000
- Finished career with 72 receptions, 10th on University of Chicago all-time list
- Bachelor's Degree from University of Chicago in 2002 (Psychology)
- Master's Degree from University of La Verne in 2004
- Brother Matt Cushing played six years in National Football League (Pittsburgh)
- He and wife Dr. Jaime Cushing, DDS, have three children – Abigail, Dana and Alexander
- Native of Chicago, Illinois (attended Chicago Mt. Carmel HS)

### CAREER

- Head Coach - Eastern Illinois (2019--)
- Offensive Line Coach - Northwestern (2009-18)
- Superbacks Coach - Northwestern (2008)
- Tight Ends Coach - Northwestern (2005-07)
- Graduate Assistant - Northwestern (2004)
- Offensive Line Coach - La Verne (2003)
- Tight Ends Coach - La Verne (2002)

### POST SEASON APPEARANCES

- 2018 - Holiday Bowl (Northwestern)
- 2017 - Music City Bowl (Northwestern)
- 2016 - Pinstripe Bowl (Northwestern)
- 2015 - Outback Bowl (Northwestern)
- 2012 - Gator Bowl (Northwestern)
- 2011 - Mieneke Car Care Bowl of Texas (Northwestern)
- 2010 - TicketCity Bowl (Northwestern)
- 2009 - Outback Bowl (Northwestern)
- 2008 - Alamo Bowl (Northwestern)
- 2005 - Sun Bowl (Northwestern)

### PLAYING CAREER

Played at University of Chicago (1998-01)  
Tight End

- 1998 - UAA Champions
- 2000 - UAA Champions

1999-01 - 3-time All-UAA selection at tight end

### EDUCATION

Bachelor's - University of Chicago, 2002  
Master's - University of La Verne, 2004

### FAMILY

Wife: Dr. Jaime Cushing  
Children: Abigail, Dana, Alexander



# ASSISTANT COACHES



**Chris Bowers**  
**Defensive Coordinator**  
**3rd year at Eastern Illinois**  
**Wittenberg University, 1999**

**EIU Recruiting Areas: Chicago (Western Suburbs), Cincinnati**

## **Eastern Illinois**

- \* Hired as assistant football coach in January 2019 (3rd season in 2021)
- \* Defensive coordinator at EIU
- \* EIU defense ranked 30th in FCS in total defense in 2019
- \* Coached one first team All-OVC selection (Jason Johnson in 2020)
- \* Coached three second team All-OVC selections and one All-OVC Newcomer selection
- \* Coached two freshmen All-Americans (Jason Johnson & JJ Ross)
- \* Defense posted sixth most tackles for loss in a season with 86 in 2019
- \* Defense ranked 40th in FCS in turnovers gained in 2019
- \* Defense twice held teams under 100 yards pass, three times under 100 yards rushing in 2019
- \* Defense ranked 44th in FCS in turnovers gained in 2020 despite playing only six games
- \* Defense ranked 39th in FCS in rushing defense in 2020
- \* Defense ranked 34th in FCS in pass interceptions in 2020

## **Prior to Eastern Illinois**

- \* Head of Recruiting / Director of Player Personnel at Northwestern University (2011-18)
- \* Helped build roster that won Big Ten Conference West Division in 2018
- \* Finalist for FootballScoop.com Director of Player Personnel of the Year Award in 2016
- \* Recruited group that ranked No. 1 in FBS in Graduate Success Rate
- \* Northwestern participated in Texas Bowl, Gator Bowl, Outback Bowl, Pinstripe Bowl, Music City Bowl and Holiday Bowl
- \* Coached in spring semester at Valparaiso (2011)
- \* Coached at Concord University (Ohio) as secondary coach (2009-10) and defensive coordinator (2010)
- \* Ranked in top ten nationally in turnovers gained with 31
- \* Ranked first in conference in pass defense and red zone defense
- \* Coached seven All-Conference defensive players, three from secondary
- \* Served as defensive coordinator / recruiting coordinator / secondary coach at Defiance College (Ohio) (2007-08)
- \* Coached three first team All-Conference defensive backs and two second team All-Conference selections
- \* Ranked first in conference in run defense and second in total defense
- \* Defensive Graduate Assistant at Northwestern (2005-06)
- \* Assistant Director of Football Operations at Northwestern (2003-05)
- \* Defensive Assistant Coach (2002) and Graduate Assistant Coach (2001) at University of Findlay (Ohio)

## **Personal**

- \* Bachelor's Degree from Wittenberg University in 1999
- \* Master's Degree from University of Findlay in 2003
- \* Published Manuel of Football Skills & Drills with proceed to benefit Lauren's First & Goal Foundation
- \* He and wife Christina have two children: Davalyn and Joe
- \* Native of Lima, Ohio



**John Kuceyeski**  
**Offensive Coordinator & Super Backs Coach**  
**3rd year at Eastern Illinois**  
**Penn State, 2009**

**EIU Recruiting Areas: Chicago (Catholic League), St. Louis, Kansas City**

**Eastern Illinois**

- \* Hired as assistant football coach in January 2019 (enters third year in 2021)
- \* Offensive Coordinator and Superbacks Coach
- \* Coached first-team All-OVC tight end (James Sheehan)
- \* Coached offensive unit that ranked first in the FCS in 4th down conversions in 2019
- \* Offense scored a season high 49 points in win at Tennessee State
- \* Offensive unit had two All-OVC Newcomer selections (Isaiah Hill & Jaelin Benefield)
- \* Offensive unit had one Freshmen All-American (Chad Strickland)
- \* Team ranked fifth in the FCS in fewest penalties per game in 2020
- \* Coached Super Back group that had 24 catches with three touchdowns (Jay Vallie with 18 rec. / 3 TD)

**Prior to EIU**

- \* Coached offensive line at Cornell University (2017-18)
- \* Coached running backs at Cornell University (2016)
- \* Offensive unit posted highest rushing totals and fewest sacks allowed in 2018 since 2006 season
- \* Coached four All-Ivy League selections (three offensive line, one running back)
- \* Director of Scouting at Iowa State (Spring 2016)
- \* Director of High School Relations / Recruiting Coordinator at Toledo (2014-15)
- \* Director of Football Operations / Defensive Assistant at Toledo (2013)
- \* Director of Player Personnel / Recruiting Coordinator at Western Michigan (Spring 2013)
- \* Offensive Graduate Assistant Coach at Northwestern (2012)
- \* Offensive & Special Teams Quality Control at Northwestern (2010-11)
- \* Student Football Manager / Undergraduate Coach at Penn State (2006-10)

**Personal**

- \* Bachelor's Degree from Penn State in 2009
- \* Member of IHSA Class 7A State Championship team at Libertyville HS
- \* Native of Libertyville, Ill.

## ASSISTANT COACHES



**Chris Batti**  
**Quarterbacks Coach**  
**3rd year at Eastern Illinois**  
**Illinois, 2008**

**EIU Recruiting Areas: Chicago (North Side), Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

### **Eastern Illinois**

- \* Hired as football assistant coach in January 2019 (entering third year for 2021 season)
- \* Quarterbacks coach
- \* Mentored four different quarterbacks during 2019 season
- \* QB unit passed for 2,049 yards during 2019 season with 11 touchdowns
- \* Had three different quarterbacks see time during 2020 season (played in Spring of 2021 due to COVID-19)
- \* QB unit passed for 1,144 yards in six games during the 2020 season with eight touchdowns

### **Prior to Eastern Illinois**

- \* Coached wide receivers at Fordham University (2018)
- \* Coached running backs at Harvard University (2012-17)
- \* Helped Harvard win three straight Ivy League Championships (2013-15)
- \* Coached four first team All-Ivy League selections
- \* Graduate assistant coach at Northwestern (2010-11)
- \* Offensive Quality Control coach at Northwestern (2008-09)
- \* Student Football Manager at Illinois (2007)
- \* Illinois played in 2007 Rose Bowl

### **Personal**

- \* Played football at Harper Junior College in Illinois (2004-05)
- \* Member of 2004 NJCAA National Championship team
- \* Bachelor's Degree from Illinois in 2008
- \* Master's Degree from Northwestern in 2011
- \* Native of Glenview, Ill.



**Adam Gristick**  
**Defensive Run Game Coordinator & Linebackers Coach**  
**4th year at Eastern Illinois**  
**Eastern Illinois, 2015**

**EIU Recruiting Areas: Northern Indiana, Western Michigan**

**Eastern Illinois**

- \* Hired as linebackers coach at Eastern Illinois in June of 2018 (enters fourth season in 2021)
- \* Coached linebackers group
- \* Added Defensive Run Game Coordinator title during spring of 2020
- \* Coached two leading tacklers on team with linebacker group making a total of 259 tackles in 2018
- \* Coached four leading tacklers on team with linebacker group making a total of 344 tackles in 2019
- \* Coached two leading tacklers on team with linebacker group making a total of 159 tackles in 2020
- \* Coached first team All-OVC linebacker (Jason Johnson - ranked 8th in the FCS in tackles per game) in 2020
- \* Coached second team All-OVC linebacker (Dytarious Johnson - ranked 3rd in FCS in Forced Fumbles, 43rd in TFL) in 2019
- \* Coached All-OVC Newcomer member (Jason Johnson) in 2019
- \* Coached All-American linebacker Jason Johnson (Freshman AA in 2019, Sophomore AA in 2020)

**Prior to Eastern Illinois**

- \* Graduate assistant coach at Syracuse University under former EIU head coach Dino Babers (2017 & 2018 spring)
- \* Defensive quality control at Syracuse in 2016
- \* Helped coach second team All-ACC linebacker Parris Bennett
- \* Defensive quality control coach at Missouri State in 2015

**Personal**

- \* Played linebacker at Eastern Illinois University from 2010-14
- \* Starter on team in 2012-14 making 194 career tackles with 20 tackles for loss and 3 interceptions
- \* Helped EIU win back-to-back OVC Championships in 2012 & 2013
- \* Helped EIU advance to FCS Playoffs in 2012 & 2013 (ranked No. 2 in nation reaching quarterfinals in 2013)
- \* Made 10 tackles in 2013 win over FBS member San Diego State
- \* Bachelor's Degree from Eastern Illinois, 2015
- \* Native of Orefield, Pa.

# ASSISTANT COACHES



**Dan Hernandez**  
**Offensive Line Coach**  
**3rd year at Eastern Illinois**  
**Upper Iowa, 2009**

**EIU Recruiting Areas: Downstate Illinois, Kankakee, Champaign, Springfield, Decatur, Memphis**

## **Eastern Illinois**

- \* Hired as assistant football coach in January 2019 (enters third season in 2021)
- \* Coached offensive line unit
- \* Offensive unit converted most 4th downs in FCS in 2019
- \* Team ranked fifth in the FCS in fewest penalties per game in 2020
- \* Coached Freshman All-American (Chad Strickland)
- \* Coached Cole Hoover (Lincoln Laureate Award Winner)
- \* Coached Ben Solomon (2021 nominee for AFCA Good Works Award Team)
- \* Coached young offensive line which at times featured five true freshmen on the field
- \* Participated in the 2020 NFL Quarterback Coaching Summit
- \* During the 2019 NFL Training Camp worked with the offensive line of the Super Bowl Champion Kansas City Chiefs through the Bill Walsh Fellowship program

## **Prior to Eastern Illinois**

- \* Coached offensive line at Truman State (2018)
- \* Offensive line ranked 25th in Division II in fewest sacks allowed (14)
- \* Offensive line ranked 28th in Division II in rushing offense
- \* Coached two All-Conference selections on offense
- \* Coached tight ends & fullbacks at Towson (2017)
- \* Offensive Quality Control Coach at Northwestern (2013-14)
- \* Offensive Graduate Assistant at Northwestern (2014-16)
- \* Helped coach team to Outback Bowl appearance in 2015
- \* Offensive Graduate Assistant at Florida International (2012-13)
- \* Assistant Director of Football Operations at FIU (2010-12)
- \* Football Operations Intern at FIU (2009)
- \* Team won Sun Belt Conference Championship in 2010
- \* Team won Little Caesars Pizza Bowl in 2010

## **Personal**

- \* Played football at Upper Iowa University (2004-08)
- \* Three time Academic All-Conference at defensive tackle
- \* Selected to play in Florida Senior Collegiate All-Star Bowl in 2009
- \* Bachelor's Degree from Upper Iowa in 2009
- \* Master's Degree from Florida International in 2011
- \* Master's Degree from Northwestern in 2016
- \* Native of Boca Raton, Fla.



**Mark Philmore II**  
**Wide Receivers Coach**  
**3rd year at Eastern Illinois**  
**Northwestern, 2006**

**EIU Recruiting Areas: St. Louis, East St. Louis, Dayton, Columbus**

**Eastern Illinois**

- \* Hired as assistant football coach in January 2019 (enters third season in 2021)
- \* Will coach wide receivers and serve as recruiting coordinator at EIU
- \* Coached All-OVC Newcomer selection (Isaiah Hill)
- \* Wide receiver unit had ten different players catch passes during season in 2019 ... nine different players in 2020
- \* Wide receiver Isaiah Hill ranked 32nd in FCS in receptions per game in 2019
- \* Wide receiver Isaiah Hill had a high of 15 receptions in a game (tied for 5th most in school history) in 2019
- \* Three players had 100-yard receiving games during the season in 2019
- \* Wide receiver unit caught five of team's eight touchdown receptions in 2020 season

**Prior to Eastern Illinois**

- \* Coached wide receivers at University of Dayton (2017-18)
- \* Helped team post a 6-5 record in 2018
- \* Coached wide receivers at West Virginia Wesleyan (2016)
- \* Coached professionally in India and Poland (2010-15)
- \* Helped teams play in six league championship games, winning three
- \* Import Player / Coach with Panthers Wroclaw in Poland
- \* Head Coach of Coaches / Coaching Consultant with Elite Football League of India
- \* Wide Receivers Coach with EFT Sports Performance (2009)

**Personal**

- \* Played football at Northwestern University (2002-05)
- \* Helped Northwestern play in the Motor City Bowl (2003) and Sun Bowl (2005)
- \* Two-time All-Big Ten selection at wide receiver
- \* Ended NU career fourth all-time in receptions and fifth all-time in receiving yards
- \* Signed professional contract with Chicago Bears (2006-09)
- \* Bachelor's Degree from Northwestern in 2006
- \* Native of Reynoldsburg, Ohio

## ASSISTANT COACHES



**Neal Renna**  
**Safeties Coach & Co-Special Teams Coordinator**  
**3rd year at Eastern Illinois**  
**Heidelberg University, 2011**

**EIU Recruiting Areas: Chicago (South Suburbs), Nashville**

### **Eastern Illinois**

- \* Hired as assistant football coach in January 2019 (enters third season in 2021)
- \* Will coach safeties at EIU
- \* Named co-Special Teams Coordinator in February of 2020 in addition to safeties coach
- \* Coached defensive unit that ranked 30th in FCS in total defense in 2019
- \* Coached defensive unit that ranked 40th in FCS in turnovers gained in 2019
- \* Coached safeties that ranked fifth and seventh on team in tackles (unit made 138 tackles for season) in 2019
- \* Coached safeties that ranked third and fourth on team in tackles (unit made 107 tackles for the season ) in 2020
- \* Coached second team All-OVC kick returner (Matt Judd)
- \* Coached special teams unit that ranked 2nd in kick return defense, 9th in blocked kicks, 22nd in punt returns and 23rd in kick returns in 2020

### **Prior to Eastern Illinois**

- \* Worked as defensive analyst (linebackers) at Missouri (2018)
- \* Part of Missouri staff that posted 8-5 record and appearance in Liberty Bowl
- \* Graduate assistant defensive line coach at Missouri (2015-17)
- \* Coached two Freshman All-Americans
- \* Coached three All-SEC Defensive Linemen
- \* Coached NFL first round draft pick Charles Harris (Miami)
- \* Acting defensive line coach final two games of 2016 season
- \* Part of coaching staff that made appearance in 2017 Texas Bowl
- \* Recruiting Assistant at Northwestern (2014)
- \* Defensive Backs coach at Kansas Wesleyan (2012-13)

### **Personal**

- \* Played football at Heidelberg (Ohio) University (2007-10)
- \* Earned Academic All-OAC Honors
- \* Bachelor's Degree from Heidelberg University in 2011
- \* Master's Degree from Kansas Wesleyan in 2013
- \* Master's Degree from Missouri in 2017
- \* Attended Officer Candidate School for United States Navy in 2011
- \* He and wife Erin, have one son (Nicholas, born in August 2020)
- \* Native of Chicago, Ill.



**Omar Young**  
**Running Backs Coach & co-Special Teams Coordinator**  
**3rd year at Eastern Illinois**  
**Savannah State, 2005**

### Eastern Illinois

- \* Hired as assistant football coach in March 2019 (enters third season in 2021)
- \* Coaches running backs at Eastern Illinois
- \* Added co-Special Teams Coordinator duties in February of 2020
- \* Coached All-OVC Newcomer selection (Jaelin Benefield) in 2019
- \* Coached Freshmen All-American (Jaelin Benefield) in 2019
- \* Running back unit led team in scoring with ten touchdowns (seven by Jaelin Benefield) in 2019
- \* Coached second team All-OVC kick returner (Matt Judd) in 2020
- \* Coached special teams unit that ranked 2nd in kick return defense, 9th in blocked kicks, 22nd in punt returns and 23rd in kick returns in 2020
- \* Running back unit rushed for 683 yards in shortened six game 2020 COVID-19 season (played in spring of 2021)

### Prior to Eastern Illinois

- \* Offensive Quality Control Coach with Green Bay Packers (2017 & 2018)
- \* Worked with wide receivers in 2017, running backs in 2018
- \* Represented Green Bay Packers at 2018 NFL Combine
- \* Running Backs Coach at the East-West Shrine Game in 2018
- \* Offensive Analyst (Running Backs) at South Carolina in 2016
- \* Offensive Assistant (Running Backs) with Cleveland Browns in 2015
- \* Ran Rookie Mini Camp running back meetings
- \* Taught offensive system to all rookies, in-season free agents and practice squad running backs
- \* Director of Quality Control (Special Teams/Defense) at Colorado (2013-14)
- \* Worked with special teams coordinator on weekly game plans & in-game adjustments
- \* Special Teams Graduate Assistant at San Jose State (2011-12)
- \* Coached a Ray Guy Award Candidate and Lou Groza Award Semifinalist
- \* Coached a Second Team All-WAC Kicker and First Team Freshman All-American
- \* Helped San Jose State win 2013 Military Bowl
- \* Special Teams Coordinator and Secondary Coach at Minnesota State Moorhead (2010)
- \* Coached kickoff coverage team that ranked seventh nationally in NCAA Division II
- \* Wide Receivers Coach at De Anza College (2009)
- \* Coached a second team JUCO All-American & first team California All-Region player
- \* Helped De Anza College win 2009 Southern Division Bowl Championship
- \* Worked as a player personnel intern with the Oakland Raiders
- \* Worked as a player personnel intern with the San Jose SaberCats of the Arena Football League

### Personal

- \* Played defensive back for two years at Willamette University in Oregon
- \* Named honorable mention All-Northwest Conference in 2001
- \* Bachelor's Degree from Savannah State University in 2005
- \* Master's Degree from University of San Francisco in 2008
- \* Native of Oakland, Calif.



**Adam Morris**  
**Defensive Line Coach**  
**2nd year at Eastern Illinois**  
**Ball State University, 2013**

#### **Eastern Illinois**

- \* Hired as assistant football coach in February 2021 (enters second season in 2021)
- \* Coached defensive line
- \* Coached group that had 101 tackles with 10 tackles for loss and two sacks
- \* Defense ranked 44th in the FCS in turnovers gained
- \* Defense ranked 39th in FCS in rushing defense

#### **Prior to Eastern Illinois**

- \* Offensive Line Coach & Recruiting Coordinator at DePauw University (March 2020 - Jan. 2021)
- \* Head football coach Hamilton Southeastern HS (Indiana) (2017-March 2020)
- \* IFCA Region 8 Director
- \* Defensive line coach and head track coach at Noblesville HS (Indiana) (2016-17)
- \* Head football coach Muncie Central HS (Indiana) (2015-16)
- \* Led team to 13-8 record and school's first playoff win in more than a decade
- \* IFCA Region 5 Director Elect
- \* Defensive line coach Warren Central HS (Indiana)
- \* Defensive line coach Lawrence North HS (Indiana)

#### **Personal**

- \* Played football at Ball State University
- \* Played in 36 consecutive games with 24 consecutive starts
- \* Team Captain and Paul Schudel Strength & Conditioning Award Winner
- \* Bachelor's Degree from Ball State University in 2013
- \* Native of Dublin, Ohio



**Cliff Odom**  
**Defensive Backs Coach**  
**2nd year at Eastern Illinois**  
**Baylor University, 2011**

#### **Eastern Illinois**

- \* Hired as assistant football coach in February 2020 (enters second season in 2021)
- \* Coaches defensive backs
- \* Coached one second team All-OVC performer in 2020 (Mark Williams)
- \* Helped coach defense that ranked 34th in the FCS in passes intercepted
- \* Coached defensive group that had 15 passes defended (13 break-ups / 2 interceptions)

#### **Prior to Eastern Illinois**

- \* Special teams quality control coach at UCF (2018, 2019)
- \* UCF posted a 22-4 record during that time winning 2018 AAC Championship
- \* UCF played in Fiesta Bowl (following 2018) season and Gasparilla Bowl (2019)
- \* Coached one second team All-AAC special teams selection
- \* Coached 2017 season as defensive backs coach at Stetson University
- \* Coached Pioneer League Defensive Newcomer of the Year, JJ Henderson
- \* Attended AFCA 35 Under 35 Coaches Leadership Institute
- \* Graduate assistant at University of Missouri in 2016 working with corner backs
- \* Missouri led Southeastern Conference in interceptions
- \* Graduate assistant at TCU in 2015
- \* TCU posted an 11-2 record winning Alamo Bowl
- \* Coached at Martin HS in Arlington, Texas (2012-15)
- \* Served as secondary coach, strength and conditioning coordinator and a track coach

#### **Personal**

- \* Played football at Baylor University
- \* Named to Big XII Commissioner's Honor Roll
- \* Leadership roles in both SAAC and FCA
- \* Bachelor's degree from Baylor University in 2011
- \* Father Cliff Odom Sr., was a 13-year NFL veteran
- \* Brother Chris Odom has been with several NFL teams, Washington in 2019
- \* Native of Arlington, Texas

## ASSISTANT COACHES



**Jesse Walton**  
**Outside Linebackers Coach**  
**3rd year at Eastern Illinois**  
**Butler, 2000**

### **Eastern Illinois**

- \* Joined EIU staff in January of 2019 as defensive quality control coach
- \* Helped coach linebacker group in 2019
- \* Moved into role of Director of Football Operations in January of 2020
- \* Coached four leading tacklers on team with linebacker group making a total of 344 tackles in 2019
- \* Coached second team All-OVC linebacker (Dytarious Johnson - ranked 3rd in FCS in Forced Fumbles, 43rd in TFL) in 2019
- \* Coached All-OVC Newcomer member (Jason Johnson) in 2019
- \* Coached Freshmen All-American (Jason Johnson) in 2019
- \* Added Assistant Head Coach title in April of 2021
- \* Created several EIU team leadership programs including Real World Wednesday

### **Prior to Eastern Illinois**

- \* Assistant Coach - Linebackers & Recruiting Coordinator at University of Wisconsin-Platteville (2018-19)
- \* Assistant Coach - Wide Receivers, Pass Game Coordinator, Strength & Conditioning at North Park University (2016-18)
- \* Assistant Coach - Defensive Backs, Special Teams Coordinator, Recruiting Coordinator at Nichols College
- \* Graduate Assistant Coach - Safeties at Butler University

### **Personal**

- \* Played football at Butler University (1996-99)
- \* Bachelors Degree from Butler University in 2000
- \* Master's Degree from Nichols College in 2006



**Derek Stein**  
**Director of Football Performance**  
**2nd year at Eastern Illinois**  
**George Mason University, 2015**

#### **Eastern Illinois**

- \* Hired as Director of Football Performance in January of 2020
- \* Worked previously at Eastern Illinois as graduate assistant for strength and conditioning (2017-19)
- \* As a GA primary sport coverage for baseball, men's soccer and track & field throws group
- \* As a GA assisted with football and track & field

#### **Prior to Eastern Illinois**

- \* Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach at Northwestern State University (La.) from June 2020-Dec. 2021
- \* Primary sport coverage for women's basketball, volleyball, softball and track & field throws group
- \* Assisted with football, baseball and women's soccer
- \* Served as internship coordinator for Northwestern State Strength intern program
- \* Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach at Louisiana Tech (2019-2020)
- \* Primary sport coverage for women's basketball, volleyball, women's soccer, golf, tennis and bowling
- \* Assisted with men's basketball
- \* Responsible for hiring of Louisiana Tech strength and conditioning interns
- \* Graduate Assistant at Eastern Illinois (2017-19)
- \* Strength and Conditioning Internship at Arkansas State University (Spring 2017)
- \* Strength and Conditioning Coordinator at Finlandia University (Mich.) in 2016
- \* Designed and implemented athletic performance programs for all ten NCAA Division III sport programs
- \* Assistant strength and conditioning coach / wide receivers coach at Finlandia (2015-16)
- \* EXOS Athlete's Performance Strength and Conditioning Internship (Spring 2015)
- \* Performance Coach at Don Beebe's House of Speed (2012-14)

#### **Personal**

- \* Played four years of club football at George Mason University
- \* Bachelor's degree from George Mason University in 2015
- \* Master's degree from Eastern Illinois University in 2019
- \* NSCA Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist
- \* AHA Heartsaver CPR and AED Certified
- \* Served as a football and wrestling coach at area schools while an undergraduate at GMU
- \* Native of Fairfax, Virginia

# SUPPORT STAFF

## ZACH MENTZER

Football Academic Services Director  
Alma Mater: Northwestern, 2009  
Years at EIU: 1st year

Zach Mentzer was hired as an assistant director of academic services working strickly with Eastern Illinois football in May of 2021.

Mentzer is familiar with the Panthers program having worked for two years as a graduate assistant with EIU football working in football operations. Part of that role was to help facilitate academic study halls and other academic functions.

Prior to coming to EIU, Mentzer worked for three years as a student assistant coach with the Missouri football team earning his degree from Mizzou in 2019. He is a native of Warrenville, Illinois.

## CLINT BAYS

Coordinator of Equipment  
Years at EIU: 14th year

Clint Bays enters his 14th season as the coordinator of equipment and stadium facilities for Eastern Illinois football. Bays is a certified athletic equipment manager through the AEMA. He holds both a bachelor's and masters degree from Eastern Illinois University.

He previously worked with the Illinois Department of Corrections and Transportation Security Administration. He was the assistant equipment manager at EIU in 2007.

Bays and his wife Kirsten have four boys - Andy, John, Jake and Nick.

## SCOTT GOEHNER

Football Athletic Trainer  
Alma Mater: Milwaukee, 2015  
Years at EIU: 1st Year

Scott Goehner joined the Eastern Illinois University Sports Medicine staff as an Associate Athletic Trainer in July of 2021 and serves as the athletic trainer for the Panther football team. Goehner brings five years of experience working with football programs at the NCAA Division I level.

Goehner came to EIU following three years as an assistant athletic trainer at Western Michigan where he worked with the Broncos football and track programs. He served as an assistant athletic trainer on three straight winning Western Michigan teams including bowl games in 2018 (Famous Idaho Potato Bowl) and 2019 (SERVPRO First Responder Bowl). He was the primary athletic trainer for the indoor and outdoor track programs. During his time at Western Michigan, Goehner coordinated COVID-19 testing and care, served on mental health and capital equipment/supply sub-committees, and lead a team of athletic trainers to transition to a new EMR program.

Prior to joining the staff at Western Michigan, Goehner worked for two years as a graduate assistant athletic trainer at Eastern Michigan. During that those two years he worked directly with the Eagles football program. Part of his role included organizing, packing, unpacking and setup of off-site Athletic Training facilities for all away games including the 2016 Popeyes Bahamas Bowl and 2017 off-site fall training camp.

He worked in the spring of 2016 as an interim athletic trainer at Milwaukee providing coverage for the women's soccer spring season as well as helping with cross country and track. He completed his undergraduate Athletic Training Internship at Northwestern University supporting the Wildcats football team during the 2015 season.

Goehner completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee in 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training. He earned his Master's Degree in 2018 from Eastern Michigan. Goehner is a NATABOC Certified Athletic Trainer. He also holds a Bachelor of Science in History from the University of Wisconsin – Platteville.

A native of Sussex, Wis., he and his wife Danielle, have two daughters Grace and Eliana.

## ADDITIONAL FOOTBALL SUPPORT STAFF

Head Strength Coach ..... Joe Neihaus  
Head Athletic Trainer ..... Jim Nave  
Assistant Football Athletic Trainer ..... Michaela DeSantis  
Football GA Athletic Trainer ..... Maria Garcia  
Football GA Athletic Trainer ..... Kevin Bravo  
Orthopedic Surgeon ..... Sarah Bush Lincoln Sports Medicine  
Team Doctor ..... Dr. Robert Biggs  
Team Dentist ..... Dr. Jennifer Kennedy

Football Graduate Assistant Offense ..... Mark Gorogianis Jr  
Football Graduate Assistant Defense ..... Brad Jarman  
Football Graduate Assistant Operations ..... Jimmy Meussling  
Football Graduate Assistant Performance ..... Dan Baur  
Football Quality Control Offense ..... Rocky Zingale  
Football Quality Control Defense ..... Andrew Zimmer  
Football Quality Control Recruiting ..... Payton Naylor  
Football Quality Control Operations ..... DJ Marquardt  
Football Quality Control Personnel ..... Brian Gorsky  
Football Student Assistant ..... Chris Rouse  
Football Student Assistant ..... Jason Tabit

# 2021 EIU PANTHER ROSTER

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	YR	EXP	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL/JC/LAST)
0	Bryce Dewberry	SAF	5-10	210	Jr	2	McDonough, Ga. (Eagles Landing)
0	Arron Foulkes	WR	5-8	165	Fr	HS	Southfield, Mich. (Southfield A&T)
1	Jordan Vincent	DB	5-10	185	Fr	HS	Lincolnshire, Ill. (Stevenson)
1	Markenzy Pierre	RB	5-11	215	R-Jr	TR	Kissimmee, Fla. (Liberty / Syracuse Univ.)
2	DeWayne Cooks Jr	WR	6-2	155	R-So	1	Tulsa, Okla. (Booker T. Washington)
2	Mark Aitken	DB	5-9	175	R-Fr	TR	Chicago, Ill. (Kenwood Academy / Northern Illinois Univ.)
3	Russell Dandy	DB	6-0	175	Jr	TR	Hinesville, Ga. (Liberty County / Butte College)
3	Jaelin Benefield	RB	5-10	160	So	1	Pearland, Texas (Pearland)
4	Otto Kuhns	QB	6-3	205	Fr	HS	Carroll, Ohio (Bloom Carroll)
4	Kobe Rodgers	DB	6-1	190	R-Sr	TR	Gaffney, SC (Gaffney/Gardner-Webb Univ.)
5	Matt Judd	WR	6-2	185	R-Fr	TR	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln-Way East/Univ. of Illinois)
5	Nick Coates	DB	5-10	175	Fr	HS	Louisville, Ky. (Male)
6	Joel Barrows	LB	6-3	215	R-Fr	RS	Chicago, Ill. (Brooks Prep)
6	Tyler Hamilton	DB	5-9	175	R-Jr	TR	Hilton Head, S.C. (Hilton Head / Purdue Univ.)
7	Isaiah Hill	WR	5-11	190	R-Jr	1	Shorewood, Ill. (Minooka/South Dakota State Univ.)
7	Tyris Harvey	DB	5-11	165	Fr	HS	Olympia Fields, Ill. (Rich Central)
8	Zach Weir	QB	6-2	185	Fr	HS	Grafton, Wis. (Grafton)
8	Jason Johnson	LB	6-2	200	So	1	Matteson, Ill. (Rich Central)
9	Chris Katrenick	QB	6-3	215	R-So	TR	Algonquin, Ill. (Jacobs / Duke Univ.)
9	Elijah Benoit	DB	6-0	170	R-Jr	TR	Tampa, Fla. (Seffner Christian/Univ. of Central Florida)
11	Eric Rooks	WR	6-3	195	R-So	1	Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle Institute / Univ. of Hawaii)
12	Zach Trainor	QB	6-1	205	Fr	HS	Milford, Mich. (Walled Lake Western)
12	Justin Growel	DL	6-4	260	R-Sr	TR	East Troy, Wis. (East Troy / Lake Erie College)
13	Trey Shaw III	S	6-1	170	Fr	HS	Nashville, Tenn. (East Nashville Magnet)
13	Cooper Willman	WR	6-1	180	Fr	HS	Sterling, Ill. (Sterling)
14	Kirk Pinkston Jr.	WR	5-10	175	So	1	Indianapolis, Ind. (Lawrence Central)
15	Will Shumpert	DL	6-6	215	R-Fr	RS	St. Louis, Mo. (Belleville West)
16	Grant Ciccarone	QB	6-2	205	R-Fr	TR	Aurora, Colo. (Cherokee Trail / Univ. of Colorado)
19	Robbie Lofton II	WR	6-3	185	R-Sr	2	Lexington, Ky. (Tates Creek)
20	Jason Moore Jr.	RB	5-10	190	Fr	HS	Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle Institute)
21	Tyler Ringwood	WR	6-2	215	R-Sr	TR	Buffalo, NY (Bishop-Timon-St. Jude / UNC Charlotte)
22	Kaelin Drakeford	S	6-4	185	Fr	HS	Harrodsburg, Ky. (Mercer County)
23	AJ Sanders	SAF	6-0	185	Fr	HS	Pickerington, Ohio (Pickerington Central)
24	Collin Tyson	DB	6-0	185	Fr	HS	Kansas City, Mo. (Platte County R-3)
25	Charles Shelton IV	DB	5-11	160	R-So	1	Maryland Heights, Mo. (Pattonville)
26	Tyler Clark	RB	5-10	175	Fr	HS	Chicago, Ill. (Phillips)
27	Zay Gentry	DB	6-0	165	Fr	HS	Anna, Texas (Anna)
28	Brandon Guido	DB	5-9	190	R-Fr	RS	Naperville, Ill. (Waubonsie Valley)
29	Kendi Young	RB	5-11	185	Fr	HS	Calumet City, Ill. (Thornton Fractional North)
30	Matt Spofford	RB	6-1	200	Fr	HS	Painesville, Ohio (Riverside)
31	Anthony Manaves	SB	6-4	225	R-Fr	RS	Chicago, Ill. (St. Patrick)
32	Harrison Bey-Buie	RB	5-10	205	Fr	HS	Bettendorf, Iowa (Bettendorf)
33	Nile Hill	DB	5-11	175	R-Fr	RS	Chicago, Ill. (Marist)
34	Josh St. Preux	SAF	5-11	165	Fr	HS	Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Ag & Sciences)
35	Zeke Lewis	RB	6-0	190	Fr	HS	Decatur, Ill. (St. Teresa)
36	Chauncey Lee	DB	5-9	175	Fr	HS	Bellwood, Ill. (Immaculate Conception)
37	Devin Blakley	DB	5-10	175	R-Fr	TR	Broadview, Ill. (Nazareth Acad./South Dakota State Univ.)
38	Blake Ruffin	SAF	6-4	200	Fr	HS	Louisville, Ky. (Trinity)
39	Liam Conaghan	SB	6-3	240	Fr	HS	Glenview, Ill. (Loyola Academy)
40	Phoenix Porter	LB	6-1	210	Fr	HS	Fairfield, Ohio (Fairfield)
41	Zach Reddinger	SB	6-2	210	Fr	HS	Morris, Ill. (Morris Community)
42	Henry Woods Jr.	DB	5-10	165	Fr	HS	New Lenox, Ill. (Lincoln-Way Central)
43	Elijawah Tolbert	LB	6-1	225	Fr	HS	Country Club Hills, Ill. (Hillcrest)
44	Nick Stricker	SB	6-2	245	So	1	Lemont, Ill. (Lemont)
45	Colin Bohanek	LB	6-0	210	Fr	HS	Chicago, Ill. (Marist)
46	Ameer Aqel	LB	6-2	220	So	1	Orland Hills, Ill. (Andrew)
47	Albert Pontrelli	DL	6-2	205	Fr	HS	Lemont, Ill. (Lemont)
48	Michael Jarosz	LB	6-1	255	R-So	RS	Wheaton, Ill. (Wheaton North)

# 2021 EIU PANTHERS ROSTER

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	YR	EXP	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL/JC)
49	Grant Edwards	SB	6-1	225	So	1	Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart Griffin)
50	Cam Mattox	DL	6-2	260	So	TR	Markham, Ill. (Hillcrest/Northern Illinois Univ.)
51	Payton Orth	LB	5-11	210	Fr	HS	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln-Way East)
52	Jeremy Gelino	LB	6-0	220	Fr	HS	Lombard, Ill. (Glenbard South)
53	Stone Galloway	K	5-11	205	So	1	Collinsville, Ill. (Althoff Catholic)
54	Drake Van Hyfte	DL	6-4	240	Fr	HS	Annawan, Ill. (Annawan-Wethersfield)
55	Dominic Moore	DL	6-7	290	R-Fr	RS	Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Perspectives Charter)
56	Daegan Bush	OL	6-3	275	Fr	HS	Versailles, Ky. (Woodford County)
58	Anthony Imperio	OL	6-4	275	So	1	Auburn, Ala. (Auburn)
59	Logan Brown	LB	6-2	195	Fr	HS	Effingham, Ill. (Effingham)
60	Brock Griffin	OL	6-4	295	Fr	HS	Normal, Ill. (Normal Community)
61	Ben Solomon	OL	6-2	300	R-Jr	2	Indianapolis, Ind. (Bishop Chatard)
62	Michael McNicholas	OL	6-4	310	R-Fr	TR	Lombard, Ill. (Lombard Montini / Kent State Univ.)
63	William Orth	K	5-10	150	Fr	HS	Ames, Iowa (Ames)
64	Jerit Medler	OL	6-2	265	R-Fr	RS	Assumption, Ill. (Central A&M)
65	Julian Patino	K	5-10	210	Fr	HS	Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Mount Carmel)
66	Jack Valente	OL/LS	6-4	250	Fr	HS	Batavia, Ill. (Batavia)
67	Chad Strickland	OL	6-5	280	So	1	Salem, Ala. (Smiths Station)
68	Simon France	OL	6-1	265	Fr	HS	Elyria, Ohio (Elyria)
69	Stephen Elmore	LS	6-0	240	Jr	2	Belleville, Ill. (Belleville East)
72	Elkhanan Tanelus	OL	6-2	330	So	1	Naples, Fla. (Barron Collier)
73	Dylan Czerlanis	OL	6-4	290	R-Fr	RS	Antioch, Ill. (Antioch)
74	William Redden	OL	6-6	300	Fr	HS	Malvern, Pa. (Malvern Prep)
75	Matthew Bean	SB	6-6	265	Fr	TR	Lima, Ohio (Shanwee)
76	Dakota Kerr	OL	6-4	275	Fr	TR	Brownstown, Mich. (Woodhaven / College of DuPage)
77	Ivan Gleyzer	OL	6-4	290	So	1	Lincolnshire, Ill. (Stevenson)
78	Bryson Broadway	OL	6-5	255	Fr	HS	Dawsonville, Ga. (Dawson County)
79	Demond Butcher	DL	6-1	260	Fr	HS	Lombard, Ill. (Lombard Montini)
80	Logen Neidhardt	P	6-2	220	Sr	TR	Hicksville, Ohio (Hicksville / Ohio Dominican Univ.)
80	Jay Vallie	SB	6-3	245	Gr.	TR	Grand Blanc, Mich. (Goodrich / Univ. of Dayton)
81	Demetrius Garrett Jr.	WR	5-11	155	Fr	HS	Michigan City, Ind. (Michigan City)
82	Xander Richards	WR	6-4	180	R-So	1	Burleson, Texas (Burleson Centennial)
83	Joe McNab	SB	6-6	215	Fr	HS	Madison Heights, Mich. (Lamphere)
84	Ryan James	WR	6-3	205	R-Jr	1	Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle/Purdue Univ.)
86	L'Den Skinner	WR	6-2	195	Fr	HS	Houston, Texas (Mayde Creek)
87	Eric Hoff	WR	5-7	155	Jr	TR	Pembroke Pines, Fla. (West Broward/Concordia College Chicago)
88	DeAirious Smith	WR	5-11	175	Fr	HS	Lexington, Ky. (Lexington Christian Academy)
89	Daniel Luoma	SB	6-2	205	Fr	HS	Porvoo, Finland (Porvoo)
90	Michael Young Jr.	LB	6-0	220	Fr	HS	Warren, Mich. (De La Salle Collegiate)
91	Jordan Miles	DE	6-2	215	Fr	HS	Indianapolis, Ind. (Decatur Central)
92	James Ubaike	DL	6-4	280	R-Sr	2	Meriden, Conn. (Maloney / ND College of Science)
93	Cameron Leach	DL	6-1	285	So	1	Chicago, Ill. (Nazareth Academy)
94	Alton Jefferson	DL	6-0	260	Fr	HS	Louisville, Ky. (Trinity)
95	Kinstin Reaves	DL	6-0	285	Fr	HS	Statesville, NC (Statesville)
96	Ethan Roberts	DL	6-0	290	Fr	HS	Lumberton, NC (Saint Paul's)
97	Tim Varga	DL	6-3	240	So	1	Elk Grove Village, Ill. (Elk Grove Village)
98	Connor Corrigan	DL	6-3	230	Fr	HS	Naperville, Ill. (Naperville North)
99	Jaron Hacha	DL	5-11	255	Fr	HS	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln-Way East)
	Steven Frank	SB	6-4	225	R-Sr	TR	Oswego, Ill. (Oswego/Butler CC)
	Jamari Johnson	DL	6-4	220	Fr	HS	Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle Institute)
	Joshua Johnson	OL	6-4	310	Fr	HS	Westerville, Ohio (Westerville Central)
	Anthony Shockey	LB	6-1	210	So	1	Lombard, Ill. (Glenbard East)
	Chris Williams	DB	6-2	190	Fr	HS	Peoria, Ill. (Peoria)
	Sereno Winn	DB	6-1	165	Fr	HS	Cincinnati, Ohio (Walnut Hills)

# 2021 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

## 2 -- MARK AITKEN

Defensive Back • 5-9 • 175 • RS-Freshman  
Chicago, Ill. (Kenwood Academy / Northern Illinois Univ.)



### EASTERN ILLINOIS

**2020 (SOPHOMORE):** Transfer from Northern Illinois University who joined program in spring of 2021 but did not participate in Eastern Illinois games in the spring due to NCAA transfer rules...

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS:** Did not participate in any games during the 2020 fall semester as NIU went 0-6 during COVID-19 shortened season... as a freshman in 2019 started season opener against Illinois State making five tackles with a pass break-up.. suffered season-ended injury in practice following season opener...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football at Kenwood Academy earning four varsity letters as a two-way player... twice named honorable mention All-State, All-Area and All-Public League... named team MVP as a junior and senior... as a senior scored 19 total touchdowns with 10 rushing TDs, five TD receptions and four kick return TDs... made 20 tackles with two interceptions, a forced fumble, nine pass break-ups and two interceptions... team posted an 8-2 record as a senior...

## 46 -- AMEER AQEL

Linebacker • 6-2 • 220 • Sophomore  
Orland Hills, Ill. (Andrew HS)



**2020 (SOPHOMORE):** Appeared in one game during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021... did not record any statistics playing on special teams unit...

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in ten games on the season seeing time as a reserve linebacker and on special teams unit... made four tackles on the season with two against Indiana and two in Panthers win at Tennessee State... had a forced fumble at Tennessee State...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played defensive line for coach Adam Lewandowski at Andrew HS... helped team post a 6-4 record advancing to the IHSA Class 7A state playoffs as a senior... was a second team All-Area selection and first team All-Conference pick... finished with 41 tackles and three sacks... team captain...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR AQEL ...

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	TFL	SK	FF
2019	10/0	3	1	4	0	0	1
2020	1/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Career	11/0	3	1	4	0	0	1

## 6 -- JOEL BARROWS

Defensive Line • 6-3 • 215 • RS-Sophomore  
Chicago, Ill. (Brooks Prep)



**2020 (RS-FRESHMAN):** Appeared in five games during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021... made seven tackles on defense with a high of three against Jacksonville State... had a half tackle for loss at Murray State... had a tackle for loss against Jacksonville State... added a quarterback hurry at UT Martin...

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Did not play in any games during 2019 season using redshirt year...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played wide receiver and defensive back for coach Ben McCall at Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep in Chicago... helped team post a 7-4 record as a senior advancing to the IHSA Class 5A State playoffs, the first winning season and playoff appearance for the school since 2013... on defense registered 43 tackles with eight sacks and six forced fumbles... was team's top receiving threat finishing with 23 receptions, 315 yards and six touchdowns... was a two-time All-Chicago Public League Illini-Heartland Division selection... team captain...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR BARROWS...

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	TFL	SK	FF
2019	Redshirted season at EIU						
2020	5/0	2	5	7	1.5	1	0
Career	5/0	2	5	7	1.5	1	0

## 75 -- MATTHEW BEAN

Super Back • 6-6 • 265 • Freshman  
Lima, Ohio (Shawnee HS)



### EASTERN ILLINOIS

**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Transferred to EIU in spring of 2021 but did not participate in EIU's 2020 season played during the spring of 2021 due to NCAA transfer rules...

**JUNIOR COLLEGE:** Enrolled in junior college classes during fall 2020 semester, did not participate in football due to COVID-19 protocols...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football and basketball at Shawnee HS...

## 3 -- JAE LIN BENEFIELD

Running Back • 5-10 • 160 • Sophomore  
Pearland, Texas (Pearland HS)



**2019 - All-OVC Newcomer Team**

**2020 (SOPHOMORE):** Appeared in five games making four starts at running back during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021... missed one game during the year due to injury... finished second on the team with 258 rushing yards... had a season high 120 yards on 16 carries at Tennessee State... scored lone rushing touchdown of the season in win over Tennessee Tech... caught nine passes for 60 yards with nine receptions tied for fourth most on the team...

season long rush was 30 yards at Tennessee State... season long reception was 12 yards against Tennessee Tech...

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in all 12 games as a true freshman making ten starts... started final game of the season in the quarterback slot as Panthers opened game in Wildcat formation... named to Ohio Valley Conference All-Newcomer team... became first freshman since 2003 to lead team in rushing finishing year with 463 yards... rushed for a season high 105 yards and two scores in the win at Tennessee State... named OVC Newcomer of the Week on Nov. 10 following efforts at Tennessee State... finished year with five rushing touchdowns with two against Tennessee Tech and one against Jacksonville State... became first freshman to lead team in scoring since 2003 season ending year with 42 points... had touchdown receptions at Murray State and Tennessee State... hauled in 39 passes for 299 yards... season best eight catches for 69 yards against Tennessee Tech... had six kick returns for an average of 14 yards per return...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Ricky Tullos at Pearland HS... helped lead team to a 10-1 record including Texas Class 6A Region III District 23 championship... team advanced to the Texas 6A state playoffs... rushed for an average of 121 yards per game as a senior finishing season with 1,210 yards and 16 touchdowns in nine games... added 15 catches for 128 yards being named the 23-6A Most Valuable Player of the Year... was a three-time first team All-District selection... team captain...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR BENEFIELD ...

YEAR	G/GS	RUSH	YDS	TD	LNG	REC	YDS	TD
2019	12/10	125	402	5	45	39	299	2
2020	5/4	59	258	1	30	9	60	0
<b>Career</b>	<b>17/14</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>2</b>

## 9 -- ELIJAH BENOIT

Defensive Back • 6-0 • 170 • RS-Junior  
Tampa, Fla. (Seffner Christian / UCF)



**CENTRAL FLORIDA:** Was a member of the UCF (Central Florida) program for three seasons... **2020:** opted out of COVID-19 season... **2019:** played in eight games on special teams and as a back-up defensive back... finished season with three tackles including two against Temple... added a solo tackle against South Florida... played in UCF win over Marshall in the Bad Boys Mowers Gasparilla Bowl... **2018:** sat out season under NCAA transfer rules...

**FLORIDA TECH:** Redshirted 2017 season...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played wide receiver and defensive back at Seffner Christian HS... as a senior recorded 57 tackles with six interceptions and a fumble recovery on defense... on offense caught 17 passes for 178 yards with a touchdown reception...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR BENOIT...

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	TFL	PBU	INT
2017	Redshirted season at Florida Tech						
2018	Sat out season at UCF under NCAA transfer rules						
<b>2019</b>	<b>8/0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
2020	Opted out of COVID-19 season at UCF						

## 32 -- HARRISON BEY-BUIE

Running Back • 5-10 • 205 • RS-Freshman  
Bettendorf, Iowa (Bettendorf HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Did not appear in any games during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played running back during senior season for coach Aaron Wiley at Bettendorf HS... is a finalist for All-Iowa football player of the year award to be announced in the summer of 2020... rushed for 2,034 yards and 32 touchdowns as a senior with a 9.2 yards per carry average... rushed for at least one touchdown in all 12 games and posted a high of 246 yards

against Dubuque Hempstead... first team All-State and District Player of the Year... was the Quad Cities Offensive Player of the Year as a junior and senior, playing junior season at Moline (Ill.)... led team to the Iowa State playoff semifinals as a senior... began prep career at Thornton HS in Chicago area... grew up in a military family with dad serving in the US Army, so lived in several different places...

# 2021 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

## 37 -- DEVIN BLAKELY

Defensive Back • 5-10 • 175 • RS-Freshman  
Broadview, Ill. (Nazareth Academy / South Dakota St. Univ.)



### EASTERN ILLINOIS

**2020 (RS-FREHMAN):** Transferred to EIU in spring of 2021 and did not participate in any games during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021 due to NCAA transfer rules...

**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE:** SDSU did not play during fall of 2020 due to COVID-19 protocols... during 2019 season used redshirt year after playing three games at running back... rushed for 52-yards in debut vs. Long Island... added 21 yards with a pass reception for 13 yards against

Northern Iowa... had 28 yards rushing and three pass receptions for 22 yards at South Dakota...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played at Nazareth Academy rushing for 1,100 yards and 18 touchdowns as a senior... earned first-team All-Conference honors... added two interceptions and 46 tackles as a cornerback on defense...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR BLAKELY ...

YEAR	G/GS	RUSH	YDS	TD	LNG	REC	YDS	TD
2019	3/0	15	101	0	27	4	35	0
2020	Team did not play in fall as part of COVID-19 schedule							

## 45 -- COLIN BOHANEK

Linebacker • 6-0 • 210 • Freshman (CV)  
Chicago, Ill. (Marist HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in all six games during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021... ranked second on the team with 40 tackles which was first among Ohio Valley Conference freshmen... made three starts at linebacker in the final three games of the season... had a season high nine tackles against Tennessee State and Jacksonville State... made 20 solo stops and 20 assisted tackles... had one sack against Jacksonville State... had a half tackle for loss at UT Martin and in home win over Tennessee Tech... had one interception in

win over Tennessee Tech which helped clinch win... added one forced fumble vs. Jacksonville State and one pass break-up...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played linebacker and running back for coach Ron Dawczak at Chicago Marist HS... finished senior season with 116 tackles including 49 solo tackles... added 3.5 sacks and 16 tackles for loss as team posted an 8-5 record losing in the IHSA Class 8A state semifinals... named first team All-Area after earning CCL/ESCC Blue Division Player of the Year honors... was also an All-Conference selection as a junior...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR BOHANEK...

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	TFL	SK	INT	Other
2020	6/3	20	20	40	2.0	1.5	1	1 FF

## 78 -- BRYSON BROADWAY

Offensive Line • 6-5 • 255 • Freshman (CV)  
Dawsonville, Ga. (Dawson County HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in five games during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021... saw time on special teams for punt and field goal units... also saw time as a reserve offensive lineman...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Sid Maxwell at Dawson County HS... helped team post an 8-4 record during senior season advancing to the second round of the Georgia AAA state playoffs... two-way player on offensive and defensive line... member of team as a junior that posted school record ten wins...

## 59 -- LOGAN BROWN

Linebacker • 6-2 • 195 • Freshman (CV)  
Effingham, Ill. (Effingham HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in two games during 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... saw time on special teams but did not record any statistics...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Brett Hefner at Effingham HS... helped team post an 11-2 record advancing to the IHSA Class 4A state semifinals... named second team All-Apollo Conference selection at safety... as a two-way player rushed for 724 yards and 13 touchdowns as a junior... during senior season added 392 yards and seven touchdowns on offense... on defense finished year with 38 tackles including two interceptions, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery...

## 56 -- DAEGAN BUSH

Offensive Line • 6-3 • 275 • Freshman (CV)  
Versailles, Ky. (Woodford County HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in three games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... saw time as a reserve offensive lineman and on special teams unit for punt and field goals...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Dennis Johnson at Woodford County HS... helped lead team to Kentucky Class 5A state playoffs as a senior marking the first playoff appearance for the program in nearly ten seasons... was a four-years starter on the offensive line and a multiple time All-District selection... as a senior paved the way for an offensive unit that averaged 242 yards per game rushing and 28.4 points per game...

## 79 -- DEMOND BUTCHER

Defensive Line • 6-1 • 260 • Freshman  
Lombard, Ill. (Lombard Montini HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Mike Bukovsky at Lombard Montini Catholic HS... did not have a senior fall season due to COVID-19... during shortened 2021 spring season earned All-Chicago Catholic League honors... was a four-year starter on defensive line that also saw time on the offensive line in career... as a junior helped team post an 8-3 record advancing to the second round of the IHSA Class 5A State Playoffs... helped team post an IHSA Class 5A state runner-up finish in 2018 with a 12-2 record...

## 16 -- GRANT CICCARONE

Quarterback • 6-2 • 205 • RS-Freshman  
Aurora, Colo. (Cherokee Trail HS / Univ. of Colorado)



**COLORADO:** Two-year member of Colorado football team... redshirted 2019 season spending season as scout team quarterback... was named the Offensive Scout of the Game for the Air Force week... in 2020 did not appear in any games during shortened COVID-19 season...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football at Cherokee Trail HS helping team to wins in all six games he played (Cherokee Trail was 8-4 for the season)... competed 79-of-126 passes for 1,142 yards with 12 touchdowns and four interceptions... added

one rushing touchdown... top game was as a senior going 23-of-35 for 282 yards and three touchdowns against Horizon HS... played baseball hitting .400 with one home run and 15 RBI... named honorable mention Academic All-State and All-Centennial League Academic team...

## 26 -- TYLER CLARK

Running Back • 5-10 • 175 • Freshman (CV)  
Chicago, Ill. (Phillips HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in one game during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021... had one carry for one yard against Jacksonville State... did not record any additional statistics...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Troy McAllister at Phillips HS... helped team post an 11-2 record as a senior with team advancing to the third round of the IHSA Class 7A state playoffs... rushed for more than 500 yards as a senior with seven touchdowns... first team Chicago Public

League team...

## 5 -- NICK COATES

Defensive Back • 5-10 • 175 • Freshman  
Louisville, Ky. (Male HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Chris Wolfe at Louisville Male HS... named All-Area as a senior helping lead team to Kentucky Class 6A State Championship game... named first team All-State as a senior... as a senior helped lead team to a Kentucky State Class 6A state runner-up finish... made nine tackles in state championship game... as a junior helped lead team to Kentucky State runner-up finish... in state championship game finished with six tackles, two tackles for loss and one sack... team finished with a 14-1 record and was ranked as

high as No. 11 in the USA Today Prep Top 25 poll... named All-Area as a junior... lettered in track competing in sprints, the long jump and triple jump... team captain...

## 39 -- LIAM CONAGHAN

Super Back • 6-3 • 240 • Freshman  
Glenview, Ill. (Loyola Academy)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach John Holecek at Loyola Academy in Chicago... did not have a fall senior season due to State of Illinois COVID-19 restrictions... helped team post a 6-0 record during the shortened 2021 spring season... had 28 tackles with two sacks... as a junior earned All-Chicago Catholic League honors and All-Area honors as team posted an 8-4 record advancing to IHSA Class 8A State quarterfinals... finished season with 47 tackles, three sacks and one fumble recovery... as a sophomore was a member of Loyola Academy

team that went 11-3, winning IHSA Class 8A State title... team captain...

# 2021 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

## 2 -- DEWAYNE COOKS JR

Wide Receiver • 6-2 • 155 • RS-Sophomore  
Tulsa, Okla. (Booker T. Washington HS)



**2020 (SOPHOMORE):** Appeared in five games during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021... made three starts at wide receiver leading the team with 241 receiving yards... was second on the team with 15 receptions... season high was 103 yards on four receptions against Jacksonville State... had back-to-back five reception games against Southeast Missouri and UT Martin... scored lone touchdown of the season at UT Martin... season long reception was 60 yards against Jacksonville State...

**2019 (RS-FRESHMAN):** Played in ten games making five starts at wide receiver late in the season... had 12 receptions for 98 yards including a touchdown against Tennessee Tech... season high four catches for 33 yards at Murray State... had two catches in three additional games...

**2018 (FRESHMAN):** Played in four games during 2018 season and will use redshirt season as part of new NCAA competition rule... had one catch for three yards against Southeast Missouri...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Brad Calip at Booker T. Washington HS in Tulsa... helped lead team to Oklahoma Class 6A State Championship as a senior ending year with a 12-1 record... caught 41 passes for 883 yards and 11 touchdowns as a senior... had three games over 100-yards receiving with a high of 175 yards and four touchdowns against Bartlesville HS... added 194 yards rushing including a 100-yard rushing game against Sapula HS... named honorable mention All-State as a senior...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR COOKS ...

YEAR	G/GS	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	YDs/G	TDs	LONG
2018 *	4/0	1	3	3.0		0	3
2019	10/5	12	98	8.2	9.8	1	15
2020	5/3	15	241	16.1	48.2	1	60
<b>Career</b>	<b>19/8</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>60</b>

\* used NCAA redshirt season

## 98 -- CONNOR CORRIGAN

Defensive Line • 6-3 • 230 • Freshman  
Naperville, Ill. (Naperville North HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Sean Drendel at Naperville North HS... did not have a senior fall season due to COVID-19... earned All-Area honors playing during the shortened season in the spring of 2021... named DuPage Valley Conference co-Defensive Lineman of the Year... two-time All-Conference selection...

## 73 -- DYLAN CZERLANIS

Offensive Line • 6-4 • 290 • RS-Freshman  
Antioch, Ill. (Antioch HS)



**2020 (RS-FRESHMAN):** Appeared in two games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... played as a reserve offensive lineman...

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in the final game against Austin Peay as a reserve offensive lineman... used redshirt season per NCAA competition rule...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played center for coach Brian Glashagel at Antioch HS... helped team advance to the IHSA playoffs three straight seasons, twice at the Class 6A level and once at the class 5A level... team advanced to the 6A quarterfinals during senior season finishing with an 11-1 record... named to the Class 6A All-State team as a senior... twice named All-Area... Academic All-Conference and Academic All-State selection... team captain...

## 3 -- RUSSELL DANDY

Defensive Back • 6-0 • 175 • Junior  
Hinesville, Ga. (Liberty County HS / Butte College)



### EASTERN ILLINOIS

**2020 (JUNIOR):** Did not appear in any games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021...

**JUNIOR COLLEGE:** Played two seasons at Butte College... appeared in 15 games over the two years finishing with 25 career tackles... added seven pass break-ups... had one forced fumble, one fumble recovery and four tackles for loss...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Two-way player at Liberty County HS... on defense had 19 tackles with one interception and 6 pass break-ups during senior season... on offense averaged 13 yards per reception with one touchdown... helped team post an 11-2 record reaching Georgia Class AAA quarterfinals...

## 85 -- ADARIUS DENT

Wide Receiver • 6-1 • 175 • Junior  
Pahokee, Fla. (Pahokee HS / Florida State Univ.)



Transferred to Eastern Illinois and joined football roster during 2021 fall camp...

**FLORIDA STATE:** Three year member of Florida State football team... **2020:** member of FSU scout team... named Seminole Scholar... **2019:** appeared in seven games making two catches... first collegiate reception was against Syracuse... added another catch against Alabama State... played in Sun Bowl Game vs. Arizona State... ACC Honor Roll... **2018:** appeared in seven games primarily on special teams... earned

team's Special Teams Scout Team Award... made collegiate debut against Northern Illinois... saw action in games against five nationally ranked opponents...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played senior football season at Pahokee HS helping lead team to a win in the 2016 Florida 1A state championship... had 40 catches for 800 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior as offense averaged 31 points per game... ranked No. 10 overall player in Palm Beach County in 2017 class by Prepbuilders... explosive athlete that played defensive back, wide receiver and quarterback in high school... began prep career at Royal Palm HS and as a junior had three interceptions on defense while scoring five touchdowns on offense... tabbed the No. 38 player in the South Florida Region by ESPN West Palm Beach...

## 0 -- BRYCE DEWBERRY

Safety • 5-10 • 210 • Junior  
McDonough, Ga. (Eagles Landing HS)



**2020 (JUNIOR):** Missed the 2020 season with an injury using redshirt season...

**2019 (SOPHOMORE):** Played in 11 games making ten starts at safety... finished season ranked fifth on team in tackles with 53 including 29 solo stops... season high seven tackles at Murray State and at UT Martin... had five or more tackles in five additional games... season-high five solo stops in win at Tennessee State... had one tackle for loss against Illinois State... created forced fumbles against Illinois State and

Tennessee State adding a fumble recovery against Murray State... had an interception returned for 15 yards in season opener at Chattanooga... added two more pass break-ups during the season... had one punt return in season opener...

**2018 (FRESHMAN):** Played in all games making three starts late in the season at free safety... named the Ohio Valley Conference Newcomer of the Week on Oct. 21 following performance against UT Martin... had 30 tackles on the year with 19 solo stops... had seven tackles against UT Martin with a half tackle for loss and 61-yard interception return for touchdown... had a forced fumble at Jacksonville State... finished year with three pass break-ups...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Three years starter at wide receiver and defensive back/safety at Eagles Landing HS in McDonough, Ga... younger brother of former EIU All-OVC safety Bradley Dewberry... on offense had 36 receptions for 567 yards and six touchdowns as a senior... on defense had five interceptions and 73 career tackles... named first team All-Region as a senior... was honorable mention All-State... helped team win first state playoff game in school history... defensive MVP at Cam Newton 7-on-7 Southeastern USA Regional...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR DEWBERRY ...

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	TFL	PBU	INT	Other
2018	11/3	19	11	30	0.5	3	1	61 yd TD
2019	11/10	29	24	53	1	2	1	2 FF
2020	Missed season due to injury							
<b>Career</b>	<b>22/13</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>----</b>

# 2021 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

## 22 -- KAEVIN DRAKEFORD

Safety • 6-4 • 185 • Freshman (CV)  
Harrodsburg, Ky. (Mercer County HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Started all six games at safety during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... finished third on the team with 38 tackles while 28 solo tackles ranked second on the team... made season high eight tackles (seven solo) at Murray State... added seven tackle (six solo) performance against Jacksonville State... had a half tackle for loss at UT Martin and a half sack in home win over Tennessee Tech... had a forced fumble in season opener against Southeast Missouri... added two pass break-ups coming against Murray State

and Jacksonville State...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach David Buchanan at Mercer County HS... played quarterback and safety as a senior leading team to an 8-3 record and appearance in the Kentucky Class 3A state playoffs... at quarterback passed for 832 yards and seven touchdowns while rushing for 395 yards and six scores... on defense finished the season with 67 tackles including four interceptions and one tackle for loss... two-time All-State selection at safety as a junior and senior...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR DRAKEFORD ...

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	TFL	PBU	INT	Other
2020	6/6	28	8	36	1	2	0	1 FF

## 49 -- GRANT EDWARDS

Super Back • 6-1 • 225 • Sophomore  
Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart Griffin HS)



**2020 (SOPHOMORE):** Appeared in three games during the 2020 season playing the spring of 2021... moved to super back position but saw most of time on special teams unit... did not record any statistics...

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in seven games seeing time as a reserve linebacker and on special teams... made two tackles during the season with both at Indiana... added a pass break-up at Indiana...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played at Sacred Heart Griffin HS in Springfield for legendary coach Ken Leonard, the winningest football coach in Illinois history... played both defensive end and linebacker during time at Sacred Heart Griffin and was rated at Top 50 FCS Recruit by Hero Sports... earned All-Conference honors finishing the season with 51 tackles and eight tackles for loss... helped lead Sacred Heart Griffin to the second round of the IHSA Class 6A playoffs finishing the year with an 8-3 record... team captain...

## 69 -- STEPHEN ELMORE

Long Snapper • 6-0 • 240 • Junior  
Belleville, Ill. (Belleville East HS)



**2020 (JUNIOR):** Appeared in all six games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... was the team's long snapper on field goals, extra points and punts... had one tackle on special teams against Southeast Missouri... team was 5-of-7 on field goals and 13-of-13 on extra points...

**2019 (SOPHOMORE):** Played in 11 games during the season serving as the long snapper on field goals and extra points... was active but did not play against Indiana... late in the season added long snapper duties for punt team in addition to field goal unit...

**2018 (FRESHMAN):** Played in all 11 games as the starting long snapper for field goal, extra point and punt teams... snapped for second team All-OVC punter & kicker Nick Bruno... was injured during Tennessee State game but returned next game at Tennessee Tech to resume long snapping duties...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played center and long snapper at Belleville East HS... attended Kohl's Kicking Camp... named an All-City selection by Belleville HS football coaches...

## 0 -- ARRON FOULKES

Wide Receiver • 5-8 • 165 • Freshman (CV)  
Southfield, Mich. (Southfield A&T HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in five games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... had seven catches for 114 yards during the season... ranked second on the team with touchdown receptions, both in home win over Tennessee Tech... caught season high three passes for 60 yards against Tennessee Tech... added multiple reception game against Southeast Missouri with two catches for 39 yards... season long catch was 36 yards against Tennessee Tech...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played wide receiver and defensive back for coach Tim Conley at Southfield A&T HS... on defense finished season with seven pass break-ups and 19 tackles... hauled in 18 passes for 307 yards...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR FOULKES ...

YEAR	G/GS	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	YDs/G	TDs	LONG
2020	5/0	7	114	16.3	22.8	2	36

## 68 -- SIMON FRANCE

Offensive Line • 6-1 • 265 • Freshman  
Elyria, Ohio (Elyria HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football senior season for coach Devlin Culliver at Elyria HS... played both tackle and center on the offensive line for a team that averaged 22.3 points per game on offense during the season... named All-Greater Cleveland Conference selection as a senior... team captain...

## -- STEVEN FRANK

Super Back • 6-4 • 225 • RS-Senior  
Oswego, Ill. (Oswego HS / Butler CC)



### EASTERN ILLINOIS

**2021 (RS-SENIOR):** Will miss 2021 fall season due to injury...

**2020 (SENIOR):** Transferred to Eastern Illinois in January of 2020... did not appear in any games missing season due to injury... granted NCAA hardship waiver for additional year of eligibility...

**JUNIOR COLLEGE:** Played quarterback at Butler CC for two years leading the team to a 10-3 record this past season as he was 75-of-

131 for 1,094 yards and nine touchdowns... rated the No. 7 JUCO Pro Style Quarterback by JCGridiron.com...

**FLORIDA ATLANTIC:** Originally signed out of high school at Florida Atlantic using redshirt season in 2016...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played quarterback for coach Brian Cooney as Oswego HS... passed for 5,159 yards and 68 touchdowns at Oswego HS with another 20 rushing touchdowns... led team to IHSA Class 8A quarterfinals as a senior earning first team All-State honors... team captain... twice named All-Conference and MVP while rated the No. 1 quarterback in Illinois by Scout.com in 2015...

## 53 -- STONE GALLOWAY

Punter / Kicker • 5-11 • 205 • Sophomore  
Collinsville, Ill. (Belleville Althoff Catholic HS)



**2020 (SOPHOMORE):** Appeared in all six games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... was the team's primary punter and field goal kicker... was 5-of-7 on field goal attempts with a long of 44 yards against Jacksonville State... added a 41-yard make at Tennessee State... scored 16 points on the season to rank second on team in scoring... added one extra point attempt... as a punter averaged 38.3 yards per punt... had a long punt of 65 yards against Jacksonville State... added 50+ yard punts at UT Martin, Tennessee Tech and at Murray State...

had six of 26 punt attempts end in a fair catch with three pinned inside the 20-yard line... had two kickoff attempts on the season for an average of 49 yards per kickoff...

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in ten games during the season serving as the punter... took over primary punter duties against Illinois State... had 58 punts on the season for an average of 34.9 yards per punt... had four punts pinned inside the 20-yard line... had four punts over 50-yards with a long punt of 53 against Illinois State...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Ken Turner at Belleville Althoff Catholic HS... was the starting kicker for all four seasons finishing prep career with 173 extra points, 14 field goals and 215 total points... made 64 extra points as a sophomore as team advanced to the IHSA Class 4A state quarterfinals... knocked home 72 extra points as team was the Class 4A State Runner-Up... team also made Class 4A playoffs during junior campaign... averaged 59.2 yards per kickoff during prep career... was also a standout soccer player scoring 13 goals during senior season...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR GALLOWAY ...

YEAR	G	P	Avg.	I-20	50+	Long
2019	11	58	34.9	4	4	53
2020	6	26	38.3	3	4	65
<b>Career</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>65</b>

YEAR	FG	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Long	PAT
2019	Did not attempt any field goals						1-1
2020	5-7	1-1	2-2	2-3	0-1	44	1-1

# 2021 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

## 81 -- DEMETRIUS GARRETT JR.

Wide Receiver • 5-11 • 155 • Freshman (CV)  
Michigan City, Ind. (Michigan City HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Did not appear in any games during 2020 season using redshirt year...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Phil Mason at Michigan City HS... was a two-way player during junior and senior year at defensive back and wide receiver... as a junior finished season with more than 600 receiving yards and ten touchdowns... as a senior added 42 receptions for more than 600 yards with seven touchdowns... also a member of track team...

## 52 -- JEREMY GELINO

Linebacker • 6-0 • 220 • Freshman  
Lombard, Ill. (Glenbard South HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Ryan Crissey at Glenbard South HS... did not have a fall senior season due to State of Illinois COVID-19 restrictions... made 27 tackles with six tackles for loss during shortened spring season... as a junior was a team captain helping school post a 6-4 record making the IHSA Class 5A state playoffs... made 69 tackles with 12 tackles for loss and three sacks... earned All-Upstate 8 Conference honors... Academic All-State selection as a junior...

## 27 -- ZAY GENTRY

Defensive Back • 6-0 • 165 • Freshman  
Anna, Texas (Anna HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Jason Heath at Anna HS... skilled athlete that played a variety of positions for high school team including quarterback, wide receiver and safety... split time at quarterback as part of a three-player attack... on defense registered 42 tackles with four interceptions... projected to play defensive back at EIU... also lettered in basketball and track competing in sprints, long jump and triple jump...

## 77 -- IVAN GLEYZER

Offensive Line • 6-4 • 290 • Sophomore  
Lincolnshire, Ill. (Stevenson HS)



**2020 (SOPHOMORE):** Started all six games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... was starting right guard in all six contests as offense averaged 20 points per game and 320.5 yards per game on offense...

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in eight games seeing time as a reserve offensive lineman... was member of unit that at one time during the season featured five true freshman on the offensive line for a number of plays... had one tackle against UT Martin...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played offensive line for coach Josh Hjorth at Adlai Stevenson HS... helped team post back-to-back six win seasons advancing to the IHSA Class 8A playoffs as a junior... was named All-Area as a senior offensive guard helping team rush for more than 1,200 yards on the season... team captain...

## 60 -- BROCK GRIFFIN

Offensive Line • 6-4 • 295 • Freshman (CV)  
Normal, Ill. (Normal Community HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in two games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... saw time as a reserve defensive lineman but did not record any statistics...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played defensive line for coach Jason Drengwitz at Normal Community HS... helped lead team to an 8-3 record as a senior advancing to the second round of the IHSA Class 7A playoffs... was a two-time All-Big 12 Conference selection... named a IHSFCA All-State selection as a senior... finished season with 54 tackles including 19 tackles for loss and 9 sacks...

## 12 -- JUSTIN GROWEL

Defensive Line • 6-4 • 260 • RS-Senior  
East Troy, Wis. (East Troy HS / Lake Erie College)



2019 - Division II All-American (1st Team)

**LAKE ERIE COLLEGE:** Member of Lake Erie College football program for five years... **2020:** appeared in three games during shortened COVID-19 season making 21 tackles with one tackle for loss... **2019:** played in 11 games making 69 tackles (43 solo)... had nine sacks and 21.5 tackles for loss... added four forced fumbles and five pass break-ups... named a first team NCAA Division II All-American... was a nominee for the Cliff Harris Award presented

to the top small school defensive player in college football (DII, DIII, NAIA)... first team All-Great Midwest Conference selection... **2018:** played in ten games finishing season with 66 tackles... had 5.5 sacks and 17.5 tackles for loss... All-Great Midwest Conference selection... **2017:** appeared in seven games making 34 tackles... had 2.5 sacks and nine tackles for loss... honorable mention All-Great Midwest Conference selection... also saw time as a tight end on offense and took some reps at quarterback... **2016:** redshirted season...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Was a two-sport standout at East Troy HS... starting point guard on basketball team averaging ten points, seven assists, six rebounds a game... earned All-Conference in football as a two-way player at wide receiver and linebacker...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR GROWEL ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	SK	FF	Other
2016	Redshirted season at Lake Erie College							
2017	7	15	23	38	9	2.5	0	1 FR
2018	10	40	26	66	17.5	5.5	0	2 BLK
2019	11	43	26	69	21.5	9	4	5 PBU
2020	3	7	14	21	1	0	0	
<b>Career</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>----</b>

## 28 -- BRANDON GUIDO

Defensive Back • 5-9 • 190 • RS-Freshman  
Naperville, Ill. (Waubonsie Valley HS)



**2020 (RS-FRESHMAN):** Appeared in four games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... saw time on special teams unit... did not record any statistics...

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in three games using redshirt season per NCAA competition rules... had a pass break-up at Indiana...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played safety and wide receiver for coach Paul Murphy at Waubonsie Valley HS... helped team post a 7-4 record as a senior

advancing to the second round of the IHSA Class 8A state playoffs... finished season with 24 tackles including three interceptions and nine pass break-ups... on offense hauled in two touchdown passes... team captain...

## 99 -- JARON HACHA

Defensive Line • 5-11 • 255 • Freshman (CV)  
Frankford, Ill. (Lincoln-Way East HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in five games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... made two starts at nose tackle... finished season with four tackles, three solo stops... had season high two tackles against Jacksonville State... had one tackle at UT Martin and one tackle at Tennessee State...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played defensive line for coach Rob Zvonar at Lincoln-Way East HS... helped lead team to a 14-0 record as a senior winning the IHSA Class 8A State Championship... recorded four tackles, a sack and two tackles for loss in the state championship game... finished the season with 59 tackles including 13 tackles for loss and six sacks... named an All-Area selection as a senior...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR HACHA ...

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	TFL	Sack
2020	5/2	3	1	4	0	0

## 6 -- TYLER HAMILTON

Wide Receiver • 5-9 • 175 • RS-Junior  
Hilton Head, S.C. (Hilton Head HS / Purdue Univ.)



### EASTERN ILLINOIS

**2020 (JUNIOR):** Appeared in five games during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021... moved from defensive back (at Purdue) to wide receiver making two starts... was third on team with 13 receptions for 80 yards... caught a season high five passes in back-to-back games at UT Martin and at Tennessee State... season high 35 yards receiving against UT Martin... season long reception was 21 yards at UT Martin and at Murray State... had two rush attempts for six yards...

**PURDUE:** Three-year member of Purdue football program... played in six games in 2019 making one tackle against Wisconsin... did not play in any games in 2018... redshirted 2017 season... was listed as a defensive back at Purdue, will move back to offense at Eastern Illinois...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played at Hilton Head HS... finished as schools all-time leader in career touchdowns with 45... played both running back and receiver rushing for 634 yards and five touchdowns while catching 32 passes for 610 yards and five touchdowns... added two more touchdowns on kick returns in 2016...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR HAMILTON ...

YEAR	G/GS	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	LONG	Other
2020	5/2	13	80	6.2	0	21	6 yds Rush

### HAMILTON PURDUE STATS (DEFENSE)

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	PBU
2019	6	1	0	1	0
2018	Member of Scout Team				
2017	Redshirted season at Purdue				

# 2021 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

## 7 -- TYRIS HARVEY

Defensive Back • 5-11 • 165 • Freshman (CV)  
Olympia Fields, Ill. (Rich Central HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in five games during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021... made three tackles playing as a reserve defensive back and on special teams unit... two of three tackles for the season were at UT Martin... additional tackle against Jacksonville State... had a pass break-up at Murray State...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played wide receiver and defensive back for coach Terrel Alexander at Rich Central HS... as a senior scored seven touchdowns including two kickoff returns for touchdown averaging over 25 yards per kick return... hauled in 23 passes for 460 yards and five touchdowns...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR HARVEY ...

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	TFL	PBU
2020	5/0	0	3	3	0	1

## 7 -- ISAIAH HILL

Wide Receiver • 5-11 • 190 • RS-Junior  
Shorewood, Ill. (Minooka HS / South Dakota State Univ.)



**2019 - All-OVC Newcomer Team**

### EASTERN ILLINOIS

**2020 (JUNIOR):** Did not play in any games during the 2020 season due to injury...

**2019 (SOPHOMORE):** Granted NCAA transfer waiver to play at the start of Ohio Valley Conference slate appearing in final eight games of season... made six starts at wide receiver... named to All-OVC Newcomer Team... led team in pass receptions with 58 for 571 yards... ranked 31st in the FCS in receptions per game at 7.5 which ranked sixth on the EIU single season list... scored six touchdowns on the season with four receiving and two rushing... had a streak of five straight games with a touchdown scored... had seven or more catches in four games... season high 15 catches for 157 yards and a touchdown against UT Martin, 15 catches in a game ranked as the fourth most in a game in EIU school history... had 13 catches for 152 yards and a touchdown against Southeast Missouri earning OVC Offensive Player of the Week honors on Nov. 17... scored a rushing touchdown and receiving touchdown against Jacksonville State... served as the primary kickoff returner averaging 18.8 yards per return... had four punt returns...

**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIV.:** Transfer from South Dakota State where he was a two-year member of the team.. redshirted 2017 season and was named Scout Team Offensive Player of the Year... as a redshirt freshman in 2018 appeared in 11 games with time on both special teams and offense... averaged 21.8 yards per return as a kick returner seeing time early in the season at that spot... caught three passes in the FCS playoffs against Kennesaw State and North Dakota State... scored two rushing touchdowns in the FCS playoffs against Duquesne...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** played for coach Paul Forsythe at Minooka Community HS... was a first team All-Southwest Prairie Conference selection as a senior... tallied more than 1,850 all-purpose yards with 16 touchdowns... had 965 receiving yards on 46 catches...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR I. HILL ...

YEAR	G/GS	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	LONG	KOR	Avg	TD
2017	Redshirted at South Dakota State								
2018	11/0	3	56	18.7	2	47	5	21.8	0

### EIU Stats

2019	8/6	57	569	10.0	4	73	13	18.8	0
2020	Missed season at EIU due to injury								
<b>Career</b>	<b>19/6</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>0</b>

## 33 -- NILE HILL

Defensive Back • 5-11 • 175 • RS-Freshman  
Chicago, Ill. (Marist HS)



**2020 (RS-FRESHMAN):** Appeared in five games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... finished season with two tackles both coming in opener against Southeast Missouri... saw time on special teams unit and as a reserve defensive back...

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in two games seeing time on special teams unit... used redshirt year per NCAA competition rules...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Ron Dawczak at Chicago Marist HS... helped lead team to an 11-2 record the IHSA Class 8A semifinals as a senior... finished season with 27 tackles, four interceptions and ten pass break-ups... earned first-team All-East Suburban Catholic Conference as a senior... was also a first-team All-Conference selection and honorable mention All-Area selection in basketball... as a junior had 33 tackles with two interceptions and three pass break-ups... helped team win conference championship and advance to the Class 8A state quarterfinals...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR N. HILL ...

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	TFL	PBU
2019 *	2/0	0	0	0	---	---
2020	5/0	1	1	2	---	---

\* used NCAA redshirt season

## 87 -- ERIC HOFF

Wide Receiver • 5-7 • 155 • RS-Junior  
Pembroke Pines, Fla. (West Broward HS / Concordia College Chicago)



### EASTERN ILLINOIS

**2020 (JUNIOR):** Transferred to Eastern Illinois in January of 2020 and sat out 2020 season due to NCAA transfer rules...

**CONCORDIA CHICAGO:** Played wide receiver for two seasons at Concordia College in Chicago... as a sophomore caught 11 passes for 112 yards while averaging 18.2 yards per kickoff return... during freshman season caught 43 passes for 497 yards and six touchdowns while averaging 24.2 yards per kickoff return...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Monte Dilworth at West Broward HS helping lead team to first district title... as a two-way player finished season rushing for 901 yards and eight touchdowns... on defense had three interceptions...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR HOFF ...

YEAR	G	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	LONG	KOR	Avg	TD
2018	10	43	497	11.6	6	51	8	24.1	0
2019	8	11	112	10.2	0	19	5	18.2	0
2020	Sat out season at EIU due to NCAA transfer rules								
<b>Career</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>0</b>

## 58 -- ANTHONY IMPERIO

Offensive Line • 6-4 • 275 • Sophomore  
Auburn, Ala. (Auburn HS)



**2020 (SOPHOMORE):** Appeared in five games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... saw time on special teams unit and as a reserve offensive lineman blocking for a unit that averaged 20 points per game and 320.5 yards of offense per game...

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in 11 games on the offensive line making seven starts at right tackle... made first collegiate start in Ohio Valley Conference opener against Tennessee Tech and started next six conference games... was member of EIU offensive line that featured five true freshman in the line-up for a number of series during the season...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played offensive line for coach Adam Winegarten at Auburn HS... helped team post a 10-2 record as a senior helping team advance to the second round of the Alabama Class 7A state playoffs... blocked for an offensive that averaged 28.9 points per game... was a two-time All-Area selection...

## 84 -- RYAN JAMES

Wide Receiver • 6-3 • 205 • RS-Junior  
Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle Institute / Purdue Univ.)



### EASTERN ILLINOIS

**2020 (JUNIOR):** Did not appear in any games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021...

**2019 (SOPHOMORE):** Played in three games on special teams and as a reserve wide receiver... had one catch for five yards in season opener at Chattanooga...

**PURDUE:** Transferred from Purdue University... redshirted during 2017 season... did not appear in any games during 2018 season...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Mike Boehm at De La Salle Institute... had 26 catches for 321 yards during varsity career... started prep career playing at Hales Franciscan HS in Chicago...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR JAMES ...

YEAR	G	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	LONG	Other
2017	Redshirted at Purdue						
2018	Member of scout team at Purdue						
2019	3	1	5	5.0	0	5	
2020	Did not appear in any games at EIU						

# 2021 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

## 48 -- MICHAEL JAROSZ

Linebacker • 6-1 • 255 • RS-Sophomore  
Wheaton, Ill. (Wheaton North HS)



### EASTERN ILLINOIS

**2020 (SOPHOMORE):** Transferred to Eastern Illinois in fall of 2019 and joined football program in January 2020... appeared in four games during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021... saw time on special teams unit making one tackle in home win over Tennessee Tech...

**WESTERN ILLINOIS:** Attended Western Illinois in 2018 but was not a member of the football team...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played running back and linebacker for coach Joe Wardynski at Wheaton North HS... helped team post a 10-3 record as a senior advancing to the second round of the IHSA Class 7A state playoffs... second team All-DuKane Conference selection at running back playing primarily as a fullback/blocking back... rushed for 65 yards and two touchdowns during the season...

## 94 -- ALTON JEFFERSON

Defensive Line • 6-0 • 260 • Freshman  
Louisville, Ky. (Trinity HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Bob Beatty at Trinity HS... part of a defensive unit that allowed just five points per game during 2020 season while holding opponents to negative three rushing yards per game and 77 passing yards per contest... defensive front unit has helped Trinity HS lead state in sacks... named honorable mention All-State... named All-Area after helping lead team to Kentucky Class 6A State Championship with 10-0 record... as a junior helped lead team to Kentucky Class 6A State Championship as team posted a 13-2

record... team captain...

## -- JAMARI JOHNSON

Defensive Line • 6-4 • 220 • Freshman (CV)  
Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle Institute)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in one game during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021... made one tackle in season opener against Jacksonville State...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played defensive end for coach Mike Boehm at De La Salle Institute in Chicago... as a junior helped lead team to an 8-5 record, the best mark by the school since the 2009 season... team played in the Prep Bowl semifinals... as a senior made 13 tackles for loss... honorable mention IHSFCA Class 5A All-State as a senior...

first team All-Conference...

## 8 -- JASON JOHNSON

Linebacker • 6-2 • 200 • Sophomore  
Matteson, Ill. (Rich Central HS)



### Preseason All-OVC for 2021

**2020 - 1st Team All-OVC**  
**2020 - Sophomore All-American**  
**2019 - All-OVC Newcomer Team**  
**2019 - 2nd Team Freshman All-American**

**2020 (SOPHOMORE):** Started all six games during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021... first team All-Ohio Valley Conference selection at linebacker... named to Hero Sports Sophomore All-American team.. led OVC in

tackles per game at 11 per contest which ranked ninth in the FCS... had double digit tackles in four of six games (four straight to end season)... season high 15 tackles (10 solo) against Tennessee Tech to earn OVC Defensive Player of the Week honors... had a 14 tackle effort at Tennessee State... added 11 tackles at Murray State and against Jacksonville State... finished year with six tackles for loss... had season high two tackles for loss against Tennessee Tech with a sack... had one forced fumble at UT Martin... team leader with 37 solo tackles...

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in ten games making six starts at linebacker late in the season... named to the All-OVC Newcomer team... became team's leading tackler in final five games of the season and was ranked third overall on the team... finished year with 59 tackles including 33 solo stops... season high 12 tackles with two tackles for loss against Southeast Missouri... had nine tackles against Tennessee State including a sack and forced fumble that set up EIU for insurance touchdown in road win... had 4.5 tackles for loss on the season... added nine tackles against UT Martin with five or more tackles in three other games... named a second team Freshman All-American by Phil Steele.com...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played linebacker and wide receiver for coach Terrell Alexander at Rich Central HS... helped team reach the opening round of the IHSA Class 5A State playoffs as a senior... finished season with 92 tackles, 12 tackles for loss and three sacks... named second team All-Area... named Southland Football Conference Defensive MVP... first team All-Conference on defense... on offense hauled in 26 catches for 569 yards and four touchdowns... during junior season playing primarily wide receiver as team was 8-3 reaching second round of 5A playoffs... team captain...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR JASON JOHNSON ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	SK	FF	Other
2019	10/6	33	26	59	4.5	1	1	1 FR
2020	6/6	37	29	66	6	1	1	---
<b>Career</b>	<b>16/12</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>----</b>

## -- JOSHUA JOHNSON

Offensive Line • 6-4 • 310 • Freshman (CV)  
Westerville, Ohio (Westerville Central HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Did not appear in any games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021 using redshirt season...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played offensive line for coach Brent Morrison at Westerville Central HS... played both guard and tackle positions in high school... led team to 7-4 record as a senior as team made Ohio Division I playoffs... named honorable mention All-Metro as a senior... anchored an offensive line that helped team score 41 or more points in four games during

the season...

## 5 -- MATT JUDD

Wide Receiver • 6-2 • 185 • RS-Freshman  
Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln-Way East HS / Univ. of Illinois)



Preseason All-OVC for 2021 (KR)

2020 - 2nd Team All-OVC

**EASTERN ILLINOIS:**

**2020 (RS-FRESHMAN):** Appeared in all six games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... earned second team All-Ohio Valley Conference honors as a return specialist... ranked first in the OVC and 13th in the NCAA in kickoff return average at 24.8 yards per return... had 12 return chances for 298 yards with a long return of 53 yards at UT Martin... had a long return of 39 yards in season opener against Southeast Missouri... made five starts at wide receiver... ranked sixth on the team with eight receptions for 109 yards... caught a season high five passes for 73 yards at UT Martin... season long reception was 26 yards at UT Martin... had lone touchdown reception for the season at UT Martin...

**ILLINOIS:** Was a member of the Illinois football team in 2019 but did not appear in any games using redshirt season...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played wide receiver for coach Rob Zvonar at Lincoln-Way East HS... at Lincoln-Way East helped lead team to a 12-1 record as a senior catching 38 passes for 517 yards and six touchdowns... named to the All-SWSC Conference team as a senior... during last two seasons was part of program that went 26-1 including capturing IHSA Class 8A State Championship in 2017...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR JUDD ...

YEAR	G	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	LONG	KOR	Avg	TD
2019	Redshirted season at Illinois								
2020	6/5	8	109	13.6	1	26	12	24.8	0

## 9 -- CHRIS KATRENICK

Quarterback • 6-3 • 215 • RS-Sophomore  
Algonquin, Ill. (HD Jacobs HS / Duke Univ.)



**DUKE UNIVERSITY:** Member of Duke football program for four years... **2020:** played in one game during COVID-19 season appearing against Virginia before opting out for the remainder of the year... was 2-of-3 for 40 yards... **2019:** played in five games as a backup quarterback... was 3-of-13 passing for 49 yards and one touchdown... added 47 yards rushing on 13 carries with one touchdown... passing touchdown was against Virginia with rushing touchdown (nine yards) was at Virginia Tech... **2018:** played in two games... saw most

time in win over North Carolina Central going 5-of-12 for 54 yards with one touchdown pass... **2017:** enrolled at Duke in January of 2017, redshirted season...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Bill Mitz at Jacobs HS... three-star prospect by ESPN.com, Rivals.com, Scout.com and 247Sports.com... rated as the No. 33 pro-style quarterback in the country... first team All-State as a senior going 143-1f-280 for 2,223 yards with 26 touchdowns and only nine interceptions... rushed for 193 yards with six touchdowns... help team post a 7-5 record advancing to the IHSA Class 7A playoffs... led school to first playoff win since 2006 passing for 232 yards and three touchdowns... passed for 1,807 yards and 17 touchdowns going 130-of-234 as a junior adding eight rushing touchdowns... added 1,367 yards passing on 87-of-166 with 12 touchdowns as a sophomore... set school record for passing yards and touchdown passes... earned All-Fox Valley Conference honors and All-Area...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR KATRENICK ...

YEAR	G	C-A-Int	PCT	YARDS	TDs	RUSH	YDs	TDs
2017	Redshirted season at Duke							
2018	2	5-12-0	41.6	54	1	2	3	0
2019	5	3-13-1	23.1	49	1	13	47	1
2020	1	2-3-0	66.7	40	0	3	-6	0
<b>Career</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10-28-1</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1</b>

## 76 -- DAKOTA KERR

Offensive Line • 6-4 • 275 • Freshman (CV)  
Brownstown, Mich. (Woodhaven HS / College of DuPage)



**UNIOR COLLEGE:** Attended College of DuPage in the fall of 2020... team did not compete in a fall 2020 season due to NJCAA COVID-19 restrictions...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played high school football for coach Keith Christnagel at the Woodhaven HS... helped team win Downriver League title as a senior as team posted a 10-1 record advancing to the second round of the Michigan Division I state playoffs... offense averaged 36.2 points per game during senior year... also earned varsity

letter in wrestling...

# 2021 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

## 4 -- OTTO KUHN

Quarterback • 6-3 • 205 • Freshman (CV)  
Carroll, Ohio (Bloom Carroll HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in four games during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021... made three starts at quarterback with first career start at Tennessee State... was 19-of-30 for 145 yards and two touchdowns in first career start while adding 13 yards rushing... for the season was 44-of-87 passing for 509 yards... had five touchdown passes with four interceptions... passes for a season high 153 yards (12-of-19) in home win over Tennessee Tech with a pair of touchdown passes... first career completion was in season opener against

Southeast Missouri... rushed for a season high 64 yards at Murray State...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played quarterback for coach Wade Bartholomew at Bloom Carroll HS... led team to a 10-3 record as a senior advancing to the Ohio Region 15 championship game... named to All-Ohio team three straight seasons including Division IV first-team honors as a senior... led team to back-to-back Mid-State League Buckeye Division championships... was 158-of-247 for 1,795 yards and 14 touchdowns while rushing for 809 yards and 14 touchdowns... also hauled in a 61-yard touchdown pass... named Area Offensive Player of the Year three straight seasons... finished prep career passing for 5,410 yards and 2,119 yards rushing with 90 total touchdowns... team captain...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR KUHN ...

YEAR	G/GS	C-A-Int	PCT	YARDS	TDs	RUSH Yds	TDs
2020	4/3	44-87-4	50.6	509	5	37	0

## 93 -- CAMERON LEACH

Defensive Line • 6-1 • 285 • Sophomore  
Chicago, Ill. (Nazareth Academy)



**2020 (SOPHOMORE):** Started all six games during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021... was a starter at defensive tackle making 16 tackles (six solo)... season high six tackles at UT Martin... had two tackles for loss on the season with one against Southeast Missouri and one at Murray State... added a fumble recovery against Jacksonville State...

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in all 12 games making two starts on the defensive line late in the season... finished year with nine tackles including four solo... had two tackles at Indiana, against Illinois State and at Tennessee State... had half tackle for loss against Tennessee State and Austin Peay...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played defensive line coach Tim Racki at Nazareth Academy... helped lead team to 13-1 record and IHSA Class 7A State Championship as a senior following a 12-2 record and state runner-up Class 6A finish during junior season... finished 2018 state championship game with a sack, 1.5 tackles for loss and a fumble recovery to go along with three tackles... named All-East Chicago Suburban League selection... team captain...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR LEACH ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	SK
2019	12/2	4	5	9	1	0
2020	6/6	6	10	16	2	0
Career	18/8	10	15	25	3	0

## 36 -- CHAUNCY LEE

Defensive Back • 5-9 • 175 • Freshman  
Bellwood, Ill. (Immaculate Conception HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Bill Krefft at Immaculate Conception HS... did not have a fall senior season due to State of Illinois COVID-19 restrictions... played both wide receiver and defensive back... during shortened 2021 spring season had 13 tackles with two interceptions on defense while making eight catches for 143 yards on offense... as a junior hauled in 39 passes for 622 yards and six touchdowns... recorded 61 tackles with six interceptions as a sophomore and junior on defense... projected to play defensive back at

EIU... helped lead team to IHSA Class 4A State Championship during sophomore season with a 14-0 record while team posted a 10-2 record during junior year advancing to the quarterfinal round of the Class 4A playoffs... also lettered in basketball... team captain...

## 35 -- ZEKE LEWIS

Running Back • 6-0 • 190 • Freshman  
Decatur, Ill. (St. Teresa HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Mark Ramsey at Decatur St. Teresa HS... rushed for 389 yards in six games during shortened spring season in 2021 as teams did not play fall football due to COVID-19... rushed for eight touchdowns with one 100-yard rushing game... helped team post a 6-0 record in spring season... earned first team All-Central Illinois Conference honors at linebacker... as a junior rushed for 221 yards and three touchdowns... also started on defensive side of the ball making 77 tackles with 8 tackles for loss as a junior... helped team post an 11-2

record as they lost in the IHSA Class 2A State semifinals...

## 19 -- ROBBIE LOFTON

Wide Receiver • 6-3 • 185 • RS-Senior  
Lexington, Ky. (Tates Creek HS)



**2020 (SENIOR):** Appeared in all six games during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021... made five starts at wide receiver ranking fourth on the team with nine catches for 180 yards (3rd on team)... led team in yards per reception at 20 per catch... caught a season high three passes at Tennessee State and at Murray State... had 58 yards receiving with one touchdown at Murray State... had a season long reception of 67 yards against Jacksonville State for lone catch of the game... had multiple catches in three of six games...

**2019 (JUNIOR):** Played in ten games missing two games in middle portion of the season to injury... made nine starts at wide receiver... finished third on the team in receptions with 28 for 296 yards... caught a season high ten passes for 124 yards against Tennessee Tech... had four catches in the season opener at Chattanooga and in the road win at Tennessee State... averaged 10.6 yards per reception... had one pass, complete for 19 yards at Tennessee State... made two tackles...

**2018 (SOPHOMORE):** Played in six games as a reserve wide receiver... had one catch for seven yards at Jacksonville State... made one tackle...

**2017 (RS-FRESHMAN):** Played in ten games as a reserve wide receiver and on special teams... had one catch for 17 yards at Tennessee State... had one rush for 18 yards against Tennessee Tech...

**2016 (FRESHMAN):** Redshirted 2016 season...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Antonie Sims at Tates Creek HS in Lexington, Ky... earned first team All-City honors as a senior... selected to play in the Best of the Bluegrass All-Star game as a senior... hauled in 30 passes for 459 yards and nine touchdowns as a senior... helped team advanced to the Kentucky Class 6A state playoffs...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR LOFTON ...

YEAR	G/GS	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	LONG	Other
2016	Redshirted at EIU						
2017	10/0	1	17	17	-	17	1 Rush
2018	6/0	1	7	7	-	7	1 Tackle
2019	10/9	28	296	10.6	-	30	1 Pass
2020	6/5	9	180	20.0	1	67	---
<b>Career</b>	<b>32/14</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>67</b>	---

## 89 -- DANIEL LUOMA

Super Back • 6-2 • 205 • Freshman (CV)  
Porvoo, Finland (Porvoo School)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Early mid-year enrollee in January of 2020... did not appear in any games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021 using redshirt season...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football in native Finland as a wide receiver that will move to SuperBack position at EIU... is currently a member of the Finland Senior National Team after playing three seasons on the Finland U-19 National Team... began American Football career playing for the Porvoo Butchers... during final season with

Porvoo team hauled in eight touchdowns earning All-Maple League honors...

## 31 -- ANTHONY MANAVES

Super Back • 6-4 • 225 • RS-Freshman  
Chicago, Ill. (St. Patrick HS)



**2020 (RS-FRESHMAN):** Appeared in all six games during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021... made two starts at superback finishing the season with four catches for 57 yards... had two catches for 23 yards at UT Martin... added single receptions against Southeast Missouri and Jacksonville State... season long reception was 31 yards vs Southeast Missouri...

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in two games as a reserve super back... did not record any statistics... used redshirt season per NCAA competition rules...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Adam Guerra at Chicago St. Patrick HS... had nine catches for 33 yards and a touchdown as a tight end... was a two-way starter at both tight end and defensive line... was a two-time All-East Suburban Catholic Conference selection as team posted a 5-4 record during senior year...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR MANAVES ...

YEAR	G/GS	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	LONG
2019	2/0	No other stats (used NCAA redshirt season)				
2020	6/2	2	23	11.5	0	31

# 2021 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

## 50 -- CAM MATTOX

Defensive Line • 6-2 • 260 • Sophomore  
Markham, Ill. (Hillcrest HS / Northern Illinois Univ.)



**NORTHERN ILLINOIS:** Member of Northern Illinois football program for two years... **2020:** did not appear in any games during COVID-19 shortened 2020 fall season... **2019:** appeared in seven games during the season as a back-up defensive lineman... finished year with eight tackles including one sack against Vanderbilt... had a season high three tackles against Ball State...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played at Hillcrest HS for coach Morgan Weaver helping team post a 12-1 record during senior season as they reached the IHSA Class 5A state semifinals... finished prep career with 180 tackles and 31 sacks... was an All-State and All-Area selection as a senior...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR MATTOX ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	SK
2019	7	4	4	8	1	1
2020	Did not appear in any games at NIU					

## 83 -- JOE MCNAB

Super Back • 6-6 • 240 • Freshman  
Madison Heights, Mich. (Lamphere HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played tight end and defensive end for coach Jason Charron at Lamphere HS... as a senior hauled in 13 passes for 151 yards and one touchdown on offense... on defense recorded seven tackles for loss with three sacks... helped lead team to an 8-1 record during senior season losing in Michigan Class 4A District 31 finals... earned All-North Conference honors...

## 62 -- MICHAEL MCNICHOLAS

Offensive Line • 6-4 • 310 • RS-Freshman  
Lombard, Ill. (Lombard Montini HS / Kent State Univ.)



**EASTERN ILLINOIS**  
**2020 (RS-FRESHMAN):** Transferred to Eastern Illinois in January of 2021... did not appear in any games for EIU during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021 as he played at Kent State during fall of 2020...

**KENT STATE:** Redshirted 2019 season... played for Kent State during COVID-19 season in fall of 2020...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played HS football for coaches Mike Bukovsky and Chris Andriano at Lombard Montini HS... named to All-Chicago Catholic League team... played in Blue-Grey All-American Bowl in 2019... was a member of 2015 IHSA Class 6A State Championship team and helped lead team to Class 5A state runner-up finish as a senior posting a 12-2 record... also lettered in track and wrestling, helping wrestling team win 2018 IHSA Class 3A title...

## 64 -- JERIT MEDLER

Offensive Line • 6-2 • 265 • RS-Freshman  
Assumption, Ill. (Central A&M HS)



**2020 (RS-FRESHMAN):** Did not appear in any games during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021...

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Did not play in any games during 2019 season using redshirt year...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Brent Weakly at Central A&M HS... helped team advance to the IHSA Class 1A State quarterfinals, finishing season with 8-4 record... was a two-way standout earning first team All-Central Illinois Conference honors on both the offensive and defensive line... earned All-Area honors by the Herald & Review... anchored an offensive line that rushed for 2,179 yards on the season... on defense finished year with 76 tackles including 11 tackles for loss... will attend EIU on an Academic Scholarship...

## 91 -- JORDAN MILES

Defensive End • 6-2 • 215 • Freshman (CV)  
Indianapolis, Ind. (Decatur Central HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in all six games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... made starts in the final five games of the season at defensive end... finished year with 23 tackles (12 solo stops)... was tied for the team lead with six tackles for loss and was the team leader with two sacks... registered sacks in back-to-back games at Tennessee State and in home win over Tennessee Tech... had two tackles for loss in college debut against Southeast Missouri... season high six tackles against Tennessee Tech and against Jacksonville State... had a forced fumble at Tennessee State...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played defensive end for coach Kyle Enright at Decatur Central HS in Indianapolis... as a senior led team to a 9-3 record advancing to the Indiana Class 5A Sectional Championships... made 61 tackles with 25 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks... as a junior recorded 88 tackles with eight sacks and two fumble recoveries... led team to Class 5A state runner-up finish with a 12-2 record... named honorable mention All-State as a junior...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR MILES ...

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	TFL	SK	FF
2020	6/5	12	11	23	6	2	1

## 55 -- DOMINIC MOORE

Offensive Line • 6-7 • 290 • RS-Freshman  
Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Perspectives Charter School)



**2020 (RS-FRESHMAN):** Appeared in two games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... made one tackle against Southeast Missouri... also saw time on defensive unit at UT Martin...

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in two games seeing time against Indiana and Eastern Kentucky... used redshirt season per NCAA competition rules...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Terry Jones at Chicago Perspectives Charter HS... rated the No. 29 player in the state by Rivals.com... was a dominant force up front for a team that finished with a 5-4 record... posted 14 tackles for loss on the season with 35 total tackles... team captain...

## 20 -- JASON MOORE JR.

Running Back • 5-10 • 190 • Freshman  
Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle Institute)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Michael Boehm at De La Salle Institute in Chicago... did not have a fall senior season due to State of Illinois COVID-19 restrictions... team played four games during the spring of 2021... scored five touchdowns in shortened season with three touchdown receptions and two rushing scores... earned All-Chicago Catholic League honors as a junior and sophomore... during sophomore season helped team post an 8-5 record losing in the Prep Bowl championship game... set school record for touchdowns in

a season scoring 20 with 13 rushing and seven receiving... team captain...

## 80 -- LOGEN NEIDHARDT

Punter • 6-2 • 220 • Graduate Student  
Hicksville, Ohio (Hicksville HS / Ohio Dominican Univ.)



**2019 - Honorable Mention All-American NCAA Division II**

**2018 - Honorable Mention All-American NCAA Division II**

**OHIO DOMINICAN:** Member of Ohio Dominican University football program for four years... **2020:** did not appear in any games during COVID-19 season... **2019:** appeared in ten games as the punter... averaged 42.7 yards per punt with a long punt of 73 yards... had 19 punts inside the 20 yard line... honorable mention Division

II All-American ... named Great Midwest Conference Special Teams Player of the Year... first team CoSIDA Academic All-American... **2018:** appeared in ten games as the punter... averaged 43 yards per punt with a long punt of 67 yards... had 18 punts inside the 20 yard line... first team All-Great Midwest Conference... honorable mention NCAA Division II All-American... ranked 13th in the NCAA Division II ranks in punting average... **2017:** appeared in ten games as the punter... averaged 40.8 yards per punt with a long punt of 58 yards... had 11 punts inside the 20-yard line... named Great Midwest Conference Special Teams Player of the Year...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Lucas Smith at Hicksville HS... twice earned All-Conference honors as both a punter and linebacker... finished prep career with 501 tackles earning first team and honorable mention All-Ohio honors...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR NEIDHARDT ...

YEAR	G	P	Avg.	I-20	50+	Long
2017	10	42	40.8	11	5	58
2018	10	43	43.0	17	8	67
2019	10	50	42.7	19	10	73
2020	Did not appear in any games during COVID season					
<b>Career</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>73</b>

## 51 -- PAYTON ORTH

Linebacker • 5-11 • 210 • Freshman  
Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln-Way East HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played linebacker for coach Rob Zvonar at Lincoln-Way East HS... did not have a senior fall season due to COVID-19... during shortened 2021 spring season earned All-Area honors as team posted a 6-0 record... during junior season helped lead team to a 14-0 record, winning IHSA Class 8A State Championship... made 94 tackles during the season including three tackles in the state championship game (one tackle for loss in championship)...

# 2021 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

## 63 -- WILL ORTH

Kicker • 5-10 • 150 • Freshman (CV)  
Ames, Iowa (Ames HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in all six games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... served as the kicker on extra point attempts and kickoffs during all six contests... was 12-of-12 on extra point attempts finishing tied for third on the team in points scored... was 4-for-4 on attempts in home win over Tennessee Tech... had 24 kickoffs during the season averaging 43.2 yards per kickoff... helped EIU rank second in the NCAA in kickoff return defense allowing just 10.3 yards per return on the season... had one touchback... OVC Academic

Medal of Honor

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Bill Vertanen at Ames HS... knocked home six field goals during the season adding 28 point after attempts... also handled kickoff and punting duties for team...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR W. ORTH...

YEAR	G	PAT	FG	KO	AVG
2020	6	12-12	0-0	24	43.2

## 65 -- JULIAN PATINO

Kicker • 5-10 • 210 • Freshman  
Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Mount Carmel HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Jordan Lynch at Chicago Mount Carmel HS... did not have a fall senior season due to State of Illinois COVID-19 restrictions... team played five games posting a 4-1 record in a shortened spring season... varsity kicker as a sophomore and junior... helped program post a 25-2 record during those seasons including a 14-0 record in 2019 as team won IHSA Class 7A State Championship... as a junior was 52-of-55 on extra point attempts with six made field goals... also served as team's punter averaging 31.5

yards per punt...

## 1 -- MARKENZY PIERRE

Running Back • 5-11 • 215 • RS-Junior  
Kissimmee, Fla. (Liberty HS / Syracuse Univ.)



**SYRACUSE:** Was a four-year member of the Syracuse football team... **2020:** played in all 11 games during 2020 fall COVID-19 season serving as a core special teams player... had 21 carries for 48 yards and one reception as a back-up running back... season high 19 yards on seven carries against Georgia Tech... had two kick returns for 53 yards against Liberty... **2019:** played in all 12 games during 2019 season serving as deep return man on kickoff team... averaged 24 yards per return with a long return of 31 yards against Louisville... had six rushing

yards in limited offensive action... **2018:** redshirted 2018 season playing in four games on kick return unit and as a back-up running back... had eight rushes for 35 yards with a season high 18 yards against Florida State... had 17 yards rushing against UConn... **2017:** played in 11 games in 2017 with most time on special teams... fourth on team with 89 rushing yards... ran for 46 yards on nine carries against Central Connecticut State... had ten carries for 26 yards against Louisville...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** played for coach Cory Johns at Liberty HS... rated No. 52 running back in the country by ESPN... two-time Florida Class 7A All-State first team... finished prep career with 5,133 yards rushing, 12th-most in Central Florida history... named 2016 Osceola News-Gazette Player of the Year... rushed for 2,559 yards and 30 touchdowns as a senior including capping career with 447-yard, seven touchdown game against Poinciana.. rushed for 1,677 yards and 19 touchdowns as a junior... born in Newark, New Jersey...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR PIERRE ...

YEAR	G	RUSH	YDS	TD	LNG	REC	YDS	Other
2017	11	25	89	0	13	1	6	1 TKL
2018	4	8	35	0	12	0	0	
2019	12	5	6	0	4	0	0	
2020	11	21	48	0	7	1	2	1 TKL
<b>Career</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	

## 14 -- KIRK PINKSTON JR.

Wide Receiver • 5-10 • 175 • Sophomore  
Indianapolis, Ind. (Lawrence Central HS)



**2020 (SOPHOMORE):** Appeared in five games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... had three catches for 48 yards on the season while also seeing time on special teams unit... had two catches for 45 yards at Murray State... hauled in one pass for 3 three yards against Jacksonville State... season long reception was 25 yards at Murray State... OVC Academic Medal of Honor

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in 11 games on special teams and as a reserve wide receiver... made one start in road win at Tennessee State... had seven catches for 42 yards on the season... opened collegiate career with four catches for 30 yards in season opener at Chattanooga... added single catches at Indiana, at Indiana State and against Southeast Missouri...OVC Medal of Honor

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played wide receiver for coach John Rodenberg at Lawrence Central HS... finished senior season with 27 catches for 470 yards and five touchdowns... averaged 17.4 yards per reception... as a junior had 36 catches for 444 yards and three touchdowns... finished high school career with more than 1,000 yards receiving in three varsity seasons... as a junior helped team advance to the Indiana Class 6A State playoffs finishing year with a 6-4 record... named first team All-Metropolitan Interscholastic Conference selection as a senior...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR PINKSTON ...

YEAR	G/GS	RCPTS	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	LONG
2019	11/1	7	42	6.0	0	20
2020	5/0	3	48	16.0	0	25
<b>Career</b>	<b>16/1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>

## 47 -- ALBERT PONTRELLI

Defensive Line • 6-2 • 205 • Freshman  
Lemont, Ill. (Lemont HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Bret Kooi at Lemont HS... did not have a fall senior season due to State of Illinois COVID-19 restrictions... team posted a 3-0 record in a shortened spring season allowing just 27 total points... second team All-Area as a junior making 77 tackles with 23 tackles for loss and seven sacks... helped team post an 8-3 record advancing to the second round of the IHSA Class 6A State playoffs... earned second team All-Area as a sophomore finishing season with 19 tackles for loss and six sacks... earned All-South Suburban Conference honors...

Suburban Conference honors...

## 40 -- PHOENIX PORTER

Linebacker • 6-1 • 210 • Freshman (CV)  
Fairfield, Ohio (Fairfield HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in all six games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... saw time on special teams unit and as a reserve linebacker... finished season with nine tackles including four solo stops... season high five tackles in final game of year against Jacksonville State which included a sack... had two tackles in season college debut against Southeast Missouri and two tackles in home win over Tennessee Tech...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played linebacker for coach Jason Krause at Fairfield HS... helped lead team to a 10-2 record as a senior losing in the Ohio Division I Regional semifinals... named first team All-Greater Miami Conference as a senior... team captain... led team with 64 tackles adding three sacks, two forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries... as a junior was second on the team with 55 tackles and 2.5 sacks earning second team All-Conference honors...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR PORTER ...

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	TFL	SK
2020	6/0	4	5	9	2	1

## 95 -- KINSTIN REAVES

Defensive Line • 6-0 • 285 • Freshman  
Statesville, NC (Statesville HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Randall Gusler at Statesville HS... did not have a fall senior season due to State of North Carolina COVID-19 restrictions... team posted a 6-2 record in a shortened spring season losing in the first round of the North Carolina Class 3A playoffs... made 44 tackles with two sacks... selected to play in Blue-Grey Football All-American Bowl for 2020... as a junior named to All-North Piedmont Conference recording 22 tackles for loss... helped lead team to a 12-1 record advancing to North Carolina Class 3A State playoffs second round...

State playoffs second round...

## 74 -- WILLIAM REDDEN

Offensive Line • 6-6 • 300 • Freshman (CV)  
Malvern, Pa. (Malvern Prep)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in one game during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... saw time as a reserve offensive lineman in season opener against Southeast Missouri...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played offensive and defensive line for coach Dave Gueriera at Malvern Prep... was a four-year starter on the offensive line earning first team All-Inter Academic Conference honors as a senior... as a junior was a second team All-Conference selection... recorded more than 100 pancake blocks during final two

seasons...

# 2021 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

## 41 -- ZACH REDDINGER

Super Back • 6-2 • 210 • Freshman (CV)  
Morris, Ill. (Morris Community HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Did not appear in any games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Alan Thorson at Morris Community HS... was a versatile player that saw the field in a number of positions moving to quarterback on offense as a senior after playing wide receiver as a junior... caught 26 passes for 423 yards and four touchdowns as a junior... led team to IHSA Class 5A state playoffs as a senior passing for 1,231 yards and

16 touchdowns... named All-Area...

## 82 -- XANDER RICHARDS

Wide Receiver • 6-4 • 180 • RS-Sophomore  
Burlleson, Texas (Burlleson Centennial HS)



**2020 (JUNIOR):** Appeared in three games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... made four catches for 36 yards with all four receptions at Tennessee State... season long reception was 19 yards... also played against Tennessee Tech and at Murray State...

**2019 (SOPHOMORE):** Played in seven games at wide receiver and on special teams unit... started first five games of the season... finished year with 11 catches for 136 yards and one touchdown... touchdown reception was against Tennessee

Tech hauling in three catches for 45 yards on the day... season high five catches for 67 yards in season opener at Chattanooga... added two tackles on special teams against Tennessee Tech...

**2018 (RS-FRESHMAN):** Played in four games as a reserve wide receiver... had two catches on the season... caught one pass for three yards at Arkansas... caught one pass for three yards against Austin Peay...

**2017 (FRESHMAN):** Redshirted season at EIU...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Kyle Geller at Burlleson Centennial HS... helped team advance to the second round of the Texas State playoffs 5A, D2... earned first team All-County honors as a senior... was leading receiver on a primary rushing team finishing season with 22 catches for 355 yards and six touchdowns...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR RICHARDS ...

YEAR	G/GS	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	LONG
2017	Redshirted at EIU					
2018	4/0	2	6	3	0	3
2019	7/5	11	136	12.4	1	20
2020	3/0	4	36	9	0	19
<b>Career</b>	<b>14/5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>

## 21 -- TYLER RINGWOOD

Wide Receiver • 6-2 • 215 • RS-Senior  
Buffalo, NY (Bishop-Timon St. Jude HS / UNC Charlotte)



**CHARLOTTE:** Was a three year member of the Charlotte football program... **2020:** played in five games during the COVID-19 season... caught nine passes for 128 yards during the year... had three receptions for 46 yards against Florida Atlantic... had three catches for 57 yards against North Texas... **2019:** third leading receiver on team making 25 catches for 395 yards and five touchdowns... was team's top receiver in first-ever school bowl game with five catches for 64 yards in Bahamas Bowl against Buffalo... season long 52-yard touchdown reception against North

Texas... had 37-yard catch on final possession against North Texas that set up game winning field goal... had a two touchdown game against UMass... averaged 15.8 yards per catch... nine of 25 receptions for 15 or more yards... made six starts in 13 games played... **2018:** played in 11 games on special teams and as a reserve wide receiver... had two catches for 17 yards with receptions against UMass and Florida Atlantic...

**JUNIOR COLLEGE:** Spent two seasons at Erie CC... redshirted 2016 doing an internship with the Buffalo Bills... in 2017 had 45 catches for 696 yards and eight touchdowns... had three 100-yard receiving games... posted a season-high 172 yards with three touchdowns against College of DuPage... added games of 121 and 100 yards receiving... ..

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played wide receiver, defensive end and linebacker at Bishop-Timon-St. Jude HS... was a first team All-Catholic League selection helping team post an 8-4 record during senior season... named honorable mention All-Western New York... helped team post a 9-4 record as a junior advancing to third round of playoffs... played for coach Charlie Comeford...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR RINGWOOD ...

YEAR	G/GS	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	LONG
2018	11	2	17	8.5	0	9
2019	13	25	395	15.8	5	52
2020	5	9	128	14.2	0	24
<b>Career</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>52</b>

## 96 -- ETHAN ROBERTS

Defensive Line • 6-0 • 290 • Freshman  
Lumberton, NC (Saint Paul's HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Mike Setzer at Saint Paul's HS... did not have a fall senior season due to State of North Carolina COVID-19 restrictions... helped team post an 8-1 record during a shortened spring season... made 86 tackles... helped lead team to North Carolina Class 2AA state runner-up finish losing in state championship game... as a junior finished season with 100 tackles, 20 tackles for loss and four sacks... helped team post an 8-3 record advancing to the North Carolina 2AA State playoffs... earned All-Conference honors...

team captain...

## 4 -- KOBE RODGERS

Defensive Back • 6-1 • 190 • RS-Senior  
Gaffney, SC (Gaffney HS / Gardner-Webb Univ.)



**GARDNER-WEBB:** Was a five-year member of the Gardner-Webb football team... **2020:** played in all four games of GWU's shortened 2020 season making two tackles... **2019:** played in 11 games during 2019 season finishing year with 45 tackles (19 solo)... had a half sack and fumble recovery... added two interceptions against North Carolina Central and Campbell and six total break-ups... made a season high 13 tackles against East Carolina... **2018:** appeared in nine games during 2018 season making nine tackles... season high three tackles against Limestone... **2017:** moved to defensive side of ball as a redshirt freshman in 2017 playing in seven games with three tackles... **2016:** redshirted 2016 season as a wide receiver...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played at powerhouse HS program Gaffney HS for coach Dan Jones... caught 25 passes for 465 yards and three touchdowns... averaged 18.7 yards per catch... had four catches for 107 yards and a touchdown against Byrnes HS in 2015 state playoffs...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR RODGERS ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	INT	PBU
2016	Redshirted season at Gardner-Webb						
2017	7	1	2	3	0	0	0
2018	9	5	4	9	0	0	0
2019	11	19	26	45	0.5	2	6
2020	4	1	1	2	0	0	0
<b>Career</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>

## 11 -- ERIC ROOKS

Wide Receiver • 6-3 • 195 • RS-Sophomore  
Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle Institute / Univ. of Hawai'i)



**EASTERN ILLINOIS 2020 (SOPHOMORE):** Did not appear in any games during the 2020 season played in the summer of 2021...

**2019 (RS-FRESHMAN):** Played in ten games as a wide receiver and on special teams unit... had five catches for 51 yards on the season... single receptions at Indiana, Tennessee Tech, Murray State, Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee State... long reception was 21 yards at Murray State...

**UNIV. OF HAWAII':** Transfer from Hawai'i where he played in two games last season but will take redshirt season based on new NCAA four-game participation rule... will have four seasons of eligibility remaining at EIU... two appearances game against Navy and Utah State... had one reception for eight yards win over Navy...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Mike Boehm at De La Salle Institute... was a three-time All-Chicago Catholic League selection... finished career as school's all-time leader with 118 receptions adding 1,200 yards and 18 touchdowns... played final prep season at The Taft School in Watertown, Conn... had 49 catches for 639 yards and eight touchdowns at Taft School... named first-team All-League and to the USA Today All-State team...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR ROOKS ...

YEAR	G	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	LONG
2018 - H	2	1	8	8	0	8
2019 - E	10	5	51	10.2	0	21
2020	Did not play in any games in COVID season					
<b>Career</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>

## 38 -- BLAKE RUFFIN

Safety • 6-4 • 200 • Freshman  
Louisville, Ky. (Trinity HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Bob Beatty at Trinity HS... part of a defensive unit that allowed just five points per game during 2020 season while holding opponents to negative three rushing yards per game and 77 passing yards per contest... named honorable mention All-State... named All-Area as a senior after helping lead team to Kentucky Class 6A State Championship with a 10-0 record... made three tackles in state championship game... as a junior helped lead team to Kentucky Class 6A State Championship as team posted a 13-2 record...

team captain...

## 23 -- AJ SANDERS

Safety • 6-0 • 185 • Freshman  
Pickerington, Ohio (Pickerington Central HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Jay Sharrett at Pickerington Central HS... team captain that helped lead team to 11-1 record and state runner-up finish in the Ohio Division I State Playoffs... earned All-District and All-Ohio Capitol Conference Buckeye Division honors... as a senior made 49 tackles... during junior season made 53 tackles with one interception returned for touchdown... helped team win Ohio Division I State Championship... team captain...

## 13 -- TREY SHAW III

Safety • 6-1 • 170 • Freshman (CV)  
Nashville, Tenn. (East Nashville Magnet School)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in two games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... had one tackle on the year at Tennessee State... also saw time on the field during home win over Tennessee Tech...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played safety and wide receiver for coach Brian Waite at East Nashville Magnet School... helped lead team to a 9-3 record as a senior advancing to the second round of the Tennessee Division I Class 3A playoffs... finished season with 23 tackles, four interceptions and

six pass break-ups on defense... on offense caught 17 passes for 411 yards and four touchdowns... named first-team All-Area at wide receiver... during junior season helped team go 10-2 making 18 tackles with four interceptions... was a state champion in the long jump at the Tennessee Small School State Championship...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR SHAW III ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	INT	PBU
2020	2	1	0	1	0	0	0

# 2021 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

## 25 -- CHARLES SHELTON IV

Defensive Back • 5-11 • 160 • RS-Sophomore  
Maryland Heights, Mo. (Pattonville HS)



**2020 (SOPHOMORE):** Appeared in three games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... saw team on special teams unit... did not record any statistics...

**2019 (RS-FRESHMAN):** Played in 12 games as a reserve defensive back and on special teams unit... finished season with 11 tackles including nine solo stops... season high three tackles in final game at Austin Peay... opened season with two tackles at Chattanooga...

**2018 (FRESHMAN):** Played in season opener at Arkansas... did not record any statistics... will use redshirt year under new NCAA competition rules...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played wide receiver and corner back at Pattonville HS in the St. Louis Metro Area... helped team post a 10-4-1 record as they lost by one point in the Missouri Class 5A State Championship game... had 46 catches for 895 yards and 13 touchdowns on offense... ranked 13th in the St. Louis Metro Area in receiving yards... on defense made 57 tackles with four interceptions... added two special teams touchdowns on kick/punt returns... named first team Missouri Class 5A All-State and St. Louis All-Metro... also All-State in track running a 10.7 100 meter time...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR SHELTON IV ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	INT	PBU
2018 *	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019	12	9	2	11	0	0	0
2020	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Career</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\* used redshirt season under NCAA rule

## -- ANTHONY SHOCKEY

Linebacker • 6-1 • 210 • Sophomore  
Lombard, Ill. (Glenbard East HS)



**2020 (SOPHOMORE):** Appeared in all six games during the 2020 season played in the fall of 2021... started the first three games of the season at linebacker... finished year with 26 tackles to rank fifth on team... made 12 solo stops... opened season with nine tackles including two tackles for loss against Southeast Missouri... added eight tackles at UT Martin... had two tackles for loss with four total tackles at Murray State... had an interception returned 47 yards during home win over Tennessee Tech...

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in all 12 games at linebacker and one special teams unit... made one start at Murray State... finished year with 32 tackles including 21 solo stops... opened season with three tackles and a tackle for loss at Chattanooga... season high six tackles with a half tackle for loss at Indiana State... had six tackles with 1.5 tackles for loss and a half sack at Murray State... had 3.5 tackles for loss on the season... had two forced fumbles against Indiana State and Murray State... added five tackles at Indiana...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played linebacker at Glenbard East HS in Lombard for head coach John Walters, an Eastern Illinois alumnus... as a senior named the Upstate Eight Defensive Player of the Year after recording 81 tackles with 17 tackles for loss and 2.5 sacks... was a two-time first-team All-Conference selection after making 72 tackles as a junior... was an honorable mention Class 7A All-State selection as a senior as the team posted a 10-1 record advancing to the second round of the IHSA Class 7A playoffs... team captain...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR SHOCKEY

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	TFL	SK	INT	Other
2019	12/1	21	11	32	3.5	0.5	0	2 FF
2020	6/3	12	14	26	4	0	1	1 FR
<b>Career</b>	<b>18/4</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>---</b>

## 15 -- WILL SHUMPERT

Defensive Line • 6-6 • 215 • RS-Freshman  
St. Louis, Mo. (Belleville West HS)



**2020 (RS-FRESHMAN):** Appeared in four games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... most of playing time was on special teams unit making one tackle in home win over Tennessee Tech... did not record any offensive statistics...

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in four games in early portion of season then used redshirt year per NCAA competition rules... did not have any statistics playing as a reserve wide receiver and on special teams unit...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Cameron Pettus at Belleville West HS... helped team post a 7-3 record advancing to the IHSA Class 7A state playoffs... as a senior averaging 15.8 yards per catch with three touchdown receptions... was a starter on the nationally ranked men's basketball team that won the IHSA Class 4A State Championship averaging 9.3 points per game...

**Misc.:** older sister Alece Shumpert was a member of the EIU women's basketball team...

## 86 -- L'DEN SKINNER

Wide Receiver • 6-2 • 195 • Freshman  
Houston, Texas (Mayde Creek HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Brian Randle at Mayde Creek HS... hauled in 50 passes for 768 yards as a senior with one touchdown reception... add two receptions on two-point conversions... as a junior added ten receptions for 211 yards and one score... during junior year helped team reach Texas state playoffs for first time since 2008 season finishing with 9-3 record advancing to the Conference 6A D2 second round... also lettered in track running the hurdles...

## 88 -- DEAIRIOUS SMITH

Wide Receiver • 5-11 • 175 • Freshman (CV)  
Lexington, Ky. (Lexington Christian Academy)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in five games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... saw playing time on special teams unit... blocked a punt that resulted in a safety in first collegiate game at UT Martin... blocked punt traveled 23 yards... had one fair catch for no return on kickoff team at Murray State...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Doug Charles at Lexington Christian Academy as both a wide receiver and defensive back... led state of Kentucky in receiving yards per game as a senior

at 139 finishing season with 82 catches for 1,671 yards and three touchdowns... earned first team All-State honors at wide receiver... helped lead team to Kentucky Class 2A state playoffs second round as a senior after team advanced to state playoff quarterfinals as a junior... team won 21 games over junior and senior seasons... as a junior was All-City selection with 60 catches for 923 yards and 11 touchdowns... added three interceptions on defense during senior year...

## 61 -- BEN SOLOMON

Offensive Line • 6-2 • 300 • RS-Junior  
Indianapolis, Ind. (Bishop Chatard HS)



**2021 (JUNIOR):** Named a nominee for the AFCA Good Works Team...

**2020 (JUNIOR):** Started all six games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... was starter at center position for offensive line as unit averaged 20 points per game and 320.5 yards of total offense per game... helped organize EIU Chapter of Uplifting Athletes and Walk For Life...

**2019 (SOPHOMORE):** Played in 11 games on the offensive line seeing time at both center and guard position... started first three games of the season at center and then started final three games of the season at center... made one start against Jacksonville State at left guard...

**2018 (RS-FRESHMAN):** Played in ten games as part of field goal and extra point unit...

**2017 (FRESHMAN):** Redshirted season at EIU...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played offensive line for coach Vince Lorenzano at Bishop Chatard HS in Indianapolis... earned Class 3A All-State honors and Region 7 Indiana All-Star honors... earned first team All-Circle City Conference honors... helped lead team to Indiana State Championship as a junior, team lost in the state sectional finals during senior season...

## 30 -- MATT SPOFFORD

Running Back • 6-1 • 200 • Freshman  
Painesville, Ohio (Riverside HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Erie Williams at Riverside HS... rushed for 318 yards and two touchdowns missing three games... added 15 receptions for 129 yards and one touchdown... also played safety on defense making 13 tackles with one tackle for loss... as a senior helped team post a 6-2 record, team had only won 14 games from 2010-19 seasons... team advanced to the third round of the Ohio Division II Region 5 playoffs...

## 34 -- JOSH ST. PREUX

Safety • 5-11 • 165 • Freshman (CV)  
Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Ag & Sciences HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Did not appear in any games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played three years of varsity football for head coach Shawn Finin at Chicago High School Agricultural Sciences... had 17 interceptions in three-year career... helped lead team to three straight IHSA Class 4A State playoff appearances finishing with 19 total wins... entered college at the age of 16, turning 17 in October of 2020 making him one of the youngest players in the FCS during 2020 season...

# 2021 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

## 44 -- NICK STRICKER

Super Back • 6-2 • 245 • Sophomore  
Lemont, Ill. (Lemont HS)



**2020 (SOPHOMORE):** Appeared in all six games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... made two starts at the Super Back position... caught two passes for six yards during the season with most of time used as a blocking back... had one catch for five yards in season on opener against Southeast Missouri... had one catch for one yard at Murray State... OVC Academic Medal of Honor

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in 11 games at Super Back position making four starts during the season... was utilized more as a blocker in the Super Back position but did have one reception for a seven-yard touchdown in the season opener at Chattanooga...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played offensive center for coach Bret Kooi at Lemont HS... anchored an offensive line that helped team advance to the IHSA Class 6A state playoffs... team posted a ten win campaign during junior season reaching Class 5A state quarterfinals... also saw time on defensive line at nose guard during prep career...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR STRICKER ...

YEAR	G/GS	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	LONG
2019	11/4	1	7	7	1	7
2020	6/2	2	6	3	0	5
Career	17/6	3	13	4.3	1	7

## 67 -- CHAD STRICKLAND

Offensive Line • 6-5 • 280 • Sophomore  
Salem, Ala. (Smiths Station HS)



**2019 - 2nd Team Freshman All-American**

**2020 (SOPHOMORE):** Started all six games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... made six starts at left tackle and was part of an offensive line that paved the way for 20 points per game and 320.5 yards of total offense per game... OVC Academic Medal of Honor

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in ten games on the offensive line making ten starts at left tackle... missed two games late in the season at Tennessee State and against Southeast Missouri due to injury... was a member of offensive unit that had five true freshman on the line for several series during the season... named a second team Freshman All-American by Phil Steele.com...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played offensive tackle for coach Mike Glisson at Smiths Station HS... recorded 41 pancake blocks helping team score 22 or more points in five games as the program posted its first winning season since 2015... was the Alabama Class 7A State Champion in the shot put... holds a 3.95 G.P.A... team captain...

## 72 -- ELKHANAN TANELUS

Offensive Line • 6-2 • 330 • Sophomore  
Naples, Fla. (Barron Collier HS)



**2020 (SOPHOMORE):** Started all six games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... started at left guard for an offensive line that produced 20 points per game and 320.5 yards of total offense per game...

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in ten games on the offensive line... made nine starts during the season at left guard including the first two games of the season at Chattanooga and Indiana... was a member of offensive line that had five true freshmen on the offensive line for several series during the season...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played offensive and defensive line for coach Mark Jackson at Barron Collier HS... helped team post a 7-5 record as a senior helping team advance to the Florida Class 6A state playoffs... blocked for an offensive unit that rushed for an average of 197.9 yards and 24.7 points per game... earned first team All-Area honors... on the defensive line finished year with 18 tackles and two sacks... team captain...

## 43 -- ELIJAWAH TOLBERT

Defensive Back • 6-1 • 225 • Freshman  
Country Club Hills, Ill. (Hillcrest HS)



shortened season...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Dontrell Jackson at Thornton Township HS... did not have a fall senior season due to State of Illinois COVID19 restrictions... as a junior helped team post an 8-3 record advancing to the second round of the IHSA Class 7A State playoffs... played linebacker and wide receiver... earned second team All-Area honors and first team All-Southland Athletic Conference honors... finished season with 122 tackles including 15 tackles for loss and nine sacks... played spring 2021 football in Illinois at Hillcrest HS during

## 12 -- ZACH TRAINOR

Quarterback • 6-1 • 205 • Freshman  
Milford, Mich. (Walled Lake Western HS)



Division 2 state semifinals... team captain...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Michael Weiskopf at Walled Lake Western HS... named a Michigan Mr. Football candidate as a senior breaking school record for career passing yards... as a senior passed for 2,212 yards with 19 touchdowns in a shortened eight game season... was 150-of-238 for a 63 percent completion rate... as a junior passed for 3,845 yards and 44 touchdowns completing 74.5 percent... added 337 rushing yards to earn Metro Detroit Dream Team Honors and All-State 1-2 First Team honors... led team to Michigan

## 24 -- COLLIN TYSON

Defensive Back • 6-0 • 185 • Freshman  
Kansas City, Mo. (Platte County R-3 HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Bill Utz at Platte County R-3 HS... helped team win Suburban Blue regular season title while posting a 13-2 record... team lost in the Missouri Class 5 State Championship game... named first team All-Conference and All-District as a senior... as a junior helped team reach the Missouri Class 4 State Championship game... also lettered in track competing in sprints, the long jump and triple jump...

## 92 -- JAMES UBAIKE

Defensive Line • 6-4 • 280 • RS-Senior  
Meriden, Conn. (Maloney HS / ND College of Science)



**2020 (SENIOR):** Appeared in all six games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... made starts in the final four games of the season at nose tackle... finished year with 14 total tackles including two solo stops... had a season high three tackles in three games - Southeast Missouri, Murray State and Jacksonville State... had a half tackle for loss at Murray State...

**2019 (JUNIOR):** Played in 11 games on the defensive line making two starts at UT Martin and at Austin Peay... finished season with 16 total tackles including six solo stops... had four tackles for loss including a pair of TFL's in the season finale at Austin Peay... had a season high three tackles against Illinois State and at UT Martin... had a blocked kick on an extra point against Southeast Missouri that was recovered and returned for a two-point conversion...

**2018 (RS-SOPHOMORE):** Played in three games as a reserve defensive lineman... had one tackle in season opener at SEC member Arkansas...

**JUNIOR COLLEGE:** Played one year at North Dakota College of Science in Wahpeton, North Dakota... appeared in eight games making 11 tackles with five sacks during the season... added seven tackles for loss and one interception... rated #23 Junior College Defensive Lineman in America... redshirted first collegiate season at Ellsworth CC...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football at Francis T. Maloney HS...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR UBAIKE ...

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	SK	TFL	Other
2018	3/0	1	0	1	0	0	---
2019	11/2	6	10	16	0	4	1 block kick
2020	6/4	2	12	14	0	0.5	---
<b>Career</b>	<b>20/6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4.5</b>	

## 66 -- JACK VALENTE

Offensive Line / Long Snapper • 6-4 • 250 • Freshman  
Batavia, Ill. (Batavia HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played football for coach Dennis Piron at Batavia HS... was long snapper on special teams but also saw time at tight end and defensive line... did not have a fall season due to State of Illinois COVID-19 restrictions... helped team post a 4-2 record during a shortened spring 2021 season... rated No. 19 long snapper at Kohl's Football and Kicking Camps... as a junior helped team post a 9-3 record advancing to the IHSA Class 7A state playoff quarterfinals... also lettered in basketball and lacrosse...

## -- JAY VALLIE

Super Back • 6-3 • 245 • Graduate Student  
Grand Blanc, Mich. (Goodrich HS / Univ. of Dayton)



**EASTERN ILLINOIS**  
**2020 (GRADUATE):** Transferred from Dayton... Appeared in all six games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... made four starts at the Super Back position leading the team in receptions with 18... was second on the team with 190 receiving yards... had three receiving touchdowns which ranked ninth in the OVC and 55th in the FCS... had a season high five catches for 66 yards in home win over Tennessee Tech... opened season with three catches against Southeast Missouri... had four catches for 30 yards and a touchdown in final game against Jacksonville State... hauled in two touchdowns at Tennessee State... season long reception was 41 yards against Tennessee Tech with 10.6 yards per reception for the season...

**DAYTON:** Four-year member of Dayton football team playing tight end... in 2019 appeared in ten games with one start... played with All-American tight end and New Orleans Saints draft pick Adam Trautman... had one catch on the season with a touchdown against Marist... four-time Pioneer Football League Academic Honor Roll selection... in 2018 made two starts, appearing in all 11 games... in 2017 did not see any action in contests... redshirted freshman season in 2016... earned undergraduate degree from Dayton...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played at Goodrich HS... two-time first team All-Conference selection... honorable mention Academic All-State...

# 2021 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

## 54 -- DRAKE VAN HYFTE

Defensive Line • 6-4 • 240 • Freshman (CV)  
Annawan, Ill. (Annawan-Wethersfield HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Did not appear in any games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Logan Willits at Annawan-Wethersfield HS... moved to linebacker as a senior after earning All-Lincoln Trail Conference honors at defensive line as a junior... helped lead team to IHSA Class 1A state semifinals with a record of 12-1... named All-State at linebacker finishing season with 163 tackles including 81 solo stops... added 38

tackles for loss with five sacks, three interceptions and a blocked kick... was a two-way player earning first-team All-Lincoln Trail Conference honors at linebacker and offensive line as a senior... father Ted played football at Wake Forest... mother Val played basketball at Bradley... team captain...

## 97 -- TIM VARGA

Defensive Line • 6-3 • 240 • Sophomore  
Elk Grove Village, Ill. (Elk Grove Village HS)



**2020 (SOPHOMORE):** Appeared in five games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... made four starts on the defensive line including the final three games of the season... had 20 tackles including 11 solo stops... had a season high eight tackles in home win over Tennessee Tech including a tackle for loss... added four tackles in season opener against Southeast Missouri... had two pass break-ups with one against Southeast Missouri and one at Tennessee State... OVC Academic Medal of Honor

**2019 (FRESHMAN):** Played in 11 games on the defensive line... finished season with 11 tackles including eight solo stops... had a sack in road win at Tennessee State... added a tackle for loss at Murray State to go along with a forced fumble... season high three tackles against Illinois State... had a pair of tackles at Murray State...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Miles Osei at Elk Grove Village HS... earned All-Area honors by the Daily Herald... played defensive line and offensive line... finished season with 13 tackles for loss and five pass break-ups at the line...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR VARGA ...

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	SK	TFL	Other
2019	11/0	8	3	11	1	2	1 FF
2020	5/4	11	9	20	0	1	2 PBU
<b>Career</b>	<b>16/4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	

## 1 -- JORDAN VINCENT

Safety • 5-10 • 185 • Freshman (CV)  
Lincolnshire, Ill. (Stevenson HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Started all six games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... made all six starts at the safety position finishing year with 25 tackles, which ranked sixth on the team... made 12 solo tackles including four in college debut against Southeast Missouri... had season high seven tackles against Southeast Missouri... added five tackles at UT Martin with 1.5 tackles for loss... had additional half tackles for loss in home win over Tennessee Tech and at Murray State... credited with two pass break-ups with one against Southeast Missouri and

one at UT Martin...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played safety and wide receiver for coach Brent Becker at Stevenson HS... finished prep career with 127 tackles including 76 solo stops... had four interceptions and three fumble recoveries... as a receiver caught 35 passes for 501 yards and five touchdowns... added 327 yards and three touchdowns rushing... named to the All-Area team as a junior and senior on defense... as a junior helped team post a 6-4 record to advance to the IHSA Class 8A state playoffs...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR VINCENT ...

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	TFL	INT	PBU
2020	6/6	12	13	25	2.5	0	0

## 8 -- ZACH WEIR

Quarterback • 6-2 • 185 • Freshman (CV)  
Grafton, Wis. (Grafton HS)



### EASTERN ILLINOIS

**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in one game during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... saw time one final series in final game of season against Jacksonville State... was 1-for-1 on pass attempts with a completion of four yards...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Jim Norris at Grafton HS... helped team reach back-to-back Wisconsin state playoffs with 8-4 record as a senior advancing to the second round of the Wisconsin Division 3 playoffs... as a junior split time at the quarterback position passing for 846 yards and 11 touchdowns... became full-time starter as a senior passing for 2,106 yards with a 72 percent completion rate... had 23 touchdowns passing with another two on runs... named second team All-North Shore Conference selection...

## -- CHRIS WILLIAMS

Defensive Back • 6-2 • 190 • Freshman (CV)  
Peoria, Ill. (Peoria HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Did not appear in any games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played defensive back and wide receiver for coach Tim Thornton at Peoria HS... was a two-time All-Big 12 Conference selection and two-time All-Area selection... helped team post a 10-2 record as a senior advancing to the second round of the IHSA Class 6A state playoffs... was a multi-sport athlete as a member of the basketball team...

## 13 -- COOPER WILLMAN

Wide Receiver • 6-1 • 180 • Freshman (CV)  
Sterling, Ill. (Sterling HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in all six games during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021... saw a majority of time on special teams unit... lone statistic for season was a pass reception for four yards in final game of the season against Jacksonville State...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for coach Jon Schlemmer at Sterling HS... was a dual-threat quarterback leading team to an 11-1 record advancing to the second round of the IHSA Class 5A state playoffs... through the air passed for 994

yards and six touchdowns... on the ground led the team with 1,269 yards and 15 touchdowns as the offense averaged 40.2 points per game... named the Area Player of the Year... also served as team's punter averaging 41 yards per punt with 12 downed inside the 20... also earned varsity letters in basketball and baseball...

## -- SERENO WINN

Defensive Back • 6-1 • 165 • Freshman  
Cincinnati, Ohio (Walnut Hills HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Began prep career playing football for coach Gerry Beauchamp at Walnut Hills HS... as a junior was named a second team All-Eastern Cincinnati Conference selection... finished season with two interceptions and did not have any passes completed against him during man-to-man coverage during the season... as a senior transferred to play for coach Mike Daniels at Princeton HS but was injured prior to the start of the season and did not play as part of the team's 6-2 season...

## 42 -- HENRY WOODS JR.

Defensive Line • 5-10 • 165 • Freshman  
New Lenox, Ill. (Lincoln-Way Central HS)



**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for COVID-19 shortened spring senior season for coach Rob Zvonar at Lincoln-Way East HS... helped team post a 6-0 spring record... began career playing three seasons at Lincoln-Way Central HS seeing time as a defensive back and slot back...

## 29 -- KENDI YOUNG

Running Back • 5-11 • 185 • Freshman (CV)  
Calumet City, Ill. (Thornton Fractional North HS)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in three games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... rushed for 121 yards on 25 carries during the season... had a 72-yard touchdown run in collegiate debut against Southeast Missouri finishing game with 88 yards on 11 carries... rushed for 17 yards in home win over Tennessee Tech and 16 yards at Murray State...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played running back for coach Tristan Stovall at Thornton Fractional North HS... recorded over 1,000 all-purpose yards as a senior with ten touchdowns earning conference co-Offensive Player of the Year honors as a junior... named honorable mention All-Area...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR K. YOUNG ...

YEAR	G	RUSH	YDS	TD	LNG
2020	3	25	121	1	72

## 90 -- MICHAEL YOUNG JR.

Defensive Line • 6-0 • 220 • Freshman (CV)  
Warren, Mich. (De La Salle Collegiate)



**2020 (FRESHMAN):** Appeared in all six games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... made three starts to open the season at defensive end... finished season with 14 tackles including nine solo stops... season high four tackles in season opener against Southeast Missouri... had a half tackle for loss at UT Martin... added three tackles at Tennessee State and at Murray State...

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played linebacker and defensive end for coach Mike Giannone at De

La Salle Collegiate in Warren, Mich.... as a senior had 15 quarterback hurries to go with six sacks... ended year with 32 tackles and nine tackles for loss anchoring a defense that allowed 10.1 points per game... named Detroit All-East selection and All-County... as a junior helped lead team to Michigan Division 2 State Championship making 60 tackles with 17.5 tackles for loss... member of state championship team as a sophomore... team captain...

### CAREER STATISTICS FOR M. YOUNG JR. ...

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	SK	TFL	Other
2020	6/3	9	5	14	0	0.5	