



EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER FOOTBALL

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GAME 2



COACHES:

Chris Wilkerson (Eastern Illinois, 1995)

EIU Record..... 0-1 (1st)

OVC Record..... 0-0 (1st)

Career Record..... 51-28 (10th)

vs. Chattanooga..... 0-0

Rusty Wright (Chattanooga, 1996)

UTC Record 16-13 (4th)

Southern Record..... 14-7 (4th)

Overall Record Same

vs. Eastern Illinois..... 1-0

SERIES

2nd meeting, UTC leads 1-0

Last: @UTC 24, EIU 10 on Aug. 29, 2019

RANKINGS

Eastern Illinois / ---

Chattanooga..... 11 / 13

..... STATS Media/AFCAs Coaches

RADIO

Panther Radio Network

Hit Mix 88.9 FM, WTIM 870 AM,

WHOW 1520 AM & WMKR 94.3 FM

www.network1sports.com/station/wsvz

www.weiui.net/hitmix/

Play-by-Play..... Mike Bradd

Analyst Dave Kidwell / Rich Moser

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Back In Black As EIU Hosts Chattanooga For Home Opener

Eastern Illinois (0-1) vs. No. 11 Chattanooga (1-0)

O'Brien Field (10,000) • Charleston, Ill.

September 10, 2022 • 6 p.m. • TV: ESPN+

NOTES TO KNOW

• Eastern Illinois opened up the 2022 season last Thursday night with a 34-27 loss at defending Mid-American Conference Champion Northern Illinois. EIU had the ball and drove to the NIU 38 yard line as time expired in the loss. The 27 points scored by EIU were the most in a season opener since the 2013 season when EIU beat San Diego State 40-19 to open the year. The 276 yards passing by Jonah O'Brien were the most by an EIU quarterback in a season opener since the 2016 season (Mitch Kimble - 323 vs. Western Illinois).

• Eastern Illinois was efficient on third down in the season opener against Northern Illinois. EIU was 8-of-12 on 3rd down, good for a 67 percent rate. The Panthers currently rank tied for second in the FCS in 3rd down conversion rate with Eastern Kentucky and Gardner-Webb. Samford is the FCS leader at a 73 percent success rate. Last season EIU's offense ranked 120th in the FCS in 3rd down conversion rate converting at 25.3 percent (42-of-166).

• Stone Galloway was named the Ohio Valley Conference Special Teams Player of the Week following the opener at Northern Illinois. Galloway was 2-for-2 on field goal attempts connecting from 34 yards and 25 yards in the first half. He added three extra points accounting for nine of the Panthers 27 points. Galloway has now made six straight field goals dating back to last season and eight of his last nine. He is now 15-of-22 for his career and needs one more field goal to move into the EIU career top ten (10th - Dave Straunch... 1982-83, 16 made).

• Running back Markenzy Pierre rushed for 100 yards on 14 carries for a 7.1 yards per carry average in the season opener at Northern Illinois. The last EIU running back to rush for 100 yards in a game was Jaelin Benefield with 120 on March 14, 2021 at Tennessee State. The last EIU running back to rush for 100 yards in a season opener was Vincent Webb with 104 yards during the 2004 season opener against Indiana State.

• Linebacker Elijahwah Tolbert recorded 11 tackles to lead the Panthers defense in the opener at Northern Illinois. Tolbert had one solo tackle and ten assisted tackles while adding 1.5 tackles for loss and a half sack. Last season EIU had three different players (Colin Bohanek, Jordan Vincent and Jason Johnson) all finish with ten or more tackles in at least one game.

Eastern Illinois (0-1)

Date	Opponent	Score/Time
Sept. 1	at Northern Illinois	L 27-34
Sept. 10	CHATTANOOGA	6 pm
Sept. 17	at Illinois State	6:30 pm
Sept. 24	• at Murray State	4 pm
Oct. 8	NORTHWESTERN STATE	2 pm
Oct. 15	LINDENWOOD (HC)	2 pm
Oct. 22	• at Tennessee State	2 pm
Oct. 29	• TENNESSEE TECH	2 pm
Nov. 5	at McNeese State	6 pm
Nov. 12	• SOUTHEAST MISSOURI	2 pm
Nov. 19	• at UT Martin	2 pm
• Ohio Valley Conference Game		All Times Central

Chattanooga (1-0)

Date	Opponent	Score/Time
Sept. 3	• WOFFORD	W 31-0
Sept. 10	at Eastern Illinois	6 pm
Sept. 17	NORTH ALABAMA (HC)	6 pm
Sept. 22	at Illinois	7:30 pm
Oct. 1	• at East Tennessee State	7:30 pm
Oct. 15	• VMI	1:30 pm
Oct. 22	• MERCER	1:30 pm
Oct. 29	• at Furman	2 pm
Nov. 5	• at The Citadel	2 pm
Nov. 12	• SAMFORD	1:30 pm
Nov. 19	• at Western Carolina	1 pm
• Southern Conference Game		All Times Central

STATS FCS MEDIA TOP 25

Rk.	Team	Record
1.	North Dakota State (52)	1-0
2.	South Dakota State (2)	0-1
3.	Montana	1-0
4.	Montana State	1-0
5.	Missouri State	1-0
6.	Villanova	1-0
7.	Sacramento State	1-0
8.	Incarnate Word	1-0
9.	East Tennessee State	1-0
10.	Delaware	1-0
11.	Chattanooga	1-0
12.	Eastern Washington	1-0
13.	Jackson State	1-0
14.	UT Martin	1-0
15.	Holy Cross	1-0
16.	Weber State	1-0
17.	Southern Illinois	0-1
18.	Stephen F. Austin	1-1
19.	Kennesaw State	0-1
20.	William & Mary	1-0
21.	Southeastern Louisiana	0-1
22.	Rhode Island	1-0
23.	Mercer	1-1
24.	Northern Iowa	0-1
25.	Samford	1-0

FCS COACHES TOP 25

Rk.	Team	Record
1.	North Dakota State (24)	14-1
2.	Montana	10-3
3.	South Dakota State (1)	11-4
4.	Montana State	12-3
5.	Villanova	10-3
6.	Kennesaw State	11-2
7.	Sacramento State	9-3
8.	Missouri State	8-4
9.	Southern Illinois	8-5
10.	Stephen F. Austin	8-4
11.	East Tennessee State	11-2
12.	Eastern Washington	10-3
13.	Chattanooga	6-5
14.	Incarnate Word	10-3
15.	UT Martin	10-3
16.	Southeastern Louisiana	9-4
17.	Jackson State	11-2
18.	Holy Cross	10-3
19.	Delaware	5-6
20.	Weber State	6-5
21.	Northern Iowa	6-6
22.	UC Davis	8-4
23.	Mercer	7-3
T24.	Rhode Island	7-4
T24.	Richmond	6-5

• Defensive back Tyris Harvey was credited with two pass break-ups in the season opener against Northern Illinois. One pass break-up was in the endzone to turn-away a potential Huskie score while the other was a clean break on a pass in the flat that would have resulted in a pick-six with an interception. Last season Harvey led the Panthers with six pass break-ups while also returning an interception for a touchdown against Austin Peay.

• Punter Trey Wilhoit was only called upon one time during the season opener at Northern Illinois but fully delivered on that opportunity with a 54 yard punt. Wilhoit is a junior college transfer and last season led the NJCAA ranks with a 43.3 yards per punt average at Dodge City CC. Wilhoit had ten punts over 50 yards with a long of 80 yards.

• Wide receiver Justin Thomas made an immediate impact on the EIU passing game as the transfer hauled in six passes for 83 yards and one touchdown. Thomas is currently 53rd in the FCS in receiving yards. Last season he earned Division III All-American honors at Albion College finishing his career as the program's all-time leader in touchdown receptions (43) and receiving yards (2,754).

• Jaelin Benefield missed a large portion of the 2021 season due to injury but returned in this year's season opener at Northern Illinois to show what a versatile part of the EIU offense he can be. Benefield rushed for 63 yards on ten carries while catching four passes for 57 yards and a score. He would also serve as the Panthers kickoff returner with 61 yards on four returns. His 181 all-purpose yards are 13th in the FCS this season.

• Quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo started every game for EIU between the 2011-13 seasons. Since that time 14 different players have started at quarterback for the Panthers with only the 2015 season seeing the same signal caller under center starting every game (Jalen Whitlow). Jonah O'Brien became the latest in that group passing for 276 yards and three touchdowns in his first EIU start. The passing total ranks fourth among that group of 14 players in passing yards in their first EIU start behind Harry Woodberry (339 in 2018 vs. Tennessee Tech), Mitch Kimble (323 in 2016 vs. Western Illinois) and Zach Weir (296 in 2021 vs. Austin Peay).

• Last season Eastern Illinois defense ranked third in the OVC last season in turnovers gained as the Panthers finished the year with 18 turnovers gained. The Panthers had four interceptions and 14 fumble recoveries. From those 18 turnovers, EIU scored a pair of defensive touchdowns. The Panthers ended the 2021 season forcing at least one turnover in three straight games. In this year's opener at Northern Illinois, EIU was not able to force a Huskies turnover. The last time EIU did not force a turnover in a game was Oct. 23, 2021 vs. Tennessee State. The last time EIU did not force a turnover in back-to-back games was the second and third games of the 2019 season in back-to-back losses to Indiana and Illinois State.

• Eastern Illinois will be looking to snap an eight game home opener losing streak when the Panthers host Chattanooga on Saturday night. The Panthers last win in a home opener was in September 2013 when EIU beat Illinois State 57-24. Chris Wilkerson will be looking to win his home opener and become the sixth EIU head coach to post a win in their first home contest since the 1978 season. The previous five are Darrell Mudra (1978 vs. Central State), Al Molde (1983 vs. Grand Valley State), Bob Spoo (1987 vs. Illinois State), Mark Hutson (2006 vs. Indiana State) and Dino Babers (2012 vs. Southern Illinois).

• Eastern Illinois finished with 441 yards of total offense on Thursday at Northern Illinois collecting 165 yards on the ground and 276 yards passing. EIU outgained NIU in the contest holding the Huskies to 379 yards of total offense. The 441 yards were more than any game last season for EIU and the most by a Panthers offensive group since racking up 490 yards in November 2019 during a road win at Tennessee State.

• Eastern Illinois had two players combine on their one sack in the opener at Northern Illinois. Elijahah Tolbert and Braylon Willis were credited with a half sack each for a one yard loss. Last season EIU had 16 total sacks as a defensive unit with Tim Varga and Jordan Miles the team leaders with four each. EIU's defense did lead the OVC in team tackles for loss last season with 71. The Panthers had three in the opener with NIU.

• Eastern Illinois passed for only eight touchdowns during the 2021 season with Isaiah Hill, DeAirious Smith and Robbie Lofton all catching multiple touchdowns. The Panthers put up a third of that total in the season opener with three touchdown receptions, one each by Jaelin Benefield, Justin Thomas and Jay Vallie.

2022 OVC Standings

Team	OVC	Pct.	All	Pct.
Eastern Illinois	0-0	.000	0-1	.000
Lindenwood	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Murray State	0-0	.000	0-1	.000
Southeast Missouri	0-0	.000	0-1	.000
Tennessee State	0-0	.000	0-1	.000
Tennessee Tech	0-0	.000	0-1	.000
UT Martin	0-0	.000	1-0	1.000

This Week In OVC Football

Thursday - September 8

UT Martin at Missouri State - 7 pm

Saturday - September 10

Chattanooga at Eastern Illinois - 6 pm

Lindenwood at Houston Baptist - 6 pm

Southeast Missouri at Southern Illinois - 6 pm

Texas A&M Commerce at Tennessee Tech - 6 pm

Jacksonville State at Murray State - 6 pm

Tennessee State vs. Jackson State - 6 pm (Memphis)

* Ohio Valley Conference Games

Eastern Illinois Captains

1 - Jordan Vincent

3 - Jaelin Benefield

45 - Colin Bohanek

80 - Jay Vallie

97 - Tim Varga

OVC Predicted Order Of Finish

1. UT Martin
2. Southeast Missouri
3. Murray State
4. Tennessee State
5. Tennessee Tech
6. Eastern Illinois
7. Lindenwood

Eastern Illinois Players On All-OVC Preseason Team

- 1 - Jordan Vincent (Safety)
- 3 - Russell Dandy (Defensive Back)
- 7 - Isaiah Hill (Wide Receiver)
- 80 - Jay Vallie (Tight End)
- 91 - Jordan Miles (Defensive Line)
- 97 - Tim Varga (Defensive Line)

2022 OVC Players of the Week

Sept. 4 - Stone Galloway (Special Teams)

• Saturday will mark the 99th time that Eastern Illinois will face a nationally ranked team as the Panthers play No. 11/13 Chattanooga. EIU is 25-73 all-time against nationally ranked teams. EIU's last win over a nationally ranked team was Sept. 30, 2017 vs. No. 24 Tennessee State (W, 19-16 in ot). The Panthers are 8-24 in home games against nationally ranked teams.

• Saturday will serve as the 2022 Eastern Illinois Hall of Fame Game. Set to be inducted this weekend are former EIU football standouts Dino Fanti and Kamu Grugier-Hill along with women's swimmer/track/rugby player Marlise Davidson. Former EIU track & field head coach Tom Akers will be inducted as a coach with Jerry Groniger inducted as a friend of athletics.

• Eastern Illinois offensive line has gained experience over the last couple of years with several players starting as true freshmen in 2019 and playing against more experienced defensive players. Three of EIU's projected starting linemen - Elkhanan Tanelus, Chad Strickland and Anthony Imperio have all played for the last three years with Tanelus and Strickland set to be starters for their fourth seasons for the Panthers.

• EIU added five FBS transfers to the Panthers roster for this upcoming season. Joining EIU are quarterbacks Dom Shoffner (Charlotte) and Jonah O'Brien (Colorado State) along with Ira Armstead (Virginia) who transferred to EIU in the spring as a quarterback but has moved to wide receiver. On the defensive side EIU added Tre'jon Lewis (Texas Tech) and Elijah Ball (Purdue). The Panthers now have nine total FBS transfers on the roster.

• EIU added 12 junior college transfers to the roster this season with a number of them expected to make an immediate impact. Listed in the Panthers first two-deep of the season are incoming junior college players Max Stineman (OL), Terrance Shaw (OL), Colby Smith (DL), Braylon Willis (DL), Alexandar Oyawale (LB) and Trey Wilhoit (P).

• Eastern Illinois had six players named to the preseason All-Ohio Valley Conference team heading into this season. Wide receiver Isaiah Hill and tight end Jay Vallie were selected on the offensive side of the ball. Defensive linemen Jordan Miles and Tim Varga were joined on the defensive preseason All-OVC team by safety Jordan Vincent and corner Russell Dandy. Transfer Foday Jalloh was named a top newcomer to watch this season.

• Eastern Illinois has two legacy players on its roster this season with freshmen Carson Fichtel and Mike Smith Jr. Fichtel's father Brad was an All-American lineman for the Panthers in the early 1990's. Smith's father Mike was a defensive back for the Panthers in the early 1990's. Both fathers were teammates of current EIU head coach Chris Wilkerson.

• Eastern Illinois football once again has jumped into the international pool of players as part of their 2022 roster. Already returning to the team was Daniel Luoma who is from Finland. Last year, Luoma who is a reserve tight end served as the Panthers kickoff specialist averaging 59.2 yards per kick with eight touchbacks. The Panthers added Jaxson Isaac to the roster just before fall camp. Isaac is from Regina, Saskatchewan and played at the College of DuPage last season. Prior to Luoma the last European player on the EIU roster was Pascal Matla from Holland in the early 2000's. The last EIU player from Canada was Conrad Praamsma in the mid-1990's.

• Eastern Illinois has announced its team captains for the 2022 season as voted on by the team during the spring. Defensive players Jordan Vincent, Colin Bohanek and Tim Varga were selected along with offensive players Jaelin Benefield and Jay Vallie.

• The Ohio Valley Conference is celebrating its 75th anniversary this season and the conference football alignment has a new member with Lindenwood joining. EIU will host Lindenwood this year as the Panthers homecoming opponent on Oct. 15 but their meeting will not count as an OVC game due to a late adjustment to the OVC schedule and teams only playing five conference games. The OVC and Big South have announced a future scheduling agreement which will include schedules for the 2023 and 2024 seasons.

• Eastern Illinois football has seven players on its current roster that already have earned their undergraduate degree as they prepare to play this upcoming season. The seven graduate players are Elijah Benoit, Bryce Dewberry, Isaiah Hill, Foday Jalloh, Markenzy Pierre, Justin Thomas and Jay Vallie. They are part of the 810 players at the FCS level competing this season with their degree already in-hand.

EIU HEAD COACH CHRIS WILKERSON

Chris Wilkerson was hired as the 26th head coach in Eastern Illinois football history on Jan. 26, 2022. A former player and assistant coach at Eastern Illinois, Wilkerson returns home and becomes the first EIU alumnus to serve as the Panthers head football coach. Wilkerson played and coached under OVC/EIU Hall of Fame Coach Bob Spoo. A 1995 graduate of EIU, Wilkerson coached at EIU until the 2001 season. He had assistant stops at San Jose State and Dartmouth before serving the last ten years as the head coach at the University of Chicago. Wilkerson has a 51-27 career record entering the 2022 season. Complete Coach Chris Wilkerson bio available on page 6 of EIU game notes...

CHATTANOOGA HEAD COACH RUSTY WRIGHT

Rusty Wright enters his fourth season as the head coach at Chattanooga. An alumnus of the program, Wright picked up his first Chattanooga win in 2019 when the Mocs beat Eastern Illinois in the season opener. Wright has posted a 16-13 record at Chattanooga including a 14-7 record in conference play. He is a 1996 graduate of Chattanooga with two previous assistant coaching stints at his alma mater (1996-02 & 2013-16). He was the linebackers coach at Georgia State for two seasons before returning to Chattanooga in 2019 as the head coach.

SCOUTING CHATTANOOGA

Chattanooga is coming off a 6-5 season including a 5-3 record in the Southern Conference. The Mocs return a solid nucleus of players and have been selected as the preseason favorites in the Southern Conference. They opened league play last weekend with a 31-0 win over Wofford. Chattanooga comes in nationally ranked with the defense led by Southern Conference preseason Defensive Player of the Year Davonnsha Maxwell. The offense is paced by running back Ailym Ford who rushed for 156 yards and two scores in the opener.

THE SERIES

Eastern Illinois and Chattanooga will be meeting for the second time on the gridiron. Chattanooga won the only other meeting between the two schools winning the 2019 season opener 24-10 in Chattanooga in what was the first game for then EIU head coach Adam Cushing and current Chattanooga head coach Rusty Wright. EIU has played only one other current Southern Conference member with a 4-1 all-time series lead over Samford during the Bulldogs days as members of the Ohio Valley Conference. The Panthers have one additional all-time game against the Southern Conference losing to former member Marshall during the 1992 season.

LAST TEN MEETINGS

Aug. 29, 2019 Chattanooga 24, EIU 10 at UTC

* Samford is the only other current Southern Conference member that Eastern Illinois has faced. EIU holds a 4-1 all-time series lead over the Bulldogs when they were members of the Ohio Valley Conference from 2003-07.

TALE OF THE TAPE



Points Per Game.....	27.....	31
Average Points Allowed.....	34.....	0
First Downs.....	25.....	17
Rushing Yards Per Game	165.....	190
Rushing Touchdowns	0.....	2
Passing Yards Per Game	276.....	171
Passing Touchdowns	3.....	1
Average Yards Per Game	441.....	361
Interceptions Thrown	2.....	0
Fumbles - Lost	0-0.....	1-1
Turnovers Gained.....	0.....	3
Punting Average	54.0	41.7
Field Goals (ATT/MADE)	2-of-2.....	1-of-1
3rd Down Conversions	8-of-12 (67%)	3-of-9 (33%)
4th Down Conversions.....	0-of-1 (0%)	0-of-0
Sacks By (Yards).....	1 (1).....	2 (10)
Penalties (Yards)	8 (70).....	1 (5)
Time of Possession (Game)	30:27	24:20

Statistical Leaders

RUSHING YARDS (Touchdowns)

EASTERN ILLINOIS	CHATTANOOGA
Markenzy Pierre..... 100 (0)	Ailym Ford..... 156 (2)
Jaelin Benefield..... 63 (0)	Gino Appleberry..... 24 (0)

PASSING YARDS (Touchdowns)

EASTERN ILLINOIS	CHATTANOOGA
Jonah O'Brien..... 276 (3)	Preston Hutchinson..... 171 (1)
.....	Cole Copeland..... 0

RECEPTIONS (Yards)

EASTERN ILLINOIS	CHATTANOOGA
Justin Thomas..... 6 (83)	Sam Phillips..... 3 (50)
Anthony Manaves..... 5 (22)	Ailym Ford..... 2 (46)
Jaelin Benefield..... 4 (57)	Javin Whatley..... 2 (26)

TACKLES

EASTERN ILLINOIS	CHATTANOOGA
Elijawah Tolbert..... 11	Ty Boeck..... 7
Jordan Vincent..... 8	Jay Person..... 6
Colin Bohanek..... 7	Austin Collier..... 5
Elijah Ball..... 5	Rueben Lowery III..... 5
Phoenix Porter..... 5	Kam Jones..... 4

TACKLES FOR LOSS / SACKS

EASTERN ILLINOIS	CHATTANOOGA
Elijawah Tolbert..... 1.5	Jay Person..... 2.5..... 1
Braylon Willis..... 0.5	Devonnsha Maxwell
Phoenix Porter..... 0.5	Rueben Lowery III..... 1..... 0

Eastern Illinois In The OVC/NCAA Stats

2022

TEAM

.....	NCAA.....	OVC
Rushing Offense	40th	3rd
Passing Offense	23rd	2nd
Passing Efficiency	27th	2nd
Total Offense	32nd	3rd
Scoring Offense	44th	3rd
Rushing Defense	77th	5th
Pass Defense	38th	1st
Pass Efficiency Def.	68th	2nd
Total Defense	49th	1st
Scoring Defense	65th	2nd
Net Punting	2nd	1st
Punt Returns	63rd	2nd
Kickoff Returns	73rd	4th
Turnover Margin	90th	5th
Turnovers Gained	92nd	6th
Sacks	63rd	2nd
Tackles For Loss	87th	2nd
Sacks Allowed	49th	3rd
3rd Down Conversion	2nd	1st
4th Down Conversion	69th	4th
3rd Down Defense	88th	3rd
Red Zone Offense	1st	1st
Red Zone Defense	71st	5th
Time of Possession	45th	5th

INDIVIDUAL (Top 60)

.....	NCAA.....	OVC
Jaelin Benefield (All Purpose Yds).....	13th	2nd
Jaelin Benefield (Kick Return Yds)	38th	2nd
Jonah O'Brien (Completion Pct)	8th	1st
Jonah O'Brien (Pass Efficiency)	25th	3rd
Jonah O'Brien (Passing Yards)	24th	2nd
Jonah O'Brien (Total Offense).....	26th	4th
Justin Thomas (Receptions).....	32nd	3rd
Justin Thomas (Receiving Yards).....	53rd	5th
Markenzy Pierre (Rushing Yards).....	32nd	3rd
Stone Galloway (Field Goals).....	7th	1st
Stone Galloway (Scoring).....	60th	3rd

SHUT OUT STREAK ENDS

Eastern Illinois had a 139 game streak of not being shut out in a game end Sept. 12, 2015 at Northwestern during 41-0 loss. The last time EIU had been shut out was Oct. 11, 2003 during a 41-0 loss versus Eastern Kentucky. In the 2015 season opener EIU had its streak of consecutive games scoring a touchdown end at 65 after the Panthers were held out of the end zone. The last time EIU had failed to score a touchdown was October 10, 2009 at Penn State. EIU's longest streak of consecutive games without being shutout was 197 from 1977-1997 which ranks fourth all-time among FCS schools.

Longest EIU Streaks

197 (1977-97) ended 8/28/97 at Western Illinois
139 (2003-15) ended 9/12/15 at Northwestern

OVC SUCCESS

Eastern Illinois was the OVC's most successful school in terms of wins during the first decade of the 2000's as the Panthers posted 72 wins during that span. EIU leads the conference with the most post-season appearances since the Panthers joined the league in 1996.

(FCS Playoff Appearances Since 1996)

11 - Eastern Illinois
9 - Jacksonville State *
5 - Eastern Kentucky *
3 - Tennessee State
3 - Southeast Missouri
2 - Murray State
2 - UT Martin
1 - Tennessee Tech
1 - Western Kentucky *
1 - Austin Peay *
* indicates team no longer in the OVC

COVID YOUTH

With the NCAA granting a COVID year of eligibility to players active during the 2020 season, EIU was in a rebuilding phase so the Panthers have a large number of players who are listed as sophomores on their active roster. A total of 29 of those players are in their third year in the program with the added COVID year with an additional amount true sophomores in their second year in the program.

NCAA PLAYOFF APPEARANCES

School.....# Appearances (Last)

Montana	25 (2021)
Northern Iowa	22 (2021)
Eastern Kentucky	21 (2014)
Appalachian State*	20 (2012)
Georgia Southern*	19 (2012)
Furman	18 (2019)
# James Madison.....	18 (2021)
Delaware	17 (2020)
EASTERN ILLINOIS	16 (2015)
New Hampshire	16 (2017)
McNeese State	16 (2015)
Eastern Washington.....	15 (2021)
Villanova	14 (2021)

* moved to the FBS level in 2013

transitioning to FBS level in 2022

FCS Division I Playoffs

1982 - Quarterfinals
1983 - First Round
1986- Quarterfinals
1989 - Quarterfinals
1995 - First Round
1996 - First Round
2000 - First Round
2001 - First Round
2002 - First Round
2005 - First Round
2006 - First Round
2007 - First Round
2009 - First Round
2012 - First Round
2013 - Quarterfinals
2015 - First Round

Division II Playoffs

1978 (National Champions)
1980 (National Runners-up)



CHRIS WILKERSON

Eastern Illinois
Head Football Coach
1st year at Eastern Illinois
(Eastern Illinois, 1995)

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Eastern Illinois football is bringing one of its own back home as Panthers Athletic Director Tom Michael has announced the hiring of Chris Wilkerson as the 26th head coach in EIU football history.

Wilkerson played for the Panthers from 1991-94 earning his degree from EIU in 1995. He began his coaching career on the staff of Bob Spoo working with the Panthers from 1995-2001. He led the special teams unit all seven years and also had stints as defensive coordinator, linebackers coach and defensive line coach. The Panthers reached the NCAA FCS playoffs four times and won a pair of conference championships during his tenure. Wilkerson's defenses and special teams were regularly ranked in the national top 20 in numerous categories.

Wilkerson comes to EIU after a successful run as the head coach at the University of Chicago where he has posted winning seasons in seven of his eight seasons including an 8-2 record this past season with an offense that featured the leading rusher in Division III football. He has a 51-27 record in nine seasons as the UChicago head coach with the team not competing during the 2020 season due to COVID-19.

"I'm excited to welcome Chris Wilkerson back home as the next head football coach at Eastern Illinois," said Michael. "The passion with which Chris played the game as a Panther, the passion with which he speaks about EIU, show what a truly special place EIU is. He brings with him a proven track record of building a program with success on both sides of the football. I have no doubt that Chris will bring that same passion back to this program on the field when the Panthers suit up this fall."

"My family and I are extremely humbled and honored to be coming home to Eastern Illinois University and look forward to leading our football family into the future! This opportunity is something I have dreamed about since 1995. I understand the passion, and pride the EIU Football family has for our program. We understand the accomplishments of our football alumni as well as the storied tradition of Panther Football. Our staff will work tirelessly, thoughtfully and with passion to help our collegiate athletes reach their fullest potential," said Wilkerson. "Eastern Illinois University represents excellence in academics and athletics but most importantly excellent PEOPLE! I want to thank President Glassman, Joe Dively, Athletic Director Tom Michael, Deputy Athletic Director Mark Bonnsetter, Tony Romo and all those involved in the search process for this amazing opportunity and a chance to come HOME! I look forward to building relationships with our current players and reconnecting those Panther Football Alumni and together resurrecting our proud Football Tradition."

"Chris was on Coach Spoo's staff when I was a student-athlete. I thought very highly of him at that time and have followed his coaching career," said former EIU All-American quarterback and recent College Football Hall of Fame inductee Tony Romo. "He has the football knowledge on both sides of the ball that will enable the EIU program to be successful. He is the right person to lead our program and I'm excited to have him back home as our next head football coach."

"I am thrilled to learn of Chris Wilkerson being hired as head football coach at Eastern Illinois University. There is not anyone who has more invested in Panther football than Chris – having been a player; graduate assistant; full-time assistant; and defensive coordinator for the Panthers, Chris not only has an unparalleled knowledge of what it takes to be successful at EIU, his love and loyalty for Eastern athletics is real and authentic. Simply put, Chris Wilkerson is the right guy, with the right skill set, at the right time to lead Panther football. Chris, his wife Sharna and family will be wonderful representatives of Eastern Illinois University and Panther athletics as the "first family" of Panther football," said former EIU offensive coordinator and current Syracuse football Director of Player Personnel, Roy Wittke.

His teams have excelled on the field and in the class room at UChicago since Wilkerson took over the program in 2013. His first season the Maroons posted a 6-4 record including the second 4-0 start to a season in the program's modern era. He has guided the school through three different conference affiliations with a 39-15 record in conference play. In all Wilkerson has coached three Division III All-Americans, five Academic All-Americans, nine All-Region selections, four Conference Players of the Year and 94 All-Conference selections during his time at UChicago.

Prior to his arrival at UChicago, he previously served on Dartmouth College's coaching staff from 2005-13 and was named Associate Head Coach in 2007. During his tenure at Dartmouth, Wilkerson's broad range of responsibilities included defensive coordinator, special teams coordinator, running backs coach, linebackers coach and recruiting coordinator. The team was ranked in the top 10 nationally in a number of categories, including punt return average, blocked kicks, individual rushing average and fewest fumbles lost. His pass defense ranked 14th in the country in his debut season.

Wilkerson coached the defense and special teams at San Jose State University from 2002-04. In 2003, he was a nominee for the Broyles Award, given annually to the nation's top assistant coach.

Wilkerson and his wife, Sharna (a former EIU softball player), have three children – Isabella, Peyton and Charlotte.

University of Chicago Record					
Year	Overall	Pct.	Conf.	Pct.	
2021	8-2	.800	7-2 (MWC)	.778	
2020	*Season cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic				
2019	6-3	.667	6-1 (MWC)	.857	
2018	7-3	.700	7-1 (MWC)	.875	
2017	6-4	.600	6-2 (MWC)	.750	
2016	4-6	.400	4-4 (SAA)	.500	
2015	6-4	.600	5-3 (SAA)	.625	
2014	8-1	.889	3-0 (UAA)	1.000	UAA title
2013	6-4	.600	1-2 (UAA)	.333	
Totals	51-27	.654	39-15	.722	9 years



Kyle Derickson
Assoc HC / ST / WR
(1st year)
Butler, 2003



Joe Davis
Off Cord. / QBs
(1st year)
Adrian College, 2002



Adam Gristick
Def. Cord. / Linebackers
(5th year)
Eastern Illinois, 2015



Clay Bignell
Def Pass Game Cord. / Safeties
(1st year)
Montana State, 2011



DJ Bland
Defensive Backs
(1st year)
Eastern Illinois, 2014



John Cannova
Offensive Line
(1st year)
North Central College, 2014



Collin Geier
Outside Linebackers
(3rd year)
Missouri, 2018



Adam Morris
Defensive Line
(3rd year)
Ball State, 2013



Turner Pugh
Running Backs
(1st year)
Northern Illinois, 2004



Gunnard Twyner
Tight Ends
(1st year)
Western Illinois, 1996

FOOTBALL SUPPORT STAFF & QUALITY CONTROL

Graduate Assistant Coach - Defense Andrew Brady
Graduate Assistant Coach - Offense Cole Hoover
Quality Control Coach - Offense..... Jackson King
Quality Control Coach - Defense..... Beau Snuggs
Quality Control Coach - Special Teams..... Tim Greene

Graduate Assistant - Operations Reid Littleford
Quality Control - Recruiting Payton Naylor
Student Assistant Coach Matt Judd
Student Assistant Coach Cam Mattox

Football Athletic Trainer Scott Goehner
Football Equipment Manager Clint Bays
Director of Football Operations Caleb Selk
Football Academics Nicole Jackson
Nutrition TBA
Director of Football Performance..... Derek Stein
Graduate Assistant - Football Strength..... Dan Baur

ADDITIONAL FOOTBALL SUPPORT STAFF

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

EIU ADMINISTRATION

University President..... Dr. David Glassman
Athletic Director Tom Michael
Deputy Athletic Director Mark Bonnstetter
Associate AD/Development Mike Murray
Associate AD Media & PR Rich Moser
Assistant AD Compliance/SWA Dr. Tonya Sawyer
Assistant AD Academic Services..... Cindy Almon
Ticket Manager Cindy Bayes

EIU LAST TIME IT HAPPENED

Passed for more than 300 yards...

Harry Woodbery, 334, vs. Tennessee Tech (Sept. 28, 2019)

Passed for more than 400 yards...

Johnathan Brantley, 443, vs. Indiana State (Sept. 15, 2018)

Threw four touchdown passes...

Harry Woodbery, 5, at Tennessee Tech (Sept. 29, 2018)
Johnathan Brantley, 4, vs. Indiana State (Sept. 15, 2018)

Rushed for more than 200 yards...

Isaiah Johnson, 236, at Murray State (Oct. 14, 2017)

Rushed for three touchdowns...

Isaiah Johnson, 3, vs. Austin Peay (Nov. 10, 2018)

Rushed for four touchdowns...

J.R. Taylor, 4 vs. Florida Atlantic (Nov. 16, 2002)

Had 12 Receptions...

Isaiah Hill 15, at UT Martin (Oct. 19, 2019)
Isaiah Hill 13, vs. Southeast Missouri (Nov. 16, 2019)
Erik Lora, 21 vs. Murray State (Sept. 22, 2012) ** OVC & EIU Single Game Record
Erik Lora, 18 vs. Towson (Dec. 13, 2013) ** FCS Playoff Single Game Record

Had 3 touchdown receptions...

Alexander Hollins, 3, at Arkansas (Sept. 1, 2018)
Alexander Hollins, 3, vs. Indiana State (Sept. 15, 2018)

Had 200 yards receiving...

Erik Lora, 269 vs. Murray State (Sept. 22, 2012) ** EIU Single Game Record
Isaiah Hill, 207 at Southeast Missouri (Oct. 30, 2021)

Returned a punt for a touchdown...

Erik Lora, 1, vs. Tennessee Tech (Nov. 2, 2013) - (80 yards)
Shepard Little, 1, vs. Tennessee Tech (Nov. 2, 2013) - (75 yards)
Shepard Little, 1 at San Diego State (Aug. 31, 2013) - (60 yards)

Returned a kick-off for touchdown...

Matt Reyna, 1, vs. Indiana State (Sept. 15, 2018) - (96 yards)

Returned an interception for touchdown...

Tyris Harvey, 1, at Austin Peay (November 6, 2021) - (29 yards)

Returned a fumble for touchdown...

Bryce Dewberry, 1, at Tennessee Tech (Sept. 25, 2021) - (90 yards)

Recorded a safety...

Robert Haynes, 1 at Illinois State (Sept. 13, 2014) - combined with Taylor
Laquesse Taylor, 1 at Illinois State (Sept. 13, 2014) - combined with Haynes
Team at UT Martin (March 7, 2021) - blocked punt out of back of end zone

Blocked a punt...

Charles Shelton IV (Sept. 18, 2021) vs. Illinois State

Returned a blocked punt for touchdown - blocked by...

DeAirious Smith, 1 vs. Illinois State (Sept. 18, 2021)... - Charles Shelton IV

Blocked a field goal...

Jordan Miles, 1 vs. Illinois State (Sept. 18, 2021)...

Returned a blocked field goal for touchdown - blocked by...

Rashad Haynes, 1 vs. Samford (Nov. 17, 2007) - Trevor Frericks

***Returned a point after attempt for 2-point conversion...

Cornelius Page vs Southeast Missouri (Nov. 16, 2019)

EIU scored a two-point conversion

- (Rush) - J.R. Taylor, 2, at Murray State (Nov. 23, 2002)
- (Pass) - DeWayne Cooks from Otto Kuhns, at Tennessee Tech (Sept. 25, 2021)

Won a game on a field goal...

Nick Bruno, 38 yards vs. UT Martin (Oct. 20, 2018) - overtime

Had 15 or more tackles on defense...

Jason Johnson, 16, at Tennessee Tech (Sept. 25, 2021)

Had 3 or more sacks on defense...

Jordan Miles, 3, at Tennessee Tech (Sept. 25, 2021)

Had 4 or more tackles for loss on defense...

Dytarious Johnson, 4 at UT Martin (Oct. 19, 2019)

Had 2 or more interceptions

Russell Dandy, 2, at Murray State (Oct. 2, 2021)

Recovered an onside kick...

Charles Shelton, 1, at Tennessee State (Nov. 9, 2019)

Offensive Lineman Scored a Touchdown

Scott Taylor 1, at Austin Peay (Oct. 3, 2015) --- picked up fumble for 12-yard TD rush

2022 EASTERN ILLINOIS TOUCHDOWNS

- 3.....Jaelin Benefield 24 pass from Jonah O'Brien..... at Northern Illinois
4.....Justin Thomas 13 pass from Jonah O'Brien at Northern Illinois
4.....Jay Vallie 8 pass from Jonah O'Brien..... at Northern Illinois

2021 EASTERN ILLINOIS TOUCHDOWNS

- 2.....Harrison Bey-Buie 2 run at Indiana State
3.....Tyler Hamilton 4 run..... at Indiana State
4.....Otto Kuhns 1 run..... at Indiana State
4.....Robbie Lofton 7 pass from Otto Kuhns at Dayton
2.....Robbie Lofton 5 pass from Otto Kuhns Illinois State
3.....DeAirious Smith 7 blocked punt return Illinois State
4.....Harrison Bey-Buie 2 run Illinois State
2.....DeAirious Smith 7 pass from Otto Kuhns at Tennessee Tech
2.....DeAirious Smith 16 pass from Otto Kuhns at Tennessee Tech
3.....Arron Foulkes 24 run at Tennessee Tech
4.....Bryce Dewberry 90 fumble return at Tennessee Tech
4.....Arron Foulkes 54 pass from Chris Katrenick at Murray State
2.....Otto Kuhns 1 run..... UT Martin
2.....DeAirious Smith 6 pass from Otto Kuhns UT Martin
1.....Isaiah Hill 5 run at SE Missouri
4.....Isaiah Hill 16 pass from Otto Kuhns..... at SE Missouri
1.....Tyris Harvey 29 interception return at Austin Peay
2.....Harrison Bey-Buie 2 run..... at Austin Peay
4.....Isaiah Hill 15 pass from Zach Weir..... at Austin Peay

EASTERN ILLINOIS NFL CONNECTION

SAN FRANCISCO 49ers

Jimmy Garoppolo - Quarterback
Nick Kray - Assistant to the Head Coach

HOUSTON TEXANS

Kamu Grugier-Hill - Linebacker

TENNESSEE TITANS

Tim Kelly - Pass Game Coordinator

ATLANTA FALCONS

Ryan Pace - Senior Personnel Executive

BROADCAST

Tony Romo - CBS Color Analyst with Jim Nantz
Sean Payton - FOX Sports NFL Studio Show

TEAM GAME RECORDS

TOTAL OFFENSE:

739.....vs. Illinois State.....	Sept. 14, 2013
704.....at UT Martin.....	Nov. 23, 2013
683.....vs. Winona State.....	Nov. 1, 1986
676.....vs. Saginaw State.....	Sept. 21, 1985
671.....vs. Austin Peay.....	Sept. 29, 2012
665.....vs. Southeast Missouri.....	Oct. 19, 2013
656.....vs. Illinois-Chicago.....	Sept. 27, 1969
654.....vs. Murray State.....	Nov. 8, 2014
643.....vs. Murray State.....	Oct. 6, 2018
641.....vs. Austin Peay.....	Sept. 24, 2016

RUSHING YARDAGE:

413.....vs. Austin Peay.....	Sept. 20, 2014
413.....vs. Jacksonville State.....	Nov. 16, 2013
398.....vs. St. Joseph.....	Oct. 27, 1973
384.....vs. Grand Valley State.....	Sept. 17, 1983
382.....at UT Martin.....	Nov. 1, 2001
379.....vs. Florida Atlantic.....	Nov. 16, 2002

RUSHING ATTEMPTS:

72.....vs. Western Illinois.....	1976
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PASSING YARDAGE:

509.....vs. Austin Peay.....	Sept. 29, 2012
509.....vs. Saginaw Valley.....	Sept. 21, 1985
501.....at UT Martin.....	Nov. 23, 2013
491.....vs. Illinois State.....	Sept. 14, 2013
486.....at Missouri State.....	Oct. 27, 1984
482.....vs. Western Kentucky.....	Nov. 10, 1984

PASSING ATTEMPTS:

62.....vs. Murray State.....	Sept. 22, 2012
61.....at Jacksonville State.....	Oct. 13, 2018
61.....vs. Murray State.....	Oct. 6, 2018
61.....vs. Illinois State.....	Sept. 15, 2012
58.....at Southern Illinois.....	Sept. 7, 2013
.....(4 other games with 58 attempts)	

PASSES COMPLETED:

40.....vs. Murray State.....	Sept. 22, 2012
40.....vs. Saginaw Valley.....	Sept. 21, 1985

TOUCHDOWNS:

12.....vs. Merom Academy.....	1920
10.....at UT Martin.....	Nov. 23, 2013
10.....vs. Kentucky State.....	Nov. 13, 1982

TOUCHDOWN PASSES:

7.....vs. Illinois State.....	Sept. 14, 2013
7.....vs. Southern Illinois.....	2012
6.....at UT Martin.....	Nov. 23, 2013
6.....at Northern Illinois.....	Sept. 21, 2013
.....(3 other games with 6 TD passes)	

MOST EIU POINTS IN A QUARTER:

35.....vs. Jacksonville State.....	Nov. 16, 2013
30.....vs. Kentucky State.....	Nov. 13, 1982
30.....vs. Central State.....	Sept. 26, 1981

MOST POINTS SCORED BY BOTH TEAMS:

105.....at Illinois State.....	Sept. 15, 2012
.....(ISU 54, EIU 51 - 2OT)	
102.....vs. Tennessee State.....	Nov. 2, 2002
.....(EIU 54; TSU 48)	

POINTS

82.....Merom Academy.....	Nov. 18, 1920
73.....Kentucky State.....	Nov. 13, 1982
70.....at UT Martin.....	Nov. 23, 2013
69.....Illinois College.....	1917
65.....Austin Peay.....	Sept. 29, 2012
64.....Winona State.....	Nov. 1, 1986
63.....Austin Peay.....	Sept. 20, 2014
63.....at Austin Peay.....	Oct. 10, 2013
62.....Lock Haven.....	Aug. 31, 1991
60.....at Wayne State.....	Nov. 9, 1968
60.....Oakland City.....	Oct. 17, 1925

EIU LOWEST OFFENSIVE TOTAL:

76.....at Youngstown State.....	Oct. 13, 1973
89.....Eastern Kentucky.....	Oct. 26, 2019
109.....at South Carolina.....	Sept. 4, 2021
116.....at Indiana.....	Sept. 7, 2019
117.....Illinois State.....	Sept. 16, 2017
120.....Central Arkansas.....	Sept. 11, 2010
130.....at Central Michigan.....	Oct. 25, 1969
138.....at Northwestern.....	Sept. 12, 2015
138.....Illinois State.....	Nov. 25, 2006
142.....at McNeese State.....	Sept. 11, 1993
142.....at San Jose State.....	Sept. 5, 1987
142.....at Northern Iowa.....	Sept. 6, 1975

EIU FEWEST RUSHING YARDS:

-12.....at Northern Iowa.....	Oct. 7, 1995
-6.....Tennessee Tech.....	Sept. 17, 2011
-5.....UT Martin.....	Oct. 22, 2011
-3.....at San Jose State.....	Sept. 5, 1987
-3.....at Toledo.....	Sept. 22, 1984
1.....Illinois State.....	Oct. 6, 1984

EIU FEWEST PASSING YARDS:

-1.....at Murray State (2-of-6) +.....	Nov. 16, 1974
0.....Southeast Missouri *.....	Oct. 13, 2001
0.....Truman State (0-of-9).....	Sept. 10, 1977
5.....at Central Missouri (2-of-7).....	Oct. 4, 1975
10.....at Truman State (1-of-4).....	Sept. 11, 1976
10.....Fairmount State (1-of-13).....	Sept. 28, 1968
12.....at Indiana State (2-of-11).....	Nov. 18, 1995

* EIU did not attempt a pass in the game

+ EIU completed one pass for 5 yards and one pass for negative 6 yards in the game.

QUARTERBACK SACKS:

12.....vs. Southwest Missouri.....	1986
12.....vs. Kentucky State.....	1982

TURNOVERS:

8.....vs. Youngstown State.....	1981
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TURNOVERS CAUSED:

13.....vs. Northern Illinois.....	1940
9.....vs. Northeast Missouri.....	1983
9.....vs. Western Illinois.....	1980

EIU OVERTIME GAMES

DOUBLE OVERTIME

+ Nov. 26, 1983 at Indiana State.....	L 13-16
Nov. 11, 2000 at Illinois State.....	L 41-44
Sept. 15, 2012 at Illinois State.....	L 51-54
Sept. 14, 2013 at Southern Illinois.....	W 40-37
Sept. 30, 2017 at Tennessee State.....	W 19-16
Oct. 14, 2017 at Murray State.....	W 27-24

OVERTIME

+ Nov. 27, 1982 vs. Jackson State.....	W 16-13
Sept. 11, 2004 vs. Indiana State.....	L 30-33
Nov. 6, 2004 at Tennessee Tech.....	L 37-40
Nov. 6, 2010 at Tennessee State.....	W 31-28
Sept. 22, 2012 vs. Murray State.....	W 50-49
Oct. 11, 2014 at Eastern Kentucky.....	L 33-36
Sept. 19, 2015 vs. Illinois State.....	L 31-34
Oct. 17, 2015 at Tennessee State.....	W 25-22
Nov. 4, 2017 vs. Eastern Kentucky.....	W 23-20
Oct. 20, 2018 vs. UT Martin.....	W 24-21

+ 1982 & 1983 games in FCS playoffs

MOST PLAYS IN A GAME:

112.....at UT Martin.....	Nov. 23, 2013
106.....at Illinois State.....	2012
104.....vs. Murray State.....	Nov. 8, 2014

MOST PLAYS IN A GAME BY BOTH TEAMS:

210.....vs. Murray State.....	2012
...Murray State (110), EIU (100)	

OPPONENTS AGAINST EASTERN ILLINOIS

TOTAL OFFENSE:

675.....Tennessee State.....	Nov. 2, 2002
674.....at Illinois State.....	Oct. 18, 1969
658.....Murray State.....	Oct. 6, 2018
656.....at Marshall.....	Sept. 12, 1992
631.....at Western Michigan.....	Sept. 8, 2012
629.....at San Diego State.....	Oct. 6, 2001
609.....at Northern Illinois.....	Sept. 24, 1994

RUSHING YARDAGE:

490.....at Central Michigan.....	Oct. 23, 1971
472.....Towson.....	Dec. 13, 2013
468.....at Illinois State.....	Oct. 18, 1969
449.....Murray State.....	Oct. 6, 2018
434.....at South Dakota State.....	Nov. 24, 2012
432.....Eastern Michigan.....	Oct. 21, 1972
425.....Southern Illinois.....	Nov. 7, 1987
420.....Central Michigan.....	Oct. 24, 1970
418.....at Northern Illinois.....	Sept. 24, 1994
411.....at Southeast Missouri.....	Oct. 1, 2011

PASSING YARDAGE:

529.....Hawai'i.....	Sept. 30, 2006
473.....Illinois State.....	Sept. 15, 2012
453.....Hawai'i.....	Aug. 31, 2002
452.....Hawai'i.....	Sept. 11, 1999
444.....Idaho.....	Nov. 25, 1989
441.....Indiana.....	Sept. 7, 2019
435.....Tennessee State.....	Nov. 2, 2002
423.....Murray State.....	Sept. 22, 2012
419.....Truman State (NEMO.).....	Sept. 6, 1986

POINTS

74.....Illinois Wesleyan.....	Sept. 30, 1921
63.....at Kansas State.....	Sept. 14, 2002
63.....at Marshall.....	Sept. 12, 1992
61.....at Hawai'i.....	Aug. 31, 2002
61.....Central Michigan.....	Nov. 2, 1957
61.....Millikin.....	Nov. 1, 1941
60.....Central Michigan.....	Oct. 2, 1954

LOWEST OFFENSIVE TOTAL:

-12.....vs. Kentucky State.....	Nov. 13, 1982
47.....Butler.....	Sept. 8, 1979
50.....UT Martin.....	Sept. 25, 1996
61.....California (Pa.).....	Aug. 30, 2003
65.....Central State (Ohio).....	Sept. 26, 1981
66.....Illinois State.....	Nov. 10, 1979

OPPONENT FEWEST RUSHING YARDS:

-67.....Kentucky State.....	Nov. 13, 1982
-23.....Eastern Kentucky.....	Nov. 18, 2000
-1.....Southeast Missouri.....	Nov. 9, 1996
-1.....Southern Illinois.....	Sept. 10, 1983
0.....Northern Michigan.....	Nov. 1, 1980

OPPONENT FEWEST PASSING YARDS:

5.....Central State (OH) (4-of-16).....	Sept. 26, 1981
7.....Youngstown State (1-of-12).....	Dec. 2, 1978
10.....Missouri State.....	Oct. 24, 1992
13.....Northwestern (La.) State.....	Sept. 8, 1990
14.....Eastern Kentucky.....	Oct. 26, 2019
20.....Butler.....	Sept. 8, 1979
20.....Cameron (Okla.).....	Oct. 15, 1977
22.....Austin Peay.....	Nov. 2, 1996

INDIVIDUAL GAME RECORDS**TOTAL OFFENSE:**

Sean Payton.....	507 vs. Saginaw Valley.....	1985
Jimmy Garoppolo ..	501 vs. Austin Peay.....	2012
Sean Payton.....	498 vs. SW Missouri.....	1984
Jimmy Garoppolo ..	476 at UT Martin.....	2013
Jimmy Garoppolo ..	469 vs. Illinois State.....	2013
Johnathan Brantley ..	458 vs. Indiana State.....	2018
Jimmy Garoppolo ..	442 at Southern Illinois.....	2013
Sean Payton.....	441 vs. W. Kentucky.....	1984

RUSHING YARDAGE:

J.R. Taylor	308 vs. Florida Atlantic.....	2002
Kevin Staple	283 vs. Grand Valley.....	1983
Nate Anderson	268 vs. St. Joseph.....	1973
Nate Anderson	259 vs. SW Missouri.....	1972
Shepard Little	245 vs. Jacksonville State.....	2013

RUSHING ATTEMPTS:

Willie High	48 vs. Northern Iowa.....	1993
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PASSING YARDAGE:

Sean Payton.....	509 vs. Saginaw Valley.....	1985
Sean Payton.....	486 vs. SW Missouri.....	1984
Jimmy Garoppolo ..	480 vs. Illinois State.....	2013
Jimmy Garoppolo ..	477 at UT Martin.....	2013
Sean Payton.....	461 vs. W. Kentucky.....	1984
Jimmy Garoppolo ..	453 vs. Austin Peay.....	2012
Jimmy Garoppolo ..	450 at Northern Illinois.....	2013
Johnathan Brantley ..	443 vs. Indiana State.....	2018

PASSING ATTEMPTS:

Harry Woodbery	68 vs. Tennessee Tech.....	2019
Jimmy Garoppolo ..	61 at Illinois State.....	2012
Jimmy Garoppolo ..	60 vs. Murray State.....	2012
Tony Romo.....	58 vs. Hawai'i.....	2002
Sean Payton.....	58 vs. Saginaw Valley.....	1985
Sean Payton.....	58 vs. Northern Iowa.....	1984

PASSES COMPLETED:

Sean Payton.....	40 vs. Saginaw Valley.....	1985
Jimmy Garoppolo ..	39 vs. Murray State.....	2012
Jimmy Garoppolo ..	38 vs. Towson.....	2013
Johnathan Brantley ..	37 vs. Indiana State.....	2018
Jimmy Garoppolo ..	37 at Illinois State.....	2012

RECEIVING (CATCHES):

Erik Lora.....	21 vs. Murray State.....	2012
* OVC Record		
Erik Lora.....	18 vs. Towson.....	2013
Erik Lora.....	17 at UT Martin.....	2012
Isaiah Hill.....	15 at UT Martin.....	2019
Erik Lora.....	15 vs. SE Missouri.....	2012
Willie White.....	15 vs. Illinois State.....	1971
Adam Drake.....	14 at UT Martin.....	2013
Erik Lora.....	14 at Northern Illinois.....	2013
Andre Raymond	14 vs. Hawai'i.....	2002
Rob Mehalic.....	14 vs. Delaware State.....	1981

RECEIVING (YARDS):

Erik Lora.....	269 vs. Murray State.....	2012
Frank Cutolo.....	239 vs. Tennessee St.....	2001
Calvin Pierce.....	238 vs. SW Missouri.....	1986
Adam Drake.....	225 at UT Martin.....	2013
Chris Wright.....	217 at Tennessee State.....	2010
Frank Cutolo.....	217 vs. Northern Iowa.....	2001
Erik Lora.....	215 at UT Martin.....	2012
Ralph Stewart.....	201 vs. S. Illinois.....	1988

ALL-PURPOSE RUSHING:

Poke Cobb.....	336 vs. Butler.....	1976
Andre Raymond	335 vs. Hawai'i.....	2002

TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS:

Scott McGhee.....	4 vs. Northern Iowa.....	1978
James Warring.....	4 vs. Northern Michigan.....	1978

RUSHING YARDS BY A QB:

Jalen Whitlow.....	142 at UT Martin.....	2015
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TOUCHDOWNS:

Steve Turner.....	6 vs. Mecom Academy.....	1920
Kevin Staple.....	5 vs. Kentucky State.....	1982
Erik Lora.....	4 vs. Tennessee Tech.....	2013
J.R. Taylor.....	4 vs. Florida Atlantic.....	2002
J.R. Taylor.....	4 vs. Tennessee-Martin.....	2002
Kevin Staple.....	4 vs. Grand Valley.....	1983
James Warring.....	4 vs. Northern Michigan.....	1978
Scott McGhee.....	4 vs. Northern Iowa.....	1978

TOUCHDOWN PASSES:

Jimmy Garoppolo ..	7 vs. Illinois State.....	2013
Jimmy Garoppolo ..	6 at UT Martin.....	2013
Jimmy Garoppolo ..	6 at Northern Illinois.....	2013
Tony Romo.....	6 vs. Murray State.....	2000
Jeff Christensen ..	6 vs. Kentucky State.....	1982
Others (5 touchdown passes in a game)		
Jimmy Garoppolo (4), Sean Payton (2),		
Tony Romo (1), Steve Turk (1), Harry Woodbery (1)		

SOLO TACKLES:

Thomas Williams....	20 vs. St. Joseph.....	1997
Nick Ricks.....	18 vs. E. Kentucky.....	2002
Chris Nicholson.....	17 vs. SW Missouri.....	1983
Tim Lance.....	17 vs. Northern Iowa.....	1987
John Noll.....	15 vs. Northern Iowa.....	1987
Tim Lance.....	15 vs. W. Kentucky.....	1990
Jeff Mills.....	14 vs. Western Illinois.....	1988
Jeff Mills.....	14 vs. SW Missouri.....	1988

TOTAL TACKLES:

Tim Carver.....	31 vs. Texas-El Paso.....	1994
Jeff Mills.....	29 vs. SW Missouri.....	1988
Thomas Williams....	27 vs. St. Joseph.....	1997
Nick Ricks.....	25 vs. E. Kentucky.....	2002
Tyrone Covington ..	25 vs. Illinois State.....	1984
John Noll.....	23 vs. Northern Iowa.....	1988
Ray Jeske.....	21 vs. Delaware.....	1978

TACKLES FOR LOSS:

Trevor Frericks.....	7.0 vs. Tennessee State.....	2009
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QUARTERBACK SACKS:

John Jurkovic.....	6 vs. SW Missouri.....	1986
Pete Catan.....	6 vs. Southern Illinois.....	1979

PASSES INTERCEPTED:

Bill Glenn.....	5 vs. Northern Illinois.....	1940
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MOST PASS RECEPTIONS BY A RUNNING BACK:

Devin Church.....	10 at Northern Iowa.....	2015
DuWayne Pitts.....	9 vs. SW Missouri.....	1984

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN PASS:

Tony Romo to.....	98 vs. E. Kentucky.....	2000
Will Bumphus		

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN RUN:

Jimmy Lera.....	96 at Southeast Missouri.....	2014
Poke Cobb.....	96 vs. Tennessee Tech.....	1976

LONGEST INTERCEPTION RETURN FOR TD:

Roosevelt Williams.	98 vs. Tennessee St.....	2001
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LONGEST FUMBLE RETURN FOR TD:

Bryce Dewberry, 90 at Tennessee Tech.....	2021
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LONGEST FIELD GOAL:

Rich Ehmke.....	58 vs. Northern Iowa.....	1986
Steve Largent.....	53 vs. SW Missouri.....	1993

LONGEST KICKOFF RETURN:

Chris Watson.....	100 vs. Northern Iowa.....	1995
Marcus Potts.....	100 vs. Youngstown St.....	1977

LONGEST PUNT:

Bob Babb.....	100 vs. Illinois State.....	1946
Kevin Cook.....	86 vs. Southeast Missouri.....	2010
(EIU Division I record)		

LONGEST PUNT RETURN:

Bob Babb.....	100 vs. Millikin.....	1949
Erik Lora.....	80 vs. Tennessee Tech.....	2013
Jermaine Mobley.....	80 vs. Tennessee State.....	2004
Frank Cutolo.....	80 at Central Florida.....	1999

MOST BLOCKED KICKS:

Kourtney Young.....	3 vs. Illinois State.....	2000
Scott Johnson.....	3 vs. Western Illinois.....	1988
Scott Johnson.....	3 vs. Western Kentucky.....	1988

MOST CONSECUTIVE PASSES COMPLETED:

Sean Payton.....	17 vs. Western Kentucky.....	1986
Tony Romo.....	16 vs. Indiana State.....	2001

MOST FIELD GOALS:

Rich Ehmke.....	5 vs. Winona State.....	1986
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MOST FUMBLE RECOVERIES:

Tied by many.....	2
Last - Dytarious Johnson at Murray State.....	2019

MOST INTERCEPTIONS THROWN:

Jeff Thorne.....	7 vs. McNeese State.....	1993
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All eyes are on **Rich Ehmke's (#6)** record-setting 58 yard field goal that gave the No. 8 ranked Panthers a 31-30 victory over No. 11 Northern Iowa on the last play of the game in 1986. Often described as the "most exciting game in EIU history," the Homecoming win in front of 11,000 plus fans propelled the Panthers on to the conference championship that season.

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	YR	EXP	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL/JC/LAST)
0	Bryce Dewberry	DB	5-10	215	Grad	3	McDonough, Ga. (Eagles Landing)
0	Dom Shoffner	QB	6-1	210	Sr	TR	Cary, NC (Middle Creek / UNC Charlotte)
1	Jordan Vincent	DB	5-10	195	So	2	Lincolnshire, Ill. (Stevenson)
1	Markenzy Pierre	RB	5-11	230	Grad	1	Kissimmee, Fla. (Liberty / Syracuse Univ.)
2	DeWayne Cooks Jr	WR	6-2	160	R-Jr	2	Tulsa, Okla. (Booker T. Washington)
2	Mark Aitken	DB	5-9	175	R-So	1	Chicago, Ill. (Kenwood Academy / Northern Illinois Univ.)
3	Russell Dandy	DB	6-0	170	Sr	1	Hinesville, Ga. (Liberty County / Butte College)
3	Jaelin Benefield	RB	5-10	170	R-So	2	Pearland, Texas (Pearland)
4	Blake Ruffin	DB	6-4	215	So	1	Louisville, Ky. (Trinity)
4	Justin Thomas	WR	6-1	190	Grad	TR	Wixom, Mich. (Walled Lake Western / Albion College)
5	Anthony Shockey	LB	6-1	235	R-So	2	Lombard, Ill. (Glenbard East)
5	Aaron Rice	WR	6-5	190	Fr	HS	Farmington Hills, Mich. (North Farmington)
6	Joel Barrows	DL	6-3	250	R-So	1	Chicago, Ill. (Brooks Prep)
6	Jonah O'Brien	QB	6-4	210	R-So	TR	Bartlett, Ill. (Bartlett / Colorado State Univ.)
7	Tyris Harvey	DB	5-11	175	So	2	Olympia Fields, Ill. (Rich Central)
7	Isaiah Hill	WR	5-11	190	Grad	1	Shorewood, Ill. (Minooka/South Dakota State Univ.)
8	Zach Weir	QB	6-3	200	R-Fr	RS	Grafton, Wis. (Grafton)
8	Foday Jalloh	LB	6-2	220	Grad	TR	West Lawn, Pa. (Wilson / Central Connecticut State Univ.)
9	Elijah Benoit	DB	6-0	180	Grad	1	Tampa, Fla. (Seffner Christian/Univ. of Central Florida)
9	James Cooper Jr	QB	5-11	180	R-Fr	TR	Loves Park, Ill. (Harlem / Iowa Western CC)
11	Anthony Manaves	TE	6-4	235	R-So	2	Chicago, Ill. (St. Patrick)
11	Alexandar Oyawale	LB	6-0	220	Jr	TR	Murrieta, Calif. (Vista Murrieta / Riverside CC)
12	Ira Armstead II	WR	6-4	225	So	TR	South Bend, Ind. (Adams / Univ. of Virginia)
12	Nick Coates	DB	5-10	180	So	1	Louisville, Ky. (Male)
13	Trey Shaw III	DB	6-1	195	R-Fr	RS	Nashville, Tenn. (East Nashville Magnet)
13	Cooper Willman	WR	6-1	210	So	2	Sterling, Ill. (Sterling)
14	Kirk Pinkston Jr.	WR	5-10	170	Jr	3	Indianapolis, Ind. (Lawrence Central)
14	Braylon Willis	DL	6-4	245	Jr	TR	Lafayette, La. (Lafayette / East Los Angeles College)
15	Will Shumpert	WR	6-6	220	R-So	1	St. Louis, Mo. (Belleville West)
16	Kevin Conway	QB	6-2	200	Fr	HS	New Lenox, Ill. (Providence Catholic / Diamond Football Academy)
19	Justin Kowalak	QB	6-0	180	Fr	HS	Crystal Lake, Ill. (Crystal Lake South)
20	MJ Flowers	RB	6-1	205	Fr	HS	Cincinnati, Ohio (Colerain)
21	Jay Pearson	RB	6-0	195	Fr	HS	McKees Rocks, Pa. (Sto-Rox Junior-Senior)
22	Kaelin Drakeford	DB	6-4	205	So	1	Harrodsburg, Ky. (Mercer County)
23	Logan Brown	LB	6-2	215	So	1	Effingham, Ill. (Effingham)
24	Collin Tyson	DB	6-0	190	R-Fr	RS	Kansas City, Mo. (Platte County R-3)
25	AJ Sanders	DB	6-0	195	R-Fr	RS	Pickerington, Ohio (Pickerington Central)
26	Tyler Clark	RB	5-10	205	So	1	Chicago, Ill. (Phillips)
27	Zay Gentry	DB	6-0	190	So	1	Anna, Texas (Anna)
28	Brandon Guido	DB	5-9	190	R-So	1	Naperville, Ill. (Waubonsie Valley)
29	Kendi Young	RB	5-11	200	So	2	Calumet City, Ill. (Thornton Fractional North)
30	Diego Oliver	DB	6-0	180	Fr	HS	Chicago, Ill. (Kenwood Academy)
31	Chris Williams	DB	6-2	190	R-Fr	RS	Peoria, Ill. (Peoria)
32	Ty Schultz	RB	5-10	195	Fr	HS	Lockport, Ill. (Lockport Township)
33	Nile Hill	WR	5-11	190	R-So	1	Chicago, Ill. (Marist)
34	NiJhay Burt	SAF	5-11	165	Fr	HS	Munhall, Pa. (Steel Valley)
35	Zeke Lewis	RB	6-0	220	R-Fr	RS	Decatur, Ill. (Decatur St. Teresa)
36	Chauncey Lee	DB	5-9	175	R-Fr	HS	Bellwood, Ill. (Immaculate Conception)
37	William Orth	K	5-10	155	So	2	Ames, Iowa (Ames)
38	Trey Wilhoit	P	5-10	175	So	TR	Tallahassee, Fla. (Lawton Chiles / Dodge City CC)
39	Elijah Ball	SAF	6-1	205	Sr	TR	Indianapolis, Ind. (Ben Davis / Purdue Univ.)
40	Phoenix Porter	LB	6-1	225	R-Fr	RS	Fairfield, Ohio (Fairfield)
41	Mike Smith	DB	6-0	170	Fr	HS	Rockford, Ill. (Guilford)
41	Jordyn Turner	WR	6-5	230	R-Fr	TR	Bothell, Wash. (Bothell / Weber State Univ.)
42	Henry Woods Jr.	DB	5-10	175	So	1	New Lenox, Ill. (Lincoln-Way Central)
43	Elijahwah Tolbert	LB	6-1	230	So	1	Country Club Hills, Ill. (Hillcrest)
44	Nick Stricker	TE	6-2	245	Jr	3	Lemont, Ill. (Lemont)
45	Colin Bohanek	LB	6-0	240	So	1	Chicago, Ill. (Marist)
46	Ameer Aqel	DL	6-2	250	R-So	1	Orland Hills, Ill. (Andrew)
47	Shawn Pepp Jr	DB	6-2	180	So	TR	Allen, Texas (Liberty / Contra Costa College)

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	YR	EXP	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL/JC)
48	Michael Jarosz	LB	6-1	245	R-So	1	Wheaton, Ill. (Wheaton North)
49	Grant Edwards	DL	6-1	245	R-So	1	Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart Griffin)
50	Luke Wagner	DL	6-4	230	So	TR	Washington, Pa. (McGuffey / Santa Barbara City College)
51	Payton Orth	LB	5-11	220	So	1	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln-Way East)
52	Jamari Johnson	DL	6-4	250	R-Fr	RS	Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle Institute)
53	Stone Galloway	K	5-11	210	Jr	3	Collinsville, Ill. (Althoff Catholic)
54	Drake Van Hyfte	DL	6-4	270	So	1	Annawan, Ill. (Annawan-Wethersfield)
55	Terrance Shaw	OL	6-3	300	Jr	TR	Clearwater, Fla. (Clearwater / Coffeyville CC)
56	Tre'jon Lewis	DL	6-4	275	R-So	TR	Manor, Texas (Manor / Texas Tech Univ.)
57	Terence Simon Jr	DL	6-1	275	Jr	TR	Inglewood, Calif. (Cathedral / Cerritos College)
58	Anthony Imperio	OL	6-4	300	Jr	2	Auburn, Ala. (Auburn)
61	Jonathan Arellano	OL	6-3	300	So	TR	Lancaster, Calif. (Bishop Alemany / College of the Canyons)
62	Michael McNicholas	OL	6-4	315	R-So	1	Lombard, Ill. (Lombard Montini / Kent State Univ.)
63	Cody Green	K/P	5-11	170	Fr	HS	Little Elm, Texas (Lone Star)
65	Carson Fichtel	OL	6-3	300	Fr	HS	Heath, Texas (Rockwall-Heath)
66	Jack Valente	OL/LS	6-4	310	So	1	Batavia, Ill. (Batavia)
67	Chad Strickland	OL	6-5	295	Jr	3	Salem, Ala. (Smiths Station)
69	Brett Galetti	DB/LS	6-1	220	R-Fr	RS	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln Way East)
70	JJ Johnson	OL	6-4	360	R-Fr	RS	Westerville, Ohio (Westerville Central)
71	Brody Rankin	OL	6-3	310	Fr	HS	Charleston, Ill. (Charleston)
72	Elkhanan Tanelus	OL	6-2	335	Jr	3	Naples, Fla. (Barron Collier)
74	Haven Hatfield	OL	6-3	250	Fr	HS	Tuscola, Ill. (Tuscola)
75	Matthew Bean	OL	6-6	265	R-Fr	RS	Lima, Ohio (Shanwee)
76	Bryce Burnett	OL	6-4	270	Fr	HS	Danville, Ill. (Westville)
77	Ivan Gleyzer	OL	6-4	290	Jr	2	Lincolnshire, Ill. (Stevenson)
78	Max Stineman	OL	6-4	325	So	TR	Ewa, Haw. (Saint Joseph / Allan Hancock College)
79	Rasheed Anderson	OL	6-5	360	Fr	HS	Oak Park, Ill. (Fenwick)
80	Jay Vallie	TE	6-3	255	Grad	1	Grand Blanc, Mich. (Goodrich / Univ. of Dayton)
81	Jaxson Isaac	TE	6-6	230	So	TR	Regina, Saskatchewan (Clearwater Acad. (Fla./College of Dupage)
82	Justin Bowick	WR	6-5	185	Fr	HS	Powder Springs, Ga. (Pace Academy)
83	Joe McNab	TE	6-6	215	R-Fr	RS	Madison Heights, Mich. (Lamphere)
84	Cam Thompson	WR	6-0	185	Fr	HS	Boardman, Ohio (Boardman)
85	Josh St. Preux	WR	5-11	190	R-Fr	RS	Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Ag & Sciences)
86	Lazerick Eatman	WR	5-10	180	Jr	TR	Willow Brook, Ill. (Immaculate Conception / College of DuPage)
87	Alex Ginnever	TE	6-5	225	Fr	HS	Wentzville, Mo. (Holt)
88	DeAirious Smith	WR	5-11	180	So	2	Lexington, Ky. (Lexington Christian Academy)
89	Daniel Luoma	TE / K	6-2	225	So	1	Porvoo, Finland (Porvoo)
91	Jordan Miles	LB	6-2	240	So	2	Indianapolis, Ind. (Decatur Central)
92	Colby Smith	DL	6-0	290	So	TR	Dunnellon, Fla. (Dunnellon, Fla. / Dodge City CC)
93	Cameron Leach	DL	6-1	295	Jr	3	Chicago, Ill. (Nazareth Academy)
94	Alton Jefferson	DL	6-0	285	So	1	Louisville, Ky. (Trinity)
95	Cole Silzer	DL	6-3	250	Fr	HS	Lockport, Ill. (Lockport Township)
96	Cody Silzer	DL	6-3	250	Fr	HS	Lockport, Ill. (Lockport Township)
97	Tim Varga	DL	6-3	255	Jr	3	Elk Grove Village, Ill. (Elk Grove Village)
98	Connor Corrigan	LB	6-3	250	So	1	Naperville, Ill. (Naperville North)
99	Jaron Hacha	DL	5-11	305	So	2	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln-Way East)

EASTERN ILLINOIS FOOTBALL PRONUNCIATIONS

2 Mark ATE-ken
 6 Jo-ELL Barrows
 8 Fo-day JOLL-oh
 9 Elijah Ben-WAW
 11 Anthony Muh-NAW-vezz
 11 Alex-an-DAR Oh-yuh-WALL-ay
 22 KAY-lin Drakeford
 28 Brandon GWEE-doh
 34 Nye-ZHAY Burt
 43 Ee-LIE-juh-wuh Tolbert
 45 Collin Bo-HAN-ek

46 Uh-MEER Uh-KELL
 48 Michael JAIR-ohs
 54 Drake Van Hefty
 56 TRAY-zhon Lewis
 61 Johnathan AR-ee-ON-oh
 65 Carson FICK-tul
 66 Jack Vuh-LEN-tay
 69 Brett Guh-LETTY
 72 El-cannon TAN-uh-lus
 77 Ivan GLAY-zur
 78 Max STINE-mun

80 Jay Valley
 82 Justin BO-wick
 85 Josh Saint Prew
 86 LAZ-er-ick Eatman
 87 Alex Juh-NEVER
 88 Dee-AIR-ee-us Smith
 89 Daniel Loo-OH-muh
 99 Jaron HOTCH-uh

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

2 Mark Aitken..... DB	11 Anthony Manaves..... TE
79 Rasheed Anderson..... OL	83 Joe McNab TE
46 Ameer Aqel..... DL	62 Michael McNicholas OL
61 Jonathan Arellano..... OL	91 Jordan Miles LB
12 Ira Armstead II QB	6 Jonah O'Brien..... QB
39 Elijah Ball..... SAF	30 Diego Oliver..... DB
6 Joel Barrows..... DL	51 Payton Orth LB
75 Matthew Bean OL	37 William Orth K
3 Jaelin Benefield RB	11 Alexandar Oyawale LB
9 Elijah Benoit DB	21 Jay Pearson RB
45 Colin Bohanek LB	1 Markenzy Pierre RB
82 Justin Bowick..... WR	47 Shawn Pepp Jr. DB
23 Logan Brown LB	14 Kirk Pinkston Jr. WR
76 Bryce Burnett..... OL	40 Phoenix Porter..... LB
34 NiJhay Burt..... SAF	71 Brody Rankin OL
26 Tyler Clark RB	5 Aaron Rice..... WR
12 Nick Coates DB	4 Blake Ruffin DB
16 Kevin Conway QB	25 AJ Sanders..... DB
2 DeWayne Cooks Jr..... WR	32 Ty Schultz..... RB
9 James Cooper Jr QB	55 Terrance Shaw OL
98 Connor Corrigan..... LB	13 Trey Shaw III DB
3 Russell Dandy DB	5 Anthony Shockey LB
0 Bryce Dewberry..... DB	0 Dom Shoffner QB
22 Kaelin Drakeford..... DB	15 Will Shumpert WR
86 Lazerick Eatman..... WR	96 Cody Silzer DL
49 Grant Edwards DL	95 Cole Silzer DL
65 Carson Fichtel OL	57 Terence Simon Jr DL
20 MJ Flowers RB	92 Colby Smith DL
69 Brett Galetti DB/LS	88 DeAirious Smith..... WR
53 Stone Galloway K	41 Mike Smith..... DB
27 Zay Gentry..... DB	78 Max Stineman OL
87 Alex Ginnever..... TE	85 Josh St. Preux WR
77 Ivan Gleyzer OL	44 Nick Stricker..... TE
63 Cody Green K/P	67 Chad Strickland OL
28 Brandon Guido DB	72 Elkhanan Tanelus OL
99 Jaron Hacha DL	4 Justin Thomas WR
7 Tyris Harvey DB	84 Cam Thompson WR
74 Haven Hatfield..... OL	43 Elijahwah Tolbert LB
7 Isaiah Hill..... WR	41 Jordyn Turner WR
33 Nile Hill WR	24 Collin Tyson DB
58 Anthony Imperio OL	66 Jack Valente OL/LS
81 Jaxson Isaac TE	80 Jay Vallie TE
8 Foday Jalloh LB	54 Drake Van Hyfte DL
48 Michael Jarosz LB	97 Tim Varga DL
94 Alton Jefferson..... DL	1 Jordan Vincent..... DB
52 Jamari Johnson DL	50 Luke Wagner DL
70 JJ Johnson OL	8 Zach Weir QB
19 Justin Kowalak QB	38 Trey Wilhoit III..... P
93 Cameron Leach..... DL	31 Chris Williams..... DB
36 Chauncey Lee DB	14 Braylon Willis..... DL
56 Tre'jon Lewis DL	13 Cooper Willman..... WR
35 Zeke Lewis RB	42 Henry Woods Jr. DB
89 Daniel Luoma TE / K	29 Kendi Young RB

MISC. SEASON NOTES & STATS

EIU NCAA FBS TRANSFERS

0 - Dom Shoffner (UNC Charlotte)
 1 - Markenzy Pierre (Syracuse Univ.)
 2 - Mark Aitken (Northern Illinois Univ.)
 6 - Jonah O'Brien (Colorado State Univ.)
 9 - Elijah Benoit (Univ. of Central Florida)
 12 - Ira Armstead II (Univ. of Virginia)
 39 - Elijah Ball (Purdue Univ.)
 56 - Tre'jon Lewis (Texas Tech Univ.)
 62 - Michael McNicholas (Kent State Univ.)

EIU NCAA FCS TRANSFERS

7 - Isaiah Hill (South Dakota State Univ.)
 8 - Foday Jalloh (Central Connecticut State Univ.)
 41 - Jordyn Turner (Weber State Univ.)
 80 - Jay Vallie (Univ. of Dayton)

EIU ROSTER BY CLASS

Graduate Student / 5th Year 7
 Senior 3
 Junior 16
 Sophomore 45
 RS-Freshman 15
 Freshman 20

EIU ROSTER BY STATE

Alabama 2
 California 3
 Florida 6
 Georgia 3
 Hawai'i 1
 Illinois 49
 Indiana 4
 Iowa 1
 Kentucky 5
 Louisiana 1
 Michigan 4
 Missouri 3
 North Carolina 1
 Ohio 6
 Oklahoma 1
 Pennsylvania 4
 Tennessee 1
 Texas 6
 Washington 1
 Wisconsin 2

 Canada 1
 Finland 1

EIU OFFENSE

QUARTERBACK

6 ... Jonah O'Brien.....	6-4	210	R-So
8 ... Zach Weir	6-3	200	R-Fr
or 0 ... Dom Shoffner	6-1	210	Sr

RUNNING BACK

1 ... Markenzy Pierre	5-11	230	Grad
3 ... Jaelin Benefield	5-10	170	Jr

TIGHT END

11 ... Anthony Manaves.....	6-4	235	R-So
80 ... Jay Vallie	6-3	255	Grad

LEFT TACKLE

67 ... Chad Strickland	6-5	295	Jr
78 ... Max Stineman.....	6-4	325	So

LEFT GUARD

78 ... Max Stineman.....	6-4	325	So
77 ... Ivan Gleyzer	6-4	290	Jr

CENTER

72 ... Elkhanan Tanelus.....	6-2	335	Jr
62 ... Michael McNicholas	6-4	315	R-So

RIGHT GUARD

66 ... Jack Valente	6-4	310	So
76 ... Bryce Burnett.....	6-4	270	Fr

RIGHT TACKLE

58 ... Anthony Imperio	6-4	300	Jr
55 ... Terrance Shaw	6-3	300	Jr

RECEIVER

13 ... Cooper Willman.....	6-1	210	So
2 ... DeWayne Cooks Jr	6-2	160	R-Jr

RECEIVER

33 ... Nile Hill	5-11	190	R-So
88 ... DeAirious Smith.....	5-11	180	So

RECEIVER

4 ... Justin Thomas.....	6-1	190	Gr
82 ... Justin Bowick	6-5	185	Fr

EIU COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Chris Wilkerson (Eastern Illinois, 1994)
(Career 51-28 (9), EIU Record 0-1 (1); OVC Record 0-0)

Associate HC/ST/Wide Receivers: Kyle Derickson (1st year)
Offensive Coordinator/QB's: Joe Davis (1st year)
Offensive Line: John Cannova (1st year)
Running Backs: Turner Pugh (1st year)
Tight Ends: Gunnard Twyner (1st year)
Graduate Assistant Offensive Coach: Cole Hoover (1st year)
Defensive Coordinator/LB's: Adam Gristick (5th year)
Defensive Pass Game Cord/Safeties: Clay Bignell (1st year)
Defensive Backs: DJ Bland (2nd year)
Defensive Line: Adam Morris (3rd year)
Outside Linebackers: Collin Geier (1st year)
Graduate Assistant Defesive Coach: Andrew Brady (1st year)
Director of Football Ops: Caleb Selk (1st year)
Director of Football Performance: Derek Stein (3rd year)
Trainer: Scott Goehner (2nd year)
Equipment Manager: Clint Bays (14th year)
Quality Control Staff:
 Reid Littleford (Ops), Jackson King (Off.), Beau Snuggs (Def.),
 Tim Greene (ST), Peyton Naylor (Recruiting), Dan Baur (S&C)

EIU DEFENSE

DEFENSIVE END

97 ... Tim Varga	6-3	255	Jr
14 ... Braylon Willis.....	6-4	245	Jr

NOSE TACKLE

92 ... Colby Smith.....	6-0	290	So
99 ... Jaron Hacha	5-11	305	So

DEFENSIVE TACKLE

93 ... Cameron Leach.....	6-1	295	Jr
56 ... Tre'jon Lewis	6-4	275	R-So

DEFENSIVE END/LINEBACKER

6 ... Joel Barrows	6-3	250	R-So
91 ... Jordan Miles	6-2	240	So

LINEBACKER

45 ... Colin Bohanek	6-0	240	So
5 ... Anthony Shockey	6-1	235	R-So

LINEBACKER

43 ... Elijahwah Tolbert	6-1	230	So
40 ... Phoenix Porter	6-1	225	R-Fr

CORNERBACK

3 ... Russell Dandy.....	6-0	170	Sr
7 ... Tyris Harvey	5-11	175	So

SAFETY

12 ... Nick Coates	5-10	180	So
13 ... Trey Shaw III.....	6-1	195	R-Fr

FREE SAFETY

22 ... Kaelin Drakeford.....	6-4	205	So
39 ... Elijah Ball	6-1	205	Sr
or 24 ... Collin Tyson	6-0	190	R-Fr

STRONG SAFETY

1 ... Jordan Vincent	5-10	195	So
27 ... Zay Gentry.....	6-0	190	So

CORNERBACK

9 ... Elijah Benoit.....	6-0	180	Sr
2 ... Mark Aitken.....	5-9	175	R-So

EIU SPECIALISTS

KICKER

53 ... Stone Galloway	5-11	210	Jr
37 ... Will Orth.....	5-10	155	So

KICKOFF

53 ... Stone Galloway	5-11	210	Jr
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PUNTER

36 ... Trey Wilhoit.....	5-10	175	So
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HOLDER

36 ... Trey Wilhoit.....	5-10	175	So
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LONG SNAPPER

66 ... Jack Valente	6-4	310	So
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PUNT RETURNS

13 ... Cooper Willman.....	6-1	210	So
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KICK RETURNS

3 ... Jaelin Benefield	5-10	170	R-So
27 ... Zay Gentry.....	6-0	190	So
2 ... Mark Aitken.....	5-9	175	R-So



GAME 1 - Sept. 1, 2022

Eastern Illinois..... 27

Northern Illinois..... 34

DeKalb, Illinois
Huskie Stadium (10,864)

Scoring	1	2	3	4	Final
Eastern Illinois	3.....	3.....	7.....	14.....	27
Northern Illinois.....	7.....	14.....	7.....	6.....	34

FIRST QUARTER

NIU - Waylee 1 run (Richardson kick) - 10:41

EIU - Galloway 34 field goal - 0:20

SECOND QUARTER

NIU - Blakemore 19 rush (Richardson kick) - 11:48

NIU - Brown 35 rush (Richardson kick) - 11:27

EIU - Galloway 25 field goal - 0:04

THIRD QUARTER

NIU - Soraghan 13 pass from Lombardi (Richardson kick) - 5:59

EIU - Benefield 24 pass from O'Brien (Galloway kick) - 2:43

FOURTH QUARTER

NIU - Richardson 43 field goal - 12:15

EIU - Thomas 13 pass from O'Brien (Galloway kick) - 9:58

NIU - Richardson 38 field goal - 3:39

EIU - Vallie 8 pass from O'Brien (Galloway kick) - 2:04

TEAM STATSEIUNIU

First Downs.....	25.....	19
Rushes-Yards.....	30-185.....	34-189
Passing-Yards.....	276.....	192
Comp-Att-Int.....	25-35-2.....	14-22-0
Total Offense.....	441.....	379
Fumbles-Lost.....	0-0.....	0-0
Penalties-Yards.....	8-70.....	7-73
Int Returns-Yards-TD.....	0-0-0.....	2-0-0
Time of Possession.....	30:27.....	29:26
Sacks-Yards.....	1-1.....	2-11

LEADERS

RUSHING (No-Yds-TD)

EIU - Pierre (14-100-0), Benefield (10-63-0)

NIU - Waylee (14-83-1), Brown (13-70-1)

PASSING (Att-Cmp-Int-Yds-TD)

EIU - O'Brien (34-25-2-276-3)

NIU - Lombardi (22-14-0-192-1)

RECEIVING (No -Yds -TD)

EIU - Thomas (6-83-1), Manaves (5-22-0), Benefield (4-57-1)

NIU - Thorton (6-81-0), Tucker (4-67-0), Soraghan (1-13-1)

DEFENSE (Tackles - Solo, Assist, TFL)

EIU - Tolbert (1-10-1.5), Vincent (2-6-0), Bohanek (1-6-0)

NIU - Rayner (4-10-0.5), Dolphin (2-7-0.5)

RECAP

Eastern Illinois played to the final whistle against the defending Mid-American Conference Champions as the Panthers lost 37-24 at Northern Illinois to open the Chris Wilkerson era. EIU trailed 21-6 at the half but had two fourth quarter touchdown passes by Jonah O'Brien to pull within one score. O'Brien hit Justin Thomas with 9:58 left in the game and then connected with Jay Vallie with 2:04 left in game. After a failed onside kick, EIU got the ball back with less than a minute remaining after a missed field goal by NIU. The Panthers would have the clock run out on them with the ball at the NIU 38. O'Brien threw for 276 yards and three touchdowns while Markenzzy Pierre rushed for 100 yards. Eljawah Tolbert paced the defense with 11 and 1.5 tackles for loss.

2022 EIU PANTHERS FOOTBALL
EASTERN ILLINOIS Game Results

Date	Opponent	Score	Overall Record	Ohio Valley Record	Time	Attend
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Sep 1, 2022	at Northern Illinois	27-34 L	0-1		3:25	10,864
Sep 10, 2022	CHATTANOOGA					
Sep 17, 2022	at Illinois State					
* Sep 24, 2022	at Murray State					
Oct 8, 2022	NORTHWESTERN STATE					
Oct 15, 2022	LINDENWOOD					
* Oct 22, 2022	at Tennessee State					
* Oct 29, 2022	TENNESSEE TECH					
Nov 5, 2022	at McNeese State					
* Nov 12, 2022	SOUTHEAST MISSOURI					
* Nov 19, 2022	at UT Martin					

* indicates Ohio Valley Conference game

2022 EASTERN ILLINOIS STARTERS

OPPONENT	WR	WR	RT	RG	C	LG	LT	WR	TE	RB	QB
Northern Illinois	N. Hill	Thomas	Imperio	Stineman	Tanelus	Valente	Strickland	Willman	Manaves	Pierre	O'Brien
Chattanooga											
Illinois State											
Murray State											
Northwestern St											
Lindenwood											
Tennessee State											
Tennessee Tech											
McNeese State											
SE Missouri											
UT Martin											

OPPONENT	DE	NT	DT	DT/DL	LB/DE	LB	LB/SAF	SAF	SAF	SAF	CB
Northern Illinois	Varga	Hacha	Leach	C. Smith	Barrows	Bohanek	Tolbert	Benoit	Vincent	Drakeford	Dandy
Chattanooga											
Illinois State											
Murray State											
Northwestern St											
Lindenwood											
Tennessee State											
Tennessee Tech											
McNeese State											
SE Missouri											
UT Martin											

Eastern Illinois Panther Football
Eastern Illinois Overall Team Statistics (as of Sep 05, 2022)
All games

Team Statistics	EIU	OPP
SCORING	27	34
Points Per Game	27.0	34.0
Points Off Turnovers	0	7
FIRST DOWNS	25	19
Rushing	7	7
Passing	16	10
Penalty	2	2
RUSHING YARDAGE	165	187
Yards gained rushing	185	189
Yards lost rushing	20	2
Rushing Attempts	30	34
Average Per Rush	5.5	5.5
Average Per Game	165.0	187.0
TDs Rushing	0	3
PASSING YARDAGE	276	192
Comp-Att-Int	25-35-2	14-22-0
Average Per Pass	7.9	8.7
Average Per Catch	11.0	13.7
Average Per Game	276.0	192.0
TDs Passing	3	1
TOTAL OFFENSE	441	379
Total Plays	65	56
Average Per Play	6.8	6.8
Average Per Game	441.0	379.0
KICK RETURNS: #-Yards	4-61	4-66
PUNT RETURNS: #-Yards	0-0	1-4
INT RETURNS: #-Yards	0-0	2-0
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	15.2	16.5
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	0.0	4.0
INT RETURN AVERAGE	0.0	0.0
FUMBLES-LOST	0-0	0-0
PENALTIES-Yards	8-70	7-73
Average Per Game	70.0	73.0
PUNTS-Yards	1-54	2-85
Average Per Punt	54.0	42.5
Net punt average	50.0	42.5
KICKOFFS-Yards	6-323	7-441
Average Per Kick	53.8	63.0
Net kick average	38.7	43.6
TIME OF POSSESSION/Game	30:27	29:33
3RD-DOWN Conversions	8/12	6/11
3rd-Down Pct	67%	55%
4TH-DOWN Conversions	0/1	0/0
4th-Down Pct	0%	0%
SACKS BY-Yards	1-0	2-11
MISC YARDS	0	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	3	4
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	2-2	2-3
ON-SIDE KICKS	0-0	0-0
RED-ZONE SCORES	(4-4) 100%	(4-4) 100%
RED-ZONE TOUCHDOWNS	(2-4) 50%	(3-4) 75%
PAT-ATTEMPTS	(3-3) 100%	(4-4) 100%
ATTENDANCE	0	10864
Games/Avg Per Game	0/0	1/10864
Neutral Site Games		0/0

Score by Quarters	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Eastern Illinois	3	3	7	14	0	27
Opponents	7	14	7	6	0	34

Eastern Illinois Panther Football
Eastern Illinois Overall Individual Statistics (as of Sep 05, 2022)
All games

Rushing	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Pierre, Markenz	1	14	101	1	100	7.1	0	42	100.0
Benefield, Jael	1	10	71	8	63	6.3	0	19	63.0
O'Brien, Jonah	1	6	13	11	2	0.3	0	7	2.0
Total	1	30	185	20	165	5.5	0	42	165.0
Opponents	1	34	189	2	187	5.5	3	54	187.0

Passing	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
O'Brien, Jonah	1	159.07	25-34-2	73.5	276	3	42	276.0
TEAM	1	0.00	0-1-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Total	1	154.53	25-35-2	71.4	276	3	42	276.0
Opponents	1	151.95	14-22-0	63.6	192	1	38	192.0

Receiving	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Thomas, Justin	1	6	83	13.8	1	42	83.0
Manaves, Anthon	1	5	22	4.4	0	6	22.0
Benefield, Jael	1	4	57	14.2	1	24	57.0
Hill, Nile	1	4	39	9.8	0	15	39.0
Cooks Jr, Deway	1	3	32	10.7	0	11	32.0
Willman, Cooper	1	2	35	17.5	0	34	35.0
Vallie, Jay	1	1	8	8.0	1	8	8.0
Total	1	25	276	11.0	3	42	276.0
Opponents	1	14	192	13.7	1	38	192.0

Punt Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Total	0	0	0.0	0	0
Opponents	1	4	4.0	0	4

Interceptions	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Total	0	0	0.0	0	0
Opponents	2	0	0.0	0	0

Kick Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Benefield, Jael	4	61	15.2	0	18
Total	4	61	15.2	0	18
Opponents	4	66	16.5	0	26

Fumble Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Total	0	0	0.0	0	0
Opponents	1	0	0.0	0	0

Eastern Illinois Panther Football
Eastern Illinois Overall Individual Statistics (as of Sep 05, 2022)
All games

Scoring			PAT						
	td	fg	kick	rush	rcv	pass	dxp	saf	pts
Galloway, Stone	-	2-2	3-3	-	-	-	-	-	9
Thomas, Justin	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Vallie, Jay	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Benefield, Jael	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Total	3	2-2	3-3	-	-	-	-	-	27
Opponents	4	2-3	4-4	-	-	-	-	-	34

Total Offense	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
O'Brien, Jonah	1	40	2	276	278	278.0
Pierre, Markenz	1	14	100	0	100	100.0
Benefield, Jael	1	10	63	0	63	63.0
Total	1	65	165	276	441	441.0
Opponents	1	56	187	192	379	379.0

Field Goals	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Galloway, Stone	2-2	100.0	0-0	1-1	1-1	0-0	0-0	34	0

FG Sequence	Eastern Illinois	Opponents
NIU	(34),(25)	(43),(38),43

Numbers in (parentheses) indicate field goal was made.

Punting	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Wilhoit, Trey	1	54	54.0	54	0	0	0	1	0
Total	1	54	54.0	54	0	0	0	1	0
Opponents	2	85	42.5	44	0	2	0	0	0

Kickoffs	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	retn	net	ydln
Galloway, Stone	6	323	53.8	1	0			
Total	6	323	53.8	1	0	16.5	38.7	26
Opponents	7	441	63.0	3	0	15.2	43.6	21

Eastern Illinois Panther Football
 Eastern Illinois Overall Individual Statistics (as of Sep 05, 2022)
 All games

All Purpose	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
Benefield, Jael	1	63	57	0	61	0	181	181.0
Pierre, Markenz	1	100	0	0	0	0	100	100.0
Thomas, Justin	1	0	83	0	0	0	83	83.0
Hill, Nile	1	0	39	0	0	0	39	39.0
Willman, Cooper	1	0	35	0	0	0	35	35.0
Cooks Jr, Dewa	1	0	32	0	0	0	32	32.0
Manaves, Antho	1	0	22	0	0	0	22	22.0
Vallie, Jay	1	0	8	0	0	0	8	8.0
O'Brien, Jonah	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	2.0
Total	1	165	276	0	61	0	502	502.0
Opponents	1	187	192	4	66	0	449	449.0

Eastern Illinois Panther Football
Eastern Illinois Overall Defensive Statistics (as of Sep 05, 2022)
All games

#	Defensive Leaders	gp	Tackles				Sacks no-yds	Pass defense			Fumbles		blkd		
			ua	a	tot	tfl/yds		int-yds	brup	qbh	rcv-yds	ff	kick	saf	
43	Tolbert, Elijah	1	1	10	11	1.0-1	0.5-0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1D	Vincent, Jordan	1	2	6	8	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
45	Bohanek, Colin	1	1	6	7	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
39	Ball, Elijah	1	3	3	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
40	Porter, Phoenix	1	1	4	5	0.5-0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
22	Drakeford, Kael	1	3	1	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
97	Varga, Tim	1	1	2	3	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
9D	Benoit, Elijah	1	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
12	Coates, Nick	1	1	2	3	0.5-1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
93	Leach, Cameron	1	1	2	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
6D	Barrows, Joel	1	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
14	Willis, Braylon	1	.	2	2	.	0.5-0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
3D	Dandy, Russell	1	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
92	Smith, Colby	1	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
11	Oyawale, Alexan	1	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
23	Brown, Logan	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
91	Miles, Jordan	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
99	Hacha, Jaron	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
42	Woods, Henry	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
48	Jarosz, Michael	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2	Cooks Jr, Deway	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
13	Shaw, Trey	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
7D	Harvey, Tyris	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.
35	Lewis, Zeke	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total		1	20	52	72	2-2	1-0	.	5	2	.	.	.	.	.
Opponents		1	28	54	82	4-20	2-11	2-0	1	2	.	.	.	.	.