



EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER FOOTBALL

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GAME 4



COACHES:

Chris Wilkerson (Eastern Illinois, 1995)

EIU Record.....4-10 (2nd)
OVC Record.....1-4 (2nd)
Career Record.....55-37 (11th)
vs. McNeese 0-1

Gary Goff (Valdosta State, 1996)

McNeese Record.....4-10 (2nd)
SL Record.....2-4 (1st)
Overall Record64-63 (12th)
vs. Eastern Illinois 1-0

SERIES

4th meeting - McNeese leads 3-0

Last: @McNeese 29, EIU 15 on Nov. 5, 2022

RANKINGS

Eastern Illinois RV / ---
McNeese..... / ---
..... *STATS Media/AFCAs Coaches*

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Panthers Begin Louisiana Two-Step Hosting McNeese

Eastern Illinois vs. McNeese

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

September 23, 2023 • 2 p.m. • TV: ESPN+

NOTES TO KNOW

• Eastern Illinois plays the first of two schools on its schedule from the state of Louisiana this Saturday as the Panthers host McNeese at 2 p.m. at O'Brien Field. EIU travels to Northwestern State next Saturday (Sept. 30) to wrap up a two-year, home-and-home contract between schools in the OVC and Southland Conferences. EIU split in its two games last year beating Northwestern State at home before an early November road loss at McNeese.

• Eastern Illinois drove 93 yards on eight plays in 62 seconds on Saturday scoring the game winning touchdown with 30 seconds remaining on a Pierce Holley to Justin Thomas 25-yard touchdown strike. The win snapped a five game win streak by Illinois State in the Mid-America Classic as EIU won the 111th meeting between the schools, 14-13.

• Running back MJ Flowers was named the Big South-OVC Football Association Freshman of the Week after the Panthers win over Illinois State. On a day when offensive yards were hard to come by, Flowers had 55 all-purpose yards. He rushed for 25 yards on three carries and caught four passes for 30 yards. Two of his receptions were on the Panthers final game winning drive.

• EIU is off to a 2-1 start to the season and receiving votes in this week's STATS Perform FCS Top 25 poll. The 2-1 start is the best to a season for the Panthers since 2016 when they opened 3-1 which included wins over nationally ranked Illinois State and FBS member Miami (Ohio). The last time EIU was ranked during a season was November 5, 2016.

• Justin Thomas returned to the line-up for the first time since early last season when an injury after just four games ended his season. Thomas was ranked among the OVC leaders in both receptions and receiving yards prior to his injury. He returned this season with seven catches for 80 yards including both EIU touchdowns. For his collegiate career Thomas ranks 18th among all active college players in receptions with 186 yards while ranking 10th in career yards with 2,894. Those totals are second among players at the FCS level behind Jaxon Janke (South Dakota St.)

• Eastern Illinois defense picked off three passes against Illinois State on Saturday as the Panthers are the national leader with seven picks this season including two returned for touchdowns in the opener at Indiana State (Tyris Harvey and Nijhay Burt). EIU's record for interceptions in a season is 31 set during the 1980 season. All seven interceptions have come by different players this season.

Eastern Illinois (2-1)

Date	Opponent	Score/Time
Aug. 31	at Indiana State	W 27-0
Sept. 9	at Bowling Green	L 15-38
Sept. 16	#25 ILLINOIS STATE	W 14-13
Sept. 23	McNEESE	2 pm
Sept. 30	at Northwestern State	6 pm
Oct. 7	• UT MARTIN (HC)	2 pm
Oct. 14	• at Southeast Missouri	2 pm
Oct. 21	• BRYANT	2 pm
Nov. 4	• at Lindenwood	2 pm
Nov. 11	• TENNESSEE STATE	12 pm
Nov. 18	• at Robert Morris	11 am
• Big South-OVC Game All Times Central		

McNeese (0-3)

Date	Opponent	Score/Time
Sept. 2	TARLETON STATE	L 34-52
Sept. 9	at Florida	L 7-49
Sept. 16	at Alcorn	L 3-17
Sept. 23	at Eastern Illinois	2 pm
Sept. 30	• NICHOLLS	7 pm
Oct. 7	• at Texas A&M Commerce	7 pm
Oct. 21	• INCARNATE WORD	7 pm
Oct. 28	• NORTHWESTERN STATE	7 pm
Nov. 4	• at Southeastern Louisiana	3 pm
Nov. 11	• HOUSTON CHRISTIAN	7 pm
Nov. 18	• at Lamar	3 pm
• Southland All Times Central		

STATS FCS MEDIA TOP 25 (WEEK 3)

Rk.	Team	Record
1.	South Dakota State (52)	3-0
2.	North Dakota State (3)	3-0
3.	Montana State	2-1
4.	Sacramento State (1)	3-0
5.	William & Mary	3-0
6.	Holy Cross	2-1
7.	Idaho	2-1
8.	Furman	2-1
9.	Incarnate Word	2-1
10.	Weber State	2-1
11.	New Hampshire	2-1
12.	Southern Illinois	3-0
13.	Montana	3-0
14.	North Dakota	2-1
15.	UC Davis	2-1
16.	Southeast Missouri	1-2
17.	Rhode Island	2-1
18.	North Carolina Central	2-1
19.	Delaware	2-1
20.	Samford	1-2
21.	Mercer	2-1
22.	Florida A&M	2-1
23.	Western Carolina	2-1
24.	Youngstown State	2-1
25.	Villanova	2-1

RV: Eastern Illinois

FCS COACHES TOP 25 (WEEK 3)

Rk.	Team	Record
1.	South Dakota State (26)	3-0
2.	North Dakota State	3-0
3.	Montana State	2-1
4.	Sacramento State	3-0
5.	William & Mary	3-0
6.	Holy Cross	2-1
7.	Furman	2-1
8.	Weber State	2-1
9.	Incarnate Word	2-1
10.	Idaho	2-1
11.	Montana	3-0
12.	New Hampshire	2-1
13.	Southern Illinois	3-0
14.	North Dakota	2-1
15.	UC Davis	2-1
16.	Delaware	2-1
17.	Samford	1-2
18.	Rhode Island	2-1
19.	North Carolina Central	2-1
20.	Southeast Missouri	1-2
21.	Mercer	2-1
22.	Fordham	2-1
23.	Florida A&M	2-1
24.	Youngstown State	2-1
25.	Harvard	1-0

• Russell Dandy had a solid day on pass defense against Illinois State coming away with three tackles, two pass break-ups and one interception. For the season Dandy leads the Panthers with four pass break-ups and is tied for the team lead with one interception. The five total passes defended rank the graduate student 19th in the FCS and first in the Big South-OVC. Dandy now has three career interceptions and seven pass break-ups.

• In addition to three interceptions, EIU's defense also added a forced fumble by Blake Ruffin which was recovered by Kaelin Drakeford to finish the day with four turnovers gained. The Panthers ten turnovers gained this season ranks tied for first in the FCS this season with Morgan State (MEAC) and Stephen F. Austin (United Athletic). EIU's school record for turnovers in a season was 52 during the 1980 season.

• Pierce Holley continues to be solid under center for the Panthers as he passed for 291 yards including a game winning drive on Saturday against Illinois State. Holley has passed for 785 yards this season with six touchdowns with both figures ranking in the top fifteen in the FCS this season. Including his two seasons as a starter at Georgetown, Holley has passed for 4,927 yards and 27 touchdowns in his collegiate career.

• Defensive lineman Nicholas Oliveira-Chace finished with 1.5 tackles for loss against Illinois State for a total of 14 yards. The transfer from Franklin-Pierce University currently leads the Panthers with 2.5 tackles for loss as part of his nine tackles for the season with one quarterback hurry. As a team EIU has recorded 15 tackles for loss this year with three sacks.

• Blake Ruffin finished as the Panthers leading tackler against Illinois State with ten tackles including eight solo stops. Ruffin was instrumental in two of the Panthers four takeaways on the day forcing a fumble midway through the game and then intercepting a pass to end the contest. Ruffin is tied for second on the EIU team with 18 tackles with two tackles for loss, one sack and one interception.

• The kicking game came through when it mattered most in Saturday's win over Illinois State as the Panthers were 2-of-2 on extra points in the game. EIU had been 1-of-3 on previous extra point kicking attempts this year forcing the Panthers to go for two three times this year (failing on all three attempts). Walk-on kicker Julian Patino, a student assistant soccer coach two weeks ago, stepped in and made both PAT attempts.

• Freshman punter Jacob Horvath continues to impress in his first season of not only collegiate football but also American football. Horvath, a native of Australia, had never seen an American football game in person until he played in his first contest on Aug. 31 at Indiana State. This season Horvath has impressed with a 41.6 yards per punt average with five of fifteen punts inside the 20 and two punts over 50 yards. He currently ranks 40th in the FCS in punting average and at Bowling Green added a 23 yard rush on a fake punt.

• Safety Mark Aitken may be listed as one of the smallest players on the roster but the team captain plays like one of the biggest. On Saturday against Illinois State he finished with five solo tackles, one pass break-up and one interception in the end zone which snuffed out a Redbirds drive. For the season Aitken is tied for second on the team with 18 tackles including 13 solo stops.

• Transfer wide receiver Eli Mirza continues to be a top target for quarterback Pierce Holley. On Saturday against Illinois State he caught seven passes for 46 yards. On the season he is tied with Justin Bowick as the Panthers leading receiver with both players hauling in 13 passes this season. Mirza has been the most dynamic after the catch with a total of 154 yards for an 11.8 yards per reception average. Mirza and Bowick are both tied for sixth in the Big South-OVC Football Association for receptions with Mirza seventh in receiving yards.

• Eastern Illinois defense held Illinois State to 108 yards rushing on Saturday as the Panthers are allowing just 116 yards per game on the ground to opponents. That total leads the Big South-OVC Football Association and ranks 24th in the FCS. EIU gave up 101 yards on the ground in the opening win over Indiana State. The Panthers have not allowed a 100-yard individual rusher in four straight games dating back to last season and during the 2022 campaign only allowed two backs to go over 100 yards in a game.

• Eastern Illinois defense was able to get off the field on Saturday against Illinois State as the Panthers limited ISU to just 2-of-12 on 3rd down conversions. For the season EIU is holding opponents to a 29 percent conversion rate on 3rd down (10-of-35). That defensive efficiency currently ranks second in the Big South-OVC and 16th in the FCS. Last season opponents converted at 43 percent on 3rd down which ranked 89th in the FCS.

• Thanks in part to its 3rd down defense and ability to force turnovers this season, EIU's scoring defense has been one of the best in the FCS in the early portion of the season. The Panthers are allowing 17 points per game which leads the Big South-OVC and ranks 12th in the FCS. Against just FCS opponents this year EIU has allowed only 14 total points for a seven points per game average

• Tight Anthony Manaves has become a good safety outlet for the Panthers offense as the tight end has seven catches for 54 yards this season. Against Illinois State, Manaves had four catches for 38 yards. In the season opener he scored one of the Panthers two offensive touchdowns in the shutout win over the Sycamores. Manaves came into the season with 19 career catches for 154 yards.

2023 Big South-OVC Football Standings

Team	CONF	Pct	All	Pct
Tennessee State	1-0	1.000	2-1	.667
Southeast Missouri	1-0	1.000	1-2	.333
Eastern Illinois	0-0		2-1	.667
UT Martin	0-0		2-1	.667
Bryant	0-0		1-2	.333
Charleston Southern	0-0		1-2	.333
Robert Morris	0-0		1-2	.333
Tennessee Tech	0-0		0-3	.000
Lindenwood	0-1	.000	2-1	.667
Gardner-Webb	0-1	.000	1-2	.333

This Week In Big South-OVC Football

Saturday - September 23

Lindenwood at Illinois State - 12 pm
 Charleston Southern at Western Carolina - 1:30 pm
 McNeese at Eastern Illinois - 2 pm
 Lynchburg at Robert Morris - 2 pm
 Bryant at Princeton - 2 pm
 Gardner-Webb at East Carolina - 5 pm
 Kennesaw State at Tennessee Tech - 6 pm
 UT Martin at North Alabama - 6 pm
 Southeast Missouri at Eastern Kentucky - 6 pm

* Big South-OVC Football Association Games

Eastern Illinois Captains

2 - Mark Aitken
 4 - Justin Thomas
 53 - Stone Galloway
 56 - Tre'jon Lewis
 67 - Chad Strickland

Big South-OVC Order Of Finish

1. Southeast Missouri (6)
 2. Gardner-Webb (2)
 3. UT Martin (1)
 4. Tennessee Tech (1)
 5. Tennessee State
 6. Bryant
 7. Lindenwood
 8. Eastern Illinois
 9. Charleston Southern
 10. Robert Morris



Eastern Illinois Players On Preseason Team

1 - Elijahwah Tolbert (LB)
 2 - Mark Aitken (KR)
 3 - Russell Dandy (DB)
 4 - Justin Thomas (WR)
 8 - Juwon Farri (RB)
 12 - Nick Coates (NICK)
 13 - Cooper Willman (PR)
 53 - Stone Galloway (K)
 66 - Jack Valente (LS)
 67 - Chad Strickland (OL)

• EIU's win over No. 25 Illinois State was the Panthers 26th win over a nationally ranked team and first since the Panthers beat No. 24 Tennessee State in 2017. EIU is now 26-76 all-time against ranked opponents. It marked the 24th time in the Mid-America Classic that either EIU or ISU were nationally ranked during the game, both with an equal 12 rankings in the rivalry.

• Eastern Illinois went its third straight game without a rushing touchdown as the Panthers are one of eleven teams at the FCS level that have not scored a rushing touchdown this season. Also appearing on the list are fellow conference member Tennessee Tech and EIU's opening week opponent Indiana State. The Panthers shutout the Sycamores in that game.

• Three weeks into the season and Eastern Illinois has had to use three different starting line-up combinations on the offensive line. So far this season only Drew Wilder at center and Chad Strickland at left tackle have started all three games at their position. Last season EIU faced a similar issue as they had eight different starting combinations in their 11 games only starting the same line-up in back-to-back games twice during the season.

• EIU running back Kevin Daniels continues to inch towards another milestone rushing marker for his career as the Northern Arizona transfer leads the Panthers with 165 yards this season for a 4.1 yards per carry average. Including his time at NAU, Daniels has 1,448 career rushing yards. Another EIU transfer running back, Juwon Farri from Monmouth, is nearly a milestone of his own as the grad transfer has 2,486 career rushing yards.

• For the first time this season linebacker Elijahwah Tolbert did not lead the Panthers defense in tackles as he registered six tackles with one tackle for loss in the win over Illinois State. Tolbert leads EIU this season with 28 tackles which ranks the junior 35th in the FCS and second in the Big South-OVC. He was the FCS National Defensive Player of the Week after week one of the season.

• The Ohio Valley Conference and Big South Conference have merged into a joint conference for the sport of football with ten member schools for the 2023 season. The new Big South-OVC Football Association features OVC member schools Eastern Illinois, Lindenwood, Southeast Missouri, Tennessee State, Tennessee Tech and UT Martin. The Big South is represented by Charleston Southern and Gardner-Webb with affiliate members Bryant and Robert Morris (Pa.) also playing previously in the Big South. Next season (2024) will again see membership change with Western Illinois joining as a football playing member and Bryant exiting the conference.

• Eastern Illinois has several legacy players on its roster this season with offensive lineman Carson Fichtel, linebacker Jared Pilson and defensive lineman Peyton Wilkerson. Fichtel's father Brad was an All-American lineman for the Panthers in the early 1990's. Pilson's father Jamie was a running back for the Panthers in the early 1990's while Wilkerson's father Chris is the Panthers head coach and a former EIU defensive lineman in the 1990's. All three were teammates under head coach Bob Spoo.

• Eastern Illinois football has expanded its international pool of players as part of their 2023 roster. Already returning to the team was Daniel Luoma who is from Finland and Jaxson Isaac from Canada. The last two seasons Luoma was a reserve tight end and served as the Panthers kickoff specialist averaging 59.2 yards per kick with eight touchbacks in 2021. Isaac, another tight end, joined the roster last season using a redshirt season after playing in four games. Isaac is from Regina, Saskatchewan and played at the College of DuPage in 2021. The newest international Panther is punter Jacob Horvath from Australia. 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. The last player from Australia to play for the Panthers was long snapper Bryce Coulson in 2019.

• Eastern Illinois has announced its team captains for the 2023 season with five players in total selected. Mark Aitken (SAF) and Chad Strickland (OL) were voted team captains in the spring following the spring game. Joining that list following fall camp are Justin Thomas (WR), Stone Galloway (K) and Tre'jon Lewis (DL).

• Eastern Illinois football has 12 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 Alex Alteus, Zed Asowata, DeWayne Cooks Jr., Russell Dandy, Juwon Farri, Pierce Holley, Anthony Imperio, Jonah O'Brien, Sebastian Pares, Chad Strickland, Elkhanan Tanelus and Justin Thomas.

• Eastern Illinois offensive lineman Chad Strickland is the Panthers nominee for the NFF Campbell Trophy, the academic Heisman Trophy. Strickland, a preseason All-Big South-OVC Football selection, earned his undergraduate degree in pre-physical therapy with a 3.82 GPA and is currently enrolled in the master's program.

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 returned home and became 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 54-37 career record. Complete Coach Chris Wilkerson bio available on page 6 of EIU game notes...

McNEESE HEAD COACH GARY GOFF

Gary Goff is in his second season as the head coach at McNeese after having led Valdosta State to the 2021 NCAA Division II National Championship Game where they lost to Ferris State. Goff is a veteran coach with additional head coaching experience at Tiffin University. He finished 4-7 in his opening season at McNeese and holds a career record of 64-63. Goff played football at Valdosta State under head coach Hal Mumme and offensive coordinator Mike Leach.

SCOUTING McNEESE

McNeese is off to an 0-3 start to the season with a pair of FCS losses and a loss in a trip to SEC member Florida. The Cowboys defense features one of the nation's leading tacklers with linebacker Micah Davey fifth nationally in with 40 tackles. McNeese has not been able to pressure the quarterback with just one sack this season by Earenest Grayson. On offense D'Angelo Durham has carried most of the load with 131 yards and one touchdown. Quarterback Nate Glantz has two rushing touchdowns while passing for 337 yards.

THE SERIES

Eastern Illinois and McNeese will be meeting for the fourth time in program history when they square off at O'Brien Field on Saturday afternoon. McNeese has won all three previous meetings including last year's contest in Lake Charles. This is the second game in a home-and-home series between the two schools as part of the Ohio Valley Conference and Southland Conference scheduling alliance for 2022 and 2023.

LAST TEN MEETINGS

<i>Sept. 11, 1993</i>	<i>McNeese 49, EIU 7 at McNeese</i>
<i>Sept. 15, 1990</i>	<i>McNeese 15, EIU 7 at EIU</i>
<i>Nov. 5, 2022</i>	<i>McNeese 29, EIU 15 at McNeese</i>

OVC CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The Ohio Valley Conference is celebrated its 75th anniversary during the 2022-23 academic year. The OVC is the eighth oldest NCAA Division I conference. Eastern Illinois is entering its 28th season as a member of the OVC. The EIU football team has won seven OVC championships with former head coach Bob Spoo one of two EIU members of the OVC Hall of Fame. EIU has had four OVC Defensive Players of the Year and four OVC Offensive Players of the Year including 2002 Walter Payton Award winner Tony Romo and 2013 Walter Payton Award winner Jimmy Garoppolo.

TALE OF THE TAPE



Points Per Game.....	18.7	14.7
Average Points Allowed.....	17.0	39.3
First Downs.....	56	37
Rushing Yards Per Game	62.3	71.7
Rushing Touchdowns.....	0	4
Passing Yards Per Game	261.7	121.3
Passing Touchdowns	6	0
Average Yards Per Game	324	193
Interceptions Thrown	4	3
Fumbles - Lost	4-1	2-1
Turnovers Gained.....	10	4
Punting Average	41.6	43.7
Field Goals (ATT/MADE)	1-of-1	3-of-4
3rd Down Conversions	14-of-39 (36%)	8-of-37 (22%)
4th Down Conversions.....	3-of-9 (33%)	5-of-8 (63%)
Sacks By (Yards).....	3 (19)	1 (6)
Penalties (Yards)	16 (156)	14 (119)
Time of Possession (Game)	31:49	24:53

Statistical Leaders

RUSHING YARDS (Touchdowns)

EASTERN ILLINOIS	McNEESE
Kevin Daniels..... 165 (0)	D'Angelo Durham 131 (1)
Eli Mirza 29 (0)	Cam Thomas 30 (0)

PASSING YARDS (Touchdowns)

EASTERN ILLINOIS	McNEESE
Pierce Holley..... 785 (6)	Nate Glantz 337 (0)
.....	Tre Simmons 27 (0)

RECEPTIONS (Yards)

EASTERN ILLINOIS	McNEESE
Eli Mirza 13 (154)	Jalen Johnson 8 (66)
Justin Bowick..... 13 (122)	Makhi Paris 8 (81)
Kevin Daniels..... 11 (65)	Jihad Marks 6 (61)

TACKLES

EASTERN ILLINOIS	McNEESE
Elijahwah Tolbert..... 28	Micah Davey 40
Mark Aitken 18	Boogsie Silvera 21
Blake Ruffin 18	Johnquai Lewis 21
Anthony Shockey..... 15	Brayden Adams 14
Ira Armstead..... 10	Grayson Mays 14

TACKLES FOR LOSS / SACKS

EASTERN ILLINOIS	McNEESE
Nicholas Oliveria-Chace 2.5 1	Earenest Grayson 1 1
Blake Ruffin 2 1	Micah Davey 1 0
Elijahwah Tolbert..... 2 0	Jaylen Jackson..... 1 0

Eastern Illinois In The OVC/NCAA Stats

2023

TEAM

.....	NCAA	CONF
Rushing Offense	117th	9th
Passing Offense	21st	1st
Passing Efficiency	47th	3rd
Total Offense	70th	5th
Scoring Offense	78th	6th
Rushing Defense	24th	2nd
Pass Defense	79th	4th
Pass Efficiency Def.	37th	1st
Total Defense	43rd	2nd
Scoring Defense	12th	1st
Net Punting	23rd	2nd
Punt Returns	99th	6th
Kickoff Returns	119th	9th
Turnover Margin	14th	2nd
Turnovers Gained	1st	1st
Sacks	82nd	5th
Tackles For Loss	67th	7th
Sacks Allowed	119th	9th
3rd Down Conversion	64th	5th
4th Down Conversion	73rd	7th
3rd Down Defense	16th	2nd
Red Zone Offense	106th	9th
Red Zone Defense	24th	2nd
Time of Possession	27th	2nd

INDIVIDUAL (Top 40)

.....	NCAA	CONF
Pierce Holley (Comp. Pct.)	14th	2nd
Pierce Holley (Passing Efficiency).....	27th	2nd
Pierce Holley (Passing Touchdowns)	11th	2nd
Pierce Holley (Passing Yards).....	14th	1st
Pierce Holley (Total Offense)	37th	4th
Justin Thomas (Receiving Touchdowns).....	22nd	2nd
Blake Ruffin (Forced Fumbles).....	22nd	4th
Blake Ruffin (Interceptions).....	34th	6th
Elijawah Tolbert (Forced Fumbles)	22nd	4th
Elijawah Tolbert (Interceptions)	34th	6th
Elijawah Tolbert (Tackles)	35th	2nd
NiJhay Burt (Interceptions).....	34th	6th
Tyris Harvey (Interceptions).....	34th	6th
Anthony Shockey (Interceptions)	34th	6th
Russell Dandy (Fumble Recovery).....	12th	1st
Russell Dandy (Interceptions).....	34th	6th
Russell Dandy (Passes Defended)	19th	1st
Mark Aitken (Interceptions).....	34th	6th
Joel Barrows (Fumble Recovery)	12th	1st
Kaelin Drakeford (Fumble Recovery)	12th	1st
DeAirious Smith (Yds Per Reception).....	35th	2nd
Jacob Horvath (Punting)	40th	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 *
4 - Southeast Missouri
3 - Tennessee State
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 24 of those players are in their fourth year in the program with the added COVID year with an additional amount juniors in their third year in the program.

NCAA PLAYOFF APPEARANCES

School.....# Appearances (Last)

Montana 27 (2022)
Northern Iowa 22 (2021)
Eastern Kentucky 22 (2022)
Furman 19 (2022)
Delaware 18 (2022)
New Hampshire 17 (2022)
EASTERN ILLINOIS 16 (2015)
McNeese State 16 (2015)
Eastern Washington..... 15 (2021)
Villanova 14 (2021)
North Dakota State..... 13 (2022)

Former FCS members now playing at FBS level

* Appalachian State..... 20 (2012)
* Georgia Southern 19 (2012)
James Madison..... 18 (2021)
Sam Houston State..... 13 (2021)

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

Head Coach

2nd year at Eastern Illinois as Head Coach

(9th season at EIU overall)

Eastern Illinois, 1995

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Eastern Illinois

- * Hired as 26th head coach in Eastern Illinois history on January 26, 2022
- * Begins second year as head coach for 2023 season
- * Coached team that featured two All-Americans in 2022
- * Coached team that had 12 All-OVC selections in 2022 (four first-team selections)
- * Team ranked 11th in FCS in fewest penalties in 2022
- * Team ranked 16th in passes intercepted in 2022, 29th in turnovers gained
- * Team ranked fifth in FCS in net punting
- * Served as an assistant coach at Eastern Illinois from 1995-2001 under head coach Bob Spoo
- * Coached special teams during entire tenure working on defensive staff (linebackers and defensive line)
- * Served as defensive coordinator during final season on staff in 2001
- * Helped coach team to four FCS playoff appearances
- * Helped coach team to a pair of conference championships as team played in both the Gateway Football Conference and OVC
- * Defense and Special Teams units regularly ranked in Top 20 in FCS in numerous categories

Prior To Eastern Illinois

- * Head football coach at University of Chicago from 2013-21
- * Team posted a winning record in seven of eight seasons, 2020 year was not played due to COVID
- * Coached an offensive unit that featured the leading rusher in NCAA Division III in 2021 as team posted 8-2 record
- * Team also posted an 8-1 record in 2014 winning UAA Conference title
- * Guided the University of Chicago program through three different conference alignments posting a 39-15 record in conference play
- * Coached three Division III All-Americans
- * Coached nine All-Region selections
- * Coached four Conference Players of the Year
- * Coached 94 All-Conference selections
- * (University of Chicago Record – 51-27)
- * Coached at Dartmouth College from 2005-13, serving as Associate Head Coach since 2007
- * Served as Defensive Coordinator, Special Teams Coordinator, running backs coach and linebackers coach in tenure
- * Team ranked in FCS Top 10 nationally in several categories including punt return average, blocked kicks, individual rushing average, fewest fumbles lost
- * Dartmouth pass defense ranked 14th in the FCS in debut season as defensive coordinator
- * Coached at San Jose State from 2002-04
- * In 2003 was a nominee for Broyles Award, given annually to nation's top assistant coach

Personal

- * Played football at Eastern Illinois for head coach Bob Spoo
- * Bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois in 1995
- * He and wife Sharna (a former EIU softball player) have three children
- * Native of Indianapolis, Indiana

Eastern Illinois				
Year	Overall W-L	Pct.	Conf. W-L	Pct.
2023	2-1	.667	0-0 (BSOVC)	---
2022	2-9	.182	1-4 (OVC)	.200
Totals	3-10	.231	1-4	.200
University of Chicago Record				
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
2013	6-4	.600	1-2 (UAA)	.333
Totals	51-27	.654	39-15	.722
				9 years
Career	55-37	.598	40-19	.678



Kyle Derickson
Assoc HC / ST / WR
(2nd year)
Butler, 2003



Joe Davis
Off Cord. / QBs
(2nd year)
Adrian College, 2002



Clay Bignell
Def Cord. / Safeties
(2nd year)
Montana State, 2011



Andrew Brady
Outside Linebackers
(2nd year)
Wheaton College, 2019



John Cannova
Offensive Line
(2nd year)
North Central College, 2014



Maurice Fleming
Defensive Backs
(1st year)
Iowa, 2016



Collin Geier
Linebackers
(2nd year)
Missouri, 2018



Turner Pugh
Running Backs
(2nd year)
Northern Illinois, 2004



Jordan Walsh
Tight Ends
(1st year)
Iowa, 2015



Fred Wyatt
Defensive Line
(1st year)
Northwestern, 2018

FOOTBALL SUPPORT STAFF & QUALITY CONTROL

Graduate Assistant Coach - Defense Steven Marks
Graduate Assistant Coach - Offense Tim Greene
Quality Control Coach - Offense..... Jared Sutton
Quality Control Coach - Defense..... Ryan DeMarois
Student Assistant Coach Bryce Dewberry
Student Assistant Coach Ryan Shepard
Graduate Assistant - Operations Reid Littleford

Football Athletic Trainer Scott Goehner
Football Equipment Manager Clint Bays
Director of Football Operations David Brubaker
Football Academics Nicole Jackson
Nutrition Danielle D'Alesio
Director of Football Performance..... Derek Stein
Graduate Assistant - Football Strength..... Jon Suppelsa

ADDITIONAL FOOTBALL SUPPORT STAFF

Head Strength Coach Joe Neihaus
Head Athletic Trainer Jim Nave
Assistant Football Athletic Trainer Alexis Fenrick
Assistant Football Athletic Trainer Samantha Reinert
Football GA Athletic Trainer Alyce Borkenhagen
Orthopedic Surgeon Sarah Bush Lincoln Sports Medicine
Team Doctor Dr. Andy Bays
Team Dentist..... Dr. Jennifer Kennedy

EIU ADMINISTRATION

University President..... Dr. Jay Gatrell
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
Assistant AD Marketing / Fan Engagement..... James Baird
Assistant AD Sports Performance / Wellness..... Jim Nave
Ticket Manager Cindy Bayes

EIU LAST TIME IT HAPPENED

Passed for more than 300 yards...

Dom Shoffner, 315, at UT Martin (Nov. 19, 2022)

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 150 yards...

Kendi Young, 160, at Murray State (Sept. 24, 2022)

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 Indiana State (Aug. 31, 2023) - (19 yards)

Nijhay Burt, 1, at Indiana State (Aug. 31, 2023) - (67 yards)

Returned a fumble for touchdown...

Alexandar Oyawale, 1, vs. Lindenwood (Oct. 15, 2022) - (40 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 Indiana State (Aug. 31, 2023) - punt snap out of back of end zone

Blocked a punt...

Collin Tyson, 1, vs. Southeast Missouri (Nov. 12, 2022)

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 Vincent, 1, vs. Tennessee Tech (Oct. 29, 2022)

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

Mark Aitken, 1 vs. Tennessee Tech (Oct. 29, 2022) - Jordan Vincent (65 yards return)

***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) - Nile Hill from Cooper Willman, at McNeese (Nov. 5, 2022)

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...

Colin Bohanek, 15, vs. Tennessee Tech (Oct. 29, 2022)

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

Elijahwah Tolbert, 2, at Murray State (Sept. 24, 2022)

Recovered an onside kick...

Cooper Willman, 1, at Tennessee State (Oct. 22, 2022)

Offensive Lineman Scored a Touchdown

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

2023 EASTERN ILLINOIS TOUCHDOWNS

Otr.....Touchdown.....Opponent

1.....Justin Bowick 35 pass from Pierce Holleyat Indiana State

2.....Tyris Harvey 19 interception returnat Indiana State

2.....Nijhay Burt 67 interception returnat Indiana State

3.....Anthony Manaves 2 pass from Pierce Holley.....at Indiana State

1.....Kevin Daniels 15 pass from Pierce Holleyat Bowling Green

2.....DeAirious Smith 31 pass from Pierce Holley.....at Bowling Green

2.....Justin Thomas 31 pass from Pierce Holley.....Illinois State

4.....Justin Thomas 25 pass from Pierce Holley.....Illinois State

EASTERN ILLINOIS NFL CONNECTION

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS

Jimmy Garoppolo - Quarterback

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Kamu Grugier-Hill - Linebacker

DENVER BRONCOS

Sean Payton - Head Coach

TENNESSEE TITANS

Tim Kelly - Offensive Coordinator

Matt Jones - Offensive Line Assistant

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Adam Gristick - Linebackers Assistant

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Steven Bravo Brown - Special Teams Assistant

ATLANTA FALCONS

Ryan Pace - Senior Personnel Executive

BROADCAST

Tony Romo - CBS Color Analyst with Jim Nantz

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
100.....	Southeast Missouri	Nov. 12, 2022
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		
Oct. 15, 2022 vs. Lindenwood..... L 34-37		
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	Ira Armstead II	DB	6-4	230	Jr	1	South Bend, Ind. (Adams / Univ. of Virginia)
0	Jordan "Jroy" Woods	WR	6-2	180	Fr	HS	Hammond, Ind. (Hammond Central)
1	Justin Bowick	WR	6-5	195	So	1	Powder Springs, Ga. (Pace Academy)
1	Elijahwah Tolbert	LB	6-1	230	Jr	2	Country Club Hills, Ill. (Hillcrest)
2	DeWayne Cooks Jr	WR	6-2	165	Gr	3	Tulsa, Okla. (Booker T. Washington)
2	Mark Aitken	DB	5-9	175	R-Jr	2	Chicago, Ill. (Kenwood Academy / Northern Illinois Univ.)
3	Russell Dandy	DB	6-0	175	Gr	2	Hinesville, Ga. (Liberty County / Butte College)
3	Pierce Holley	QB	6-2	215	R-Jr	TR	Arvada, Colo. (Lakewood / Georgetown Univ.)
4	Blake Ruffin	DB	6-4	205	R-So	1	Louisville, Ky. (Trinity)
4	Justin Thomas	WR	6-1	205	Gr	RS	Wixom, Mich. (Walled Lake Western / Albion College)
5	Anthony Shockey	LB	6-1	230	R-Jr	2	Lombard, Ill. (Glenbard East)
5	Terrance Gipson	ATH	6-0	195	Jr	TR	Kingwood, Texas (Westfield / East Los Angeles College)
6	Joel Barrows	DL	6-3	230	R-Jr	2	Chicago, Ill. (Brooks Prep)
6	Jonah O'Brien	QB	6-4	210	R-Jr	1	Bartlett, Ill. (Bartlett / Colorado State Univ.)
7	Tyris Harvey	DB	5-11	175	Jr	3	Olympia Fields, Ill. (Rich Central)
7	Eli Mirza	WR	5-11	190	Jr	TR	Sacramento, Calif. (Monterey Trail / Sierra College)
8	Juwon Farri	RB	5-9	195	5th	TR	Germantown, Md. (Northwest HS / Monmouth Univ.)
8	Tienne Fridge	DB	6-2	210	Jr	TR	Sacramento, Calif. (Elk Grove / Sacramento City College)
9	Braylon Willis	DL	6-4	245	Sr	1	Lafayette, La. (Lafayette / East Los Angeles College)
9	Aaron Rice	WR	6-5	200	R-Fr	RS	Farmington Hills, Mich. (North Farmington)
11	Anthony Manaves	TE	6-4	230	R-Jr	3	Chicago, Ill. (St. Patrick)
11	Alexandar Oyawale	LB	6-0	215	Sr	1	Murrieta, Calif. (Vista Murrieta / Riverside CC)
12	Tyler Clark	RB	5-10	205	R-So	1	Chicago, Ill. (Phillips)
12	Nick Coates	DB	5-10	180	Jr	2	Louisville, Ky. (Male)
13	Alex Alteus	DL	6-1	240	Gr	TR	Morehead City, NC (West Carteret / Stetson Univ.)
13	Cooper Willman	WR	6-1	210	Jr	3	Sterling, Ill. (Sterling)
14	Adonis Forest Jr	SAF	6-4	215	Jr	TR	Union City, Calif. (Moreau Catholic / Contra Costa College)
14	Blainey Dowling	QB	6-2	195	Fr	HS	Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Mount Carmel)
15	Malik Rainey	DB	5-11	190	R-So	TR	Chicago, Ill. (Bolingbrook / Univ. of Cincinnati)
16	Kevin Conway	QB	6-2	210	R-Fr	RS	New Lenox, Ill. (Providence Catholic / Diamond Football Academy)
19	Phoenix Porter	LB	6-1	220	R-So	1	Fairfield, Ohio (Fairfield)
20	MJ Flowers	RB	6-1	195	R-Fr	RS	Cincinnati, Ohio (Colerain)
21	Jay Pearson	RB	6-0	200	R-Fr	RS	McKees Rocks, Pa. (Sto-Rox Junior-Senior)
22	Kaelin Drakeford	DB	6-4	215	R-So	1	Harrodsburg, Ky. (Mercer County)
23	Kevin Daniels	RB	6-2	230	R-So	TR	Glendale, Ariz. (Glendale / Northern Arizona Univ.)
24	Collin Tyson	DB	6-0	180	R-So	1	Kansas City, Mo. (Platte County R-3)
25	Marcus Edwards	DB	5-11	180	R-So	TR	Bay City Texas (Bay City / Cisco College)
26	Makhi Wilson	SAF	6-0	180	Fr	HS	Bettendorf, Iowa (Pleasant Valley)
27	Zay Gentry	DB	6-0	195	Jr	2	Anna, Texas (Anna)
28	Brandon Guido	DB	5-9	185	R-Jr	2	Naperville, Ill. (Waubonsie Valley)
29	Kendi Young	RB	5-11	195	Jr	2	Calumet City, Ill. (Thornton Fractional North)
30	Diego Oliver	DB	6-0	175	R-Fr	RS	Chicago, Ill. (Kenwood Academy)
31	Chris Williams	DB	6-2	175	R-So	1	Peoria, Ill. (Peoria)
32	Ty Schultz	RB	5-10	195	R-Fr	RS	Lockport, Ill. (Lockport Township)
33	Nile Hill	WR	5-11	190	R-Jr	2	Chicago, Ill. (Marist)
33	Christopher Sharp	CB	5-11	170	Fr	HS	St. Louis, Mo. (DeSmet Jesuit)
34	NiJhay Burt	SAF	5-11	170	So	1	Munhall, Pa. (Steel Valley)
35	Zeke Lewis	RB	6-0	195	R-So	SQ	Decatur, Ill. (Decatur St. Teresa)
36	Lazerick Eatman	WR	5-10	185	Sr	1	Willow Brook, Ill. (Immaculate Conception / College of DuPage)
37	Scottie McMillon	DB	6-0	170	Gr	TR	Bryans Road, Md. (Lackey / Clarion Univ.)
38	Akin Adigun	SAF	6-2	180	Fr	HS	Little Elm, Texas (Lone Star)
39	Elijah Ball	SAF	6-1	220	Gr	1	Indianapolis, Ind. (Ben Davis / Purdue Univ.)
40	Isaiah Richardson	ATH	6-5	205	Fr	HS	Suwanee, Ga. (Collins Hill)
41	Peyton Wilkerson	DL	6-1	240	Fr	HS	Mokena, Ill. (Lincoln-Way Central)
42	Henry Woods Jr.	DB	5-10	175	Jr	2	New Lenox, Ill. (Lincoln-Way Central)
43	William Orth	K	5-10	165	R-So	2	Ames, Iowa (Ames)
44	Terence Simon Jr	DL	6-1	285	Sr	1	Inglewood, Calif. (Cathedral / Cerritos College)
45	Jack Pilson	LB	6-0	230	R-Jr	TR	Mattoon, Ill. (Mattoon / Lehigh Univ.)
46	Trey Shaw III	DB	6-1	190	R-So	1	Nashville, Tenn. (East Nashville Magnet)
47	Shawn Pepp Jr	DB	6-2	190	R-So	RS	Allen, Texas (Liberty / Contra Costa College)
48	Michael Jarosz	LB	6-1	235	R-Sr	2	Wheaton, Ill. (Wheaton North)

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	YR	EXP	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL/JC)
49	Jesse Garza	LB	6-2	235	Jr	TR	Nipomo, Calif. (Nipomo / Allan Hancock College)
50	Luke Wagner	DL	6-4	230	R-So	RS	Washington, Pa. (McGuffey / Santa Barbara City College)
51	Payton Orth	LB	5-11	220	Jr	2	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln-Way East)
52	Jamari Johnson	DL	6-4	250	R-So	1	Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle Institute)
53	Stone Galloway	K	5-11	210	Sr	4	Collinsville, Ill. (Althoff Catholic)
54	Nic DiSanto	OL	6-4	320	Fr	HS	Wyandotte, Mich. (Gabriel Richard)
55	Drew Wilder	OL	6-3	305	R-So	TR	Williamsburg, Va. (Jamestown / Iowa Western CC)
56	Tre'jon Lewis	DL	6-4	285	R-Jr	1	Manor, Texas (Manor / Texas Tech Univ.)
57	Panayiotis Mihalopoulos	OL	6-2	310	Fr	HS	Chicago, Ill. (Loyola Academy)
57	Caden Tellenson	LB	5-11	205	Fr	HS	Redondo Beach, Calif. (Redondo Union)
58	Anthony Imperio	OL	6-4	310	Sr	3	Auburn, Ala. (Auburn)
59	Liam Carr	LB	6-0	190	R-So	TR	Okemos, Mich. (Okemos / Michigan State Univ.)
61	Jonathan Arellano	OL	6-3	305	R-So	RS	Lancaster, Calif. (Bishop Alemany / College of the Canyons)
62	Brennan Anderson	OL	6-4	345	Jr	TR	Dallas Center, Iowa (Dallas Center-Grimes/Iowa Western CC)
63	Noah Howard	OL	6-4	315	Jr	TR	Clinton, Iowa (Clinton / Iowa Central College)
64	Trevon Piggee-Blake	DL	6-1	285	Fr	HS	St. Louis, Mo. (DeSmet Jesuit)
65	Carson Fichtel	OL	6-3	315	R-Fr	RS	Heath, Texas (Rockwall-Heath)
66	Jack Valente	OL/LS	6-4	310	Jr	2	Batavia, Ill. (Batavia)
67	Chad Strickland	OL	6-5	315	Gr	4	Salem, Ala. (Smiths Station)
68	Matthew Allen	OL	6-9	270	Fr	HS	Bourbonnais, Ill. (Bradley-Bourbonnais)
69	Braden Hunter	OL	6-5	280	Fr	HS	Sandwich, Ill. (Aurora Christian)
70	JJ Johnson	OL	6-4	340	R-So	SQ	Westerville, Ohio (Westerville Central)
71	Sebastian Pares	OL	6-6	300	R-Jr	TR	Joliet, Ill. (Wheaton Academy / Univ. of Sioux Falls)
72	Elkhanan Tanelus	OL	6-2	340	Gr	3	Naples, Fla. (Barron Collier)
73	Brody Rankin	OL	6-3	340	R-Fr	RS	Charleston, Ill. (Charleston)
74	Haven Hatfield	OL	6-3	280	R-Fr	RS	Tuscola, Ill. (Tuscola)
75	Matthew Bean	OL	6-6	275	R-So	SQ	Lima, Ohio (Shanwee)
76	Bryce Burnett	OL	6-4	300	R-Fr	RS	Danville, Ill. (Westville)
77	Torris Robinson	OL	6-5	330	Jr	TR	Olive Branch, Miss. (Southaven / Coahoma CC)
78	Max Stineman	OL	6-4	345	Jr	1	Ewa, Haw. (Saint Joseph / Allan Hancock College)
79	Rasheed Anderson	OL	6-5	360	R-Fr	RS	Oak Park, Ill. (Fenwick)
80	Quenton Rodgers	WR	6-2	190	Fr	HS	Mahomet-Seymour, Ill. (Mahomet-Seymour)
81	Jaxson Isaac	TE	6-6	245	R-So	TR	Regina, Saskatchewan (Clearwater Acad. (Fla./College of Dupage)
82	Joe McNab	TE	6-6	245	R-So	SQ	Madison Heights, Mich. (Lamphere)
83	Jake Fieldman	WR	5-11	180	R-Fr	RS	Joliet, Ill. (Joliet Catholic)
84	Eyasu Palmore	TE	6-5	210	Fr	HS	Sandy Spring, Md. (Sherwood)
85	Christian Banks	WR	6-1	210	Fr	HS	Chicago, Ill. (Olympia (Fla.))
86	Jamal Jeffers	WR	5-10	175	Jr	TR	Oklahoma City, Okla. (Putnam City North / Northeastern Oklahoma A&M)
87	Alex Ginnever	TE	6-5	225	R-Fr	RS	Wentzville, Mo. (Holt)
88	DeAirious Smith	WR	5-11	180	Jr	3	Lexington, Ky. (Lexington Christian Academy)
89	Daniel Luoma	TE / K	6-2	240	Jr	2	Porvoo, Finland (Porvoo)
90	Zed Asowata	DL	6-3	250	Gr	TR	Spring, Texas (Cypress Ridge / Midwestern State Univ.)
91	Nicholas Oliveira-Chace	DL	6-3	275	Jr	TR	Cambridge, Mass. (Cambridge Rindge & Latin School / Franklin Pierce Univ.)
92	Colby Smith	DL	6-0	285	Jr	1	Dunnellon, Fla. (Dunnellon, Fla. / Dodge City CC)
93	Jacob Horvath	P	6-1	190	Fr	HS	Bentleigh, Australia
94	Alton Jefferson	DL	6-0	285	Jr	2	Louisville, Ky. (Trinity)
95	Drake Van Hyfte	DL	6-4	265	R-So	1	Annawan, Ill. (Annawan-Wethersfield)
96	Julian Patino	K	5-10	200	R-So	SQ	Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Mount Carmel)
97	Cole Silzer	DL	6-3	250	R-Fr	RS	Lockport, Ill. (Lockport Township)
98	Brett Galetti	DB/LS	6-1	220	R-So	SQ	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln Way East)
99	Jaron Hacha	DL	5-11	305	Jr	2	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln-Way East)
	Jason Jeanty Jr	OL	6-5	285	R-Fr	RS	Miami, Fla. (Washington)
	Will Shumpert	WR	6-6	220	R-Jr	1	St. Louis, Mo. (Belleville West)
	Cody Silzer	DL	6-3	250	R-Fr	RS	Lockport, Ill. (Lockport Township)

EASTERN ILLINOIS FOOTBALL PRONUNCIATIONS

1 - Justin BO-wick
1 - Ee-LIE-juh-wuh Tolbert
2 - Mark ATE-ken
6 - Jo-ELL Barrows
8 - jah-wahn far-ree
8 - tea-in Fridge
11 - Anthony Muh-NAW-vezz

11 - Alex-an-DAR Oh-yuh-WALL-ay
13 - Alex All-tess
22 - KAY-lin Drakeford
26 - muh-KY Wilson
28 - Brandon GWEE-doh
34 - Nye-ZHAY Burt
38 - ACK-in AD-uh-gin

48 - Michael JAIR-ohs
56 - TRAY-zhon Lewis
57 - pahn-ee-otis me-hall-low-poll-us
61 - Johnathan AR-ee-ON-oh
65 - Carson FICK-tul
66 - Jack Vuh-LEN-tay
71 - Sebastian par-rez

72 - El-cannon TAN-uh-lus
78 - Max STINE-mun
84 - ee-AW-soo Palmore
86 - LAZ-er-ick Eatman
87 - Alex Juh-NEVER
88 - Dee-AIR-ee-us Smith
89 - Daniel Loo-OH-muh

90 - Zed AWS-uh-WATT-uh
91 - Nicholas Oh-luh-VAIR-uh Chace
93 - Jacob hor-vath
95 - Drake Van Hefty
98 - Brett Guh-LETTY
99 - Jaron HOTCH-uh

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

38	Akin Adigun.....	SAF	35	Zeke Lewis	RB
2	Mark Aitken.....	DB	89	Daniel Luoma	TE / K
68	Matthew Allen	OL	11	Anthony Manaves.....	TE
13	Alex Alteus.....	DL	37	Scottie McMillon.....	DB
62	Brennan Anderson.....	OL	43	Joe McNab	TE
79	Rasheed Anderson	OL	57	Panayiotis Mihalopoulos.....	OL
61	Jonathan Arellano.....	OL	7	Eli Mirza.....	WR
0	Ira Armstead II	DB	6	Jonah O'Brien.....	QB
90	Zed Asowata.....	DL	91	Nicholas Oliveira-Chace	DL
39	Elijah Ball.....	SAF	30	Diego Oliver.....	DB
85	Christian Banks	WR	51	Payton Orth	LB
6	Joel Barrows.....	DL	82	William Orth	K
75	Matthew Bean.....	OL	11	Alexandar Oyawale	LB
1	Justin Bowick.....	WR	84	Eyasu Palmore	TE
76	Bryce Burnett.....	OL	71	Sebastian Pares	OL
34	Nijhay Burt.....	SAF	96	Julian Patino	K
59	Liam Carr.....	LB	21	Jay Pearson.....	RB
12	Tyler Clark	RB	47	Shawn Pepp Jr.....	DB
12	Nick Coates	DB	64	Trevon Piggee-Blake	DL
16	Kevin Conway.....	QB	45	Jack Pilson	LB
2	DeWayne Cooks Jr.....	WR	19	Phoenix Porter.....	LB
3	Russell Dandy	DB	73	Brody Rankin	OL
23	Kevin Daniels.....	RB	9	Aaron Rice.....	WR
54	Nic DiSanto.....	OL	15	Malik Rainey	DB
14	Blainey Dowling	QB	40	Isaiah Richardson.....	ATH
22	Kaelin Drakeford.....	DB	77	Torris Robinson.....	OL
36	Lazerick Eatman.....	WR	80	Quenton Rodgers	WR
25	Marcus Edwards.....	DB	4	Blake Ruffin	DB
8	Juwon Farri.....	RB	32	Ty Schultz.....	RB
65	Carson Fichtel	OL	33	Christopher Sharp	CB
83	Jake Fieldman	WR	46	Trey Shaw III.....	DB
20	MJ Flowers	RB	5	Anthony Shockey.....	LB
14	Adonis Forest Jr	SAF		Will Shumpert.....	WR
8	Tienne Fridge.....	DB	96	Cody Silzer	DL
98	Brett Galetti.....	DB/LS	97	Cole Silzer	DL
53	Stone Galloway	K	44	Terence Simon Jr.....	DL
49	Jesse Garza	LB	92	Colby Smith	DL
27	Zay Gentry.....	DB	88	DeAirious Smith.....	WR
87	Alex Ginnever	TE	78	Max Stineman.....	OL
5	Terrance Gipson	ATH	67	Chad Strickland	OL
28	Brandon Guido	DB	72	Elkhanan Tanelus	OL
99	Jaron Hacha	DL	57	Caden Tellenson.....	LB
7	Tyris Harvey.....	DB	4	Justin Thomas.....	WR
74	Haven Hatfield.....	OL	1	Elijahwah Tolbert	LB
33	Nile Hill	WR	24	Collin Tyson.....	DB
3	Pierce Holley	QB	66	Jack Valente	OL/LS
93	Jacob Horvath	P	95	Drake Van Hyfte	DL
63	Noah Howard.....	OL	50	Luke Wagner	DL
69	Braden Hunter	OL	55	Drew Wilder	OL
58	Anthony Imperio	OL	41	Peyton Wilkerson.....	DL
81	Jaxson Isaac.....	TE	31	Chris Williams.....	DB
48	Michael Jarosz.....	LB	9	Braylon Willis	DL
	Jason Jeanty Jr	OL	13	Cooper Willman	WR
86	Jamal Jeffers	WR	26	Makhi Wilson	SAF
94	Alton Jefferson.....	DL	42	Henry Woods Jr.	DB
52	Jamari Johnson	DL	0	Jordan "Jroy" Woods	WR
70	JJ Johnson	OL	29	Kendi Young	RB
56	Tre'jon Lewis.....	DL			

MISC. SEASON NOTES & STATS

EIU NCAA FBS TRANSFERS

0- Ira Armstead II (Univ. of Virginia)
2 - Mark Aitken (Northern Illinois Univ.)
5 - Terrance Gipson (SMU)
6 - Jonah O'Brien (Colorado State Univ.)
15 - Malik Rainey (Univ. of Cincinnati)
39 - Elijah Ball (Purdue Univ.)
56 - Tre'jon Lewis (Texas Tech Univ.)

EIU NCAA FCS TRANSFERS

3 - Pierce Holley (Georgetown)
8 - Juwon Farri (Monmouth Univ.)
13 - Alex Alteus (Stetson)
23 - Kevin Daniels (Northern Arizona)
45 - Jack Pilson (Lehigh)

EIU ROSTER BY CLASS

Graduate Student / 5th Year 12
Senior 5
Junior..... 37
Sophomore 26
RS-Freshman 17
Freshman 17

EIU ROSTER BY STATE

Illinois 45
California 8
Texas 8
Missouri 5
Ohio..... 5
Georgia..... 4
Iowa..... 4
Kentucky 4
Michigan 4
Florida..... 3
Indiana..... 3
Pennsylvania 3
Alabama 2
Maryland..... 2
Oklahoma..... 2
Arizona..... 1
Hawai'i..... 1
Louisiana..... 1
Colorado..... 1
Massachusetts 1
Mississippi 1
North Carolina 1
Tennessee 1
Virginia..... 1

Australia..... 1
Canada..... 1
Finland 1

EIU OFFENSE

QUARTERBACK

3 ... Pierce Holley	6-2	215	Grad
6 ... Jonah O'Brien.....	6-4	210	Grad

RUNNING BACK

23 ... Kevin Daniels	6-2	230	R-So
29 ... Kendi Young	5-11	195	Jr
20 ... MJ Flowers	6-1	195	R-Fr

TIGHT END

11 ... Anthony Manaves.....	6-4	230	R-Jr
89 ... Daniel Luoma	6-2	240	Jr

LEFT TACKLE

67 ... Chad Strickland	6-5	315	Grad
61 ... Jonathan Arellano	6-3	305	R-So

LEFT GUARD

71 ... Sebastian Pares	6-6	300	R-Jr
78 ... Max Stineman.....	6-4	345	Jr

CENTER

55 ... Drew Wilder	6-3	305	R-So
65 ... Carson Fichtel.....	6-3	315	R-Fr

RIGHT GUARD

58 ... Anthony Imperio	6-4	310	Grad
71 ... Sebastian Pares	6-6	300	R-Jr

RIGHT TACKLE

66 ... Jack Valente	6-4	310	Jr
54 ... Nic DiSanto	6-5	320	Fr

RECEIVER

1 ... Justin Bowick	6-5	195	So
2 ... DeWayne Cooks	6-2	165	Grad

RECEIVER

4 ... Justin Thomas	6-1	205	Grad
88 ... DeAirious Smith.....	5-11	180	Jr

RECEIVER

7 ... Eli Mirza	5-11	190	Jr
36 ... Lazerick Eatman.....	5-10	185	Sr

EIU COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Chris Wilkerson (Eastern Illinois, 1994) - 2nd year
Career 55-37 (9), **EIU Record** 4-10 (1); **OVC Record** 1-4 (1)

Associate HC/ST/Wide Receivers: Kyle Derickson (2nd year)

Offensive Coordinator/QB's: Joe Davis (2nd year)

Offensive Line: John Cannova (2nd year)

Running Backs: Turner Pugh (2nd year)

Tight Ends: Jordan Walsh (1st year)

Graduate Assistant Offensive Coach: Tim Greene (2nd year)

Defensive Coordinator/Safeties: Clay Bignell (2nd year)

Defensive Backs: Maurice Fleming (1st year)

Defensive Line: Fred Wyatt (1st year)

Linebackers: Collin Geier (2nd year)

Outside Linebackers: Andrew Brady (2nd year)

Graduate Assistant Defesive Coach: Steven Marks (1st year)

Director of Football Ops: David Brubaker (1st year)

Director of Football Performance: Derek Stein (4th year)

Trainer: Scott Goehner (3rd year)

Equipment Manager: Clint Bays (15th year)

Quality Control Staff:

Reid Littleford (Ops), Jared Sutton (QC - Off),

Ryan DeMarois (QC - Def), Jon Suppelsa (QC - Strength),

Ryan Shepard (Student Asst.)

EIU DEFENSE

DEFENSIVE END

91 ... Nicholas Oliveira-Chace	6-3	275	Jr
13 ... Alex Alteus	6-1	240	Grad

NOSE TACKLE

92 ... Colby Smith.....	6-0	285	Jr
99 ... Jaron Hacha	5-11	305	Jr

DEFENSIVE TACKLE

56 ... Tre'jon Lewis	6-4	285	R-Jr
94 ... Alton Jefferson.....	6-0	285	Jr

DEFENSIVE END/LINEBACKER (BUCK)

6 ... Joel Barrows	6-3	230	R-Jr
9 ... Braylon Willis.....	6-4	245	Sr

LINEBACKER

5 ... Anthony Shockey	6-1	230	R-Jr
19 ... Phoenix Porter	6-1	220	R-So

LINEBACKER

1 ... Elijahwah Tolbert	6-1	230	Jr
11 ... Alexandar Oyawale	6-0	215	Sr

CORNERBACK

7 ... Tyris Harvey	5-11	175	Jr
8 ... Tienne Fridge.....	6-2	210	Jr

SAFETY (FOX)

0 ... Ira Armstead	6-4	230	Jr
12 ... Nick Coates	5-10	180	Jr

STRONG SAFETY

4 ... Blake Ruffin.....	6-4	205	R-So
22 ... Kaelin Drakeford.....	6-4	215	R-So

FREE SAFETY

2 ... Mark Aitken.....	5-9	175	R-Jr
34 ... Nilhay Burt.....	5-11	170	So
27 ... Zay Gentry.....	6-0	195	Jr

CORNERBACK

3 ... Russell Dandy.....	6-0	175	Grad
37 ... Scottie McMillon.....	6-0	170	Grad

EIU SPECIALISTS

KICKER

96 ... Julian Patino	5-10	200	R-So
53 ... Stone Galloway	5-11	210	Sr
43 ... Will Orth.....	5-10	165	R-So

KICKOFF

89 ... Daniel Luoma	6-2	240	Jr
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PUNTER

93 ... Jacob Horvath.....	6-1	190	Fr
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HOLDER

93 ... Jacob Horvath.....	6-1	190	Fr
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LONG SNAPPER

98 ... Brett Galetti (Punt)	6-1	220	R-So
66 ... Jack Valente (FG)	6-4	310	Jr

PUNT RETURNS

7 ... Eli Mirza	5-11	190	Jr
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KICK RETURNS

2 ... Mark Aitken.....	5-9	175	R-Jr
27 ... Zay Gentry.....	6-0	195	Jr



GAME 1 - Aug. 31, 2023 **Eastern Illinois 27** **Northern Illinois..... 0**

Terre Haute, Ind.
 Memorial Stadium (4,355)

Scoring	1	2	3	4	Final
Eastern Illinois	6	12	9	0	27
Indiana State.....	0	0	0	0	0

FIRST QUARTER

EIU - Bowick 35 pass from Holley (kick failed) - 10:08

SECOND QUARTER

EIU - Harvey 19 interception return (pass failed) - 0:55
 EIU - Burt 67 interception return (pass failed) - 0:29

THIRD QUARTER

EIU - Safety (punt snap out of end zone) - 3:35
 EIU - Manaves 2 pass from Holley (W. Orth kick) - 3:21

TEAM STATSEIUINST

First Downs.....	17	16
Rushes-Yards.....	30-94	36-101
Passing-Yards.....	244	116
Comp-Att-Int.....	19-31-1	13-26-4
Total Offense.....	338	217
Fumbles-Lost.....	2-0	3-2
Penalties-Yards.....	4-55	3-22
Int Returns-Yards-TD.....	4-103-2	1-35-0
Time of Possession.....	29:49	30:11
Sacks-Yards.....	3-19	1-7

LEADERS

RUSHING (No-Yds-TD)

EIU - Daniels (13-7-0), Mirza (1-27-0)
 INST - Olaes (9-59-0), Allen (5-29-0)

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

EIU - Holley (30-19-1-244-2)
 INST - Screws (24-13-2-116-0), Olaes (2-0-2-0-0-)

RECEIVING (No -Yds -TD)

EIU - Willman (5-53-0), Mirza (4-82-0), Bowick (4-61-1)
 INST - Caton (6-70-0), Van Dyne (3-25-0)

DEFENSE (Tackles - Solo, Assist, TFL)

EIU - Tolbert (7-5-0), Porter (5-2-1), Lewis (4-2-0.5)
 INST - Blackwell (5-6-0.5), Hauser (6-0-0)

RECAP

Eastern Illinois had two pick six touchdowns in the final minute of the first half to set the tone and carry the Panthers to a 27-0 win over Indiana State in the season opener. It was EIU's first win to open a season since the 2017 season and first shutout since the final game of the 2016 campaign. Leading 6-0 late in the final minute of the opening half, Tyris Harvey picked off a pass and returned it 19 yards for a touchdown. Just over 30-seconds later Nijhay Burt picked off a pass and returned it 67 yards for a score to put EIU up 18-0 at the half. The Panthers had offensive touchdowns on Pierce Holley passes to Justin Bowick in the first and Anthony Manaves in the third.



GAME 2 - Sept. 9, 2023 **Eastern Illinois 15** **Bowling Green..... 38**

Bowling Green, Ohio
 Doyt Perry Stadium (12,312)

Scoring	1	2	3	4	Final
Eastern Illinois	6	6	0	3	15
Bowling Green.....	7	14	10	7	38

FIRST QUARTER

BG - Hiliare 10 pass from Bazelak (Anaya kick) - 9:43
 EIU - Daniels 15 pass from Holley (kick failed) - 4:57

SECOND QUARTER

BG - Stewart 1 run (Anaya kick) - 12:10
 BG - Ibrahim 11 pass from Bazelak (Anaya kick) - 7:01
 EIU - D. Smith 31 pass from Holley (pass failed) - 1:31

THIRD QUARTER

BG - Anaya 27 field goal - 3:32
 BG - Fannin 19 pass from Bazelak (Anaya kick) - 1:07

FOURTH QUARTER

EIU - Patino 31 field goal - 10:32
 BG - Stewart 1 rush (Anaya kick) - 8:35)

TEAM STATSEIUBG

First Downs.....	20	25
Rushes-Yards.....	26-75	34-141
Passing-Yards.....	250	368
Comp-Att-Int.....	21-33-1	25-30-0
Total Offense.....	325	509
Fumbles-Lost.....	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards.....	7-51	6-60
Int Returns-Yards-TD.....	0-0-0	1-0-0
Time of Possession.....	29:48	30:12
Sacks-Yards.....	0-0	5-34

LEADERS

RUSHING (No-Yds-TD)

EIU - Daniels (15-78-0), Horvath (1-23-0)
 BG - Stewart (10-51-2), Patterson (7-25-0)

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

EIU - Holley (31-21-1-250-2)
 BG - Bazelak (28-23-0-319-3), Orth (2-2-0-49-0)

RECEIVING (No -Yds -TD)

EIU - D. Smith (4-83-1), Daniels (4-46-1), Bowick (3-27-0)
 BG - Fannin (7-109-1), Keith (6-123-0)

DEFENSE (Tackles - Solo, Assist, TFL)

EIU - Shockey (4-7-1), Tolbert (2-9-1), Aitken (6-2-0)
 BG - Sipp (5-3-1.5), Lorfills (3-3-0)

RECAP

Eastern Illinois was able to match a touchdown scored by Bowling Green on the opening drive as Pierce Holley connected with Kevin Daniels for a 15-yard swing pass. EIU would miss on the extra point and end up chasing points the remainder of the game in a 38-15 loss. BGSU went up 21-6 in the second quarter with EIU able to score on a DeAirious Smith 31-yard strike from Holley. EIU went for two to get within one score but failed trailed 21-12 at the half. The Panthers added a late field goal by walk-on kicker Julian Patino for final points of the afternoon. Anthony Shockey and Elijahah Tolbert led an active defense with each recording 11 tackles.



GAME 3 - Sept. 16, 2023 **#25 Illinois State..... 13** **Eastern Illinois 14**

Charleston, Ill.
 O'Brien Field (6,602)

Scoring	1	2	3	4	Final
Illinois State	0	0	7	6	13
Eastern Illinois	0	7	0	7	14

SECOND QUARTER

EIU - Thomas 31 pass from Holley (Patino kick) - 5:39

THIRD QUARTER

ISU - Wright 3 rush (Wagner kick) - 7:30

FOURTH QUARTER

ISU - Blakemore 12 rush (kick missed) - 4:04
 EIU - Thomas 25 pass from Holley (Patino kick) - 0:30

TEAM STATSEIU ISU

First Downs.....	19	20
Rushes-Yards.....	28-18	30-108
Passing-Yards.....	290	234
Comp-Att-Int.....	36-50-2	20-37-3
Total Offense.....	309	342
Fumbles-Lost.....	2-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards.....	5-50	5-36
Int Returns-Yards-TD.....	3-0-0	2-0-0
Time of Possession.....	35:49	24:11
Sacks-Yards.....	0-0	8-44

LEADERS

RUSHING (No-Yds-TD)

EIU - Daniels (12-30-0), Flowers (3-25-0)
 ISU - Blakemore (11-52-1), Wright (9-34-1)

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

EIU - Holley (49-36-2-291-2)
 ISU - Annexstad (36-20-2-234-0), Sobkowicz (1-0-1-0-0)

RECEIVING (No -Yds -TD)

EIU - Thomas (7-80-2), Mirza (6-46-0), Bowick (6-34-0)
 ISU - Sobkowicz (7-89-0), Grandy (5-72-0)

DEFENSE (Tackles - Solo, Assist, TFL)

EIU - Ruffin (8-2-1), Tolbert (4-2-1), Oliveria-Chace (3-3-1.5)
 ISU - Niekamp (7-4-0), Gaines (7-3-2), Abdullah (5-2-3.5)

RECAP

Eastern Illinois drove the length of the field with 92 seconds remaining and capped a win in the 111th Mid-America Classic with a Pierce Holley to Justin Thomas 25-yard strike with 30-seconds remaining. The extra point by walk-on kicker Julian Patino was good and proved to be the difference as the Panthers won 14-13 over No. 25 Illinois State. Holley passed for 273 yards hooking up twice with Thomas who had seven catches for 80 yards. Blake Ruffin led an active EIU defense forcing a fumble and picking off a pass to end the game, as the Panthers forced four turnovers.

2023 EIU PANTHERS FOOTBALL
EASTERN ILLINOIS Game Results

Date	Opponent	Score	Overall Record	Conf Record	Time	Attend
----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	-----
Aug 31, 2023	at Indiana State	W 27-0	1-0	0-0	2:56	4,355
Sep 9, 2023	at Bowling Green	15-38 L	1-1	0-0	3:07	12,312
Sep 16, 2023	#25 ILLINOIS STATE	W 14-13	2-1	0-0	3:18	6,602

* indicates Big South-OVC Football Association Game

2022 EASTERN ILLINOIS STARTERS

OPPONENT	WR	WR	RT	RG	C	LG	LT	WR	TE	RB	QB
Indiana State	Mirza	Willman	Valente	Imperio	Wilder	Stineman	Strickland	Bowick	Manaves	Daniels	Holley
Bowling Green	Mirza	D. Smith	DiSanto	Pares	Wilder	Stineman	Strickland	Bowick	Manaves	Daniels	Holley
Illinois State	Mirza	Thomas	Valente	Imperio	Wilder	Pares	Strickland	Bowick	Manaves	Daniels	Holley

OPPONENT	DE	NT	DT	DE	LB	LB	LB/SAF	CB	SAF	SAF	CB
Indiana State	Barrows	Smith	T. Lewis	Oliveria-Chace	Tolbert	Shockey	Coates	Dandy	Ruffin	Aitken	Harvey
Bowling Green	Barrows	Smith	T. Lewis	Oliveria-Chace	Tolbert	Shockey	Armstead	Dandy	Ruffin	Aitken	Harvey
Illinois State	Barrows	Simon	Jefferson	Oliveria-Chace	Tolbert	Shockey	Coates	Dandy	Ruffin	Aitken	Harvey



2023-24 Eastern Ill. Football
Overall Team Statistics
All games

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Team Statistics

	EIU	OPP
Scoring	56	51
Points per game	18.7	17.0
Points Off Turnovers	12	3
First Downs	57	61
Rushing	13	23
Passing	40	34
Penalty	4	4
Rushing Yardage	187	357
Yards gained rushing	295	434
Yards lost rushing	108	77
Rushing attempts	83	100
Average per rush	2.3	3.6
Average per game	62.3	119.0
TDs Rushing	0	4
Passing Yardage	785	721
Comp-Att-Int	76-114-4	58-93-7
Average per pass	6.9	7.8
Average per catch	10.3	12.4
Average per game	261.7	240.3
TDs Passing	6	3
Total offense	972	1078
Total plays	197	193
Average per play	4.9	5.6
Average per game	324.0	359.3
Kick returns: #-Yards	9-114	9-181
Punt returns: #-Yards	0-0	6-19
Int returns: #-Yards	7-103	4-35
Kick return average	12.7	20.1
Punt return average	0.0	3.2
Int return average	14.7	8.8
Fumbles-Lost	4-2	4-3
Penalties-Yards	16-156	14-118
Average per game	52.0	39.3
Punts-Yards	15-624	11-484
Average per punt	41.6	44.0
Net punt average	40.3	44.0
Kickoffs-Yards	12-729	12-700
Average per kick	60.8	58.3
Net kick average	39.4	44.3
Time of possession / game	31:49	28:11
3rd-down conversion	14/39	10/35
3rd-down pct	36%	29%
4rd-down conversion	3/9	4/8



2023-24 Eastern Ill. Football
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	EIU	OPP
4rd-down pct	33%	50%
Sacks by-Yards	3-19	14-85
Misc Yards	0	0
Touchdowns scored	8	7
Field goals - attempts	1-1	1-3
On-Side kicks	0-0	0-0
Red-zone scores	(3-5) 60%	(8-10) 80%
Red-zone touchdowns	(2-5) 40%	(7-10) 70%
PAT-attempts	(3-5) 60%	(6-7) 86%
2-point conversion-attempts	(0-3) 0%	(0-0) 0%
Attendance	6602	16667
Games / Avg per game	1/6602	2/8334
Neutral site games	-	0/0

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Eastern Ill.	12	25	9	10	0	56
Opponents	7	14	17	13	0	51



2023-24 Eastern Ill. Football Combined Team Statistics All games

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Team Results

Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
08/31/2023	at Indiana St.	W	27-0	4355
09/09/2023	at Bowling Green	L	15-38	12312
09/16/2023	Illinois St.	W	14-13	6602

Game Records

Record	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
ALL GAMES	2-1	1-0	1-1	0-0
CONFERENCE	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	2-1	1-0	1-1	0-0

Rushing

Player	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Kevin Daniels	3	39	173	8	165	4.2	0	18	55.0
Eli Mirza	3	2	29	0	29	14.5	0	27	9.7
Kendi Young	3	12	32	7	25	2.1	0	7	8.3
MJ Flowers	3	4	25	1	24	6.0	0	12	8.0
Jacob Horvath	3	1	23	0	23	23.0	0	23	7.7
Juwon Farri	3	1	4	0	4	4.0	0	4	1.3
Pierce Holley	3	21	9	90	-81	-3.9	0	5	-27.0
Team	3	3	0	2	-2	-0.7	0	0	-0.7
Total	3	83	295	108	187	2.3	0	27	62.3
Opponents	3	100	434	77	357	3.6	4	26	119.0

Passing

Player	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Pierce Holley	3	138.5	76-111-4	68.5	785	6	38	261.7
Cooper Willman	1	0.0	0-1-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Eli Mirza	3	0.0	0-1-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Team	3	0.0	0-1-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Total	3	134.9	76-114-4	66.7	785	6	38	261.7
Opponents	3	123.1	58-93-7	62.4	721	3	58	240.3

Receiving

Player	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Eli Mirza	3	14	149	10.6	0	38	49.7
Justin Bowick	3	12	128	10.7	1	35	42.7
Kevin Daniels	3	11	65	5.9	1	15	21.7
DeAirious Smith	3	8	126	15.8	1	31	42.0
Justin Thomas	1	7	80	11.4	2	31	80.0
Anthony Manaves	3	7	54	7.7	1	13	18.0
MJ Flowers	3	6	38	6.3	0	11	12.7
Cooper Willman	1	5	53	10.6	0	19	53.0
Lazerick Eatman	3	3	37	12.3	0	22	12.3
Dewayne Cooks Jr	3	1	37	37.0	0	37	12.3
Daniel Luoma	3	1	5	5.0	0	5	1.7
Kendi Young	3	1	13	13.0	0	13	4.3
Total	3	76	785	10.3	6	38	261.7
Opponents	3	58	721	12.4	3	58	240.3

Team Statistics

	EIU	OPP
First Downs	57	61
Rushing	13	23
Passing	40	34
Penalty	4	4
Rushing Yardage	187	357
Rushing attempts	83	100
Average per rush	2.3	3.6
Average per game	62.3	119.0
TDs Rushing	0	4
Passing Yardage	785	721
Comp-Att-Int	76-114-4	58-93-7
Average per pass	6.9	7.8
Average per catch	10.3	12.4
Average per game	261.7	240.3
TDs Passing	6	3
Total offense	972	1078
Average per play	4.9	5.6
Average per game	324.0	359.3
Kick returns: #-Yards	9-114	9-181
Punt returns: #-Yards	0-0	6-19
Int returns: #-Yards	7-103	4-35
Fumbles-Lost	4-2	4-3
Penalties-Yards	16-156	14-118
Punts-Avg	15-41.6	11-44.0
Time of possession / game	31:49	28:11
3rd-down conversion	14/39	10/35
4rd-down conversion	3/9	4/8
PAT-attempts	(3-5) 60%	(6-7) 86%
2-point conversion-attempts	(0-3) 0%	(0-0) 0%

Interceptions

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Anthony Shockey	1	16	16.0	0	16
Mark Aitken	1	0	0.0	0	0
Russell Dandy	1	0	0.0	0	0
Tyris Harvey	1	19	19.0	1	19
Blake Ruffin	1	0	0.0	0	0
Elijahawah Tolbert	1	1	1.0	0	1
Nijhay Burt	1	67	67.0	1	67
Total	7	103	14.7	2	67
Opponents	4	35	8.8	0	35



2023-24 Eastern Ill. Football Combined Team Statistics All games

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Field Goals

Player	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Julian Patino	1-1	100.0	0-0	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	31	0
Opponents	1-3	33.3	0-0	1-1	0-1	0-1	0-0	27	0

Scoring

Player	td	fg	PAT				dxp	saf	pts
			kick	rush	rcv	pass			
Justin Thomas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Anthony Manaves	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Kevin Daniels	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
DeAirious Smith	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Tyris Harvey	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Nijhay Burt	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Justin Bowick	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Julian Patino	-	1-1	2-2	-	-	-	-	-	5
William Orth	-	-	1-3	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	8	1-1	3-5	0	0	0	0	1	56
Opponents	7	1-3	6-7	0	0	0	0	0	51

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Eastern Ill.	12	25	9	10	0	56
Opponents	7	14	17	13	0	51

Punting

Player	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Jacob Horvath	15	624	41.6	57	0	6	5	2	0
Total	15	624	41.6	57	0	6	5	2	0
Opponents	11	484	44.0	71	0	3	5	4	0

Punt Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Total	0	0	0.0	0	0
Opponents	6	19	3.2	0	7

Kick Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Mark Aitken	4	47	11.8	0	19
Lazerick Eatman	3	32	10.7	0	18
Joel Barrows	1	14	14.0	0	14
Eli Mirza	1	21	21.0	0	21
Total	9	114	12.7	0	21
Opponents	9	181	20.1	0	35

All Purpose

Player	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
Kevin Daniels	3	165	65	0	0	0	230	76.7
Eli Mirza	3	29	149	0	21	0	199	66.3
Justin Bowick	3	0	128	0	0	0	128	42.7
DeAirious Smith	3	0	126	0	0	0	126	42.0
Justin Thomas	1	0	80	0	0	0	80	80.0
Lazerick Eatman	3	0	37	0	32	0	69	23.0
Nijhay Burt	3	0	0	0	0	67	67	22.3
MJ Flowers	3	24	38	0	0	0	62	20.7
Anthony Manaves	3	0	54	0	0	0	54	18.0
Cooper Willman	1	0	53	0	0	0	53	53.0
Mark Aitken	3	0	0	0	47	0	47	15.7
Kendi Young	3	25	13	0	0	0	38	12.7
Dewayne Cooks Jr	3	0	37	0	0	0	37	12.3
Jacob Horvath	3	23	0	0	0	0	23	7.7
Tyris Harvey	3	0	0	0	0	19	19	6.3
Anthony Shockey	3	0	0	0	0	16	16	5.3
Joel Barrows	3	0	0	0	14	0	14	4.7
Daniel Luoma	3	0	5	0	0	0	5	1.7
Juwon Farri	3	4	0	0	0	0	4	1.3
Elijawah Tolbert	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.3
Pierce Holley	3	-81	0	0	0	0	-81	-27.0
Total	3	187	785	0	114	103	1189	396.3
Opponents	3	357	721	19	181	35	1313	437.7

Total Offense

Player	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Pierce Holley	3	132	-81	785	704	234.7
Kevin Daniels	3	39	165	0	165	55.0
Eli Mirza	3	3	29	0	29	9.7
Kendi Young	3	12	25	0	25	8.3
MJ Flowers	3	4	24	0	24	8.0
Jacob Horvath	3	1	23	0	23	7.7
Juwon Farri	3	1	4	0	4	1.3
Total	3	197	187	785	972	324.0
Opponents	3	193	357	721	1078	359.3

Team Defense

			Tackles				Sacks	Pass defense			Fumbles	blkd		
##	Player	gp	ua	a	tot	tfl/yds	no-yds	int-yds	brup	qbh	fr-yds	ff	kick	saf
1	Elijawah Tolbert	3	13	15	28	2-6	.	1-1	.	.	.	1	.	.



2023-24 Eastern Ill. Football
Overall Defense Statistics
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Team Defense

			Tackles				Sacks	Pass defense			Fumbles	blkd		
##	Player	gp	ua	a	tot	tfl/yds	no-yds	int-yds	brup	qbh	fr-yds	ff	kick	saf
1	Elijawah Tolbert	3	13	15	28	2-6	.	1-1	.	.	.	1	.	.
4	Blake Ruffin	3	14	4	18	2-11	1-10	1-0	.	.	.	1	.	.
2	Mark Aitken	3	13	5	18	.	.	1-0	1	.	.	.	.	.
5	Anthony Shockey	3	6	9	15	1-4	.	1-16	.	.	.	.	.	.
0	Ira Armstead	3	4	6	10	0.5-2	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
19	Phoenix Porter	3	7	3	10	1-2	1-2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
6	Joel Barrows	3	1	8	9	0.5-1	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.
3	Russell Dandy	3	7	2	9	.	.	1-0	4	.	1-0	.	.	.
91	Nicholas Oliveira-Chace	3	3	6	9	2.5-16	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
22	Kaelin Drakeford	3	6	3	9	1-1	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.
11	Alexandar Oyawale	3	4	4	8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
56	Tre'Jon Lewis	2	5	3	8	0.5-0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
9	Braylon Willis	3	2	5	7	1.5-7	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.
7	Tyris Harvey	3	3	4	7	.	.	1-19	.	.	.	.	.	.
12	Nick Coates	3	1	6	7	1-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
92	Colby Smith	2	2	3	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
99	Jaron Hacha	3	3	1	4	2-8	1-7	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
34	Nijhay Burt	3	4	.	4	.	.	1-67	1	.	.	.	.	.
95	Drake Van Hyfte	3	.	4	4	0.5-1	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
51	Payton Orth	3	2	2	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
44	Terence Simon	3	1	2	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
94	Alton Jefferson	2	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
50	Luke Wagner	3	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
28	Brandon Guido	3	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
27	Zay Gentry	3	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
89	Daniel Luoma	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
15	Malik Rainey	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
45	Jack Pilson	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
39	Elijah Ball	3	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
3	Pierce Holley	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
48	Michael Jarosz	3	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
13	Alex Alteus	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
	Totals	3	109	102	211	16-60	3-19	7-103	6	10	3-0	3	0	1
	Opponents	3	102	90	192	25-119	14-85	4-35	12	10	2-0	3	0	0



2023-24 Eastern Ill. Football
Team Game-by-Game
All games

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		Rushing				Receiving				Passing				Kick Returns				Punt Returns				tot		
Date	Opponent	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	cmp	att	int	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	off
08/31/2023	at Indiana St.	30	94	0	27	19	244	2	38	19	31	1	244	2	38	2	37	0	21	0	0	0	0	338
09/09/2023	at Bowling Green	26	75	0	23	21	250	2	37	21	33	1	250	2	37	6	77	0	19	0	0	0	0	325
09/16/2023	Illinois St.	27	18	0	12	36	291	2	31	36	50	2	291	2	31	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	309
Eastern Ill.		83	187	0	27	76	785	6	38	76	114	4	785	6	38	9	114	0	21	0	0	0	0	972
Opponents		100	357	4	26	58	721	3	58	58	93	7	721	3	58	9	181	0	35	6	19	0	7	1078

Eastern Ill. Averages

Games	Avg/ rush	Avg/ catch	Pass effc	KR avg	PR avg	All purpose avg/game	Total offense avg/game
3	2.3	10.3	134.9	12.7	0.0	396.3	324.0

Date	Opponent	Tackles				Sacks	Fumble	Pass Defense				blkd	PAT attempts				off	
		ua	a	total	tfl-yds	no-yds	ff	fr-yds	int-yds	qbh	brup	kick	kick	rush	rcv	saf	t/o	pts
08/31/2023	at Indiana St.	35	34	69	6.0-22	3-19	2	2-0	4-103	3	1	0	1-2	0	0	1	12	27
09/09/2023	at Bowling Green	34	46	80	4.0-12	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	2	0	0-1	0	0	0	0	15
09/16/2023	Illinois St.	40	22	62	6.0-26	0-0	1	1-0	3-0	7	3	0	2-2	0	0	0	0	14
Eastern Ill.		109	102	211	16.0-60	3-19	3	3-0	7-103	10	6	0	3-5	0	0	1	12	56
Opponents		102	90	192	25.0-119	14-85	3	2-0	4-35	10	12	0	6-7	0	0	0	3	51

		Punting										Field Goals			Kickoffs				
Date	Opponent	no.	yds	avg	long	blkd	tb	fc	50+	i20	md-att	long	blkd	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	
08/31/2023	at Indiana St.	4	170	42.5	57	0	0	3	1	2	0-0	0	0	5	285	57.0	0	0	
09/09/2023	at Bowling Green	3	131	43.7	44	0	0	0	0	0	1-1	31	0	4	260	65.0	2	0	
09/16/2023	Illinois St.	8	323	40.4	52	0	0	3	1	3	0-0	0	0	3	184	61.3	1	0	
Eastern Ill.		15	624	41.6	57	0	0	6	2	5	1-1	31	0	12	729	60.8	3	0	
Opponents		11	484	44.0	71	0	0	3	4	5	1-3	27	0	12	700	58.3	2	1	



2023-24 Eastern Ill. Football
Opponents Game-by-Game
All games

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		Rushing				Receiving				Passing				Kick Returns				Punt Returns				tot			
Date	Opponent	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	cmp	att	int	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	off	
08/31/2023	at Indiana St.	36	101	0	20	13	116	0	32	13-26-4				116	0	32	5	108	0	35	0	0	0	0	217
09/09/2023	at Bowling Green	34	141	2	18	25	368	3	58	25-30-0				368	3	58	2	43	0	23	3	10	0	7	509
09/16/2023	Illinois St.	30	115	2	26	20	237	0	30	20-37-3				237	0	30	2	30	0	20	3	9	0	6	352
Opponents		100	357	4	26	58	721	3	58	58-93-7				721	3	58	9	181	0	35	6	19	0	7	1078
Eastern Ill.		83	187	0	27	76	785	6	38	76-114-4				785	6	38	9	114	0	21	0	0	0	0	972

Opponents Averages

Games	Avg/ rush	Avg/ catch	Pass effic	KR avg	PR avg	All purpose avg/game	Total offense avg/game
3	3.6	12.4	123.1	20.1	3.2	437.7	359.3

Date	Opponent	Tackles				Sacks	Fumble	Pass Defense				blkd	PAT attempts				off	
		ua	a	total	tfl-yds	no-yds	ff	fr-yds	int-yds	qbh	brup	kick	kick	rush	rcv	saf	t/o	pts
08/31/2023	at Indiana St.	26	36	62	5.0-16	1-7	1	1-0	1-35	3	3	0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
09/09/2023	at Bowling Green	27	40	67	9.0-41	5-34	0	0-0	1-0	5	5	0	5-5	0	0	0	3	38
09/16/2023	Illinois St.	49	14	63	11.0-62	8-44	2	1-0	2-0	2	4	0	1-2	0	0	0	0	13
Opponents		102	90	192	25.0-119	14-85	3	2-0	4-35	10	12	0	6-7	0	0	0	3	51
Eastern Ill.		109	102	211	16.0-60	3-19	3	3-0	7-103	10	6	0	3-5	0	0	1	12	56

		Punting										Field Goals			Kickoffs				
Date	Opponent	no.	yds	avg	long	blkd	tb	fc	50+	i20	md-att	long	blkd	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	
08/31/2023	at Indiana St.	3	129	43.0	50	0	0	1	1	2	0-0	0	0	2	125	62.5	0	0	
09/09/2023	at Bowling Green	2	91	45.5	50	0	0	1	1	2	1-1	27	0	7	402	57.4	0	1	
09/16/2023	Illinois St.	6	264	44.0	71	0	0	1	2	1	0-2	0	0	3	173	57.7	2	0	
Opponents		11	484	44.0	71	0	0	3	4	5	1-3	27	0	12	700	58.3	2	1	
Eastern Ill.		15	624	41.6	57	0	0	6	2	5	1-1	31	0	12	729	60.8	3	0	



2023-24 Eastern Ill. Football
By Quarter Statistics
All games

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3rd-Down Conversions

Date	Opponent	Score	Overall	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Overtime
08/31/2023	at Indiana St.	W 27-0	5-12 41.7	2-3 66.7	1-3 33.3	1-2 50.0	1-4 25.0	0-0 0.0
09/09/2023	at Bowling Green	L 15-38	1-10 10.0	1-3 33.3	0-3 0.0	0-2 0.0	0-2 0.0	0-0 0.0
09/16/2023	Illinois St.	W 14-13	8-17 47.1	2-4 50.0	3-5 60.0	2-4 50.0	1-4 25.0	0-0 0.0
Eastern Ill.			14-39 35.9	5-10 50.0	4-11 36.4	3-8 37.5	2-10 20.0	0-0 0.0
Opponents			10-35 28.6	3-9 33.3	3-10 30.0	2-9 22.2	2-7 28.6	0-0 0.0

4th-Down Conversions

Date	Opponent	Score	Overall	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Overtime
08/31/2023	at Indiana St.	W 27-0	0-3 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-1 0.0	0-1 0.0	0-1 0.0	0-0 0.0
09/09/2023	at Bowling Green	L 15-38	3-5 60.0	1-1 100.0	2-2 100.0	0-1 0.0	0-1 0.0	0-0 0.0
09/16/2023	Illinois St.	W 14-13	0-1 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-1 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
Eastern Ill.			3-9 33.3	1-1 100.0	2-4 50.0	0-2 0.0	0-2 0.0	0-0 0.0
Opponents			4-8 50.0	0-0 0.0	1-1 100.0	3-6 50.0	0-1 0.0	0-0 0.0

Time of Possession

Date	Opponent	Score	Overall	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Overtime
08/31/2023	at Indiana St.	W 27-0	29:49	04:08	08:47	08:05	08:49	00:00
09/09/2023	at Bowling Green	L 15-38	29:48	06:31	07:44	07:22	08:11	00:00
09/16/2023	Illinois St.	W 14-13	35:49	08:27	12:35	05:59	08:48	00:00
Eastern Ill.			Total	19:06	29:06	21:26	25:48	00:00
			Avg.	06:22	09:42	07:09	08:36	00:00
Opponents			Total	20:55	20:53	22:09	20:37	00:00
			Avg.	06:58	06:58	07:23	06:52	00:00



2023-24 Eastern Ill. Football
Red-Zone Results
All games

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Eastern Ill. Inside Opponent Red-Zone

Date	Opponent	Score	Times	Times	Total			Rush	Pass	FGs	Failed to score inside RZ					
			In RZ	Scored	Pts	TDs	TDs	TDs	TDs	Made	FGA	Down	Int	Fumb	Half	Game
08/31/2023	at Indiana St.	W 27-0	3	1	7	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
09/09/2023	at Bowling Green	L 15-38	2	2	9	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
09/16/2023	Illinois St.	W 14-13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals 3 of 5 (60.0%)			5	3	16	2	0	2	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0

Opponents Inside Eastern Ill. Red-Zone

Date	Opponent	Score	Times	Times	Total			Rush	Pass	FGs	Failed to score inside RZ					
			In RZ	Scored	Pts	TDs	TDs	TDs	TDs	Made	FGA	Down	Int	Fumb	Half	Game
08/31/2023	Indiana St.	W 27-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
09/09/2023	Bowling Green	L 15-38	6	6	38	5	2	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
09/16/2023	Illinois St.	W 14-13	4	2	13	2	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Totals 8 of 10 (80.0%)			10	8	51	7	4	3	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0