

# EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER FOOTBALL

Contact: Rich Moser • rlmoser@eiu.edu • (217) 508-8317 • www.EIUpanthers.com • @EIU Panthers

## GAME 2





## **COACHES:**

Chris Wilkerson (Easter	rn Illinois, 1995)
EIU Record	3-9 (2nd)
OVC Record	1-4 (2nd)
Career Record	54-36 (11th)
vs. Bowling Green	0-0

## Scot Loeffler (Michigan, 1998)

BGSU Record	13-30 (5th)
MAC Record	9-20 (5th)
Overall Record	Same
vs. Eastern Illinois	0-0

## **SERIES**

1st Meeting Last: N/A

## **RANKINGS**

Eastern Illinois/ /
Bowling Green /
STATS Media/AFCA 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.weiu.net/hitmix/

Play-by-Play	Mike Bradd
Analyst	Dave Kidwell

## TELEVISION FSPN+

LOTIV	
Play-by-Play	David Wilson
Analyst	Bob Gennarelli

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## Panthers Look To Keep Momentum In Week Two

Eastern Illinois at Bowling Green
Doyt Perry Stadium (24,000) • Bowling Green, Ohio
September 9, 2023 • 1 p.m. • TV: ESPN+

## NOTES TO KNOW

- Eastern Illinois opened the season with a 27-0 win at Indiana State on Thursday night marking the first time EIU has opened a season with a win since 2017. The shutout by the defense was the first for the Panthers since the final game of the 2016 season, a 24-0 win at Eastern Kentucky. The season opening shutout was the first by the Panthers since 2003 when EIU opened the season with a 27-0 win over California (Pa.).
- Eastern Illinois defense was on-point in the opener forcing six turnovers with four interceptions and two fumble recoveries. The last time EIU had six or more turnovers in a game was on Nov. 21, 2015 when the Panthers forced seven turnovers in a win over Eastern Kentucky. The last time EIU had four or more interceptions in a game was last season when they picked off four passes in a road win at Murray State.
- Two of Eastern Illinois four interceptions in the game were returned for touchdowns with the two pick six's taking place in the final minute of the first half. Tyris Harvey had a 19-yard interception return for touchdown while NiJhay Burt had a 67-yard interception return for touchdown. It was the second career pick six for Harvey while Burt's touchdown return was the tenth longest interception return for touchdown in program history. The last time EIU had two interceptions returned for touchdown in the same game was Sept. 14, 1985 in a 39-7 win over Indiana State. Derick Wilhelms (35 yards) and Bob Bronaugh (55 yards) both had the scores.
- Linebacker Elijawah Tolbert picked up two weekly awards for his part in EIU's defensive effort. Tolbert was named the STATS Perform FCS National Defensive Player of the Week and the Big South-OVC Football Association Defensive Player of the Week. Tolbert finished the game with 11 tackles including seven solo stops. He was in on two of the Panthers six forced turnovers with one interception and one forced fumble.
- Punter Jacob Horvath was named the Big South-OVC Football Association Freshman of the Week after his collegiate debut. An Australian native, Thursday was not only the first American football game for Horvath but the first he had ever seen in person. His first punt went 57 yards as he finished the day with four punts for a 42.5 yard average and two pinned inside the 20.

Eastern Illinois (1-0)		Bowling Green (0-1)			
Date	Opponent	Score/Time	Date	Opponent	Score/Time
Aug. 31	at Indiana State	W 27-0	Sept. 2	at Liberty	L 24-34
Sept. 9	at Bowling Green	1 pm	Sept. 9	EASTERN ILLINOIS	1 pm
Sept. 16	ILLINOIS STATE	2 pm	Sept. 16	at Michigan	6:30 pm
Sept. 23	McNEESE	2 pm	Sept. 23	• OHIO	2:30 pm
Sept. 30	at Northwestern State	6 pm	Sept. 30	at Georgia Tech	TBA
Oct. 7	• UT MARTIN (HC)	2 pm	Oct. 7	<ul> <li>at Miami (Ohio)</li> </ul>	TBA
Oct. 14	at Southeast Missouri	2 pm	Oct. 14	<ul> <li>at Buffalo</li> </ul>	TBA
Oct. 21	• BRYANT	2 pm	Oct. 21	• AKRON	TBA
Nov. 4	at Lindenwood		Nov. 1	<ul> <li>BALL STATE</li> </ul>	6 pm
		2 pm	Nov. 8	<ul> <li>at Kent State</li> </ul>	6 pm
Nov. 11	• TENNESSEE STATE	12 pm	Nov. 14	<ul> <li>TOLEDO</li> </ul>	6 pm
Nov. 18	<ul> <li>at Robert Morris</li> </ul>	11 am	Nov. 21	<ul> <li>at Western Michigan</li> </ul>	6 pm
• Big South-	OVC Game All Times Co	entral	• MAC Game	All Times Central	_

## STATS FCS MEDIA TOP 25 (WEEK 1)

(WEEK 1)		
Rk.	Team	Record
1.	South Dakota State (55)	1-0
2.	North Dakota State (1)	1-0
3.	Montana State	1-0
4.	William & Mary	1-0
5.	Holy Cross	1-0
6.	Furman	1-0
7.	Idaho	1-0
8.	Samford	1-0
9.	Sacramento State	1-0
10.	Incarnate Word	0-1
11.	New Hampshire	1-0
12.	Weber State	1-0
13.	Montana	1-0
14.	Southeast Missouri	0-1
15.	UC Davis	1-0
16.	Southeastern Louisiana	0-1
17.	North Dakota	1-0
18.	North Carolina Central	1-0
19.	Delaware	1-0
20.	Mercer	1-1
21.	Northern Iowa	0-1
22.	Rhode Island	0-1
23.	Florida A&M	1-0
24.	Southern Illinois	1-0
25.	Youngstown State	1-0

## FCS COACHES TOP 25 (PRESEASON POLL)

	(TRESEASON TOLE)	
Rk.	Team	
1.	South Dakota State (24)	14-1
2.	North Dakota State (1)	12-3
3.	Montana State	12-2
4.	William & Mary	11-2
5.	Holy Cross	12-1
6.	Furman	10-3
7.	Incarnate Word	12-2
8.	Sacramento State	12-1
9.	Samford	11-2
10.	Weber State	10-3
11.	Southeast Missouri	9-3
12.	New Hampshire	9-4
13.	Idaho	7-5
14.	Montana	8-5
15.	Southeastern Louisiana	9-4
16.	Richmond	9-4
17.	UC Davis	6-5
18.	North Dakota	7-5
19.	North Carolina Central	10-2
20.	Northern Iowa	6-5
21.	Delaware	8-5
22.	Mercer	7-4
23.	Rhode Island	7-4
24.	Gardner-Webb	7-6
25.	Florida A&M	9-2

- In his final game of the 2022 season Justin Bowick hauled in six passes for 177 yards including two scores. He opened his 2023 season as the Panthers top target at Indiana State with ten total targets resulting in four catches for 61 yards. He hauled in a 35-yard touchdown from Pierce Holley in the first quarter, his fourth career touchdown grab.
- Pierce Holley made his first start at quarterback for Eastern Illinois on Thursday as the graduate transfer from Georgetown passed for 244 yards with two touchdowns. He was 19-of-30 with his completion percentage ranking 37th in the FCS and pass efficiency rating ranking 24th. Holley is 35th in the FCS in total offense and 23rd in passing yards. He became the first EIU quarterback since Harry Woodbery to win their first career start at EIU (Sept. 29, 2018 vs Tennessee Tech).
- Tyris Harvey and NiJhay Burt picked off passes late in the first half with both returned for touchdowns before the Panthers tacked on a pair of second half interceptions. Anthony Shockey had the third pick of the day for EIU, the second of his Panther career. Elijawah Tolbert had the final interception in the fourth quarter. It was the fourth career interception for Tolbert who led EIU with three picks last year.
- Kevin Daniels carried most of the rushing load for the Panthers offense on Thursday night as the Northern Arizona transfer finished with 57 yards on 13 carries. During the game he went over the 1,300 yard mark for his career (1,283 at NAU). EIU rushed for just 94 yards on the night as the defense provided good field position and short fields for the Panthers to work with.
- Wide receiver Eli Mirza was a versatile weapon for the Panthers offense on Thursday at Indiana State. The junior college transfer was second on the team in rushing yards with 27 on an end around play. He also led the Panthers in receiving yards with 82 including 42 yards after catch on his four receptions. Mirza is currently 39th in the FCS in receiving yards and third in the conference.
- Tight end Daniel Luoma was called into placekicking duties in the opener after returning All-Conference kicker Stone Galloway became unavailable during pregame warm-ups. Luoma had four kickoffs in the game for a 61.2 yards per kick average. A tight end from Finland, Luoma had served as the Panthers kickoff specialist in 2021 averaging 59.2 yards per kick with eight touchbacks.
- Eastern Illinois defense had six turnovers gained in the season opener with four interceptions and two fumble recoveries. EIU is currently tied for first in the FCS in turnovers gained with Furman while the Panthers are third in the FCS in turnover margin. Last season EIU ranked 15th in the FCS in turnovers gained with 20. EIU had six games with multiple turnovers with a high of four in two games against Murray State (four interceptions) and Lindenwood (two interceptions and two fumble recoveries).
- Eastern Illinois defense recorded three sacks in the season opener at Indiana State with Phoenix Porter, Blake Ruffin and Jaron Hacha all getting home to the quarterback. As a team last season EIU recorded 16 sacks with three players tied for the team lead with three each. Joel Barrows was the Panthers top returning sack artist from last season with three sacks for 18 yards.
- Eastern Illinois was forced to go to its two deep at several special teams positions in the season opener as starters at several positions were banged up and missed time on the field. After starting kicker Stone Galloway became unavailable in warm-ups, EIU used back-up kickoff specialist Daniel Luoma while back-up kicker Will Orth kicked extra points twice and handled one pooch kickoff. Later in the game long snapper Jack Valente (also a starter at tackle) was injured calling back-up long snapper Brett Galetti into the game. Also in the game holder Cooper Willman (a starter at wide receiver and punt returner) was hurt calling back-up holder and punter Jacob Horvath into the game, so on the final extra point of the game in the third quarter EIU featured all three back-up players at those positions.
- Eastern Illinois scored on its opening drive at Indiana State as the Panthers went 78 yards and scored on a Pierce Holley to Justin Bowick 35-yard touchdown connection. Last season EIU scored on its opening offensive drive in three of its eleven games. The Panthers scored touchdowns on the opening drive against both Northwestern State and UT Martin with a field goal against Tennessee Tech. In EIU's eight other opening drives last season the Panthers punted five times, had one fumble, one interception and one missed field goal.
- EIU started an experienced offensive line in the game at Indiana State with veterans Chad Strickland, Anthony Imperio, Jack Valente and Max Stineman all starters from last season. Strickland is in his fifth season as a starter at left tackle providing the most experience up front. Junior college transfer Drew Wilder started at center with Jonathan Arellano and Sebastian Pares also seeing extensive playing time in the front rotation.
- EIU was able to keep a number of fresh bodies on the defensive line as ten different players took snaps in the opener at Indiana State. The group combined for 16 tackles with Tre'jon Lewis the leader in the group with six tackles. Jaron Hacha picked up a sack from the defensive tackle spot.

## **2023 Big South-OVC Football Standings**

<u>Team</u>	.CONF	Pct	All Pct.	
Bryant	0-0		0-1 000	
Charleston Souther	n0-0		1-01,00	
Eastern Illinois	0-0		1-01.00	
Gardner-Webb	0-0		0-1 000	
Lindenwood	0-0		1-01.00	
Robert Morris	0-0		0-1 000	
Southeast Missouri	0-0		0-1 000	
Tennessee State	0-0		0-1 000	
Tennessee Tech	0-0		0-1000	
UT Martin	0-0		0-1 000	

## This Week In Big South-OVC Football

Saturday - September 9

Eastern Illinois at Bowling Green - 1 pm
Charleston Southern at Clemson - 1:15 pm
Saint Francis at Robert Morris - 5 pm
Elon at Gardner-Webb - 5 pm
Long Island at Bryant - 5 pm
\* Lindenwood at Southeast Missouri - 6 pm
Missouri State at UT Martin - 6 pm
Tennessee State vs. Arkansas Pine Bluff - 6 pm
Tennessee Tech at New Mexico - 7 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 Elijawah 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)

- While it has been close to 40 years since EIU had two interception returns for touchdowns in the same game, it has been close to 20 years since the Panthers had two defensive scores in the same contest. The last time EIU scored two defensive touchdowns in the same game was Oct. 22, 2005 when the Panthers had three defensive scores against Murray State. Tristan Burge had a pair of fumble recoveries for touchdown while Lucius Seymour returned an interception for a score. The week prior to that, Oct. 15, 2005, EIU also had a fumble and interception returned for touchdown against Eastern Kentucky (Seymour fumble recovery & Chad Cleveland interception).
- Eastern Illinois defense was one of four at the FCS level to post a shutout on the opening weekend of the season as the Panthers are ranked first in the FCS in scoring defense. EIU was joined in the shutout party the opening weekend by Central Connecticut (Northeast), Houston Christian (Southland) and Illinois State (Missouri Valley Football). Last season EIU ranked 82nd in the FCS in scoring defense allowing 31.2 points per game.
- Eastern Illinois defense limited Indiana State to just 4-of-14 on 3rd down conversions in the season opener for a 28.6 percent conversion rate. Last season EIU's defense ranked 100th in the FCS in 3rd down defense allowing opponents to convert at 43 percent for the season. Offensively the Panthers were also efficient in the season opener going 5-of-12 for 41.7 percent conversion rate which ranks 33rd in the FCS. Last season EIU converted at 36 percent on 3rd down which was 80th in the FCS.
- Eastern Illinois was one of the least penalized teams in FCS football last year (2022) as the Panthers ranked 11th in the nation and first in the OVC averaging just 37.7 yards per game in penalty yards. EIU's most penalized game last season was against Illinois State in the Mid-America Classic with eight penalties for 72 yards. The Panthers played back-to-back games against Tennessee Tech and McNeese with just one penalty called against EIU and no penalty yards. In this year's opener at Indiana State, EIU had four penalties for 55 yards.
- 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 54-36 career record. Complete Coach Chris Wilkerson bio available on page 6 of EIU game notes...

## BOWLING GREEN HEAD COACH SCOT LOEFFLER

Scot Loeffler is in his fifth season as the head coach at Bowling Green with the Falcons making progress last season with a 6-7 record and second place finish in the Mid-American Conference East race. Overall he has a 13-30 career record including a 9-20 record in the MAC. A former player at Michigan, Loeffler began his coaching career with the Wolverines and as a player or coach was part of nine bowl games with Michigan including the 1997 National Championship team. He was the offensive coordinator at Boston College for three seasons before landing the BGSU job.

## SCOUTING BOWLING GREEN

Bowling Green finished second in the MAC East Division race last season and returns several key pieces from that team. Darren Anders was named the preseason MAC Defensive Player of the Year and opened the season with six tackles at Liberty last weekend. Joseph Sipp Jr., and Jalen Huskey both recorded double figure tackles to lead the Falcons defense in the season opener. Offensively Bowling Green rushed for 191 yards in the opener with Ta'ron Keith the leading ground gainer with 69 yards. Two quarterbacks saw time under center with Connor Bazelak passing for 71 yards and Camden Orth passing for 66.

## THE SERIES

Eastern Illinois and Bowling Green will be meeting for the first time in program history. The Panthers are 4-9 all-time against Mid-American Conference teams including a loss in last seasons opener at Northern Illinois. The last EIU win over a MAC team was in 2016 at Miami (Ohio). EIU's other three wins over MAC schools are Eastern Michigan (2004), Northern Illinois (1998) and Western Michigan (1996).

## LAST TEN MEETINGS (VS MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE)

Sept. 1, 2022	Northern Illinois 34, EIU 27 at NIU
Sept. 9, 2017	Northern Illinois 38, EIU 10 at NIU
Sept. 10, 2016	EIU 21, Miami 17 at Miami
Sept. 27, 2014	Ohio 34, EIU 19 at Ohio
Sept. 21, 2013	Northern Illinois 43, EIU 39 at NIU
Sept. 8, 2012	Western Michigan 52, EIU 21 at WMU
Aug. 28, 2008	Central Michigan 31, EIU 12 at CMU
Sept. 25, 2004	EIU 31, Eastern Michigan 28 at EMU
Sept. 16, 2000	Toledo 31, EIU 26 at Toledo
Sept. 2, 1999	Central Michigan 33, EIU 17 at CMU

## 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	27	24
Average Points Allowed	0	34
First Downs	17	19
Rushing Yards Per Game	94	191
Rushing Touchdowns	0	1
Passing Yards Per Game	244	137
Passing Touchdowns	2	1
Average Yards Per Game	338	328
Interceptions Thrown	1	5
Fumbles - Lost	2-0	0-0
Turnovers Gained	6	1
Punting Average	42.5	46
Field Goals (ATT/MADE)	0-of-0	1-of-1
3rd Down Conversions	5-of-12 (42%)	2-of-12 (17%)
4th Down Conversions	0-of-3 (0%)	3-of-4 (75%)
Sacks By (Yards)	3 (19)	2 (7)
Penalties (Yards)	4 (55)	9 (86)
Time of Possession (Game)	29:49	27:05

## **Statistical Leaders**

# RUSHING YARDS (Touchdowns) EASTERN ILLINOIS BOWLING GREEN

Ensite the transfer	DO WELLING GREEK	
Kevin Daniels57 (0)	Ta'ron Keith69 (1)	
Eli Mirza27 (0)	Terion Stewart55 (0)	

## PASSING YARDS (Touchdowns)

EASTERN ILLINOIS	BOWLING GREEN		
Pierce Holley244 (2)	Connor Bazelak71 (0)		
	Camden Orth 66 (1)		

## **RECEPTIONS (Yards)**

EASTERN ILLINOIS	BOWLING GREEN
Cooper Willman 5 (53)	Odieu Hiliare4 (59)
Eli Mirza4 (82)	Abdul-Fatai Ibrahim3 (34)
Justin Bowick4 (61)	Austin Osborne 2 (15)

## TACKLES

EASTERN ILLINOIS	BOWLING GREEN	
Elijawah Tolbert11	Joseph Sipp Jr12	
Phoenix Porter7	Jalen Huskey10	
Tre'jon Lewis6	Davon Ferguson8	
Ira Armstead6	Trent Simms8	
Mark Aitken5	Darren Anders6	

## TACKLES FOR LOSS / SACKS

EASTERN ILLINOIS	BOWLING GREEN
Phoenix Porter1	Anthony Hawkins1
Blake Ruffin1	Dierre Kelly1
Jaron Hacha1	Davian Mayo10

# Eastern Illinois In The OVC/NCAA Stats

2023

## TEAM

<u></u>	NCAACONF
Rushing Offense	78th5th
Passing Offense	28th1st
Passing Efficiency	31st1st
Total Offense	52nd 3rd
Scoring Offense	38th 2nd
Rushing Defense	31st 2nd
Pass Defense	18th 2nd
Pass Efficiency Def	1st
Total Defense	14th1st
Scoring Defense	1st1st
Net Punting	15th 2nd
Punt Returns	60th 4th
Kickoff Returns	52nd 5th
Turnover Margin	1st
Turnovers Gained	1st1st
Sacks	15th 2nd
Tackles For Loss	40th 3rd
Sacks Allowed	21st 2nd
3rd Down Conversion	33rd1st
4th Down Conversion	65th 8th
3rd Down Defense	22nd1st
Red Zone Offense	99th7th
Red Zone Defense	1st1st
Time of Possession	56th 4th

## INDIVIDUAL (Top 40)

INDIVIDUAL (Top 40)					
	NCAACONF				
Eli Mirza (All Purpose)	32nd 3rd				
Eli Mirza (Receiving Yds)	39th 3rd				
Cooper Willman (Receptions)	38th 6th				
Pierce Holley (Comp. Pct.)	7th				
Pierce Holley (Passing Efficiency)	24th1st				
Pierce Holley (Passing Yards)	23rd1st				
Pierce Holley (Total Offense)	35th 4th				
Colby Smith (Forced Fumbles)	1st1st				
Elijawah Tolbert (Forced Fumbles)	1st1st				
Elijawah Tolbert (Interceptions)	3rd1st				
Elijawah Tolbert (Tackles)	38th 3rd				
NiJhay Burt (Interceptions)	3rd1st				
NiJhay Burt (Passes Defended)					
Tyris Harvey (Interceptions)	3rd1st				
Anthony Shockey (Interceptions)	3rd1st				
Joel Barrows (Fumble Recovery)	3rd1st				
Russell Dandy (Fumble Recovery)	3rd1st				
Jaron Hacha (Sacks)	22nd1st				
Phoenix Porter (Sacks)	22nd 1st				
Blake Ruffin (Sacks)	22nd 1st				
Jacob Horvath (Punting Avg.)	34th 4th				

## 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 Wullay 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 eligiblity 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 27 (2022)
Northern Iowa22 (2021)
Eastern Kentucky22 (2022)
Furman 19 (2022)
Delaware 18 (2022)
New Hampshire 17 (2022)
EASTERN ILLINOIS 16 (2015)
McNeese State 16 (2015)
Eastern Washington 15 (2021)
Villanova14 (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

Follow on Twitter @EIU FB and @FB Coach Wilk

## **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	Overal	Pct.	Conf.	Pct.	
	W-L		W-L		
2023	1-0	1.00	0-0 (BSOVC)		
2022	2-9	.182	1-4 (OVC)	.200	
Totals	3-9	.250	1-4	.200	
Universi	ity of Chic	cago Rec	ord		
2021	8-2	.800	7-2 (MWC)	.778	
2020	*Seasor	ı cancell	led due to COVID-1	9 pandemi	C
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
Career	54-36	.600	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) lowa, 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 Lir	ncoln Sports Medicine
Team Doctor	Dr. Andy Bays
Team Dentist	Dr. Jennifer Kennedy

## **EIU ADMINISTRATION**

Į	University President	Dr. Jay Gatrell
1	Athletic Director	Tom Michael
[	Deputy Athletic Director	Mark Bonnstetter
1	Associate AD/Development	Mike Murray
1	Associate AD Media & PR	Rich Moser
1	Assistant AD Compliance/SWA	Dr. Tonya Sawyer
1	Assistant AD Academic Services	Cindy Almon
1	Assistant AD Marketing / Fan Engagement	James Baird
1	Assistant AD Sports Performance / Wellness	Jim Nave
-	Ticket Manager	Cindy Bayes

# U LAST TIME IT HAPPENE

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)

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

EIU scored a two-point converion
- (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 Elijawah 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

OtrTouchdown	Opponent
1Justin Bowick 35 pass from Pierce Holley	at Indiana State
2Tyris Harvey 19 interception return	at Indiana State
2NiJhay Burt 67 interception return	at Indiana State
3Anthony Manayes 2 pass from Pierce Holley	at Indiana 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

Oct. 20, 2018 vs. UT Martin ......W 24-21

112...... at UT Martin .......Nov. 23, 2013

106..... at Illinois State......2012

104 ...... vs. Murray State ...... Nov. 8, 2014

210 ..... vs. Murray State .......2012

+ 1982 & 1983 games in FCS playoffs

MOST PLAYS IN A GAME BY BOTH TEAMS:

... Murray State (110), EIU (100)

**MOST PLAYS IN A GAME**:

14...... Eastern Kentucky....... Oct. 26, 2019

20.....Sept. 8, 1979

20..... Cameron (Okla.) ...... Oct. 15, 1977

22..... Austin Peay......Nov. 2, 1996

73..... Kentucky State......Nov. 13, 1982

65..... Sept. 29, 2012

64..... Winona State ...... Nov. 1, 1986

63..... Austin Peay...... Sept. 20, 2014

63..... at Austin Peay ...... Oct. 10, 2013 62..... Aug. 31, 1991

60 ..... at Wayne State ...... Nov. 9, 1968

60 ..... Oakland City ...... Oct. 17, 1925

INDIVIDUAL GAME RECORDS
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		INDIVIDUAL GAME RECORDS
TOTAL OFFENSE:	TOUCHDOWNS:	LONGEST TOUCHDOWN PASS:
Sean Payton 507 vs. Saginaw Valley1985	Steve Turner 6 vs. Mecom Academy 1920	Tony Romo to 98 vs. E. Kentucky2000
Jimmy Garoppolo 501 vs. Austin Peay2012   Sean Payton 498 vs. SW Missouri 1984	Kevin Staple 5 vs. Kentucky State 1982   Erik Lora 4 vs. Tennessee Tech2013	Will Bumphus
Jimmy Garoppolo 476 at UT Martin2013	J.R. Taylor 4 vs. Florida Atlantic2002	LONGEST TOUCHDOWN RUN:
Jimmy Garoppolo 469 vs. Illinois State2013	J.R. Taylor 4 vs. Tennessee-Martin2002	Jimmy Lera96 at Southeast Missouri 2014
Johnathan Brantley458 vs. Indiana State 2018	Kevin Staple4 vs. Grand Valley1983	Poke Cobb 96 vs. Tennessee Tech1976
Jimmy Garoppolo 442 at Southern Illinois2013	James Warring 4 vs. Northern Michigan 1978	
Sean Payton 441 vs. W. Kentucky1984	Scott McGhee 4 vs. Northern Iowa1978	LONGEST INTERCEPTION RETURN FOR TD:
		Roosevelt Williams. 98 vs. Tennessee St2001
RUSHING YARDAGE:	TOUCHDOWN PASSES:	
J.R. Taylor308 vs. Florida Atlantic2002	Jimmy Garoppolo 7 vs. Illinois State2013	LONGEST FUMBLE RETURN FOR TD:
Kevin Staple 283 vs. Grand Valley 1983	Jimmy Garoppolo 6 at UT Martin2013	Bryce Dewberry, 90 at Tennessee Tech2021
Nate Anderson 268 vs. St. Joseph	Jimmy Garoppolo 6 at Northern Illinois2013	LONGEST FIELD COAL.
Nate Anderson 259 vs. SW Missouri 1972 Shepard Little 245 vs. Jacksonville State 2013	Tony Romo	LONGEST FIELD GOAL: Rich Ehmke 58 vs. Northern Iowa1986
I Shepard Little 243 vs. Jacksonville State2013	Others (5 touchdown passes in a game)	Steve Largent 53 vs. SW Missouri 1993
RUSHING ATTEMPTS:	Jimmy Garoppolo (4), Sean Payton (2),	Oteve Largent
Willie High	Tony Romo (1), Steve Turk (1), Harry Woodbery (1)	LONGEST KICKOFF RETURN:
, i	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Chris Watson 100 vs. Northern Iowa1995
PASSING YARDAGE:	SOLO TACKLES:	Marcus Potts 100 vs. Youngstown St 1977
Sean Payton 509 vs. Saginaw Valley1985	Thomas Williams 20 vs. St. Joseph1997	
Sean Payton 486 vs. SW Missouri1984	Nick Ricks18 vs. E. Kentucky2002	LONGEST PUNT:
Jimmy Garoppolo 480 vs. Illinois State2013	Chris Nicholson 17 vs. SW Missouri1983	Bob Babb100 vs. Illinois State1946
Jimmy Garoppolo 477 at UT Martin2013	Tim Lance17 vs. Northern Iowa1987	Kevin Cook 86 vs. Southeast Missouri2010
Sean Payton461 vs. W. Kentucky1984	John Noll	(EIU Division I record)
Jimmy Garoppolo 453 vs. Austin Peay2012	Tim Lance	LONGEST BUNT BETURN.
Jimmy Garoppolo 450 at Northern Illinois 2013	Jeff Mills14 vs. Western Illinois1988 Jeff Mills14 vs. SW Missouri1988	LONGEST PUNT RETURN:  Bob Babb100 vs. Millikin1949
Johnathan Brantley 443 vs. Indiana State 2018	Jen Milis14 vs. SW Missouri1900 i	Erik Lora
PASSING ATTEMPTS:	TOTAL TACKLES:	Jermaine Mobley 80 vs. Tennessee State 2004
Harry Woodbery 68 vs. Tennessee Tech2019	Tim Carver	Frank Cutolo 80 at Central Florida1999
Jimmy Garoppolo 61 at Illionis State2012	Jeff Mills29 vs. SW Missouri1988	Train Guidionnin do at Gorna Train 1900
Jimmy Garoppolo 60 vs. Murray State2012	Thomas Williams 27 vs. St. Joseph1997	MOST BLOCKED KICKS:
Tony Romo 58 vs. Hawai'i2002	Nick Ricks25 vs. E. Kentucky2002	Kourtney Young 3 vs. Illinois State2000
Sean Payton58 vs. Saginaw Valley1985	Tyrone Covington 25 vs. Illinois State1984	Scott Johnson 3 vs. Western Illinois 1988
Sean Payton58 vs. Northern Iowa1984	John Noll23 vs. Northern Iowa1988	Scott Johnson 3 vs. Western Kentucky 1988
	Ray Jeske1978	
PASSES COMPLETED:	TACK! F0 F0D   000	MOST CONSECUTIVE PASSES COMPLETED:
Sean Payton40 vs. Saginaw Valley1985  Jimmy Garoppolo 39 vs. Murray State2012	TACKLES FOR LOSS: Trevor Frericks 7.0 vs. Tennessee State2009	Sean Payton
Jimmy Garoppolo 38 vs. Towson2013	Trevol Frencks 7.0 vs. Tennessee State2009	Torry Romo2001
Johnathan Brantley 37 vs. Indiana State	QUARTERBACK SACKS:	MOST FIELD GOALS:
Jimmy Garoppolo 37 at Illinois State2012	John Jurkovic 6 vs. SW Missouri	Rich Ehmke 5 vs. Winona State1986
, , , ,	Pete Catan 6 vs. Southern Illinois1979	
RECEIVING (CATCHES):		MOST FUMBLE RECOVERIES:
Erik Lora21 vs. Murray State2012	PASSES INTERCEPTED:	Tied by many2
* OVC Record	Bill Glenn5 vs. Northern Illinois1940	Last - Dytarious Johnson at Murray State2019
Erik Lora	MOST DAGS DESERTIONS BY A RUNNING DAGY.	MOST INTERCEPTIONS TUROWAL
Erik Lora	MOST PASS RECEPTIONS BY A RUNNING BACK:  Devin Church 10 at Northern Iowa2015	MOST INTERCEPTIONS THROWN:  Jeff Thorne
Isaiah Hill15 at UT Martin2019 Erik Lora15 vs. SE Missouri2012	DuWayne Pitts 9 vs. SW Missouri1984	Jeli Tilottie
Willie White	Davrayile 1 11.3 5 vs. Ovv Iviissoui1 1904	
Adam Drake 14 at UT Martin		
Erik Lora14 at Northern Illinois2013		
Andre Raymond 14 vs. Hawai'i2002		
Rob Mehalic14 vs. Delaware State1981		
RECEIVING (YARDS):		
Erik Lora269 vs. Murray State2012 Frank Cutolo239 vs. Tennessee St2001	THE PARTY OF THE P	
Calvin Pierce 238 vs. SW Missouri		
Adam Drake 225 at UT Martin		
Chris Wright217 at Tennessee State2010		The state of the s
Frank Cutolo217 vs. Northern Iowa2001		
Erik Lora215 at UT Martin2012		BURNE
Ralph Stewart201 vs. S. Illinois1988		
		A TO SHAPE OF A
ALL-PURPOSE RUSHING:		Annual States
Poke Cobb	Marie and Company of the Company of	The state of the s
Andre Raymond 335 vs. Hawai'i2002		
TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS:		
Scott McGhee 4 vs. Northern Iowa 1978	All eyes are on Rich Ehmke's (#6) record-setting	g 58 yard field goal that gave the No. 8 ranked

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.

Scott McGhee ...... 4 vs. Northern Iowa......1978

James Warring ...... 4 vs. Northern Michigan ..... 1978

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

**RUSHING YARDS BY A QB:** 

	September 9, 2023	• Eastern I	llinois a	at Bowli	ng Green	• Page	e 11 • www.eiupanthers.com • #WeNotMe
#	NAME	POS	НТ	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	Elijawah Tolbert	LB	6-1	230	Jr	2	Country Club Hills, III. (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, III. (Kenwood Academy / Northern Illinois Univ.)
3	Russell Dandy Pierce Holley	DB QB	6-0 6-2	175 215	Gr R-Jr	2 TR	Hinesville, Ga. (Liberty County / Butte College) 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, III. (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, III. (Brooks Prep)
6	Jonah O'Brien	QB	6-4	210	R-Jr	1	Bartlett, III. (Bartlett / Colorado State Univ.)
7	Tyris Harvey	DB	5-11	175	Jr	3	Olympia Fields, III. (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, III. (St. Patrick)
11	Alexandar Oyawale	LB	6-0	215 205	Sr	1 1	Murrieta, Calif. (Vista Murrieta / Riverside CC) Chicago, III. (Phillips)
12 12	Tyler Clark Nick Coates	RB DB	5-10 5-10	180	R-So 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, III. (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, III. (Bolingbrook / Univ. of Cincinnati)
16	Kevin Conway	QB	6-2	210	R-Fr	RS	New Lenox, III. (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 27	Makhi Wilson Zay Gentry	SAF DB	6-0 6-0	180 195	Fr Jr	HS 2	Bettendorf, Iowa (Pleasant Valley) Anna, Texas (Anna)
28	Brandon Guido	DB	5-9	185	R-Jr	2	Naperville, III. (Waubonsie Valley)
29	Kendi Young	RB	5-11	195	Jr	2	Calumet City, III. (Thornton Fractional North)
30	Diego Oliver	DB	6-0	175	R-Fr	RS	Chicago, III. (Kenwood Academy)
31	Chris Williams	DB	6-2	175	R-So	1	Peoria, III. (Peoria)
32	Ty Schultz	RB	5-10	195	R-Fr	RS	Lockport, III. (Lockport Township)
33	Nile Hill	WR	5-11	190	R-Jr	2	Chicago, III. (Marist)
33	Christopher Sharp	СВ	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, III. (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, III. (Lincoln-Way Central)
42 43	Henry Woods Jr.	DB K	5-10	175	Jr P So	2	New Lenox, III. (Lincoln-Way Central)
43	William Orth Terence Simon Jr	DL	5-10 6-1	165 285	R-So Sr	1	Ames, Iowa (Ames) Inglewood, Calif. (Cathedral / Cerritos College)
45	Jack Pilson	LB	6-0	230	R-Jr	TR	Mattoon, III. (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)
			<b>-</b> 1				TTTICATOTI, III. (TTTICATOTI TVOITI)

	<b>September 9, 2023</b> •	Eastern l	Illinois a	at Bowli	ng Green	• Pa	ge 12 • www.eiupanthers.com • #WeNotMe
#	NAME	POS	нт	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, III. (Lincoln-Way East)
52	Jamari Johnson	DL	6-4	250	R-So	1	Chicago, III. (De La Salle Institute)
53	Stone Galloway	K	5-11	210	Sr	4	Collinsville, III. (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, III. (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, III. (Batavia)
67	Chad Strickland	OL	6-5	315	Gr	4	Salem, Ala. (Smiths Station)
68	Matthew Allen	OL	6-9	270	Fr	HS	Bourbonnais, III. (Bradley-Bourbonnais)
69	Braden Hunter	OL	6-5	280	Fr	HS	Sandwich, III. (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, III. (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, III. (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,III. (Westville)
77	Torris Robinson	OL	6-5	330	Jr	TR	Olive Branch, Miss. (Southhaven / 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, III. (Fenwick)
80	Quenton Rodgers	WR	6-2	190	Fr	HS	Mahomet-Seymour, III. (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, III. (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, III. (Olympia (Fla.)
86	Jamal Jeffers	WR	5-10	175	Jr D. Cr	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 C-	2	Porvoo, Finland (Porvoon)
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, III. (Annawan-Wethersfield)
96	Cody Silzer	DL	6-3	250	R-Fr	RS	Lockport, III. (Lockport Township)
97	Cole Silzer	DL	6-3	250	R-Fr	RS	Lockport, III. (Lockport Township)
98	Brett Galetti	DB/LS	6-1	220	R-So	SQ	Frankfort, III. (Lincoln Way East)
99	Jaron Hacha	DL	5-11	305	Jr	2	Frankfort, III. (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)

## **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**

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

# 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
Senior5
Junior
Sophomore
RS-Freshman
Freshman

## **EIU ROSTER BY STATE**

Illinois44
California 8
Texas 8
Missouri5
Ohio5
Georgia4
Iowa4
Kentucky4
Michigan4
Florida3
Indiana3
Pennsylvania
Alabama
Maryland2
Oklahoma2
Arizona1
Hawai'i
Louisiana1
Colorado1
Massachusetts 1
Mississippi 1
North Carolina1
Tennessee 1
Virginia1
Australia1
Canada1

Finland ..... 1

# **EIU OFFENSE**

	01111101			
<b>QUA</b>	RTERBACK			
3	Pierce Holley	6-2	215	Grad
6	Jonah O'Brien	6-4	210	Grad
RUN:	NING BACK			
23	Kevin Daniels	6-2	230	R-So
29	Kendi Young	5-11	195	Jr
20	MJ Flowers	6-1	195	R-Fr
<b>TIGE</b>	HT END			
11	Anthony Manaves	6-4	230	R-Jr
89	Daniel Luoma	6-2	240	Jr
LEFT	<u>Γ TACKLE</u>			
67	Chad Strickland	6-5	315	Grad
77	Torris Robinson	6-5	330	Jr
LEFT	Γ GUARD			
78	Max Stineman	6-4	345	Jr
62	Brennan Anderson	6-4	345	Jr
CEN'	<u>TER</u>			
55	Drew Wilder	6-3	305	R-So
78	Max Stineman	6-4	345	Jr
RIGI	HT GUARD			
58	Anthony Imperio	6-4	310	Grad
	Sebastian Pares			
RIGI	HT TACKLE			
66	Jack Valente	6-4	310	Jr
61	Jonathan Arellano	6-3	305	R-So
REC	EIVER			
1	Justin Bowick	6-5	195	So
2	DeWayne Cooks	6-2	165	Grad
	EIVER			
	Cooper Willman	6-1	210	Jr
	DeAirious Smith			
REC	EIVER			
7	 'Eli Mirza	5-11	190	Jr
	Lazerick Eatman			

## **EIU COACHING STAFF**

**Head Coach:** Chris Wilkerson (Eastern Illinois, 1994) - 2nd year Career 54-36 (9), **EIU Record** 3-9 (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**

FIG DEI FUGE			
<u>DEFENSIVE END</u>			
91 Nicholas Oliveira-Chac	e6-3	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
<b>DEFENSIVE END/LINEBAC</b>	KER (BUC	CK)	
6Joel 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
<u>LINEBACKER</u>			
1 Elijawah Tolbert	6-1	230	Jr
11 Alexandar Oyawale	6-0	215	Sr
<u>CORNERBACK</u>			
7 Tyris Harvey	5-11	175	Jr
8 Tienne Fridge	6-2	210	Jr
SAFETY (FOX)			
12 Nick Coates	5-10	180	Jr
34 NiJhay Burt	5-11	170	So
STRONG SAFETY			
4Blake Ruffin	6-4	205	R-So
22 Kaelin Drakeford	6-4	215	R-So
FREE SAFETY			
2 Mark Aitken	5-9	175	R-Jr
27 Zay Gentry	6-0	195	Jr
<u>CORNERBACK</u>			
3 Russell Dandy	6-0	175	Grad
37 Scottie McMillon	6-0	170	Grad

# **EIU SPECIALISTS**

## KICKER

<u>KICKER</u>			
53 Stone Galloway	5-11	210	Sr
43 Will Orth	5-10	165	R-So
<u>KICKOFF</u>			
53 Stone Galloway	5-11	210	Sr
89 Daniel Luoma	6-2	240	Jr
<u>PUNTER</u>			
93 Jacob Horvath	6-1	190	Fr
<u>HOLDER</u>			
13 Cooper Willman	6-1	210	Jr
93 Jacob Horvarth	6-1	190	Fr
LONG SNAPPER			
66 Jack Valente	6-4	310	Jr
98 Brett Galetti	6-1	220	R-So
PUNT RETURNS			
13 Cooper Willman	6-1	210	Jr
7 Eli Mirza	5-11	190	Jr
KICK RETURNS			
2Mark Aitken	5-9	175	R-Jr



## 

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 STATS EIU INST 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.

## September 9, 2023 • Eastern Illinois at Bowling Green • Page 16 • www.eiupanthers.com • #WeNotMe

# 2023 EIU PANTHERS FOOTBALL EASTERN ILLINOIS Game Results

			Overall	Conf		
Date	Opponent	Score	Record	Record	Time	Attend
Aug 31, 2023 a	it Indiana State	W 27-0	1-0	0-0	2:56	4,355

\* 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
				_							
<b>OPPONENT</b>	DE	NT	DT	DE	LB	LB	LB/SAF	CB	SAF	SAF	CB
Indiana State	Barrows	Smith	T. Lewis O	liveria-Chace	Tolbert	Shockey	Coates	Dandy	Ruffin	Aitken	Harvey



## 2023-24 Eastern III. Football Combined Team Statistics All games

## **Team Results**

Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
08/31/2023	at Indiana St.	W	27-0	4355

## Rushing

Player	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Kevin Daniels	1	13	62	5	57	4.4	0	14	57.0
Eli Mirza	1	1	27	0	27	27.0	0	27	27.0
Kendi Young	1	8	18	2	16	2.0	0	5	16.0
Juwon Farri	1	1	4	0	4	4.0	0	4	4.0
Pierce Holley	1	5	2	12	-10	-2.0	0	2	-10.0
Team	1	2	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Total	1	30	113	19	94	3.1	0	27	94.0
Opponents	1	36	141	40	101	2.8	0	20	101.0

## **Passing**

Player	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Pierce Holley	1	147.0	19-30-1	63.3	244	2	38	244.0
Cooper Willman	1	0.0	0-1-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Total	1	142.2	19-31-1	61.3	244	2	38	244.0
Opponents	1	56.7	13-26-4	50.0	116	0	32	116.0

## Receiving

Player	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Cooper Willman	1	5	53	10.6	0	19	53.0
Justin Bowick	1	4	61	15.3	1	35	61.0
Eli Mirza	1	4	82	20.5	0	38	82.0
Lazerick Eatman	1	2	25	12.5	0	22	25.0
Anthony Manaves	1	1	2	2.0	1	2	2.0
Kevin Daniels	1	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Daniel Luoma	1	1	8	8.0	0	8	8.0
Kendi Young	1	1	13	13.0	0	13	13.0
Total	1	19	244	12.8	2	38	244.0
Opponents	1	13	116	8.9	0	32	116.0

## **Game Records**

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

## **Team Statistics**

	EIU	ОРР
First Downs	17	16
Rushing	5	8
Passing	11	6
Penalty	1	2
Rushing Yardage	94	101
Rushing attempts	30	36
Average per rush	3.1	2.8
Average per game	94.0	101.0
TDs Rushing	0	0
Passing Yardage	244	116
Comp-Att-Int	19-31-1	13-26-4
Average per pass	7.9	4.5
Average per catch	12.8	8.9
Average per game	244.0	116.0
TDs Passing	2	0
Total offense	338	217
Average per play	5.5	3.5
Average per game	338.0	217.0
Kick returns: #-Yards	2-37	5-108
Punt returns: #-Yards	0-0	0-0
Int returns: #-Yards	4-103	1-35
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	3-2
Penalties-Yards	4-55	3-22
Punts-Avg	4-42.5	3-43.0
Time of possession / game	29:49	30:11
3rd-down conversion	5/12	4/14
4rd-down conversion	0/3	1/4
PAT-attempts	(1-2) 50%	(0-0) 0%

## **Interceptions**

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg							
Anthony Shockey	1	16	16.0	0	16							
Tyris Harvey	1	19	19.0	1	19							
Elijawah Tolbert	1	1	1.0	0	1							
NiJhay Burt	1	67	67.0	1	67							
Total	4	103	25.8	2	67							
Opponents	1	35	35.0	0	35							





## 2023-24 Eastern III. Football Combined Team Statistics All games

Page 2/3 as of Sep 01, 2023

**Field Goals** 

Player	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Opponents	0-0	0.0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0

## Scoring

				PA					
Player	td	fg	kick	rush	rcv	pass	dxp	saf	pts
Anthony Manaves	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Tyris Harvey	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
NiJhay Burt	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Justin Bowick	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
William Orth	-	-	1-2	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	4	0-0	1-2	0	0	0	0	1	27
Opponents	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Score by Periods** 

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	ОТ	тот
Eastern III.	6	12	9	0	0	27
Opponents	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Punting** 

Player	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Jacob Horvath	4	170	42.5	57	0	3	2	1	0
Total	4	170	42.5	57	0	3	2	1	0
Opponents	3	129	43.0	50	0	1	2	1	0

**Punt Returns** 

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Total	0	0	0.0	0	0
Opponents	0	0	0.0	0	0

## **Kick Returns**

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Dewayne Cooks Jr	1	16	16.0	0	16
Eli Mirza	1	21	21.0	0	21
Total	2	37	18.5	0	21
Opponents	5	108	21.6	0	35

**All Purpose** 

Player	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
Eli Mirza	1	27	82	0	21	0	130	130.0
NiJhay Burt	1	0	0	0	0	67	67	67.0
Justin Bowick	1	0	61	0	0	0	61	61.0
Kevin Daniels	1	57	0	0	0	0	57	57.0
Cooper Willman	1	0	53	0	0	0	53	53.0
Kendi Young	1	16	13	0	0	0	29	29.0
Lazerick Eatman	1	0	25	0	0	0	25	25.0
Tyris Harvey	1	0	0	0	0	19	19	19.0
Dewayne Cooks Jr	1	0	0	0	16	0	16	16.0
Anthony Shockey	1	0	0	0	0	16	16	16.0
Daniel Luoma	1	0	8	0	0	0	8	8.0
Juwon Farri	1	4	0	0	0	0	4	4.0
Anthony Manaves	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	2.0
Elijawah Tolbert	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1.0
Pierce Holley	1	-10	0	0	0	0	-10	-10.0
Total	1	94	244	0	37	103	478	478.0
Opponents	1	101	116	0	108	35	360	360.0

## **Total Offense**

Player	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Pierce Holley	1	35	-10	244	234	234.0
Kevin Daniels	1	13	57	0	57	57.0
Eli Mirza	1	1	27	0	27	27.0
Kendi Young	1	8	16	0	16	16.0
Juwon Farri	1	1	4	0	4	4.0
Total	1	61	94	244	338	338.0
Opponents	1	62	101	116	217	217.0

## **Team Defense**

				Ta	ckle	5	Sacks	Pass	defense	Fumble	es	blk	d
##	Player	gp	ua	а	tot	tfl/yds	no-yds	int-yds	brup qbh	fr-yds	ff	kick	saf
1	Elijawah Tolbert	1	7	4	11			1-1			1		





## 2023-24 Eastern III. Football Combined Team Statistics All games

				Ta	ckles	;	Sacks	Pass	defen	se	Fumble	es	blk	d
##	Player	gp	ua	а	tot	tfl/yds	no-yds	int-yds	brup	qbh	fr-yds	ff	kick	saf
19	Phoenix Porter	1	5	2	7	1-2	1-2							
56	Tre'Jon Lewis	1	4	2	6	0.5-0								
0	Ira Armstead	1	4	2	6									
2	Mark Aitken	1	2	3	5									
12	Nick Coates	1	1	4	5	1-1								
4	Blake Ruffin	1	3	1	4	1-10	1-10							
6	Joel Barrows	1		3	3						1-0			
11	Alexandar Oyawale	1	2	1	3									
5	Anthony Shockey	1		2	2			1-16						
7	Tyris Harvey	1		2	2			1-19						
22	Kaelin Drakeford	1	2		2	1-1								
9	Braylon Willis	1		2	2	0.5-1				1				
92	Colby Smith	1	1	1	2							1		
28	Brandon Guido	1		1	1									
3	Pierce Holley	1	1		1									
39	Elijah Ball	1		1	1									
89	Daniel Luoma	1	1		1									
3	Russell Dandy	1		1	1						1-0			
99	Jaron Hacha	1	1		1	1-7	1-7							
91	Nicholas Oliveira-Chace	1		1	1					1				
27	Zay Gentry	1	1		1									
50	Luke Wagner	1		1	1									
34	NiJhay Burt	1						1-67	1					
95	Drake Van Hyfte	1								1				
	Totals	1	35	34	69	6-22	3-19	4-103	1	3	2-0	2	0	1
	Opponents	1	26	36	62	5-16	1-7	1-35	3	3	1-0	1	0	0



## 2023-24 Eastern III. Football Overall Team Statistics All games

## **Team Statistics**

	EIU	OPP
Scoring	27	0
Points per game	27.0	0.0
Points Off Turnovers	12	0
First Downs	17	16
Rushing	5	8
Passing	11	6
Penalty	1	2
Rushing Yardage	94	101
Yards gained rushing	113	141
Yards lost rushing	19	40
Rushing attempts	30	36
Average per rush	3.1	2.8
Average per game	94.0	101.0
TDs Rushing	0	0
Passing Yardage	244	116
Comp-Att-Int	19-31-1	13-26-4
Average per pass	7.9	4.5
Average per catch	12.8	8.9
Average per game	244.0	116.0
TDs Passing	2	0
Total offense	338	217
Total plays	61	62
Average per play	5.5	3.5
Average per game	338.0	217.0
Kick returns: #-Yards	2-37	5-108
Punt returns: #-Yards	0-0	0-0
Int returns: #-Yards	4-103	1-35
Kick return average	18.5	21.6
Punt return average	0.0	0.0
Int return average	25.8	35.0
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	3-2
Penalties-Yards	4-55	3-22
Average per game	55.0	22.0
Punts-Yards	4-170	3-129
Average per punt	42.5	43.0
Net punt average	42.5	43.0
Kickoffs-Yards	5-285	2-125
Average per kick	57.0	62.5
Net kick average	35.4	44.0
Time of possession / game	29:49	30:11
3rd-down conversion	5/12	4/14
3rd-down pct	42%	29%
4rd-down conversion	0/3	1/4





## 2023-24 Eastern III. Football Overall Team Statistics All games

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	EIU	OPP
4rd-down pct	0%	25%
Sacks by-Yards	3-19	1-7
Misc Yards	0	0
Touchdowns scored	4	0
Field goals - attempts	0-0	0-0
On-Side kicks	0-0	0-0
Red-zone scores	(1-3) 33%	(0-0) 0%
Red-zone touchdowns	(1-3) 33%	(0-0) 0%
PAT-attempts	(1-2) 50%	(0-0) 0%
2-point conversion-attempts	(0-2) 0%	(0-0) 0%
Attendance	0	4355
Games / Avg per game	0/0	1/4355
Neutral site games	-	0/0

## **Score by Periods**

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	ОТ	ТОТ
Eastern III.	6	12	9	0	0	27
Opponents	0	0	0	0	0	0





## 2023-24 Eastern III. Football Team Game-by-Game All games

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		ı	Rush	ing		R	ecei	/ing	j	Pass	sing			Kic	k Re	turns		Pun etur		tot
Date	Opponent	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	cmp-att-int	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td Ig	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
Eastern III.		30	94	0	27	19	244	2	38	19-31-1	244	2	38	2	37	0 21	0	0	0 0	338
Opponents			101	0	20	13	116	0	32	13-26-4	116	0	32	5	108	0 35	0	0	0 0	217

Eastern III. Averages

Games	Avg/ rush	Avg/ catch	Pass effic	KR avg	PR avg	All purpose avg/game	Total offense avg/game
1	3.1	12.8	142.2	18.5	0.0	478.0	338.0

			Т	ackle	S	Sacks	Fu	ımble	Pass I	Defe	nse	blkd	1	PAT temp	ts		off	
Date	Opponent	ua	а	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
Eastern III.		35	34	69	6.0-22	3-19	2	2-0	4-103	3	1	0	1-2	0	0	1	12	27
Opponents			1-7	1	1-0	1-35	3	3	0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0			

					Punt	ing					Field	d Goa	ls		Kic	koffs		
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
Eastern III.		4	170	42.5	57	0	0	3	1	2	0-0	0	0	5	285	57.0	0	0
Opponents		3	129	43.0	50	0	0	1	1	2	0-0	0	0	2	125	62.5	0	0





## 2023-24 Eastern III. Football Opponents Game-by-Game All games

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			Rush	ing		R	eceiv	/ing	J	Pass	sing			Kic	k Re	turr	าร		Pun etur		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
Opponents	}	36	101	0	20	13	116	0	32	13-26-4	116	0	32	5	108	0 :	35	0	0	0 0	217
Eastern III.	• •		94	0	27	19	244	2	38	19-31-1	244	2	38	2	37	0 2	21	0	0	0 0	338

**Opponents Averages** 

Games	Avg/ rush	Avg/ catch	Pass effic	KR avg	PR avg	All purpose avg/game	Total offense avg/game
1	2.8	8.9	56.7	21.6	0.0	360.0	217.0

			Т	ackle	s	Sacks	Fı	umble	Pass I	Defe	nse	blkd	l	PAT temp	ts		off	
Date	Opponent	ua	а	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
Opponents	}	26	36	62	5.0-16	1-7	1	1-0	1-35	3	3	0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern III.		35	34	69	6.0-22	3-19	2	2-0	4-103	3	1	0	1-2	0	0	1	12	27

					Punt	ing					Field	d Goa	ls		Kid	koffs		
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
Opponents		3	129	43.0	50	0	0	1	1	2	0-0	0	0	2	125	62.5	0	0
Eastern III.	••				57	0	0	3	1	2	0-0	0	0	5	285	57.0	0	0





## 2023-24 Eastern III. Football Red-Zone Results All games

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## **Eastern III. Inside Opponent Red-Zone**

				Times	Times	Total		Rush	Pass	FGs	F	ailed t	0 S	core in	side F	₹Z
Date	Opponent		Score	In RZ	Scored	Pts	TDs	TDs	TDs	Made	FGA	Down	Int	Fumb	Half G	iame
08/31/2023	at Indiana St.	W	27-0	3	1	7	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
	Totals 1 of 3	(3:	3.3%)	3	1	7	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0

## Opponents Inside Eastern III. Red-Zone

			Times	Times	Total		Rush	Pass	FGs	F	ailed to so	ore in	side F	RZ
Date	Opponent	Sco	e In RZ	Scored	Pts	TDs	TDs	TDs	Made	FGA	Down Int	Fumb	Half C	Game
08/31/2023	Indiana St.	W 27-	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
	Totals 0 of	0 (0.0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0





## 2023-24 Eastern III. Football By Quarter Statistics All games

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## **3rd-Down Conversions**

Date	Opponent	Sc	ore	Overall	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Overtime
08/31/2023	at Indiana St.	W 2	7-0 5	-12 41.7	2-3 66.7	1-3 33.3	1-2 50.0	1-4 25.0	0.0
	Eastern III.		5	-12 41.7	2-3 66.7	1-3 33.3	1-2 50.0	1-4 25.0	0.0
	Opponents		4	-14 28.6	1-4 25.0	1-5 20.0	1-3 33.3	1-2 50.0	0.0

## **4th-Down Conversions**

Date	Opponent		Score	Ove	rall	1st	Qtr	2n	d Qtr	3rd	Qtr	4th	Qtr	Overt	ime
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
	Eastern III.			0-3	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-1	0.0	0-1	0.0	0-1	0.0	0-0	0.0
	Opponents			1-4	25.0	0-0	0.0	1-1	100.0	0-2	0.0	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
	Eastern III.		Total	29:49	04:08	08:47	08:05	08:49	00:00
			Avg.	29:49	04:08	08:47	08:05	08:49	00:00
	Opponents		Total	30:11	07:37	09:28	06:55	06:11	00:00
			Avg.	30:11	07:37	09:28	06:55	06:11	00:00

