

EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER FOOTBALL

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GAME 2





COACHES:

Chris Wilkerson (Easter	rn Illinois, 1995)
EIU Record	10-13 (3rd)
OVC Record	5-6 (3rd)
Career Record	61-40 (12th)
vs. Indiana State	1-0

Curt Mallory (Michigan, 1992)

INST Record	20-50 (8th)
MVFC Record	13-35 (8th)
Overall Record	Same
vs. Eastern Illinois	2-2

SERIES

89th meeting ... EIU leads 44-40-4 **Last:** EIU 27, @INST 0 on Aug. 31, 2023

RANKINGS

Eastern Illinois	RV / RV
Indiana State	/
STAT	S Media/AFCA Coaches

RADIO

Panther Radio Network
Hit Mix 88.9 FM, WTIM 870 AM,
WHOW 1520 AM & WMKR 94.3 FM
www.weiu.net/hitmix/

Play-by-Play	Mike Bradd
Analyst	Dave Kidwell

TELEVISION

Big Ten Network	
Play-by-Play	Mike Bradd
Analyst	Dave Kidwell
Sideline	

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#WeNotMe

Panthers Host Sycamores For Home Opener

Eastern Illinois vs. Indiana State O'Brien Field (10,000) • Charleston, Ill. September 7, 2024 • 6 pm • TV: ESPN+

NOTES TO KNOW

- Eastern Illinois hosts Indiana State for the Panthers home opener at O'Brien Field on Saturday night. Both teams enter the game 0-1 after shutout losses to Big Ten teams on the opening weekend (EIU at Illinois / Indiana State at Purdue). EIU went 4-1 at home last season including a win over nationally ranked Illinois State in the home opener. The home opening win snapped a nine season losing streak in season openers and made head coach Chris Wilkerson 1-1 in home openers as EIU's head coach.
- Last season Eastern Illinois allowed 35 sacks on the season for an average of 3.2 sacks per game which ranked 111th in the FCS. With a veteran offensive line returning for the 2024 season, EIU did a good job of protecting the quarterback in the season opener at Big Ten opponent Illinois. EIU allowed just one quarterback sack on the night while surrendering just three total tackles for loss by the Illini defense. EIU returned starters Drew Wilder, Sebastian Pares, Nic DiSanto and Jack Valente up front. The newcomer to the group was junior college transfer Sandro Malicevic. Sixth year offensive lineman Elkhanan Tanelus also saw time up front during the opener. EIU's one sack allowed ranks the Panthers 23rd this season.
- Anthony Shockey was part of an active linebackers corps in the season opener as the team captain finished with nine tackles, all solo stops. The nine solo tackles currently rank Shockey tied for second in the FCS in solo tackles made along with teammate Elijawah Tolbert. It was his second career nine solo tackle game after making nine solo stops in a ten tackle game at Lindenwood last season. Shockey's career high is 11 tackles at Bowling Green last season. Shockey added one pass break-up to his defensive night. The FCS national leader in solo tackles is Indiana State linebacker Garret Ollendieck with 13.
- Elijawah Tolbert was active in the season opener for the second straight year. Last season Tolbert spearheaded an EIU defense that shutout Indiana State as the linebacker earned FCS National Defensive Player of the Week honors. This year Tolbert was a preseason All-American and named to the watch list for the Buck Buchanan Award. To open up his candidacy he finished with a team high 12 tackles including nine solo stops and 1.5 tackles for loss at Illinois. The nine solo stops ties Tolbert for second in the FCS with teammate and fellow linebacker Anthony Shockey. It was the fifth double figure tackle game of Tolbert's career and matched his career high of 12 set last season at Northwestern State.
- Last season EIU led the FCS in turnover margin as the Panthers turned the ball over just ten times for the entire year leading to 17 points scored off turnovers by EIU opponents. In the season opener EIU turned the ball over four times including three times in the opening half which Illinois converted into 17 points. The last time EIU had turned the ball over four or more times in a game was Nov. 19, 2022 at UT Martin.

Eastern Illinois (0-1, 0-0 Conf.) Indiana State

Date	Opponent S	Score/Time
Aug. 29	at Illinois	L 0-45
Sept. 7	INDIANA STATE	6 pm
Sept. 14	at Northwestern	6:30 pm
Sept. 21	at Illinois State	6 pm
Sept. 28	 LINDENWOOD 	2 pm
Oct. 5	• SOUTHEAST MISSOURI	(HC) 2 pm
Oct. 12	 at Tennessee State 	5 pm
Oct. 26	 at UT Martin 	2 pm
Nov. 2	 WESTERN ILLINOIS 	2 pm
Nov. 9	 at Gardner-Webb 	12:30 pm
Nov. 16	 CHARLESTON SOUTHE 	RN 12 pm
Nov. 23	 at Tennessee Tech 	12 pm

Indiana State (0-1, 0-0 Conf.)

Date	Opponent	Score/Time
Aug. 31	at Purdue	L 0-49
Sept. 7	at Eastern Illinois	6 pm
Sept. 14	DAYTON	5 pm
Sept. 28	HOUSTON CHRISTIAN	12 pm
Oct. 5	 at Youngstown State 	1 pm
Oct. 12	 MURRAY STATE 	12 pm
Oct. 19	 at Missouri State 	2 pm
Oct. 26	 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS 	12 pm
Nov. 2	 NORTH DAKOTA 	12 pm
Nov. 9	 at South Dakota State 	1 pm
Nov. 16	 ILLINOIS STATE 	12 pm
Nov. 23	 at Northern Iowa 	1 pm
• Missouri	Valley Football Game All Ti	mes Central

All Times Central

· Big South-OVC Game

STATS FCS MEDIA TOP 25 (Week 1)

	(Week 1)	
Rk.	Team	Record
1.	South Dakota State (36)	0-1
2.	North Dakota State (11)	0-1
3.	Montana State (8)	2-0
4.	Montana (1)	1-0
5.	Villanova	1-0
6.	South Dakota	1-0
7.	Idaho	0-1
8.	Sacramento State	0-1
9.	Central Arkansas	0-1
10.	Southern Illinois	0-1
11.	Chattanooga	0-1
12.	Incarnate Word	1-0
13.	William & Mary	1-0
14.	Richmond	0-1
15.	Furman	0-1
16.	UAlbany	1-0
17.	Western Carolina	0-1
18.	UC Davis	0-1
19.	Lafayette	0-1
20.	Tarleton State	1-1
21.	Illinois State	0-1
22.	Nicholls	0-1
23.	North Dakota	0-1
24.	Weber State	0-1
25.	Youngstown State	0-1
	RV - Eastern Illinois	

FCS COACHES TOP 25 (Week 1)

	(WEEK I)	
Rk.	Team	
1.	South Dakota State (17)	0-1
2.	North Dakota State (5)	0-1
3.	Montana State (4)	2-0
4.	Montana	1-0
5.	Villanova	1-0
6.	South Dakota	1-0
7.	Idaho	0-1
8.	Sacramento State	0-1
9.	Central Arkansas	0-1
10.	Chattanooga	0-1
11.	Incarnate Word	1-0
12.	Southern Illinois	0-1
13.	UAlbany	1-0
14.	William & Mary	1-0
15.	Richmond	0-1
16.	Furman	0-1
17.	Western Carolina	0-1
18.	UC Davis	0-1
19.	Lafayette	0-1
20.	North Dakota	0-1
21.	Tarleton State	1-1
22.	Illinois State	0-1
23.	Youngstown State	0-1
24.	Florida A&M	2-0
25.	Nicholls	0-1
	RV - Eastern Illinois	

- Running back MJ Flowers entered the 2024 season with 972 career rushing yards at Eastern Illinois. He needed 28 yards to become the 31st player in program history to crack the 1,000 yard mark for their career. Flowers rushed for exactly 28 yards in the season opener at Illinois to join the Panthers all-time list. The last to do it was Jaelin Benefield in 2022. EIU has 12 players (22 total times) that have rushed for more than 1,000 yards in a single season.
- Eastern Illinois was shutout in the season opener at Illinois marking the first time since 1997 that EIU has been shutout in the season opening game. That 1997 loss at Western Illinois snapped what had been a streak of 197 straight games without being shutout in a contest. Last Thursday's loss at Illinois snapped a 25-game streak of consecutive games with points on the board. The last time EIU was shutout was on Oct. 23, 2021 at Tennessee State.
- Defensive lineman Drake Van Hyfte led the Panthers in tackles for loss last season with nine for 42 yards including a team high five sacks. In the opener at Illinois Van Hyfte picked up where he left off last season recording five total tackles including one tackle for loss. It marked the fourth straight game Van Hyfte has picked up at least one tackle for loss. He closed the 2023 season at Robert Morris with 3.5 tackles for loss and three sacks.
- DeAirious Smith was the Panthers top receiver in yards per catch last season ranking 24th in the FCS with a 17.6 yards per catch average. In the season opener at Illinois, Smith was the Panthers top target with 11 total passes thrown his direction and a team high five receptions for 63 yards. Smith enters the second game of the season with 893 career receiving yards. He needs 107 yards to become the 35th receiver in school history to pass the 1,000 yard mark for his career. The senior has three career 100-yard receiving days.
- Eastern Illinois had to replace three of four starters in its defensive backfield from last season including two All-Americans in corner Russell Dandy and safety Blake Ruffin. Dandy led the FCS in passes defended with 19. Against Illinois, EIU had a new cast of characters in the defensive backfield coming away with three total pass break-ups. Transfer corner Moses Alexander had one pass break-up to go with six tackles. The other two went to linebacker Anthony Shockey and safety Kaelin Drakeford.
- Eli Mirza led the Panthers in receiving last season pulling in 61 passes for 721 yards. He ranked 22nd in the FCS in receptions for the year hauling in five or more passes in eight of the Panthers eleven games. Mirza had multiple receptions in every game last season and extended that streak to 12 straight games with three catches for 38 yards in the opener at Illinois. His top effort last season was ten catches for 119 yards against UT Martin.
- Jacob Horvath was consistent last season as a freshman for the Panthers finishing the year with a 38.2 yards per punt average. In the season opener at Illinois, Horvath averaged 42.3 yards per punt. He had a long punt of 49 yards and placed two of his seven punts inside the 20-yard line. He currently ranks 36th in the FCS in punting average and second in the Big South OVC. Horvath, a native of Australia, has his parents visiting from abroad for the opening three games of the 2024 season.
- EIU's offense was held in check in the opener at Illinois as the Panthers finished with 196 yards of total offense. It was the first time EIU has been held under 200 yards of total offense since Nov. 12, 2022 when EIU had only 100 yards of total offense in a loss to Southeast Missouri. EIU quarterback Pierce Holley, the preseason Big South OVC Offensive Player of the Year passed for just 147 yards against Illinois. It was the third lowest total of his EIU career with the other two coming last season in games where EIU had a 200-yard rushing effort from MJ Flowers to counter Holley's passing.
- Eastern Illinois looks to bounce back after being shutout in its opener at Illinois. The last two times EIU has been shutout, both in the 2021 season, EIU responded with 10 points against Dayton following a shutout loss at South Carolina and 15 points against Southeast Missouri after a shutout at Tennessee State. EIU's best scoring effort after a shutout has been 33 points in an overtime loss in 2015 to Illinois State after a shutout the previous week at Northwestern. EIU's most recent win after a shutout was in 2003 when the Panthers bounced back from a loss at Eastern Kentucky to beat Murray State 27-17.
- Eastern Illinois had a few players in new positions on Thursday night including a pair of converted quarterbacks seeing time on the field in different positions. Ira Armstead III converted to safety last season after transferring to EIU from Virginia as a quarterback. Armstead moved to the linebacker position this season making the start at Illinois and collecting one tackle for loss. Terrance Gipson is another converted quarterback that transferred to EIU from junior college after limited time under center at SMU to start his career. He saw snaps at wide receiver with no receptions but did have one kickoff return for 15 yards.
- Eastern Illinois was second in the FCS last season in turnovers gained finishing with 25 with 14 interceptions and 11 fumble recoveries. EIU was held without a turnover gained in the opener at Illinois and now has a streak of two consecutive games without forcing a turnover as they did not get one in the final regular season win at Robert Morris in 2023. It marks the first time since the second and third games of the 2019 season (Indiana and Illinois State) that EIU has failed to pick up a turnover over in back-to-back games. The last time EIU has failed to force a turnover in three straight games was the opening three games of the 2018 season when the Panthers faced Arkansas, Illinois State and Indiana State.

2024 Big South-OVC Football Standings

Team	.CONF	Pct	All Pct.
Charleston Souther	n0-0	000	0-1 000
Eastern Illinois	0-0	000	0-1000
Gardner-Webb	0-0	000	0-1000
Lindenwood	0-0	000	0-1000
Southeast Missouri	0-0	000	500
Tennessee State	0-0	000	1-01.000
Tennessee Tech	0-0	000	0-1000
UT Martin	0-0	000	0-1000
Western Illinois	0-0	000	0-1000

This Week In Big South-OVC Football

Friday - September 6 Western Illinois at Indiana
Saturday - September 7
Tennessee Tech at Georgia 1 pm
Tennessee State at North Dakota State 1:30 pm
Charleston Southern at Furman5 pm
Gardner-Webb at James Madison 5 pm
Indiana State at Eastern Illinois6 pm
Central Arkansas at Lindenwood 6 pm
* UT Martin at Southeast Missouri 6 pm

* Big South-OVC Football Association Games

Eastern Illinois Captains

- 2 Mark Aitken
- 3 Pierce Holley
- 5 Anthony Shockey
- 9 Tre'jon Lewis
- 11 Anthony Manaves

Big South-OVC Order Of Finish

- 1. UT Martin (5)
- 2. EASTERN ILLINOIS (2)
- 3. Southeast Misouri (2)
- 4. Tennessee State
- 5. Gardner-Webb
- 6. Charleston Southern
- 7. Tennessee Tech
- 8. Lindenwood
- 9. Western Illinois



Eastern Illinois Returning All-Conference Players

- 3 Pierce Holley (2nd Team QB)
- 4 MJ Flowers (1st Team RB)
- 6 Joel Barrows (2nd Team DL)
- 7 Eli Mirza (1st Team WR)
- 11 Elijawah Tolbert (1st Team LB)
- 71 Sebastian Pares (2nd Team OL)

MILESTONE MOMENTS ... Players nearing EIU milestones in upcoming games

- Quarterback Pierce Holley entered the season with 2,741 career passing yards at Eastern Illinois. He needed 259 yards to become the 16th player in program history to crack the 3,000 yard mark for their career. Holley passed for 147 yards in opener at Illinois and now needs 112 yards to reach the 3,000 yard milestone. The last to do it was Harry Woodbery in 2020. EIU has three players (six total times) that have passed for more than 3,000 yards in a single season.
- Kick returner Mark Aitken entered the season with 755 career kick return yards at Eastern Illinois. He needed 53 kick return yards to move into 10th on the EIU career kick return yards chart. He had one kick return for ten yards at Illinois and now needs 43 yards to crack the top ten. Aitken was a second team All-OVC selection at kick returner in 2022. He has a 21.6 yards per return average for his Panther career with a long return of 80 yards in 2022 against Northwestern State. Frank Cutolo (1998-01) currently sits in 10th place on the EIU charts with 808 career kick return yards.

SEASON LONG NOTES

- Sixth year offensive lineman Elkhanan Tanelus was nominated as EIU's candidate for the William Campbell trophy, presented to the top academic football player in the nation. Tanelus already has both a bachelor's and master's degree from EIU and is pursuing a certificate in business technology this fall.
- Eastern Illinois football will not leave the state of Illinois during its first six games of the 2024 season which includes three road games and three home games at O'Brien Field. EIU's three road contests take place at Illinois, Northwestern and Illinois State which are a combined 355 miles from the Charleston campus. EIU welcomes Indiana State, Lindenwood and Southeast Missouri to O'Brien Field for home games during those six weeks. EIU's first venture outside the Prairie State will be on Oct. 12 at Tennessee State where the Panthers will face TSU at Nissan Stadium, located 337 miles from Charleston. It is EIU's longest stretch of games played in the state to open a season since 1941 when the Panthers played all seven games of the year in the State of Illinois.
- Eastern Illinois jumps back into games with the Power Four FBS Conferences over the next several years including this season with two games against teams in the Big Ten Conference. EIU faced Illinois for the season opener and travels to Northwestern in week three of the season. Other future FBS games on the EIU schedule include a trip to play at Alabama in 2025, Minnesota in 2026, Illinois in 2027 and Kentucky in 2028.
- The Ohio Valley Conference and Big South Conference merged into a joint conference for the sport of football last season playing its inaugural season with ten members. Gardner-Webb was the league's first champion. Conference realignment once again impacted the FCS as Bryant and Robert Morris exited the league after one season and Western Illinois joined for the 2024 season. The Big South-OVC Football Association features OVC member schools Eastern Illinois, Lindenwood, Southeast Missouri, Tennessee State, Tennessee Tech, UT Martin and Western Illinois. The Big South is represented by Charleston Southern and Gardner-Webb. The league announced in July 2024 that the partnership would be extended to 2030 (previous deal was to 2026) with the OVC Conference Office overseeing the day-to-day operation of the league.
- Eastern Illinois once again has several legacy players on its roster this season with offensive lineman Carson Fichtel, linebacker Jared Pilson, defensive lineman Peyton Wilkerson and the newest addition quarterback Jacob Rosenstiel.. 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. Rosenstiel's father Bob was a tight end for the Panthers in the mid-1990s going on to play briefly in the NFL for the Oakland Raiders. All four played at EIU for head coach Bob Spoo crossing over with each other at some point in their Panther careers.
- Eastern Illinois football continues to expand its reach across both the United States and Globe. EIU's roster features players from 20 different states spanning from California and Oregon on the West Coast to Massachusetts in the Northeast, Florida in the Southeast and Virginia on the East Coast. The farthest reaching Panther is punter Jacob Horvath from Australia who is returning for his second year. The last player from Australia prior to Horvath to play for the Panthers was long snapper Bryce Coulson in 2019. In recent year's EIU has had players on its roster from Canada, Finland and The Netherlands.
- Eastern Illinois has announced its team captains for the 2024 season with five players in total selected including two who served as team captains during the 2023 season. Mark Aitken (SAF) and Tre'jon Lewis (DL) are team captains for the a second straight season. They are joined by Pierce Holley (QB), Anthony Manaves (TE) and Anthony Shockey (LB).
- Eastern Illinois football has 15 players on its current roster that already have earned their undergraduate degree as they prepare to play this upcoming season. This year's graduate players are Mark Aitken, Joel Barrows, Kaelin Drakeford, Pierce Holley, Jamal Jeffers, Tre'jon Lewis, Anthony Manaves, Sebastian Pares, Jerrad Price, Anthony Shockey, Joseph Solomon, Jordan Sprycha, Elkhanan Tanelus, Cooper Willman and Kendi Young.

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 ten years as the head coach at the University of Chicago. Wilkerson has a 61-40 (10-12 at EIU, 3rd year) career record. Complete Coach Chris Wilkerson bio available on page 6 of EIU game notes...

INDIANA STATE HEAD COACH CURT MALLORY

Curt Mallory, the son of former long time college coach Bill Mallory, enters his eighth season at Indiana State. Mallory posted a 12-22 record in his first three seasons with the Sycamores opting out of the 2020-21 season with COVID-19 concerns. After going 0-11 in his first season the Sycamores improved to 7-4 in year two as he won MVFC Coach of the Year honors. The team was 5-7 during the 2019 campaign. Mallory played football at Michigan and had assistant coaching stops at Indiana, Illinois and Michigan before taking over in Terre Haute. Mallory holds a 20-50 record entering the EIU contest.

SCOUTING INDIANA STATE

Indiana State was shutout in its season opener at Purdue marking the second straight year the Sycamores have not scored in the opening game. The Sycamores placed the offensive controls in the hands of redshirt freshman quarterback Elijah Owens who passed for 50 yards against the Boilermakers and was the team's top rusher with 47 yards on the ground. The defense was led by returning All-Missouri Valley Football Conference selection Garret Ollendieck who finished with 14 tackles. Maddix Blackwell added ten tackles as the Sycamores had two double figure tacklers to open the season.

THE SERIES

Eastern Illinois and Indiana State meet for the Panthers home opener as two schools separated by only 45 miles have played 88 times first meeting during the 1901 season. EIU holds a 44-40-4 all-time lead in the series after EIU won 27-0 last season to end a three game win streak by the Sycamores. EIU had won the previous six meetings prior to Indiana State's win in 2018. The series history includes one meeting in the 1983 FCS playoffs.

LAST TEN MEETINGS

Aug. 31, 2023	EIU 27, Indiana State 0 at INST
Aug. 28, 2021	Indiana State 26, EIU 21 at INST
Sept. 21, 2019	Indiana State 16, EIU 6 at INST
Sept. 15, 2018	Indiana State 55, EIU 41 at EIU
Aug. 31, 2017	EIU 22, Indiana State 20 at INST
Sept. 12, 2009	EIU 31, Indiana State 0 at INST
Sept. 13, 2008	EIU 31, Indiana State 3 at EIU
Sept. 22, 2007	EIU 54, Indiana State 20 at INST
Sept. 9, 2006	EIU 31, Indiana State 21 at EIU
Sept. 1, 2005	EIU 24, Indiana State 13 at INST

SERIES DID YOU KNOW FACTS...

- 1.) Despite not playing every season, the EIU and Indiana State the series is the most played in ISU football history and the second most played for EIU behind only the Panthers series with Illinois State.
- 2.) One of the series games between EIU and Indiana State was in the 1983 FCS playoffs, one of four times in EIU history that the Panthers have faced a regular season opponent in the playoffs. (1978 Youngstown State / 1983 Indiana State / 2006 Illinois State / 2013 Tennessee State)
- Eastern Illinois will play an eight game conference schedule this season marking the first time since the 2019 season that the Panthers will play that many conference contests. Since the 2019 season, EIU has been limited to the number of conference contests due to COVID-19 in 2020 and conference realignment over the last four years. During its first season as a league the Big South OVC Football Association only scheduled six conference contests due to previous schedule conflicts with members schools. Including Eastern Illinois, five football playing members from the 2019 OVC still remain in the current Big South/OVC Association.

TALE OF THE TAPE





Points Per Game	0	0
Average Points Allowed	45.0	49.0
First Downs	9	11
Rushing Yards Per Game	49.0	104
Rushing Touchdowns	0	0
Passing Yards Per Game	147.0	50
Passing Touchdowns	0	0
Average Yards Per Game	196.0	154.0
Interceptions Thrown	2	0
Fumbles - Lost	2-2	0-0
Turnovers Gained	0	1
Punting Average	42.3	37.4
Field Goals (ATT/MADE)	0-of-0	0-of-0
3rd Down Conversions	4-of-13 (31%)	1-of-12 (8%)
4th Down Conversions	0-of-1 (0%)	0-of-0 (0%)
Sacks By (Yards)	0 (0)	2 (8)
Penalties (Yards)	6 (50)	2 (16)
Time of Possession (Game)	23:59	30:29

Statistical Leaders

RUSHING YARDS (Touchdowns)

INDIANA CTATE

EASTERN ILLINOIS	INDIANA STATE	
MJ Flowers28 (0)	Elijah Owens47 (0)	
Jav Pearson20 (0)	Plez Lawrence27 (0)	

EACTEDN II I INOIC

PASSING YARDS (Touchdowns)

EASTERN ILLINOIS	INDIANA STATE
Pierce Holley147 (0)	Elijah Owens50 (0)

RECEPTIONS (Yards)

EASTERN ILLINOIS		INDIANA STATE		
DeAirious Smith	5 (63)	Rashad Rochelle	3 (26)	
Eli Mirza	3 (38)	Matt Ross	1 (23)	
CI Nelson	2 (21)	Zavion Taylor	1(1)	

TACKLES

EASTERN ILLINOIS	INDIANA STATE
Elijawah Tolbert12	Garret Ollendieck14
Anthony Shockey9	Maddix Blackwell10
Moses Alexander6	Tony Roberts6
Drake Van Hyfte5	Jorge Valdes5
Kaelin Drakeford4	Geoffrey Brown5

TACKLES FOR LOSS / SACKS

EASTERN ILLINOIS	INDIANA STATE
Elijawah Tolbert 1.50	Geoffrey Brown1
Drake Van Hyfte10	Dallas Westhoff1
Ira Armstead III 1 0	Garret Ollendieck10

Eastern Illinois In The OVC/NCAA Stats

2024

TEAM

<u></u>	NCAACONF
Rushing Offense	95th 7th
Passing Offense	66th 7th
Passing Efficiency	101st 8th
Total Offense	95th 7th
Scoring Offense	NR
Rushing Defense	86th 6th
Pass Defense	59th 6th
Pass Efficiency Def	88th 7th
Total Defense	77th 7th
Scoring Defense	86th 7th
Net Punting	59th 5th
Punt Returns	46th 4th
Kickoff Returns	88th 6th
Turnover Margin	111th 8th
Turnovers Gained	NR
Sacks	NR
Tackles For Loss	34th 4th
Sacks Allowed	23rd 2nd
3rd Down Conversion	66th 6th
4th Down Conversion	60th 5th
3rd Down Defense	57th 4th
Red Zone Offense	94th7th
Red Zone Defense	52nd5th
Time of Possession	97th 7th

INDIVIDUAL (Top 50)			
	NCAACON		
Moses Alexander (Pass Defended)	38th 4th		
Kaelin Drakeford (Pass Defended)	38th 4th		
Anthony Shockey (Pass Defended) Anthony Shockey (Solo Tackles)			
Elijawah Tolbert (Solo Tackles) Elijawah Tolbert (Tackles for Loss) Elijawah Tolbert (Total Tackles)	43rd 5tl		
Pierce Holley (Passing Yards)	50th 7th		
Jacob Horvath (Punting)	36th 2nd		

DeAirious Smith (Receptions)......36th......6th

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 alltime 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 Gardner-Webb
- 1 Tennessee Tech
- 1 Western Kentucky *
- 1 Austin Peay *
- * indicates team no longer in the OVC

2023 WEEKLY AWARDS

Week 1 - Elijawah Tolbert (Defense) *

Week 1 - Jacob Horvarth (Freshman)

Week 3 - MJ Flowers (Freshman)

Week 4 - MJ Flowers (Freshman) *

Week 4 - Stone Galloway (Special)

Week 5 - Blake Ruffin (Defense)

Week 5 - MJ Flowers (Freshman)

Week 6 - Pierce Holley (Offense)

Week 8 - Pierce Holley (Offense)

Week 11 - MJ Flowers (Offense)

Week 11 - Jacob Horvarth (Specialist)

Week 11 - MJ Flowers (Freshman)

Indicates National Player of the Week

NCAA PLAYOFF APPEARANCES

Former FCS members now playing at FBS level

	* Appalachian State	20	(2012)
	* Georgia Southern	19	(2012)
:	# James Madison	18	(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
3rd year at Eastern Illinois as Head Coach
(10th season at EIU overall)
Eastern Illinois, 1995

Eastern	<u>Illinois</u>		
Year	Overall	Conf.	
2022	2-9	1-4 (OVC)	
2023	8-3	4-2 (OVC)	No. 24
2024	0-1	0-0 (OVC)	
EIU	10-13	5-6	
<u>Universi</u>	ty of Chic	ago Record	
2021	8-2	7-2 (MWC)	
2020	*Season	cancelled COVII	D-19
2019	6-3	6-1 (MWC)	
2018	7-3	7-1 (MWC)	
2017	6-4	6-2 (MWC)	
2016	4-6	4-4 (SAA)	
2015	6-4	5-3 (SAA)	
2014	8-1	3-0 (UAA)	UAA title
2013	6-4	1-2 (UAA)	
Totals	51-27	39-15	9 years
Career	61-40	44-21	

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Eastern Illinois

- * Hired as 26th head coach in EIU history on January 26, 2022
- * Begins third year as head coach for 2024 season
- * Sixth in voting for Eddie Robinson FCS Coach of the Year Award
- * Named Big South-OVC Football Coach of the Year in 2023
- * Coached team from 2 wins in 2022 to 8 wins in 2023 (No. 24 FCS Coaches Poll)
- * Coached team players that earned Big South-OVC honors in 2023 (six first team selections)
- * Coached four players that earned a total of seven All-America honors in 2023
- * Coached MJ Flowers 2023 Jerry Rice Award runner-up and Big South-OVC Freshman of the Year
- * Team ranked second in the FCS in turnovers gained in 2023
- * Team ranked 18th in FCS in scoring defense in 2023
- * Team ranked 25th in FCS in passing offense in 2023
- * 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



Kyle DericksonAssoc HC / Off Cord / QBs
(3rd year)
Butler, 2003



Collin Geier Def. Cord. / Linebackers (3rd year) Missouri, 2018



Andrew Brady ST Cord. / Nickels (3rd year) Wheaton College, 2019



Maurice Fleming Def Pass Cord / DBs (2nd year) lowa, 2016



John Cannova Off Run Game Cord / OL (3rd year) North Central College, 2014



Turner PughRunning Backs
(2nd year)
Northern Illinois, 2004



Tino Smith IIWide Receivers
(1st year)
Savannah State, 2021



Andrew Strobel
Safeties
(1st year)
Northern Michigan, 2009



Carlif Taylor
Defensive Line
(1st year)
Southern Connecticut, 2014



Cole Hoover Tight Ends (2nd year) Eastern Illinois, 2021

FOOTBALL SUPPORT STAFF & QUALITY CONTROL

Graduate Assistant Coach - Defense	Steven Marks
Graduate Assistant Coach - Offense	Jackson Ostroski
Quality Control Coach - Offense	Isaiah Nelson
Quality Control Coach - Defense	Ryan DeMarois
Quality Control Coach - Special Teams	Chris Gatton
Player Personnel	Matt Lindsey
Graduate Assistant - Operations	Andrew Scheff

Football Athletic Trainer	Scott Goehner
Football Equipment Manager	Clint Bays
Director of Football Operations	David Brubaker
Football Academics	Nicole Jackson
Nutrition	Haley Schmitz
Director of Football Performance	Jacob Hillman
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
Assistant Football Athletic Trainer	Noah Davis
Orthopedic Surgeon Sarah Bush L	incoln 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 DirectorMar	rk Bonnstetter
Associate AD/Development	Mike Murray
Associate AD Media & PR	Rich Moser
Assistant AD Academic Services/SWA	Jenn King
Assistant AD Compliance	ТВА
Assistant AD Marketing / Fan Engagement	. James Baird
Assistant AD Sports Performance / Wellness	Jim Nave
Ticket Manager	. Cindy Bayes

U LAST TIME IT HAPPE

Passed for more than 300 yards...
Pierce Holley, 346, at Southeast Missouri (Oct. 14, 2023) Pierce Holley, 359, vs. UT Martin (Oct. 7, 2023)

Passed for more than 400 yards...
Johnathan Brantley, 443, vs. Indiana State (Sept. 15, 2018)

Threw four touchdown passes...
Pierce Holley, 4, vs. UT Martin (Oct. 7, 2023)

Rushed for more than 150 yards...
MJ Flowers, 179, at Robert Morris (Nov. 18, 2023)

Rushed for more than 200 yards...
MJ Flowers, 201, vs. Tennessee State (Nov. 11, 2023) MJ Flowers, 272, vs McNeese (Sept. 23, 2023)

Rushed for three touchdowns...
Pierce Holley, 3 vs. Bryant (Oct. 21, 2023)

Rushed for four touchdowns...

MJ Flowers, 4, vs. Tennessee State (Nov. 11, 2023)

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..

NiJhay Burt, 1, vs. Tennessee State (Nov. 11, 2023)

Returned a blocked punt for touchdown - blocked by...
DeAirious Smith, 1 vs. Illinois State (Sept. 18, 2021)... - Charles Shelton IV

Blocked a field goal... Tre'jon Lewis, 1 vs. Bryant (Oct. 21, 2023)

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) - Pierce Holley vs. Bryant (Oct. 21, 2023)
- (Pass) - Nile Hill from Cooper Willman, at McNeese (Nov. 5, 2022)

Won a game on a field goal...
Stone Galloway, 56, vs McNeese (Sept. 23, 2023)

Had 15 or more tackles on defense... Colin Bohanek, 15, vs. Tennessee Tech (Oct. 29, 2022)

Had 3 or more sacks on defense...
Drake Van Hyfte, 3, at Robert Morris (Nov. 18, 2023)

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

OtrOpponent
1Justin Bowick 35 pass from Pierce Holley at Indiana State
2Tyris Harvey 19 interception return
2NiJhay Burt 67 interception returnat Indiana State
3Anthony Manaves 2 pass from Pierce Holley at Indiana State
1Kevin Daniels 15 pass from Pierce Holleyat Bowling Green
2DeAirious Smith 31 pass from Pierce Holleyat Bowling Green
2Justin Thomas 31 pass from Pierce HolleyIllinois State
4Justin Thomas 25 pass from Pierce HolleyIllinois State
1Pierce Holley 1 run
2Eli Mirza 12 run
4MJ Flowers 6 run
4Juwon Farri 19 run
2Justin Bowick 52 pass from Pierce Holley at Northwestern State
3 Kevin Daniels 6 run
1Justin Bowick 13 pass from Pierce HolleyUT Martin
2Eli Mirza 10 pass from Pierce HolleyUT Martin
4Justin Bowick 14 pass from Pierce HolleyUT Martin
OTJustin Thomas 21 pass from Pierce HolleyUT Martin
1Justin Bowick 7 pass from Pierce Holley at SE Missouri
2Kevin Daniels 1 runat SE Missouri
3MJ Flowers 7 runat SE Missouri
4Justin Thomas 21 pass from Pierce Holley at SE Missouri
1Pierce Holley 2 runBryant
2Pierce Holley 1 runBryant
OTPierce Holley 2 runBryant
1Eli Mirza 38 pass from Pierce Holleyat Lindenwood
1MJ Flowers 4 runat Lindenwood
1MJ Flowers 8 runTennessee State
1MJ Flowers 2 runTennessee State
3MJ Flowers 31 runTennessee State
4MJ Flowers 1 runTennessee State
1Eli Mirza 26 pass from Pierce Holley at Robert Morris
2DeAirious Smith 18 pass from Pierce Holley at Robert Morris
2Justin Thomas 12 pass from Pierce Holley at Robert Morris
4MJ Flowers 38 run

EASTERN ILLINOIS NFL CONNECTIONS

DENVER BRONCOS

Sean Payton - Head Coach

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Jimmy Garoppolo - Quarterback

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Kamu Grugier-Hill - Linebacker

NEW YORK GIANTS

Tim Kelly - Tight Ends Coach

TENNESSEE TITANS

Matt Jones - Offensive Assistant Coach

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

112...... at UT MartinNov. 23, 2013

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

104 vs. Murray State Nov. 8, 2014

210 vs. Murray State2012

MOST PLAYS IN A GAME BY BOTH TEAMS:

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

MOST PLAYS IN A GAME:

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

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

65..... Sept. 29, 2012

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

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

63..... at Austin PeayOct. 10, 2013 62..... Lock HavenAug. 31, 1991

60 at Wayne State Nov. 9, 1968

60 Oakland City Oct. 17, 1925

September 7, 2024 • Eastern II	linois at Indiana State • Page 10 • www.	.eiupanthers.com • #WeNotMe
TOTAL OFFENSE:	TOUCHDOWNS:	INDIVIDUAL GAME RECORDS
Sean Payton507 vs. Saginaw Valley1985	Steve Turner 6 vs. Mecom Academy 1920	LONGEST TOUCHDOWN PASS:
Jimmy Garoppolo 501 vs. Austin Peay2012	Kevin Staple 5 vs. Kentucky State 1982	Tony Romo to 98 vs. E. Kentucky2000
Sean Payton 498 vs. SW Missouri 1984	MJ Flowers4 vs. Tennessee State . 2023	Will Bumphus
Jimmy Garoppolo 476 at UT Martin2013	Erik Lora4 vs. Tennessee Tech2013	will bumphus
Jimmy Garoppolo 469 vs. Illinois State2013	J.R. Taylor4 vs. Florida Atlantic2002	LONGEST TOUCHDOWN BUN.
Johnathan Brantley458 vs. Indiana State	J.R. Taylor 4 vs. Tennessee-Martin2002	LONGEST TOUCHDOWN RUN:
Jimmy Garoppolo 442 at Southern Illinois2013	Kevin Staple 4 vs. Grand Valley	Jimmy Lera96 at Southeast Missouri2014
Sean Payton 441 vs. W. Kentucky1984	James Warring 4 vs. Northern Michigan 1978	Poke Cobb96 vs. Tennessee Tech1976
	Scott McGhee 4 vs. Northern Iowa1978	LONGEST INTERGERATION RETURN FOR TR
RUSHING YARDAGE:		LONGEST INTERCEPTION RETURN FOR TD:
J.R. Taylor	TOUCHDOWN PASSES:	Roosevelt Williams. 98 vs. Tennessee St2001
Kevin Staple 283 vs. Grand Valley 1983	Jimmy Garoppolo7 vs. Illinois State2013	LONGEST FUMBLE BETUBNIESB TR
MJ Flowers 272 vs. McNeese 2023	Jimmy Garoppolo6 at UT Martin2013	LONGEST FUMBLE RETURN FOR TD:
Nate Anderson 268 vs. St. Joseph	Jimmy Garoppolo 6 at Northern Illinois2013	Bryce Dewberry, 90 at Tennessee Tech2021
Nate Anderson 259 vs. SW Missouri 1972	Tony Romo 6 vs. Murray State2000	
Shepard Little 245 vs. Jacksonville State2013	Jeff Christensen 6 vs. Kentucky State 1982	LONGEST FIELD GOAL:
I Shepard Entile240 vs. baoksonvine Gtate2010	Others (5 touchdown passes in a game)	Rich Ehmke 58 vs. Northern Iowa1986
RUSHING ATTEMPTS:	Jimmy Garoppolo (4), Sean Payton (2),	Steve Largent 53 vs. SW Missouri1993
Willie High	Tony Romo (1), Steve Turk (1), Harry Woodbery (1)	
ville riigir	iony Nomo (1), oteve rank (1), riany woodbery (1)	LONGEST KICKOFF RETURN:
PASSING YARDAGE:	SOLO TACKLES:	Chris Watson 100 vs. Northern Iowa1995
Sean Payton 509 vs. Saginaw Valley1985	Thomas Williams 20 vs. St. Joseph1997	Marcus Potts 100 vs. Youngstown St 1977
Sean Payton	Nick Ricks 18 vs. E. Kentucky2002	
· ·	Chris Nicholson 17 vs. SW Missouri	LONGEST PUNT:
Jimmy Garoppolo 480 vs. Illinois State2013 Jimmy Garoppolo 477 at UT Martin2013	Tim Lance	Bob Babb100 vs. Illinois State1946
, ,,	John Noll	Kevin Cook 86 vs. Southeast Missouri2010
Sean Payton 461 vs. W. Kentucky		(EIU Division I record)
Jimmy Garoppolo 453 vs. Austin Peay2012	Tim Lance	
Jimmy Garoppolo 450 at Northern Illinois2013	Jeff Mills	LONGEST PUNT RETURN:
Johnathan Brantley 443 vs. Indiana State 2018	Jeff Mills14 vs. SW Missouri1988	Bob Babb100 vs. Millikin1949
DA COUNC ATTEMPTO	TOTAL TAOK! 50	Erik Lora80 vs. Tennessee Tech2013
PASSING ATTEMPTS:	TOTAL TACKLES:	Jermaine Mobley 80 vs. Tennessee State 2004
Harry Woodbery 68 vs. Tennessee Tech2019	Tim Carver31 vs. Texas-El Paso1994	Frank Cutolo 80 at Central Florida1999
Jimmy Garoppolo 61 at Illionis State2012	Jeff Mills	
Jimmy Garoppolo 60 vs. Murray State2012	Thomas Williams 27 vs. St. Joseph	MOST BLOCKED KICKS:
Tony Romo	Nick Ricks	Kourtney Young 3 vs. Illinois State2000
Sean Payton 58 vs. Saginaw Valley 1985	Tyrone Covington 25 vs. Illinois State	Scott Johnson 3 vs. Western Illinois 1988
Sean Payton58 vs. Northern Iowa1984	John Noll23 vs. Northern Iowa1988	Scott Johnson 3 vs. Western Kentucky 1988
I	Ray Jeske21 vs. Delaware1978	
PASSES COMPLETED:		MOST CONSECUTIVE PASSES COMPLETED:
Sean Payton40 vs. Saginaw Valley1985	TACKLES FOR LOSS:	Pierce Holley 20 vs. Illinois State 2023
Jimmy Garoppolo 39 vs. Murray State2012	Trevor Frericks 7.0 vs. Tennessee State 2009	Sean Payton 17 vs. Western Kentucky1986
Jimmy Garoppolo 38 vs. Towson2013		Tony Romo16 vs. Indiana State2001
Johnathan Brantley 37 vs. Indiana State 2018	QUARTERBACK SACKS:	
Jimmy Garoppolo37 at Illinois State2012	John Jurkovic 6 vs. SW Missouri1986	MOST FIELD GOALS:
Ī	Pete Catan 6 vs. Southern Illinois1979	Rich Ehmke5 vs. Winona State1986
RECEIVING (CATCHES):		
Erik Lora21 vs. Murray State2012	PASSES INTERCEPTED:	MOST FUMBLE RECOVERIES:
* OVC Record	Bill Glenn5 vs. Northern Illinois1940	Tied by many2
Erik Lora		Last - Dytarious Johnson at Murray State2019
Erik Lora17 at UT Martin2012	MOST PASS RECEPTIONS BY A RUNNING BACK:	Lace Bytanous common at Marray State
Isaiah Hill15 at UT Martin2019	Devin Church 10 at Northern Iowa2015	MOST INTERCEPTIONS THROWN:
Erik Lora15 vs. SE Missouri2012	DuWayne Pitts 9 vs. SW Missouri1984	Jeff Thorne 7 vs. McNeese State1993
Willie White 15 vs. Illinois State		Jeli Tilome 7 vs. Wolveese State 1990
Adam Drake 14 at UT Martin2013	The second secon	
Erik Lora14 at Northern Illinois2013		
Andre Raymond 14 vs. Hawai'i2002		
Rob Mehalic 14 vs. Delaware State 1981	AN THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF	
RECEIVING (YARDS):		
Erik Lora269 vs. Murray State2012		
Frank Cutolo239 vs. Tennessee St2001	THE SECOND SECON	
Calvin Pierce 238 vs. SW Missouri 1986	GI GI	
Adam Drake 225 at UT Martin2013		-0:
, war Drane	一 一	



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 lowa 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 Martin2015

ALL-PURPOSE RUSHING:

TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS:

RUSHING YARDS BY A QB:

	September 7, 2024	• Eastern l	Illinois	at Indiar	a State	• Page 11	1 • www.eiupanthers.com • #WeNotMe
#	NAME	POS	нт	WT	YR	EXP	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL/JC/LAST)
0	Ira Armstead II	LB	6-4	240	Sr	2	South Bend, Ind. (Adams / Univ. of Virginia)
0	Cody Davidson	WR	6-2	190	Jr	TR	Beaverton, Ore. (Beaverton / Santa Rosa JC)
1	Nick Coates	SAF	5-10	190	Sr	3	Louisville, Ky. (Male)
1	Terrance Gipson	WR	6-0	190	Sr	RS	Kingwood, Texas (Westfield / East Los Angeles College)
2	Mark Aitken	DB	5-9	180	R-Sr	3	Chicago, III. (Kenwood Academy / Northern Illinois Univ.)
2	CJ Nelson	WR	5-11	175	R-So	TR	North Richland Hills, Texas (Richland / Univ. of Houston)
3	NiJhay Burt	DB	5-11	185	Jr	2	Munhall, Pa. (Steel Valley)
3	Pierce Holley	QB	6-3	225	Grad	1	Arvada, Colo. (Lakewood / Georgetown Univ.)
4	Moses Alexander	DB	6-3	195	R-Jr	TR	Galveston, Texas (Ball / Univ. of Houston)
4	MJ Flowers	RB	6-1	220	R-So	1	Cincinnati, Ohio (Colerain)
5	Anthony Shockey	LB	6-1	230	R-Sr	3	Lombard, III. (Glenbard East)
5	Surahz Buncom	WR	6-3	175	R-Fr	TR	Chula Vista, Calif. (Mater Dei Catholic / Univ. of Kansas)
6	Joel Barrows	DL	6-3	240	R-Sr	3	Chicago, III. (Brooks Prep)
6	DeAirious Smith	WR	5-11	185	Sr	4	Lexington, Ky. (Lexington Christian Academy)
7	Eli Mirza	WR	5-11	195	Sr	1	Sacramento, Calif. (Monterey Trail / Sierra College)
8	Tienne Fridge	DB	6-2	210	Sr	1	Sacramento, Calif. (Elk Grove / Sacramento City College)
8	Joey Sprinkle	QB	6-4	220	Jr	TR	Monticello, III. (Monticello / St. Ambrose Univ.)
9	Tre'jon Lewis	DL	6-4	285	R-Sr	2	Manor, Texas (Manor / Texas Tech Univ.)
9	Aaron Rice	WR	6-5	200	R-So	1	Farmington Hills, Mich. (North Farmington)
11	Elijawah Tolbert	LB	6-1	230	Sr	3	Country Club Hills, III. (Hillcrest)
11	Anthony Manaves	TE	6-4	230	R-Sr	4	Chicago, III. (St. Patrick)
12	Akili Hubbard	SAF	6-2	195	R-Jr	TR	Bellflower, Calif. (Bellflower / Univ. of Kansas)
12	Collin Willard	WR	5-11	200	Fr	HS	North Olmsted, Ohio (North Olmsted)
13	Keshawn Lewis-Hunt	LB	6-0	220	Fr	HS	Chicago, III. (Morgan Park)
13	Cooper Willman	WR	6-1	205	R-Jr	3	Sterling, III. (Sterling)
14	Akin Adigun	SAF	6-3	185	R-Fr	RS	Little Elm, Texas (Lone Star)
14	Blainey Dowling	QB	6-2	200	R-Fr	RS	Chicago, III. (Chicago Mount Carmel)
15	Malik Rainey	DB	5-11	190	R-Jr	1	Chicago, III. (Bolingbrook / Univ. of Cincinnati)
15	Connor Wolf	QB	6-3	205	Fr	HS	Ada, Mich. (Grand Rapids Central Catholic)
16	Zay Gentry	DB	6-0	195	Sr D. C-	2	Anna, Texas (Anna)
16	Kevin Conway	QB	6-2	210	R-So	SQ	New Lenox, III. (Providence Catholic / Diamond Football Academy)
19	Phoenix Porter	LB	6-1	220	R-Jr	2 HS	Fairfield, Ohio (Fairfield)
19 20	Jacob Rosenstiel	QB	6-4	210	Fr		Boerne, Texas (Geneva School of Boerne)
	Kaleb Lyons	DB	5-11	185	Jr	TR TR	Antioch, Tenn. (Brentwood Academy / Morehead State Univ.) O'Fallon, Ill. (O'Fallon / Western Kentucky Univ.)
20 21	Chris Caldwell Jay Pearson	RB RB	5-10 6-0	190 210	So R-So	1	, ,
22	Kaelin Drakeford	DB	6-4	210	R-Jr	2	McKees Rocks, Pa. (Sto-Rox Junior-Senior) Harrodsburg, Ky. (Mercer County)
23	Isaiah Houi	DB	5-10	170	Fr	HS	Rockton, III. (Hononegah)
24	Collin Tyson	DB	6-0	170	R-Jr	 2	Kansas City, Mo. (Platte County R-3)
25	Christopher Sharp	CB	5-11	180	R-Fr	RS	St. Louis, Mo. (DeSmet Jesuit)
26	Makhi Wilson	SAF	6-0	185	R-Fr	RS	Bettendorf, Iowa (Pleasant Valley)
27	Josh Brown	SAF	6-1	195	Fr	HS	Suwanee, Ga. (Peachtree Ridge)
28	Jacarre Fleming	RB	5-8	195	Fr	HS	Hahira, Ga. (Lowndes)
29	Kendi Young	RB	5-11	210	Sr	3	Calumet City, III. (Thornton Fractional North)
30	Kiwaun Davis	DB	6-3	175	R-Fr	TR	Chicago, III. (Kenwood Academy / Northern Illinois Univ.)
31	Johnovan Wysinger	WR	6-1	170	Fr	HS	Chicago, III. (Morgan Park)
32	Ryan Kilburg	SAF	6-0	200	R-Jr	TR	Park Ridge, III. (Maine South / Western Michigan Univ.)
33	Jack Pilson	LB	6-0	225	R-Sr	1	Mattoon, III. (Mattoon / Lehigh Univ.)
34	Jordyn Stewart	LB	6-0	230	Fr	HS	Homewood, III. (Homewood-Flossmoor)
35	Zeke Lewis	RB	6-0	210	R-Jr	SQ	Decatur, III. (Decatur St. Teresa)
36	Dillon Conway	SAF	6-3	210	Fr	HS	Chicago, III. (Chicago Mt. Carmel)
37	Grady Catanzano	LB	6-1	220	Fr	HS	Mt. Prospect, III. (Prospect)
38	Max Loveall	WR	6-4	195	Fr	HS	Richmond, III. (Richmond-Burton)
39	Tyler Clark	RB	5-10	205	R-Jr	1	Chicago, III. (Phillips)
40	Isaiah Richardson	SAF	6-5	210	R-Fr	RS	Suwanee, Ga. (Collins Hill)
41	Peyton Wilkerson	DL	6-1	250	R-Fr	RS	Mokena, III. (Lincoln-Way Central)
42	Allen Brown III	DB	5-11	180	Fr	HS	St. Louis, Mo. (Eureka)
43	Chase McConnell	TE	6-5	220	Fr	HS	Lebanon, Tenn. (Watertown)
44	Luke Wagner	DL	6-4	240	R-Jr	1	Washington, Pa. (McGuffey / Santa Barbara City College)
45	Caden Tellenson	LB	5-11	220	R-Fr	RS	Redondo Beach, Calif. (Redondo Union)
46	Nico Carrier	K	5-9	170	Fr	HS	Naperville, III. (Metea Valley)
. •	Callion	. ` `	5 5				raportino, in. (iviolou valley)

	September 7, 2024 •	Eastern	Illinois	at Indian	ıa State	• Pag	e 12 • www.eiupanthers.com • #WeNotMe
#	NAME	POS	нт	WT	YR	EXP	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL/JC)
47	Drew Schiller	K	6-1	170	Fr	HS	New Lenox, III. (Lincoln-Way Central)
48	Julian Patino	K	5-10	200	R-Jr	1	Chicago, III. (Chicago Mt. Carmel)
49	Jesse Garza	LB	6-2	230	R-Jr	RS	Nipomo, Calif. (Nipomo / Allan Hancock College)
50	Jerrad Price	DL	6-3	300	Grad	TR	Spurlockville, W.Va. (Lincoln County / Univ. of Charleston)
51	Payton Orth	LB	5-11	220	Sr	3	Frankfort, III. (Lincoln-Way East)
52	Jamari Johnson	DL	6-4	255	R-Jr	1	Chicago, III. (De La Salle Institute)
53	King Smith	DL	6-3	315	Fr	HS	Decatur, III. (Decatur MacArthur)
54	Nic DiSanto	OL	6-5	320	So	1	Wyandotte, Mich. (Gabriel Richard)
55	Drew Wilder	OL	6-3	305	R-Jr	1	Williamsburg, Va. (Jamestown / Iowa Western CC)
56	Christian Takatch	DL	6-3	245	So	TR	Sunbury, Ohio (Big Walnut / Notre Dame College)
57	Panayiotis Mihalopoulos	OL	6-3	310	R-Fr	RS	Chicago, III. (Loyola Academy)
58	Isaiah Hare	DL	6-2	290	Fr	HS	Mt. Washington, Ky. (Bullitt East)
59	Liam Carr	LB	6-0	225	R-Jr	SQ	Okemos, Mich. (Okemos / Michigan State Univ.)
60	Aidan Archibald	DL	6-2	255	Fr	HS	Charleston, III. (Charleston)
61	Ruben Popoca	K	5-11	180	R-Fr	RS	Mundelein, III. (Carmel Catholic)
62	Brennan Anderson	OL	6-5	345	R-Jr	RS	Dallas Center, Iowa (Dallas Center-Grimes/Iowa Western CC)
63	Noah Howard	OL	6-5	305	R-Jr	RS	Clinton, Iowa (Clinton / Iowa Central College)
64	Connor Shelby	OL	6-4	280	Fr	HS	Mt. Carmel, III. (Mt. Carmel)
65	Carson Fichtel	OL	6-3	295	R-So	SQ	Heath, Texas (Rockwall-Heath)
66	Jack Valente	OL/LS	6-5	320	Sr	3	Batavia, III. (Batavia)
67	Rahfeeq Katumbusi	OL	6-3	320	Fr	HS	Chicago, III. (Chicago Mt. Carmel)
68	Matthew Allen	OL	6-8	300	R-Fr	RS	Bourbonnais, III. (Bradley-Bourbonnais)
69	Kwan Johnson	OL	6-1	310	Fr	HS	Blue Island, III. (Dwight D. Eisenhower)
70	Alejandro Arellano	OL	6-3	305	R-So	TR	Sterling, III. (Sterling / College of DuPage)
71	Sebastian Pares	OL	6-6	310	R-Sr	1	Joliet, III. (Wheaton Academy / Univ. of Sioux Falls)
72	Elkhanan Tanelus	OL	6-2	320	Grad	4	Naples, Fla. (Barron Collier)
73	Clint Chamley	OL	6-5	310	Fr	HS	Kahoka, Mo. (Clark County)
74	Haven Hatfield	OL	6-3	295	R-So	SQ	Tuscola, III. (Tuscola)
75	Jonathan Arellano	OL	6-3	310	R-Jr	1	Lancaster, Calif. (Bishop Alemany / College of the Canyons)
76	Bryce Burnett	OL	6-4	295	R-So	SQ	Danville, III. (Westville)
77	Sandro Malicevic	OL	6-5	315	So	TR	Saratoga, Calif. (Prospect / San Jose City College)
78	Joseph Solomon	OL	6-5	295	R-Jr	TR	Indianapolis, Ind. (Bishop Chatard / Appalachian State Univ.)
79	Rasheed Anderson	OL	6-5	355	R-So	SQ	Oak Park, III. (Fenwick)
80		WR	6-2	190	R-Fr	RS	Mahomet-Seymour, III. (Mahomet-Seymour)
81	Quenton Rogers Alex Herrera	TE	6-2	240	Jr	TR	Linden, Calif. (Linden / College of the Sequoias)
82	Joe McNab	TE	6-6	255	R-Jr	1	
					_		Madison Heights, Mich. (Lamphere)
83	David Ajose	WR	6-5	225	Fr	HS	Akron, Ohio (St. Vincent-St. Mary's)
84	Jeremy Reeves Landers Green	WR	6-4	190	Fr	HS	Chicago, III. (Gary Comer College Prep)
85		WR	6-3	190	Jr C	TR	Wharton, NJ (St. Peter's Prep / Union College)
86	Jamal Jeffers	WR	5-11	185	Sr D. C-	1	Oklahoma City, Okla. (Putnam City North / Northeastern Oklahoma A&M)
87	Alex Ginnever	TE	6-5	235	R-So	SQ	Wentzville, Mo. (Holt)
88	Jordan Sprycha	TE	6-4	240	Grad	TR	Oak Lawn, III. (Oak Lawn / McKendree III.)
89	Daniel Ajose	WR	6-6	215	Fr	HS	Akron, Ohio (St. Vincent-St. Mary's)
90	Trevon Piggee-Blake	DL	6-1	290	R-Fr	RS	St. Louis, Mo. (DeSmet Jesuit)
91	Nicholas Oliveira-Chace	DL	6-4	275	Sr	1	Cambridge, Mass. (Cambridge Rindge & Latin School / Franklin Pierce Univ.)
92	Colby Smith	DL	6-0	300	Sr	2	Dunnellon, Fla. (Dunnellon, Fla. / Dodge City CC)
93	Jacob Horvath	P	6-1	190	So	1	Bentleigh, Australia (McKinnon Secondary)
94	Alton Jefferson	DL	6-0	290	Sr	3	Louisville, Ky. (Trinity)
95	Drake Van Hyfte	DL	6-4	280	R-Jr	2	Annawan, III. (Annawan-Wethersfield)
			6-3	260	R-So	SQ	Lockport, III. (Lockport Township)
96	Cody Silzer	DL					
97	Tray Ross	DL	6-4	230	Fr	HS	Danville, Ind. (Danville Community)
	-						

EASTERN ILLINOIS FOOTBALL PRONUNCIATIONS

- 2 Mark ATE-ken
- 3 Nye-ZHAY Burt
- 5 Sir-rahz BUN-come
- 6 Jo-ELL Barrows
- 6 Dee-AIR-ee-us Smith
- 7 Key-juan Davis
- 8 tea-in Fridge
- 9 TRAY-zhon Lewis
- 11 Anthony Muh-NAW-vezz
- 11 Ee-LIE-juh-wuh Tolbert
- 14 ACK-in AD-uh-gin
- 19 Jacob Rose-IN-Steel
- 22 KAY-lin Drakeford
- 23 Isaiah Who-EE
- 26 muh-KY Wilson
- 28 Jah-Car-EE Fleming
- 31 John-oh-van Wysinger
- 37 Grady Cat-on-zahn-oh
- 50 Jerad Price
- 56 Christian Tok-Itch
- 57 -pahn-ee-otis me-hall-low-poll-us
- 58 Isaiah HAIR
- 61 Ruben POE-pah-COE
- 65 Carson FICK-tul
- 66 Jack Vuh-LEN-tay
- 67 Rah-feek Kat-tum-boo-si
- 70 Alejandro AR-ee-ON-oh
- 71 Sebastian par-rez
- 72 El-cannon TAN-uh-lus
- 75 Johnathan AR-ee-ON-oh 77 - SAWN-dro muh-LEECH-uh-VEECH
- 87 Alex Juh-NEVER
- 88 Jordan SPRIKE-uh
- 89 David uh-JOSE (rhymes with toast)
- 91 Nicholas Oh-luh-VAIR-uh Chace
- 93 Jacob hor-vath
- 95 Drake Van Hefty
- 98 Brett Guh-LETTY
- 83 Daniel uh-JOSE (rhymes with toast) 99 - Jaron HOTCH-uh

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

14	Akin Adigun	SAF	35	Zeke Lewis	RE
2	Mark Aitken		13	Keshawn Lewis-Hunt	LE
89	Daniel Ajose	WR	38	Max Loveall	WR
83	David Ajose		20	Kaleb Lyons	DE
4	Moses Alexander		77	Sandro Malicevic	OL
68	Matthew Allen	OL	_ 11	Anthony Manaves	TE
62	Brennan Anderson	OL	43	Chase McConnell	TE
79	Rasheed Anderson		43	Joe McNab	TE
60	Aidan Archibald		57	Panayiotis Mihalopoulos	OL
70	Alejandro Arellano		_ 7	Eli Mirza	
75	Jonathan Arellano		2	CJ Nelson	WF
0	Ira Armstead II		91	Nicholas Oliveira-Chace	DL
6	Joel Barrows		51	Payton Orth	
42	Allen Brown III		71	Sebastian Pares	
27	Josh Brown		48	Julian Patino	k
5	Surahz Buncom		21	Jay Pearson	
76	Bryce Burnett		90	Trevon Piggee-Blake	
3	NiJhay Burt		33	Jack Pilson	
20	Chris Caldwell		61	Ruben Popoca	
59	Liam Carr		19	Phoenix Porter	
46	Nico Carrier		50	Jerrad Price	
37	Grady Catanzano		15	Malik Rainey	
73	Clint Chamley		I 84	Jeremy Reeves	
39	Tyler Clark		9	Aaron Rice	
39 1	Nick Coates		I 40	Isaiah Richardson	
36			80	Quenton Rodgers	
16	Dillon Conway		I 19	Jacob Rosenstiel	
0	Kevin Conway		97	Tray Ross	
30	Cody Davidson		■ 47	Drew Schiller	
	Kiwaun Davis		25	Christopher Sharp	
54	Nic DiSanto		■ 64	Connor Shelby	
14	Blainey Dowling		5	Anthony Shockey	
22	Kaelin Drakeford		■ 96	Cody Silzer	
65 28	Carson Fichtel		92	Colby Smith	
	Jacarre Fleming		. 6	DeAirious Smith	
4	MJ Flowers		53	King Smith	
8	Tienne Fridge		- 78	Joseph Solomon	
98	Brett Galetti		8	Joey Sprinkle	
49	Jesse Garza		. 88	Jordan Sprycha	
16	Zay Gentry		34		
87	Alex Ginnever		56	Jordyn Stewart Christian Takatch	
1	Terrance Gipson		72	Elkhanan Tanelus	
85	Landers Green		45	Caden Tellenson	
99	Jaron Hacha		11	Elijawah Tolbert	
58	Isaiah Hare		24	•	
74	Haven Hatfield		1	Collin Tyson	
81	Alex Herrera		66	Jack Valente	
3	Pierce Holley		95 I 50	Drake Van Hyfte	
93	Jacob Horvath		50	Luke Wagner	
23	Isaiah Houi		55 • 44	Drew Wilder	
63	Noah Howard		41	Peyton Wilkerson	
12	Akili Hubbard		12	Cooper Willman	
86	Jamal Jeffers		13	Cooper Willman	
94	Alton Jefferson		26	Makhi Wilson	
52	Jamari Johnson		15	Connor Wolf	
69	Kwan Johnson		31	Johnovan Wysinger	
67	Rahfeeq Katumbusi		29	Kendi Young	RE
32	Ryan Kilburg		_		
9	Tre'jon Lewis	DL			

MISC. SEASON NOTES & STATS

EIU NCAA FBS TRANSFERS

- 1 Terrance Gipson (SMU)
- 2 Mark Aitken (Northern Illinois Univ.)
- 2 CJ Nelson (Univ. of Houston)
- 4 Moses Alexander (Univ. of Houston)
- 5 Surahz Buncom (Univ. of Kansas)
- 9 Tre'jon Lewis (Texas Tech Univ.)
- 12 Akili Hubbard (Univ. of Kansas)
- 15 Malik Rainey (Univ. of Cincinnati)
- 30 Kiwaun Davis (Washington State Univ.)
- 32 Ryan Kilburg (Western Michigan Univ.)
- 59 Liam Carr (Michigan State Univ.)
- 78 Joseph Solomon (Appalachian State Univ.)

EIU NCAA FCS TRANSFERS

- 3 Pierce Holley (Georgetown)
- 20 Kaleb Lyons (Morehead State)
- 33 Jack Pilson (Lehigh)
- 50 Jerrad Price (Davidson College)

EIU ROSTER BY CLASS

Graduate Student / 5th Year 1	15
Senior 1	15
Junior2	27
Sophomore 1	18
RS-Freshman 1	14
Graduate Student / 5th Year	27

EIU ROSTER BY STATE

Illinois 52
California9
Texas 8
Missouri 6
Ohio6
Kentucky5
Michigan 5
Georgia4
Indiana3
Iowa3
Pennsylvania 3
Florida2
Tennessee2
Colorado1
Massachusetts 1
New Jersey 1
Oklahoma1
Oregon1
Virginia1
West Virginia1
Australia1

EIU OFFENSE

FIG GLIFHOF			
QUARTERBACK			
3 Pierce Holley	6-3	225	Grad
14 Blainey Dowling	6-2	200	R-Fr
RUNNING BACK			
4 MJ Flowers	6-1	220	R-So
21 Jay Pearson	6-0	210	R-So
TIGHT END			
11 Anthony Manaves	6-4	230	Grad
88 Jordan Sprycha			
LEFT TACKLE			
77 Sandro Malicevic	6-5	315	So\
68 Matthew Allen			
LEFT GUARD			
71 Sebastian Pares	6-6	310	Grad
70 Alejandro Arellano	6-3	305	R-So
or 78 Joseph Solomon			
CENTER			
55 Drew Wilder	6-3	305	R-Jr
57 Pan Mihalopoulos			
RIGHT GUARD			
66 Jack Valente	6-5	320	Sr
72 Elkhanan Tanelus			
RIGHT TACKLE			
54 Nic DiSanto	6-5	320	So
75 Jonathan Arellano			
RECEIVER			
6DeAirious Smith	6-1	185	Sr
2 CJ Nelson			
RECEIVER			
7 Eli Mirza	5-11	195	Sr
1 Terrance Gipson			
RECEIVER			
13 Cooper Willman	6-1	205	Grad
0Cody Davidson			
com, za			

EIU COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Chris Wilkerson (Eastern Illinois, 1994) - 3rd year Career 61-40 (10), EIU Record 10-13 (3); OVC Record 5-6 (2)

Associate HC/OC/QB's: Kyle Derickson (3rd year)

Offensive Line/Run Game Coordinator: John Cannova (3rd year)

Running Backs: Turner Pugh (3rd year) Tight Ends: Cole Hoover (1st year) Wide Receivers: Tino Smith II (1st year)

Graduate Assistant Offensive Coach: Jackson Ostroski (1st year)
Defensive Coordinator / Linebackers: Collin Geier (3rd year)
Special Teams Coordinator / Nickels: Andrew Brady (3rd year)

Defensive Backs / Def. Pass Game Cord.: Maurice Fleming (2nd year)

Defensive Line: Carlif Taylor (1st year) **Safeties:** Andrew Strobel (1st year)

Graduate Assistant Defesive Coach: Steven Marks (2nd year)

Director of Football Ops: David Brubaker (2nd year)
Director of Football Performance: Jacob Hillman (1st year)

Trainer: Scott Goehner (4thyear)

Equipment Manager: Clint Bays (15th year)

Quality Control Staff:

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

Isaiah Nelson (QC - Off.), Chris Gatton (QC - ST.),

Matt Lindsey (Player Personnel), Andrew Scheff (GA - Operations)

EIU DEFENSE

FIG DEI FIIGE			
DEFENSIVE END			
91 Nicholas Oliveira-Chac	e6-3	275	Grad
52 Jamari Johnson	6-4	255	R-Jr
NOSE TACKLE			
50 Jerrad Price	6-3	300	Grad
99 Jaron Hacha	5-11	310	Sr
DEFENSIVE TACKLE			
9 Tre'jon Lewis	6-4	285	Grad
95 Drake Van Hyfte			
DEFENSIVE END (BUCK)			
6Joel Barrows	6-3	240	Grad
44 Luke Wagner	6-4	230	R-Jr
LINEBACKER			
5 Anthony Shockey	6-1	230	Grad
49 Jesse Garza	6-2	230	R-Jr
LINEBACKER			
19 Phoenix Porter	6-1	220	R-Jer
11 Elijawah Tolbert	6-1	230	Sr
NICKEL or LINEBACKER			
0 Ira Armstead II	6-4	240	Sr
or 1 Nick Coates	5-10	190	Sr
15 Malik Rainey	5-11	190	R-Jr
<u>CORNERBACK</u>			
3 NiJhay Burt	5-11	185	Jr
30Kiwaun Davis	6-3	175	R-Fr
STRONG SAFETY			
22 Kaelin Drakeford	6-4	210	Grad
16 Zay Gentry	6-0	195	Sr
FREE SAFETY			
2 Mark Aitken	5-9	180	R-Sr
32 Ryan Kilburg	6-0	200	R-Jr
CORNERBACK			
4Moses Alexander	6-3	195	R-Jr
20Kaleb Lyons	5-11	185	Jr

EIU SPECIALISTS

KICKER

48 Julian Patino	5-10	200	R-Jr
47 Drew Schiller	6-1	170	Fr
<u>KICKOFF</u>			
48 Julian Patino	5-10	200	R-Jr
47 Drew Schiller	6-1	170	Fr
<u>PUNTER</u>			
93 Jacob Horvath	6-1	190	So
<u>HOLDER</u>			
93 Jacob Horvarth	6-1	190	So
LONG SNAPPER			
66 Jack Valente	6-5	320	Sr
98 Brett Galetti	6-1	230	R-Jr
PUNT RETURNS			
13 Cooper Willman	6-1	205	Grad
KICK RETURNS			
2Mark Aitken	5-9	180	R-Sr
16Zay Gentry	6-0	195	Sr



GAME 1 - Aug. 29, 2024

Eastern Illinois 0
Illinois 45

Champaign, Ill. Memorial Stadium (43,849)

Scoring	1	2	3	4	Final
Eastern Illinois	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois	14	17	7	7	45

FIRST QUARTER

UI - Bryant 15 pass from Altmyer (Olano kick) - 4:15 UI - Arkin 5 pass from Altmyer (Olano kick) - 0:43

SECOND QUARTER

UI - Olano 26 field goal - 10:10

UI - Bryant 28 pass from Altmyer (Olano kick) - 4:13

UI - Elzy 34 pass from Altmyer (Olano kick) - 1:30

THIRD QUARTER

UI - Feagin 1 run (Olano kick) - 7:04

FOURTH QUARTER

UI - McCray 6 run (Olano kick) - 13:51

TEAM STATS	EIU	UI
First Downs	9	27
Rushes-Yards	22-49	42-244
Passing-Yards	147	242
Comp-Att-Int	16-32-2	21-29-0
Total Offense	196	486
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	1-0
Penalties-Yards	6-50	6-45
Int Returns-Yards-TD	0-0-0	2-1-0
Time of Possession	23:59	36:01
Sacks-Yards	0-0	1-5

LEADERS

RUSHING (No-Yds-TD)

EIU - Flowers (9-28-0), Pearson (6-20-0) UI - Feagin (16-108-1), Laughery (10-79-0)

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

EIU - Holley (32-16-2-147-0)

UI - Altmyer (24-19-0-213-4), Leary (5-2-0-29-0)

RECEIVING (No -Yds -TD)

EIU - Smith (5-63-0), Mirza (3-38-0), Nelson (2-21-0 UI - Bryant (5-63-2), Elzy (2-51-1)

DEFENSE (Tackles - Solo, Assist, TFL)

EIU - Tolbert (9-3-1.5), Shockey (9-0-0), Alexander (5-1-0) UI - Bailey (4-2-0), Briggs (2-3-0), Clarke (3-0-0)

RECAP

Illinois scored 17 points off of three Eastern Illinois first half turnovers as they swung the momentum late in the first quarter to pick up a 45-0 win over the Panthers. EIU made a stop on Illinois opening driving and drove inside the Illini 25-yard line before committing the first of four turnovers in the game. Illinois scored off that miscue and then used a big special teams play to set up its second score for an early 14-0 lead. Elijawah Tolbert led the Panthers defense with 12 tackles despite EIU playing with a short field most of the game. EIU's offensive line allowed just one quaterback sack and three tackles for loss on offensive plays.

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2024 EIU PANTHERS FOOTBALL EASTERN ILLINOIS Game Results

			Overall	Conf		
Date	Opponent	Score	Record	Record	Time	Attend
Aug 29, 2024	at Iliinois	0-45 L	0-1	0-0	3:08	43,849

* indicates Big South-OVC Football Association Game

2023 EASTERN ILLINOIS STARTERS

OPPONENT	WR	WR	RT	RG	C	LG	LT	WR	TE	RB	QB
Illinois	Mirza	D. Smith	Malicevic	Pares	Wilder	Valente	DiSanto	Willman	Manaves	Flowers	Holley
OPPONENT	DE	NT	DT	DE	LB	LB	LB/SAF	СВ	SAF	SAF	СВ
Illinois	Barrows	Price	T. Lewis	Oliveira-Chace	Porter	Shockey	Armstead	l Burt	Drakeford	Aitken	Alexander

2024-25 Eastern III. Football Overall Team Statistics All games

Team Statistics

	EIU	OPF
Scoring	0	45
Points per game	0.0	45.0
Points Off Turnovers	0	24
First Downs	9	27
Rushing	1	10
Passing	6	14
Penalty	2	3
Rushing Yardage	49	244
Yards gained rushing	56	251
Yards lost rushing	7	7
Rushing attempts	22	42
Average per rush	2.2	5.8
Average per game	49.0	244.0
TDs Rushing	0	2
Passing Yardage	147	242
Comp-Att-Int	16-32-2	21-29-0
Average per pass	4.6	8.3
Average per catch	9.2	11.5
Average per game	147.0	242.0
TDs Passing	0	4
Total offense	196	486
Total plays	54	71
Average per play	3.6	6.8
Average per game	196.0	486.0
Kick returns: #-Yards	2-25	0-0
Punt returns: #-Yards	0-0	4-43
Int returns: #-Yards	0-0	2-1
Kick return average	12.5	0.0
Punt return average	0.0	10.8
Int return average	0.0	0.5
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	1-0
Penalties-Yards	6-50	6-45
Average per game	50.0	45.0
Punts-Yards	7-296	4-156
Average per punt	42.3	39.0
Net punt average	36.1	34.0
Kickoffs-Yards	1-65	8-455
Average per kick	65.0	56.9
Net kick average	40.0	41.9
Time of possession / game	23:59	36:01
3rd-down conversion	4/14	4/9
3rd-down pct	29%	44%
4rd-down conversion	0/1	0/0





2024-25 Eastern III. Football Overall Team Statistics All games

Page 2/2 as of Sep 02, 2024

	EIU	OPP
4rd-down pct	0%	0%
Sacks by-Yards	0-0	1-5
Misc Yards	0	0
Touchdowns scored	0	6
Field goals - attempts	0-0	1-1
On-Side kicks	0-0	0-0
Red-zone scores	(0-0) 0%	(5-5) 100%
Red-zone touchdowns	(0-0) 0%	(4-5) 80%
PAT-attempts	(0-0) 0%	(6-6) 100%
2-point conversion-attempts	(0-0) 0%	(0-0) 0%
Attendance	0	43849
Games / Avg per game	0/0	1/43849
Neutral site games	-	0/0

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	ОТ	ТОТ
Eastern III.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opponents	14	17	7	7	0	45



2024-25 Eastern III. Football Individual Statistics All games

Page 1/2 as of Sep 02, 2024

Rushing

Player	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
MJ Flowers	1	9	28	0	28	3.1	0	11	28.0
Jay Pearson	1	6	20	0	20	3.3	0	5	20.0
Eli Mirza	1	1	3	0	3	3.0	0	3	3.0
Kendi Young	1	3	2	0	2	0.7	0	2	2.0
Pierce Holley	1	3	3	7	-4	-1.3	0	3	-4.0
Total	1	22	56	7	49	2.2	0	11	49.0
Opponents	1	42	251	7	244	5.8	2	29	244.0

Punt Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Total	0	0	0.0	0	0
Opponents	4	43	10.8	0	30

Interceptions

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Total	0	0	0.0	0	0
Opponents	2	1	0.5	0	1

Passing

Player	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Pierce Holley	1	76.1	16-32-2	50.0	147	0	27	147.0
Total	1	76.1	16-32-2	50.0	147	0	27	147.0
Opponents	1	188.0	21-29-0	72.4	242	4	34	242.0

Kick Returns

Mick Mctuilis					
Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Mark Aitken	1	10	10.0	0	10
Terrance Gipson	1	15	15.0	0	15
Total	2	25	12.5	0	15
Opponents	0	0	0.0	0	0

Receiving

Receiving							
Player	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
DeAirious Smith	1	5	63	12.6	0	26	63.0
Eli Mirza	1	3	38	12.7	0	27	38.0
Cooper Willman	1	2	11	5.5	0	6	11.0
CJ Nelson	1	2	21	10.5	0	17	21.0
MJ Flowers	1	2	2	1.0	0	5	2.0
Kendi Young	1	1	5	5.0	0	5	5.0
Jay Pearson	1	1	7	7.0	0	7	7.0
Total	1	16	147	9.2	0	27	147.0
Opponents	1	21	242	11.5	4	34	242.0

Fumble Returns

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

Scoring

Player	td	fg	kick	rush	rcv	pass	dxp	saf	pts
Total	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opponents	6	1-1	6-6	0	0	0	0	0	45

Total Offense

Player	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Pierce Holley	1	35	-4	147	143	143.0
MJ Flowers	1	9	28	0	28	28.0
Jay Pearson	1	6	20	0	20	20.0
Eli Mirza	1	1	3	0	3	3.0
Kendi Young	1	3	2	0	2	2.0
Total	1	54	49	147	196	196.0
Opponents	1	71	244	242	486	486.0

Field Goals

Player	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg blk
Opponents	1-1	100.0	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	26 0

FG Sequence

- 4	-		
	Team Name	Eastern III.	Opponents

Numbers in (parentheses) indicate field goal was made

Punting

Player	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Jacob Horvath	7	296	42.3	49	0	1	2	0	0
Total	7	296	42.3	49	0	1	2	0	0
Opponents	4	156	39.0	44	1	3	3	0	0

Kickoffs

Player	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	retn	net	ydln
Julian Patino	1	65	65.0	1	0			
Total	1	65	65.0	1	0	0	40	25
Opponents	8	455	56.9	5	1	2	41.9	23





2024-25 Eastern III. Football Combined Team Statistics All games

Page 2/3 as of Sep 02, 2024

Field Goals

Play er	fg	pct.	01-1 9	20-2 9	30-3 9	40-4 9	50-9 9	lg	blk
Opp one nts	1-1	100. 0	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	26	0

Punting

Player	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Jacob Horvath	7	296	42.3	49	0	1	2	0	0
Total	7	296	42.3	49	0	1	2	0	0
Opponents	4	156	39.0	44	1	3	3	0	0

Scoring

				PA	T				
Player	td	fg	kick	rush	rcv	pass	dxp	saf	pts
Total	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opponents	6	1-1	6-6	0	0	0	0	0	45

Punt Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Total	0	0	0.0	0	0
Opponents	4	43	10.8	0	30

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	ОТ	тот
Eastern III.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opponents	14	17	7	7	0	45

Kick Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Mark Aitken	1	10	10.0	0	10
Terrance Gipson	1	15	15.0	0	15
Total	2	25	12.5	0	15
Opponents	0	0	0.0	0	0

All Purpose

Player	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
DeAirious Smith	1	0	63	0	0	0	63	63.0
Eli Mirza	1	3	38	0	0	0	41	41.0
MJ Flowers	1	28	2	0	0	0	30	30.0
Jay Pearson	1	20	7	0	0	0	27	27.0
CJ Nelson	1	0	21	0	0	0	21	21.0
Terrance Gipson	1	0	0	0	15	0	15	15.0
Cooper Willman	1	0	11	0	0	0	11	11.0
Mark Aitken	1	0	0	0	10	0	10	10.0
Kendi Young	1	2	5	0	0	0	7	7.0
Pierce Holley	1	-4	0	0	0	0	-4	-4.0
Total	1	49	147	0	25	0	221	221.0
Opponents	1	244	242	43	0	1	530	530.0

Total Offense

Player	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Pierce Holley	1	35	-4	147	143	143.0
MJ Flowers	1	9	28	0	28	28.0
Jay Pearson	1	6	20	0	20	20.0
Eli Mirza	1	1	3	0	3	3.0
Kendi Young	1	3	2	0	2	2.0
Total	1	54	49	147	196	196.0
Opponents	1	71	244	242	486	486.0





2024-25 Eastern III. Football Individual Statistics All games

All Purpose

Player	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
DeAirious Smith	1	0	63	0	0	0	63	63.0
Eli Mirza	1	3	38	0	0	0	41	41.0
MJ Flowers	1	28	2	0	0	0	30	30.0
Jay Pearson	1	20	7	0	0	0	27	27.0
CJ Nelson	1	0	21	0	0	0	21	21.0
Terrance Gipson	1	0	0	0	15	0	15	15.0
Cooper Willman	1	0	11	0	0	0	11	11.0
Mark Aitken	1	0	0	0	10	0	10	10.0
Kendi Young	1	2	5	0	0	0	7	7.0
Pierce Holley	1	-4	0	0	0	0	-4	-4.0
Total	1	49	147	0	25	0	221	221.0
Opponents	1	244	242	43	0	1	530	530.0





2024-25 Eastern III. Football Overall Defense Statistics All games

Team Defense

				Ta	ckles	5	Sacks	Pass	defens	se	Fumble	es	blk	d
##	Player	gp	ua	а	tot	tfl/yds	no-yds	int-yds	brup	qbh	fr-yds	ff	kick	saf
11	Elijawah Tolbert	1	9	3	12	1.5-1								
5	Anthony Shockey	1	9		9				1					
4	Moses Alexander	1	5	1	6				1	1				
95	Drake Van Hyfte	1	3	2	5	1-1								
22	Kaelin Drakeford	1	4		4				1					
19	Phoenix Porter	1	3	1	4	0.5-0								
12	Akili Hubbard	1	1	2	3									
1	Nick Coates	1	3		3									
16	Zay Gentry	1	3		3									
3	NiJhay Burt	1	3		3	•	•							
9	Tre'Jon Lewis	1	2		2	•								
66	Jack Valente	1	2		2									
90	Trevon Piggee-Blake	1		1	1									
93	Jacob Horvath	1	1		1	•								
50	Jerrad Price	1	•	1	1	0.5-1								
20	Kaleb Lyons	1	1		1	•	•							
44	Luke Wagner	1	1		1									
91	Nicholas Oliveira-Chace	1		1	1	0.5-1								
2	Mark Aitken	1	1		1	•					•			
6	Joel Barrows	1	1		1									
0	Ira Armstead III	1	1		1	1-2								
	Totals	1	53	12	65	5-6	0-0	0-0	3	1	0-0	0	0	0
	Opponents	1	27	22	49	3-10	1-5	2-1	2	2	2-0	2	0	0





2024-25 Eastern III. Football Team Game-by-Game All games

Page 1/1 as of Sep 02, 2024

			Rush	ing		Recei			g	Pass	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
08/29/2024	at Illinois	22	49	0	11	16	147	0	27	16-32-2	147	0	27	2	25	0	15	0	0	0	0	196
Eastern III.	1	22	49	0	11	16	147	0	27	16-32-2	147	0	27	2	25	0	15	0	0	0	0	196
Opponents	5	42	244	2	29	21	242	4	34	21-29-0	242	4	34	0	0	0	0	4	43	0 3	30	486

Eastern III. Averages

	Games	Avg/ rush	Avg/ catch	Pass effic	KR avg	PR avg	All purpose avg/game	Total offense avg/game
ĺ	1	2.2	9.2	76.1	12.5	0.0	221.0	196.0

						Sacks	F	umble	Pass I	Defe	nse	blkd		PAT temp	ts		off	
Date	Opponent	ua	a	total	tfl-yds	no-yds	ff	fr-yds	int-yds	qbh	brup	kick	kick	rush	rcv	saf	t/o	pts
08/29/2024	at Illinois	53	12	65	5.0-6	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1	3	0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern III.		53	12	65	5.0-6	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1	3	0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Opponents	3	27	22	49	3.0-10	1-5	2	2-0	2-1	2	2	0	6-6	0	0	0	24	45

			Punting							Field	ls	Kickoffs					
Date	Opponent	no.	yds	avg	long	blkd	tb	fc	50+	i20	md-att	long	blkd	no.	yds	avg tb	ob
08/29/2024	at Illinois	7	296	42.3	49	0	0	1	0	2	0-0	0	0	1	65	65.0 1	0
Eastern III.		7	296	42.3	49	0	0	1	0	2	0-0	0	0	1	65	65.0 1	0
Opponents		4	156	39.0	44	0	1	3	0	3	1-1	26	0	8	455	56.9 5	1





2024-25 Eastern III. Football Opponents Game-by-Game All games

Page 1/1 as of Sep 02, 2024

Rushing				Receiving				Pass		Kick	Retu	Punt Returns				tot					
Date	Opponent	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	cmp-att-int	yds	td	lg	no. y	yds td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	off
08/29/2024	at Illinois	42	244	2	29	21	242	4	34	21-29-0	242	4 3	34	0	0 0	0	4	43	0	30	486
Opponents	}	42	244	2	29	21	242	4	34	21-29-0	242	4 3	34	0	0 0	0	4	43	0	30	486
Eastern III.	•	22	49	0	11	16	147	0	27	16-32-2	147	0 2	27	2	25 0	15	0	0	0	0	196

Opponents Averages

	Games	Avg/ rush	Avg/ catch	Pass effic	KR avg	PR avg	All purpose avg/game	Total offense avg/game
Γ	1	5.8	11.5	188.0	0.0	10.8	530.0	486.0

			Tackles			Sacks	Fı	umble	Pass Defense			blkd	attempts			off		
Date	Opponent	ua	a	total	tfl-yds	no-yds	ff	fr-yds	int-yds	qbh	brup	kick	kick	rush	rcv	saf	t/o	pts
08/29/2024	at Illinois	27	22	49	3.0-10	1-5	2	2-0	2-1	2	2	0	6-6	0	0	0	24	45
Opponents	3	27	22	49	3.0-10	1-5	2	2-0	2-1	2	2	0	6-6	0	0	0	24	45
Eastern III.		53	12	65	5.0-6	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1	3	0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0

			Punting						Field	Kickoffs								
Date	Opponent	no.	yds	avg	long	blkd	tb	fc	50+	i20	md-att	long	blkd	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob
08/29/2024	at Illinois	4	156	39.0	44	0	1	3	0	3	1-1	26	0	8	455	56.9	5	1
Opponents		4	156	39.0	44	0	1	3	0	3	1-1	26	0	8	455	56.9	5	1
Eastern III.		7	296	42.3	49	0	0	1	0	2	0-0	0	0	1	65	65.0	1	0





2024-25 Eastern III. Football By Quarter Statistics All games

Page 1/1 as of Sep 02, 2024

3rd-Down Conversions

Date	Date Opponent Score			rall	1st	Qtr	2nd Qtr		3rd Qtr		4th Qtr		Overtime	
08/29/2024	at Illinois L	0-45	4-14	28.6	1-2	50.0	0-4	0.0	2-4	50.0	1-4	25.0	0-0	0.0
	Eastern III.		4-14	28.6	1-2	50.0	0-4	0.0	2-4	50.0	1-4	25.0	0-0	0.0
	Opponents		4-9	44.4	1-2	50.0	1-3	33.3	0-0	0.0	2-4	50.0	0-0	0.0

4th-Down Conversions

Date	Opponent		Score	Ove	rall	1st	Qtr	2nd	Qtr	3rd	Qtr	4th	Qtr	Overt	ime
08/29/2024	at Illinois	L	0-45	0-1	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-1	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0
	Eastern III.			0-1	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-1	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0
	Opponents			0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0

Time of Possession

Date	Opponent	Score	Overall	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Overtime
08/29/2024	at Illinois	L 0-45	23:59	04:53	07:08	07:02	04:56	00:00
	Eastern III.	Total	23:59	04:53	07:08	07:02	04:56	00:00
		Avg.	23:59	04:53	07:08	07:02	04:56	00:00
	Opponents	Total	36:01	09:24	08:35	04:40	13:22	00:00
		Avg.	36:01	09:24	08:35	04:40	13:22	00:00

