ON THE COVER:
As the Panther Baseball team battled on the field at Morehead State on Saturday, May 6th, EIU Commencement was underway at Lantz Arena. Special arrangements were made and a second graduation ceremony was held on Monday, May 8th at 1 p.m. to honor the graduating members of the Panther Baseball team. Thank you to Dr. David Glassman, University President; Jay Gatrell, Provost and incoming University President; Anne Flaherty, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Ken Wetstein, Vice President for University Advancement; Laretta Henderson, Dean of the College of Education; Austin Cheney, Dean of the Lumpkin College of Business and Technology; and John Storsved, Dean of the College of Health and Human Services for making this special celebration possible.

RILEY BAKER, TRACK & FIELD
SENIOR/3.92 GPA/SPORTS ADMINISTRATION

**WIN THE MOMENT...**

"DONOR SUPPORT CHANGED MY LIFE" because I was fortunate to receive a scholarship that provided an opportunity for me to attend EIU, and receive a quality education. It showed me that someone (donors) believed in me..."

**WIN THE GAME...**

FOUR CHAMPIONSHIP RINGS
MEN'S TRACK & FIELD
THE ‘HAMMER’: Game day tradition celebrating a win. Seventy-five student-athletes graduated this Spring (2023).

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

THE MISSION:
The mission of EIU Athletics is to provide an environment in which student-athletes complete their undergraduate college education and achieve athletics success at the highest possible level.

This past year we have been witness to incredible moments in the lives of our student-athletes and it is all because of your generosity as donors and friends of EIU Athletics.

We have had momentum across the department and are experiencing continued overall success across all of our sport programs. Student-athletes earned a cumulative GPA of 3.32 in the Spring. The Panthers led the conference in Medal of Honor recipients (46), 182 student-athletes were named to the Commissioner’s Honor Roll and 103 student-athletes received a perfect 4.00 GPA. Women’s Basketball set a program record. Men’s and Women’s Cross Country, Men’s Indoor Track & Field, Softball (first ever), and Baseball won OVC Championships. Let’s not forget Iowa.

This success and momentum would not have been possible without the contributions made to the Panther Club Annual Fund. Your support is vital to the success of EIU Athletics and I personally thank you for your commitment. I hope to see you this summer at the Panther Club benefit golf outings in Mattoon (July 7) and Effingham (Aug. 11).

TOM MICHAEL
Director of Athletics
9th Year

Tom Michael

win the game
The APR, or Academic Progress Rate, holds institutions accountable for the academic progress of their student-athletes through a team-based metric that accounts for the eligibility and retention of each student-athlete for each academic term. The benchmark is 930.
The Ohio Valley and Summit Team Academic Achievement Awards, which are presented annually in each Conference/League-sponsored sport to the member institution’s team with the greatest percentage of its eligible student-athletes who achieved a 3.25 (3.30 Summit) grade point average or higher.
win the moment...

"MY FAVORITE EIU MOMENT was our team trip to Hawaii (last season) which we would not have been able to do without the support of donors. The food and the experience was incredible. We played quality teams which helped prepare us for our season which we improved to a 21-8 overall record."

win the CAREgame...

THE CARE
Eastern Illinois women's basketball held its sixth annual CARE game on Saturday, February 4, 2023. The Panthers helped raise $15,500 this year, bringing their six year total to $75,840, for local cancer survivors and their immediate needs through the Sarah Bush Lincoln Regional Cancer Center.

THE GAME
Eastern Illinois women's basketball earned a 75-58 home win over the Tennessee State Lady Tigers. With the win, the Panthers improved to 19-3 overall and 12-0 in Ohio Valley Conference play, the best start to OVC play in school history. The Panthers’ 12 OVC wins also matches their longest ever in-season OVC winning streak, set during the 2009-10 season.

Accepting the check on behalf of the SBL Cancer Center are Dr. Dwight Penzing and Kim Lockart.

ELLIE COLSON, WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
JUNIOR/3.70 GPA/MARKETING
A strength and conditioning program can optimize a player’s performance by increasing their potential for athletic success.

Thank you to the generous donors who made this possible for over 350 student-athletes who will benefit from this strength and conditioning facility.
AKIYA KOLLORE
2023 NCAA West Regionals
100 Meter Hurdles
Posted a time of 13.74

RAMSEY HUNT
2023 NCAA West Regionals
Long Jump
23'4"

ERIN HOWARTH
2022 Cross Country Coach of the Year

KEITH ROBERTS
2023 Indoor Track & Field Coach of the Year

EIU PANTHERS OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS
OLIVIA PRICE
Athlete of the Year

Eastern Illinois junior pitcher Olivia Price has been selected as the Ohio Valley Conference Female Athlete of the Year for 2022-23 in voting by the league’s athletics directors and communications directors.

Price, the OVC Pitcher of the Year, guided the Panthers to a 34-21 overall record and 16-6 record in OVC action. The Panthers earned the No. 2 seed for the OVC Tournament, then won three games in three days to win the tournament crown for the first time in program history. During that tournament run Price pitched 21.0 innings, going 3-0 with an 0.33 E.R.A. and .169 opponent batting average. She had back-to-back shutouts in her final two games, including six strikeouts and no walks in the title game as the Panthers earned its first-ever NCAA Tournament bid.

For the year she appeared in 31 games (23 starts) and was 16-6 with a 1.87 E.R.A., 12 complete games, six shutouts and two saves. In 138.1 innings of work she struck out 90 while walking only 23. She also tallied the eighth no-hitter in program history.

The moment you choose to donate, everything changes...
win the moment...

MAKING THE GRADES - SPRING 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WOMEN'S TEAMS</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>MEN'S TEAMS</th>
<th>GPA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>3.73</td>
<td>Men's Cross Country</td>
<td>3.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women's Tennis</td>
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<td>Men's Tennis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women's Track &amp; Field</td>
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<td>Men's Swimming</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3.63</td>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>3.23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women's Soccer</td>
<td>3.62</td>
<td>Men's Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>3.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women's Golf</td>
<td>3.61</td>
<td>Men's Golf</td>
<td>3.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beach Volleyball</td>
<td>3.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women's Basketball</td>
<td>3.48</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.32 DEPARTMENT GPA

Women’s Team Average: 3.62 | Men’s Team Average: 3.14
Student-Athletes with a 4.0 – 103/414 (25%)
Student-Athletes with a 3.00-3.99 – 203/414 (49%)
Total Student-Athletes over a 3.00 semester GPA (74%)

YOUR INVESTMENT HELPS TO PROVIDE:

EDUCATION
Above all, EIU is committed to providing a superior learning environment for all students and works with our student-athletes practice and game schedules to provide the best learning experience possible.

COACHING/SUPPORT STAFF
Our staff provides life skills and mentoring which complements the education received in the classroom.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES
The Academic Center offers resources to enhance individual and educational goals to achieve academic excellence.

COUNSELING SERVICES
The Counseling Clinic helps to enhance psychological/emotional health, as well as promote the overall wellness of the campus student community through education, outreach, consultation, and crisis services.

THE FIRST TIME IN D1 HISTORY: PANTHER SOFTBALL wins the OVC championship

WOMEN’S TEAMS GPA
- Softball 3.73
- Women’s Tennis 3.69
- Volleyball 3.66
- Women’s Track & Field 3.64
- Women’s Cross Country 3.63
- Women’s Soccer 3.62
- Women’s Golf 3.61
- Beach Volleyball 3.60
- Women’s Swimming 3.56
- Women’s Basketball 3.48

MEN’S TEAMS GPA
- Men’s Cross Country 3.54
- Men’s Tennis 3.53
- Men’s Soccer 3.51
- Men’s Swimming 3.45
- Baseball 3.23
- Men’s Track & Field 3.16
- Men’s Golf 3.03
- Football 2.93
- Men’s Basketball 2.85

3.32 DEPARTMENT GPA

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Total Student-Athletes over a 3.00 semester GPA (74%)

OLIVIA PRICE
OVC PITCHER OF THE YEAR

KENDALL GROVER
OVC FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

12 SOFTBALL STUDENT-ATHLETES EARNED A 4.00 GPA

3 EARNED 3.50 & ABOVE

SPRING 2023
YOUR INVESTMENT HELPS TO PROVIDE:

LIFE SKILLS
We are committed to the total development of student-athletes, preparing them with "life skills" that are useful throughout the college experience and after graduation.

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING
Our strength coaches work with student-athletes in the weight room to improve overall strength, endurance, speed, and agility to protect them from injury during competition.

EQUIPMENT/GEAR
Adidas outfits our teams. We utilize the best equipment possible to equip our student-athletes for competition ensuring their safety.

TRAVEL
Our teams travel across the country to compete at conference and national levels.

HEALTH CARE
Excellent health care is provided by our training staff and team doctors.

2023 SOFTBALL OVC TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

2023 BASEBALL OVC TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

YOUR SOFTBALL WINS THE OVC TOURNAMENT
Illinois 176
Indiana 27
Ohio 15
Missouri 13
Texas 13
Wisconsin 13
California 11
Kentucky 10
Michigan 10
Florida 8
Iowa 8
Canada 6
Arizona 5
Georgia 4
Kansas 4
Minnesota 4
Pennsylvania 4
Virginia 4
Mississippi 3
Nebraska 3
Puerto Rico 3
South Africa 2
Alabama 2
Brazil 2
England 2
Massachusetts 2
Nevada 2
Oklahoma 2
Spain 2
Tennessee 2
Washington 2
Argentina 1
Arkansas 1
Columbia 1
Finland 1
Germany 1
Hawaii 1
Louisiana 1
Mongolia 1
Netherlands 1
New Zealand 1

2023 EIU PANthers Football Schedule

AUG 31 TBD Terre Haute, IN
SEPT 9 1 PM Bowling Green, OH
SEPT 16 2 PM O’Brien Field Mid-America Classic
SEPT 23 2 PM O’Brien Field Family Weekend
SEPT 30 TBA Natchitoches, LA
OCT 7 2 PM O’Brien Field Homecoming
OCT 14 TBD Cape Girardeau, MO
OCT 21 2 PM O’Brien Field Hall of Fame
NOV 4 TBD St. Charles, MO
NOV 11 12 PM O’Brien Field Senior Day
NOV 18 TBD Moon Township, PA

No matter where your path may have taken you, from EIU to wherever you call home, this Panther Club membership benefit will help you reconnect and stay close to EIU student-athletes and your favorite EIU Athletics teams.

ESPN+ FREE for THREE MONTHS
New Panther Club members, or renewals +10%, at the Big Blue level and above, will receive three months of ESPN+ for free* with a paid donation. Over 65 EIU Athletics events are broadcast on ESPN+ each academic year. So make a donation, win the moment, and be a part of the team as you watch your donation in action as your favorite EIU Panthers teams compete at the Division 1 level.

*An activation code will be sent to your email, and you can choose fall, winter or spring to activate. Once the free three months have been completed, you can continue your subscription at $6.99 per month or cancel. There is no commitment to ESPN+, but we do appreciate your commitment to the EIU student-athlete experience by becoming a Panther Club member.

FOOTBALL SEASON TICKETS

Call: 217.581.2106 OR EIU/PANTHERS.COM
SINGLE GAME TICKETS AVAILABLE AUGUST 1
Earlier this Spring, Panther Football underwent the first phase of a facility branding initiative. Graphics were installed on walls and doors. A dimensional logo welcome piece will be installed early summer in the O’Brien complex foyer.

"DONORS HAVE CHANGED MY LIFE and they don’t even know it. I dreamed of being a Division 1 football player and thanks to them, it’s been one of the best things in my life. The new weight room, equipment, team jerseys and new field... it’s impacting us players and we want to work harder because of that (donor support)."
Eastern Illinois baseball wrapped up a historic season as the Panthers won five games in four days to win the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament and punch their third ticket to the NCAA Division I Regional Baseball Tournament. This season has been highlighted by the Panthers winning a school record 38 games with three players earning first team All-OVC honors and one player named to the NCAA Vanderbilt All-Regional Tournament team.
EIU Athletics is committed to offering a first-class competitive athletics program at the NCAA Division I (FCS) level that promotes the values of the Eastern Illinois University mission. In order to ensure that 450+ EIU student-athletes receive a quality education and resources necessary to compete on a national level, EIU Athletics provides approximately $3.6 million in athletically related student aid.

The Panther Club, which consists of EIU alumni, fans, and friends of Panther Athletics, assists in providing the private funding that is necessary to support EIU student-athletes in their pursuit of academic and athletic success. The support that the Panther Club and its members provide EIU Athletics is the driving force behind EIU student-athletes being able to achieve their academic degrees and compete athletically on a national level.

Your Panther Club donation is considered an unrestricted gift. Unrestricted giving supports the overall mission of the Athletics Department and does not have a designated purpose for its use. Unrestricted gifts contribute to scholarships, sport budgets, and student-athlete overall experience. Unrestricted gifts are essential financial resources that contribute to the effective operation of the Athletics Department.

Contact us:
Questions regarding the Panther Club? Please contact Mike Murray, Eastern Illinois Director of Development at mkmurray3@eiu.edu or call 217.246.5991.

Thank you!
NEW PANTHER CLUB BENEFITS FOR 2023

FOOTBALL END ZONE SEATING
Football end zone lawn chair seating exclusively for Panther Club members (game ticket & pass required)

YOUNG ALUMNI BENEFIT LEVEL FOR GRADUATES 2019-2023
The Young Alumni program is for EIU Athletics’ graduates who would like to stay connected to the Athletics Department and learn about the value of giving back to their alma mater.
Graduate-donors will receive a ‘GAME CHANGER’ t-shirt to proudly wear to show their support of their fellow student-athletes with a recurring monthly gift of $8.34.

SCHOLAR-ATHLETE DESSERT RECEPTION INVITATION
The Dessert Reception is held each Spring to honor senior athletes and scholar-athletes. The event is held in the Baker-Warmoth Hall of Champions in Lantz Arena.
This year, each senior received a hand drawn photo as a momento of their time as a student-athlete.

PANTHER PATIO PASS
One game day pass for two to the Panther Patio (men’s & women’s basketball) (game ticket, pass & RSVP required for entry)

YOUNG ALUMNI benefit level

[ CAPTAINS LEVEL ]

[ CHAMPIONS LEVEL ]

[ BIG BLUE LEVEL ]

FOOTBALL END ZONE SEATING
Football end zone lawn chair seating exclusively for Panther Club members (game ticket & pass required)

Contact us:
Questions regarding new benefits?
Please contact Mike Murray, Eastern Illinois Director of Development at mkmurray3@eiu.edu or call 217.246.5991.
2023 Panther Club Membership Benefits

**UP TO $99**
- Panther Pride
  - Provide support to EIU Athletics and EIU student-athletes
  - Tax deduction (minus benefit premiums)
  - Membership card, e-blast digital game day programs/updates, decal

**$100-$499**
- Big Blue
  - plus Panther Pride ESPN+
    - 3 months subscription (for new members or with a 10% upgrade for current members)
  - Under the Lights Fall Kickoff event invitation (benefit pickup - football)
  - Winter sports event invitation (benefit pickup - basketball)
  - Preferred parking for football (blue J lot)

**$500-$999**
- Captains
  - plus Big Blue
    - Football end zone lawn chair seating exclusively for PC members (game ticket & pass required)
  - Under the Lights Fall Kickoff event invitation (benefit pickup - football)
  - Winter sports event invitation (benefit pickup - basketball)
  - Preferred parking for football (blue J lot)

**$1000-$2499**
- Champions
  - plus Captains
    - EIU post-season Panther Pride tickets (four EIU FB or two EIU BB tickets)
  - Season access to the Ike Kennard Club Room (game ticket required)
  - One game day pass for two to the (men's & women's basketball) Panther Patio (game ticket, pass & RSVP required for entry)
  - Preferred parking for football (grey lot)
  - Student Rec Center access (additional SRC membership purchase required)

**$2500-$4999**
- Director's Circle
  - plus Champions
    - EIU post-season Panther Pride tickets (four EIU FB or two EIU BB tickets)
  - Invitation for two to the Scholar-Athlete Dessert Reception (Spring 2024)
  - Panther Patio season access pass for two with $1250 donation (game ticket & pass required)

**$5000-$9999**
- Hall of Fame
  - plus Director's Circle Schnorf Family Victory Suite season pass for two

**$10,000+**
- Legacy
  - plus Hall of Fame
    - EIU team of choice post-season championship travel experience

**DID YOU KNOW?**
When you choose the EIU payroll or credit card monthly deduction plan, your pledge will be eligible for 2023 Panther Club benefits at the level pledged. The monthly commitment must be received, and first monthly withdrawal/payment must be made by July 31, 2023. Benefits, including parking passes and student rec center access, if eligible, will be issued after that date.

**2023 Parking Benefits:**
- **Football - Single Season Football Parking Pass**
  - Big Blue Level and Above: blue J lot - North side of O'Brien Field
  - Captains Level and Above: grey lot - West side of O'Brien Field

- **Men's/Women's Basketball - Single Season Basketball Parking Pass**
  - Big Blue Level and Above: blue J lot - North side of Lantz Arena
  - Champions Level and Above: grey lot - South side of Lantz Arena

*Donation in full must be received by 7.31.23, or have enrolled in auto deduct to receive parking benefits.*
ANNUAL GIVING
The LAIR Fund develops annual funding support that provides EIU’s 450+ student-athletes with a quality education and resources necessary to compete at the NCAA Division I level.

SCHOLARSHIPS
Scholarships are the largest annual expense utilized by EIU Athletics. A full scholarship next academic year, on average, will be $23,714.

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS
Endowments are gifts that can provide support on a yearly basis for the perpetual lifespan of the gift. These gifts can be used to establish named scholarships or provide program funding.

PLANNED GIVING
Donors can create a gift that lasts forever by including the department in their overall tax, estate and financial plans. Planned gifts in trusts, insurance, stock, or real estate maximize tax savings while making a profound impact on student-athlete success.

GIFTS-IN-KIND
Individuals and businesses are able to contribute goods and services in order to help offset budget expenditures. Gifts-in-kind are valued at fair market value and must be approved by the Athletics Department.

PANTHERS WHEELS
Courtesy cars provide Athletics’ coaches and staff members the opportunity to recruit and travel while reducing the overall cost to the department. Partners receive various benefits, including tax benefits.

WAYS TO GIVE
DONOR SUPPORT IS CRUCIAL TO ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC SUCCESS

METHODS OF MAKING A GIFT
• One-time gifts
• Donation schedules - Arrangements can be made for recurring donations via a credit card.
• Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) or payroll deductions - Arrangements can be made for recurring donations via electronic fund transfers from a checking or savings account, monthly credit card or payroll deduction (for EIU employees only).
• Pledges - Gifts to the Legacy Fund or other designated programs can be pledged over a multiple year term.
• Matching gifts - Increase your gift with a company match. Check with your employer to see if they will match your gift.

Ways to give
Donor support is crucial to academic and athletic success

Win the game...
Beach Volleyball Defeats Lindenwood for First OVC Win in Final Home Match of the Season 4-1
Name: __________________________________________
Home Address: __________________________________
City/State/Zip: ____________________________________
Cell Phone: _______________________________________
Email: ___________________________________________________________________

☐ YES, please send my ESPN+ 3 MONTHS FREE activation code to my email*

*ESPN+ benefit is for NEW MEMBERS: $100 level or above; or RENEWAL MEMBERSHIPS with 10% upgrade. Donation to be paid in full or monthly deduction plan in place by July 31, 2023 to receive the activation code. You must request or check the ‘Yes’ box to receive the code.

☐ Please check if new contact name, address, phone or email

Football publication listing: ($1,000 donors & above)

Name to be listed: _______________________________________________________________________

CONTRIBUTION LEVELS

PLEASE CHECK ONE

☐ GAME CHANGER YOUNG ALUMNI $8.34 monthly
(New for 2019-2023 EIU Graduates)

☐ PANTHER PRIDE $1-$99

☐ BIG BLUE $100-$499

☐ CAPTAINS $500-$999

☐ CHAMPIONS $1,000-$2,499

☐ DIRECTOR’S CIRCLE $2,500-$4,999

☐ HALL OF FAME $5,000-$9,999

☐ LEGACY $10,000 & ABOVE

PAYMENT OPTIONS

☐ Check Enclosed: $ _____________________

☐ I authorize my card/bank account to be charged $ __________ one time / monthly plan (circle one) for a total donation of $ ______________

☐ Amex ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ EFT ☐ BENEFITS WAIVED (100% tax deduction)

Bank Name: (if electronic funds transfer) _______________________________________________________________________
Account #: __________________________________ Routing #: ______________________________
Credit Card #: ___________________________________________________________________________________________
Expires: ____________ / ____________ Code: _________________
Signature: _____________________________________________________________________

Please make checks payable to EIU Foundation, memo: Panther Club. Mail to: EIU LANTZ ARENA, Room 2018, 600 Lincoln Avenue, Charleston, IL 61920.

DONATE ONLINE: WWW.EIUPANTHERS.COM/DONATE

thank you

The 2023 Annual Fund benefit period is July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
PANTHER CLUB BENEFIT
GOLF OUTINGS

FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2023
MATTOON GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
$160 per person | $640 foursome
Golf outing includes lunch, cart, greens fees, on course beverages/snacks and dinner.
Join us for dinner only: $30

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2023
EFFINGHAM COUNTRY CLUB
$160 per person | $640 foursome
Golf outing includes lunch, cart, greens fees, on course beverages/snacks and dinner.
Join us for dinner only: $30

REGISTER BY PHONE BY CALLING 217-581-6014,
online at www.eiupanthers.com OR
SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW...

Celebration Sunday. Eastern Illinois softball made program history this season winning the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament to advance to their first-ever NCAA Tournament as a NCAA Division I program. EIU had six players earn All-OVC honors during the regular season and four players were named to the All-OVC Tournament team. Olivia Price (OVC Pitcher of the Year) and Kendall Grover (OVC Freshman of the Year) highlighted the Panthers award winners during this history making season. EIU faced nationally ranked Northwestern in their inaugural NCAA Tournament appearance.