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Eastern Illinois University

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BASEBALL SEASON PREVIEW

The 2014 Eastern baseball team features three new players to its starting lineup, while also bringing back two upperclassmen from last year.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 98 | NO. 98

What's love got to do with it?



DION MCNEAL | DAILY EASTERN NEWS

After winning the Chapter of Year Award in Illinois, men of Alpha Phi Alpha, presented "What's Love Got to Do With It? Relationship 101," to get fellow students in the spirit of Valentine's Day Monday in the Coleman Lecture Hall. The event began with a non-pressure environment, having the women sit on the left side of the room, and the men sit on the right. While the women were vocal about their opinions on relationships, the men were on the sidelines taking notes.

New associate admissions director wants to join Eastern with high hopes

By Jack Cruikshank
Administration Editor | @JackCruik

With enrollment dipping lower and lower, members of the admissions department have been working to reinvigorate their strategy with new blood.

The new blood comes in the form of Kara Hadley-Shakya, the current assistant director of admissions at Saint Cloud State University, Minn.

Hadley-Shakya said she is coming to Eastern with a slew of goals in order to revive the enrollment strategy – foremost supporting those who go out around the region to recruit students at high schools and college fairs.

She said she first wants to come in and absorb Eastern in order to acclimate herself in everything from the culture to the events on campus. Hadley-Shakya also said she wants to look at who Eastern is bringing in from across campus to collaborate and get the events off the ground.

"For territory managers, to see what they are doing, what off-campus events are happening and really being able to offer that advice," she said. "I do have experience planning off-campus events as well, so what are those gaps we can fill and really try to have a comprehensive recruitment plan for both freshmen and transfer students."

Hadley-Shakya said she will start at Eastern on March 15, with her first day in the office be-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

ing March 17.

Lou Hencken, the current interim director of admissions, said he hopes to have the new director of admissions start by the middle of April.

"Whenever that person arrives, I will leave and come back to teach my class," Hencken

said.

Hencken teaches the course Leadership and Administration in Higher Education 5710 through the Department of Student Development.

DIRECTOR, page 5

Work on Taylor Hall insulation restarts

By Michael Spencer
City Editor | @tmskeeper

Work restarted in Taylor Hall Monday, days after repairs were thought to have been completed on the area around the sprinkler pipe that burst Jan. 29.

The Facilities, Planning and Maintenance team placed sensors in the attic space around the pipe to monitor the airflow into the afflicted space. As temperatures plummeted Monday, a drop in interior temperature was also detected.

David Crockett, associate director of maintenance and operations, said the steel I-beams that extend from the building inside the overhangs are carrying exterior temperatures into the building.

"You can insulate around the I-beam but the I-beam continues to suck that cold on past the insulation," Crockett said.

Mark Hudson, the director of housing and dining, said another contributing factor could be the constant flow of people into Taylor. Meanwhile, work has begun to stabilize the conditions.

"(The Facilities Planning and Management team) is up there putting in additional insulation and trying to strategize about what's the best way to make sure everything stays fluid," Hudson said.

Work began immediately to further insulate the I-beams and place sheet metal grates in place of the existing ceiling tile to allow warm interior air into the attic space above the sprinkler pipes near the north door of Taylor's south tower.

A pipe connected to the sprinkler system burst Jan. 29, activating fire alarms and forcing Taylor Hall residents to evacuate the complex while building service workers and the fire department were dispatched to deal with flooded space adjacent to the lobby.

"Originally, we went in and you could see and feel the cool air and the wind blowing. We did the insulation there and then we went back and we have some special infrared instruments and it scans to get a picture of it," Crockett said.

The sensors indicated the plummeting temperatures, prompting work to begin again on the space.

"The problem is when this stuff was first installed, we didn't really have this type of intense cold for several years," Crockett said.

Crockett said it was "pretty likely" that this last round of repairs would complete the work needed in Taylor but added that he could not be entirely sure.

Facilities Planning and Management is looking elsewhere around campus for other potentially problematic areas.

"We're playing close attention to the door that's in a similar place in Thomas," Hudson said, adding that spaces in other academic buildings are also being examined.

Hudson said Sunday that some maintenance might be delayed until the summer when major overhaul can be scheduled to ensure other areas of campus are protected from the cold.

Michael Spencer can be reached at 581-2812 or at tmspencer2@eiu.edu.

Local weather

TODAY WEDNESDAY



Sunny
High: 17°
Low: 6°



Partly Cloudy
High: 30°
Low: 18°

For more weather visit castle.eiu.edu/weather.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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Library to host book sale fundraiser

By Michael Spencer
City Editor | @tmskeeper

A book sale to raise money for summer programming for the Charleston Carnegie Public Library will start Friday.

Books collected from donations and the library's own reserve of texts that are no longer in circulation will be available to purchase at the sale. Gently used best-sellers, fiction and non-fiction alike will be available for discounted prices.

There will be hardback and paperback books as well as picture books, DVDs and CDs.

The money brought in by the book sale will go towards the Summer Read Program for children and adults.

All funds from any of the library's four sales each year are counted as a donations. Jeanne Hamilton, the library director, said donations comprise roughly 10 percent of the annual budget.

"It is certainly important to us to have good donations and good fundraising efforts since it does make up a good portion of our budget," Hamilton said. "We depend on it to be able to offer the level of services that we currently are offering."

Hamilton said the library brings in about \$1,000 from each book sale.

The Friends of the Library, a group comprised of library supporters who meet once a month to manage upcoming events is organizing



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Nancy Loucks, a Charleston resident, browses the fiction selection during the Charleston Carnegie Public Library book sale May 18, 2013. She said she was looking for books of a new author she recently discovered. "There's very little I don't like... except romances," Loucks said laughing.

the sale. "The Friends of the Library are common for libraries," Hamilton said. "They coordinate volunteer efforts including going through the book sale donations and sorting them and then also working the book sale as well."

The Summer Read Program is an

event encouraging youth to check out books and keep a reading log during the summer months in order to qualify for prizes. Adults must complete specified reading tasks and win awards such as gift certificates from local businesses.

The next book sale will take place in May with two more events to

come in the rest of the year. Hamilton said the library always accepts donations from those with gently used books that they are willing to part with.

Michael Spencer can be reached at 581-2812 or tmspencer2@eiu.edu.

2 men charged with drug induced homicide

Staff Report

Two men are in custody after being charged with Drug Induced Homicide in connection with the Dec. 25, 2013, death of a Champaign man.

Until now, no one had been charged for the death of Jeremy Reeley.

Police allege Caleb Tomas and Damian Brooks supplied Reeley with heroin, which led to his death. The charges were filed

Feb. 7. The drug induced homicide charge has been submitted in conjunction with an unlawful delivery of a controlled substance charge, which is a Class X felony.

Class X felonies are the most serious offenses one can be charged with in Illinois. If found guilty, those charged will have to serve a minimum sentence of six to 30 years in prison.

The bond for Brooks and Tomas has been set at \$250,000.

BLOTTER

Disorderly conduct reported near McAfee Gym

- Disorderly Conduct was reported near McAfee Gymnasium at 9:22 p.m. Thursday. This incident was referred to the Student Standards Office.

- A cannabis complaint was reported near Coleman Hall at 10:18 p.m. Friday. This incident was referred to the Office of Student Standards.

- Andrew Gosney, 19, 13556 S. Shannon Drive, Homer Glen, Ill., was arrested at 12:34 a.m. Saturday at the 500 block of Buchanan. He was charged with Driving on Suspended License and released at 1:42 a.m. after posting 10 percent of \$1,500 bond.

- A Private Property Accident was reported at 11:00 a.m. Saturday in J-Lot. No citations were issued.

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Signs for a cause



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Megan McQueen, a senior sociology major, makes a sign Monday in the Bridge Lounge of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. The signs are to promote a fundraiser the Sociology Club is holding Tuesday to raise money for an activity they hope to host at the Salvation Army.

Perry to speak on school policies

By Jack Cruikshank
Administration Editor | @JackCruik

President Bill Perry will be speaking to the Faculty Senate in regards to the university's school-closure policies Tuesday.

The meeting will take place at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Booth Library Conference Room on the fourth floor.

Perry has been scheduled to talk to the senate since the beginning of the semester, before the university was closed last Wednesday.

Grant Sterling, the chairman of the Faculty Senate, said the members will look over the electronic learning materials.

Specifically, the senate is set to review the costs associated with electronic supplemental requirements for courses.

The senate will also look at the func-

tionality, compatibility, and whether or not other installation will be required for the electronic material to be utilized fully in courses.

The senate will be reviewing all aspects of the electronic learning materials, as well as the usage plan professors have to complete before requiring students to purchase material outside of the required textbook.

Misty Rhoads, the chairwoman of the Council on Academic Affairs, sent an email encouraging the senate to attend the upcoming CAA learning goals workshops.

There will be six of the workshops from the end of February to the beginning of April, and Rhoads said the goal is to help acclimate the Eastern faculty to the new learning goals that the CAA recently amended.

"These workshops are being conducted to introduce the campus com-

munity and key curriculum leaders such as you to the newly-revised university learning goals and to give you the opportunity to give CAA feedback," Rhoads said.

At the last CAA meeting Thursday, CAA member Stephen Lucas said he wishes the senate members would have attended some of the previous CAA meetings regarding the revisions to the university learning goals.

"(Faculty Senate members) should come hear our explanations before we are called before them (to explain the revisions)," Lucas said.

He added he feels the senate should come to other CAA sessions before he and other CAA members have to go to the senate meetings.

Jack Cruikshank can be reached at 581-2812 or jdcruikshank@eiu.edu.

RHA is not meeting

Staff Report

The Residence Hall Association will not be meeting Thursday for their regularly scheduled meeting.

Other than the school closing on Friday for presidents day, RHA will not be meeting because there is not much to talk about for the week.

The RHA President Patrick Morrow said there was no need for a meeting this week. Nothing would have been proposed. The meeting would have been mostly filled with hall reports.

RHA members will meet again at 5 p.m. Feb. 20 in Andrews Hall.

Online at dailyeasternnews.com



Visit the Daily Eastern News online for a photo gallery by Assistant Photo Editor Dion McNeal of Alpha

Phi Alpha's "What's Love Got To Do With It?" event Monday in the Coleman Lecture Hall.



Assistant Online Editor Seth Schroeder talks about art and his independent study at his blog at wordpress.chameleoncharisma.com

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Quote of the Day

“Climate is what we want, weather is what we get.”

- Mark Twain

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Russia cuts it close before the Olympics



JOSH WILLIAMS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

STAFF EDITORIAL

It is more than just sports in Russia

If you find yourself watching any of the winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, there's certainly a lot to take away from it, and it's not just some new sports you may not have known about or whoever is going to be the next big name athlete to emerge.

No matter who hosts the Olympics, whether it be in the summer or winter, a magnifying glass is placed over the countries problems for all the world to see.

In the case of Russia, it stretches far beyond the strange living arrangements that journalists began tweeting about last week when the press first arrived.

It has to do mainly with not just issues of gay marriage in Russia, but homosexuality as a whole.

Last year, Russia came under intense criticism for banning any “propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations, making it illegal

to distribute material on gay rights or even say that these relationships are equal to heterosexual relationships.

There was a lot of talk of the United States boycotting the games, but ultimately, that didn't happen.

The United States is still there, despite these laws.

This isn't about whether or not the United States should be there.

Instead it is a reminder to, not only those in Sochi competing, American or not, all those around the world watching.

Despite whatever ways Russia will try and clean up its act for the global stage, this discrimination is still happening, and will likely continue to happen even after the Olympic flame has been extinguished.

The world needs to continue to pressure Russia to change its laws as a push for equal-

ity to all people, heterosexual or not.

As we've seen with gay marriage becoming legalized in more and more states in this country, the concepts of gay rights are changing all over the world.

It's will be interesting to see how much things change in Russia after the Olympics and after the spotlight isn't on them as much.

We, as a society, can't forget about it once our athletes come home and Russia is no longer a big deal to us.

Russia won't change if the pressure is taken off, so it's up to the rest of the world to not let it just fade away like any other news story.

The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of *The Daily Eastern News*.

Taking life advice from a College Dropout

Feb. 10, 2014 marks the ten-year anniversary of “The College Dropout,” the debut album of Chicago rapper Kanye West.

I always find it really interesting to go through an artist's discography and see the evolution of the music, but of the person as a whole. “The College Dropout” sounds nothing like his release “My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy,” and even further from his most recent album, “Yeezus,” but that's the point. West was never going to remake the same album. He evolved into different styles of music the same way his life changed.

Songs like “Jesus Walks” and “Golddigger” shot him to the top of the charts, giving a man who grew up with little, suddenly a whole lot more than he was used to. He endured public scrutiny for his comments on then President George W. Bush on a live T.V. benefit for Hurricane Katrina relief. He saw the death of his mother, Donda, in 2007 after suffering from a combination of heart disease and post-plastic surgery complications.

I've enjoyed seeing West go from “just a producer” to “more than a rapper.” I know



Dominic Renzetti

there's a lot people hate about him, too. They call him arrogant, smug, or just an all-around asshole, and certainly some of that criticism he does bring on himself. I mean, thinking back to his BBC Radio 1 interview, it's almost hard not to make fun of someone for getting so upset about something like leather jogging pants, but there's still something deep down that I really like about West.

West does have a quality that a lot of people could learn from, it's just something they're afraid of. West is one of very few people who actually believes he is the person inside his head when he looks in the mirror before he walks out the door. He looks at himself and he believes he is whatever he

wants to be, whether it be a great entertainer, a businessman, fashion designer, or whatever else he wants to venture into. Whether he's right or not, does it really matter? Does it really matter what other people say or think of you as long as you're happy with what you're doing?

The first song on “The College Dropout” echoes this perfectly: “We don't care what people say.”

A lot has changed about West since 2004, but the sentiment remains the same in a lot of his music, no matter what it sounds like: it doesn't really matter what people say as long as you know in your mind that you're happy with who you are and what you're doing.

I try and live my life a little bit like West, minus the leather jogging pants, but even if I did wear something different or unconventional, does anyone else's opinion really matter other than mine?

Dominic Renzetti is a senior family and consumer sciences major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or dcrenzetti@eiu.edu.

Helping out



CAYLA MAURER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Nick Borre, a junior kinesiology and sports studies major, helps Aiden and Matthew with homework at Teen Reach, an after-school program for local at-risk youth. Borre, an offensive lineman for the Eastern football team, has been volunteering with Teen Reach for the past three years.

Chocolate, cards to help bring out 'Cultural Arts'

UB to offer international candy, events

Staff Report
@DEN_News

Members of the University Board will be mixing chocolate and education during their upcoming "UB Cultural Arts" function.

"The Cultural Chocolate Factory" will bring students to the world of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," but on a multicultural level.

Kicking off the semester's "UB Cultural Arts," "The Cultural Chocolate Factory" will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Kara Butorac, the chairwoman of the UB, said the function would feature different chocolates from around the world. An appointed "Willy Wonka" will guide the students through the various countries based on the chocolates.

Butorac said it was a way to bring education to the forefront of

students' mind, while combining it with traditional Valentine's Day gifts – candy.

"It's a fun way to include both chocolate and learning," Butorac said.

With the Willy Wonka helping give students basics on different countries based on the different chocolates, Butorac said it would be able to mix Valentine's Day with cultural arts.

Along with the various chocolate candies and presentations about different countries, students can also create Valentine's Day

"It's a fun way to include both chocolate and learning."

- Kara Butorac, UB chairwoman

cards. The Valentine's Day cards will be available along with a chocolate fountain.

Butorac said the next big thing coming up for "UB Cultural Arts" is "A Celebration of African American Music: Kazual."

Butorac said Kazual is an a cappella group performing African-American music.

"Kazual" will be at 6 p.m. Feb. 27 in the Grand Ballroom of the Union.

The Daily Eastern News staff can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

» DIRECTOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hadley-Shakya said she has to come to Eastern to continue work similar to what she has done for the past six years. She has previously been a territory manager before, which she said would significantly help out with this process.

"I see the director and associate director being able to come in and offer some leadership and being an advocate for those who are on the ground being road warriors," Hadley-Shakya said.

She said she will be overseeing those who go out to recruit from high schools.

She also plans to oversee large-scale events on campus for students such as open houses

for freshmen and transfer students.

"Planning events is very difficult work and so being able to see that support is how I see it," Hadley-Shakya said. "Whoever (the new director of admissions) is will come in with their vision, which will support the mission and vision of the institution and how to really offer a comprehensive recruitment plan for the office and the campus community."

She said while she had tried to research some of the intricacies of Eastern, she was surprised by the overall positive experience.

"The position description was very exciting to me," Hadley-Shakya said. "It offered a lot of opportunity and challenges, which is one reason why I ap-

plied, also I did extensive research as to what is the culture of EIU and what is the campus like and the community and was very interested."

She said she sees the current Eastern admissions culture as "an exciting time."

"The field of admissions is very fast-paced and there is quite a bit of turnover in general in our field," Hadley-Shakya said. "I see it as something exciting, as when I came for the interview, I saw a lot of energetic people that have some great experience."

She said she sees the lack of a current permanent director of admissions as an opportunity to work with the new director, whoever it turns out to be, in order to improve the quality of admissions at Eastern.

Hencken said he felt like Hadley-Shakya will be a good fit at Eastern, because of her dedication to the position.

"That person can do a lot of coordinating and I liked a lot of things about her. One of the things I especially liked is how Saint Cloud and Eastern are similar," Hencken said. "She has had work experience in the areas of special events and other types of things in areas where I thought we could use a little extra help."

Hadley-Shakya said she is currently working on finishing her current position at Saint Cloud before transitioning to Eastern.

"Right now, I'm just trying to get events off the ground in my current position and focus on that transition to Eastern," Hadley-Shakya said. "I'm very

excited and I know the team is very excited. I can't wait to get started at Eastern and be a part of the community."

Hadley-Shakya said she was impressed with the overall experience when she has been on Eastern's campus.

She said even during her interview for the job, she found the process to be much more in-depth.

"I was very impressed with how comprehensive and hands-on the process (of the interview) was even within the admissions office," Hadley-Shakya said.

She said she plans on being an important piece in the strategic enrollment plan and where the university is going.

Jack Cruikshank can be reached at 581-2812 or jdcruikshank@eiu.edu.

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June or August: 2 BR apts. 2001 S. 12th St. and 1305 18th St. all appliances, trash pd. 348-7746, www.CharlestonLAPts.com
2/28

5-8 bedroom houses. Great locations. EIP. 217-345-6210, www.ElProps.com
2/28

August: 3 BR apt, 820 Lincoln Ave, All appliances and dishwasher, water & trash pd. 348-7746, www.CharlestonLAPts.com
2/28

For rent

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2/13

2 bedroom, 11 month lease, \$275 each month, w/d, 1517 11th St. 3 bedroom, 10 month lease, \$235 each month, w/d, 1521 11th St. Call 217-549-7031
2/28

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2/28

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2/28

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2/28

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2/28

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2/28

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2/28

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3/7

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For rent

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2 BR house for 2, 1 block to Physical Science. Hardwood, washer/dryer. \$700/month plus utilities. Jim Wood, Realtor, www.woodrentals.com, 345-4489.
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Spoonhour sees 7 wins as tournament worthy

By **Anthony Catezone**
Sports Editor | @AnthonyCatz

Seven wins.

Eastern coach Jay Spoonhour said he believes his men's basketball team will need seven wins to get into the Ohio Valley Conference tournament.

"But really you just don't know," he said. "You just try to get as many (wins) as you can."

At 6-6, the Panthers are the No. 6 seed in the OVC standings, but a 74-68 loss to Southeast Missouri Saturday in Lantz Arena can prove to be detrimental to their postseason hopes.

"Every loss is hard, but this is a game we should have won," Eastern forward Sherman Blanford said.

The Panthers ended the Redhawks' three-game OVC losing streak and dropped from second to third in the west division.

With four conference games remaining, seven wins is an evident possibility.

But that task becomes even harder when those final four games are dissected.

For example, all four games are on the road, where Eastern is 3-8 this season. Also, Eastern will travel to both Belmont and Murray State, the OVC's top two teams, which have a combined record of 19-4 in conference.

"You try to just get one (win)," Spoonhour said. "And the once you get one, see if you can get another one somewhere."

Around the OVC

Behind five double figure scorers, Belmont men's basketball routed Austin Peay 93-68 Saturday.

Belmont jumped out to a 20-8 lead eight minutes into the game.

After Austin Peay closed to within 31-29, the Bruins' J.J. Mann and Reece Chamberlain sparked a 22-7 run that pushed their lead to 53-36 with 2:02 left in the first half.

Mann had 22 first-half points.

However, to begin the second half, the Governors used a 12-0 run to pull within five points.

Three-pointers from Nick Smith and Drew Windler and a Craig Bradshaw layup extended the Belmont lead back to 61-49 with 15:21 remaining.

From there, Chamberlain and Evan Bradds spearheaded another Bruin scoring run that stretched

EASTERN BASKETBALL REMAINING SCHEDULE

CURRENT RECORD: 9-15, 6-6
3rd in OVC West

FEB. 13 | @AUSTIN PEAY | 7 P.M.

FEB. 15 | @MURRAY STATE | 7:30 P.M.

FEB. 20 | @BELMONT | 7 P.M.

FEB. 24 | CHICAGO STATE | 7 P.M.

MARCH 1 | @SIU-E | 5 P.M.

OVC TOURNAMENT
MARCH 3-8 | NASHVILLE, TENN.

the margin to 76-53 with 10:40 remaining.

Murray State built a 13-point lead and held on for a 73-65 win over Tennessee State Saturday at the Gentry Center in Nashville, Tenn.

The win pushed the Racers to 14-9 overall and 9-2 in the Ohio Valley Conference.

The Racers lead the OVC west division ahead of second place Southern Illinois-Edwardsville at 6-5.

Jonathan Fairell scored a career-high 17 points on 8-of-9 shooting from the field to go with seven rebounds.

Jarvis Williams and Cameron Payne each added 16 points.

Williams recorded his 11th double-double of the season while Payne led the Racers with six assists.

The Racers hit 3-pointers from Payne and Jeffery Moss for a 9-3 run and a 25-16 lead with 8:25 remaining in the first half.

When T.J. Sapp made a 3-pointer and Moss finished a fast break, the Racers were up by 13 at the 3:28 mark. But Tennessee State chipped away and Murray State's lead at the half was 37-28.

Fairell scored the Racers' first six points in the second half and Payne added a 3-pointer to keep Murray State in front by nine points with 15:42 left.

The Racer's lead went to 13 again (60-47) with 8:20 remaining. They survived an offensive slowdown, but still led by eight with 1:51 left on a Fairell fast break dunk.

Anthony Catezone can be reached at 581-2812 or ajcatezone@eiu.edu.



Sherman Blanford, a senior forward, goes up for a layup between two Tennessee-Martin players on Jan. 24 in Lantz Arena. Blanford averaged 10 points per game last season.

FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

» BASEBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"He really did a great job in the fall defensively," Schmitz said. "He gives us a chance to have two bats in the lineup that needs some pop."

Taylor played in 44 games last season, starting 39 times as the designated hitter.

He has not started in the outfield since 2011, when he was a senior at Middleton High School in Tampa, Fla.

Eastern's brand new outfield has freshman Frankie Perrone starting in right field.

It will take some time for the three outfielders to gel and get used to playing besides each other.

"We have an outfield that is kind of really new to each other and we

just have to be patient with how they play together and they get it," Schmitz said. "But I think it is going to have a bit more speed than what we've had in the past."

Another freshman will also take on a vital role to the team, as Marshawn Taylor will be the Panthers' shortstop.

Schmitz said it was important to go out and get a solid defender at shortstop after last season, when the position proved to be a liability for Eastern's defense.

Tyler Schweigert started 26 games, while Dane Sauer started a combined 28 times at shortstop and second base.

Between Schweigert and Sauer, 21 errors were made in 69 combined games played.

Marshawn gets to start because of the inconsistency from last year,

Schmitz said.

"Our shortstop was really a question mark all year long last year, so we went out and got a guy who we think is going to be a really good defender," he said.

Schmitz said it is a big responsibility for Marshawn, but that he will mainly expect solid defense, while decreasing the stress offensively by batting the freshman ninth.

After Treysen Vavra transferred to Florida Southern College during the summer, Schmitz was left a hole at first base.

One of his first options was Jason Scholl, but Schmitz has decided to place Scholl as the designated hitter.

Luckily, for Schmitz, he received a late-summer transfer to fill in that gap at first.

Adam Casson played for Parkland College last season.

The junior played in 57 games at first base, making Eastern a good fit.

"Casson isn't really a pop guy, but he seems to always get a big hit and we've seen that through the fall and some scrimmages," Schmitz said.

Those returning are third baseman, Brant Valach, catcher Jacob Reese and second baseman Mitch Gasbarro.

Reese is the lone senior on the field for Eastern and after struggling at the plate a year ago, Schmitz is eager to see the catcher perform well in his final year with the Panthers.

Gasbarro played both shortstop and second base last season, but he will now officially take over for Nathan Sopena.

Eastern will start the season play-

ing 13 straight road games, beginning Friday with a four-game series against No. 14 Louisiana-Lafayette.

The Ragin' Cajuns are one of four top-25 ranked teams Eastern will play before its first home game in early March.

After missing the OVC tournament last season, Schmitz said the team is "all in" this year, trying to earn back the respect the Panthers had after 2012, when they played for the conference championship.

"We've tried to go over some of the tradition here, some of the championships we've had and just gaining that respect back from other people by how you play the game," Schmitz said.

Aldo Soto can be reached at 581-2812 or asoto2@eiu.edu.



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New players infused into Panthers' lineup

2 freshmen,
1 transfer enter
2014 as starters

By Aldo Soto
Assistant Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

The 2014 Eastern baseball team has three new faces in its starting lineup, but even the six returning players will have to adjust to different roles.

Junior outfielder Caleb Howell played 46 games last season, starting 45 in left and right field and leading off for coach Jim Schmitz.

Howell battled through some leg injuries early in 2013, but still led the Panthers in hitting (.362) and on-base percentage (.442).

Now, Schmitz has moved Howell to the No. 3 spot in the batting order and defensively has moved him to center field.

There are four new starters who are at different positions from last year, but Schmitz said the most important transition would be Howell replacing Nick Priessman, who was a senior last season.

Howell returned to Eastern during the fall with an injury to his quad, which occurred early on during Howell's summer league play, Schmitz said.

"We got him back and there was a knot in there and we were like, 'this is not what we need,' because we wanted to see him in center field and we didn't all fall," Schmitz said.



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Junior outfielder Caleb Howell runs to first base against Murray State last season at Coaches Stadium. Howell was named to the pre-season All-OVC First Team by College Sports Madness.

Despite not seeing any practice time during the fall in center field, Howell has experience in that position.

In 2012, when Eastern made it to the Ohio Valley Conference tournament, Howell stepped in for Priessman in center after Priessman broke

one of his fingers.

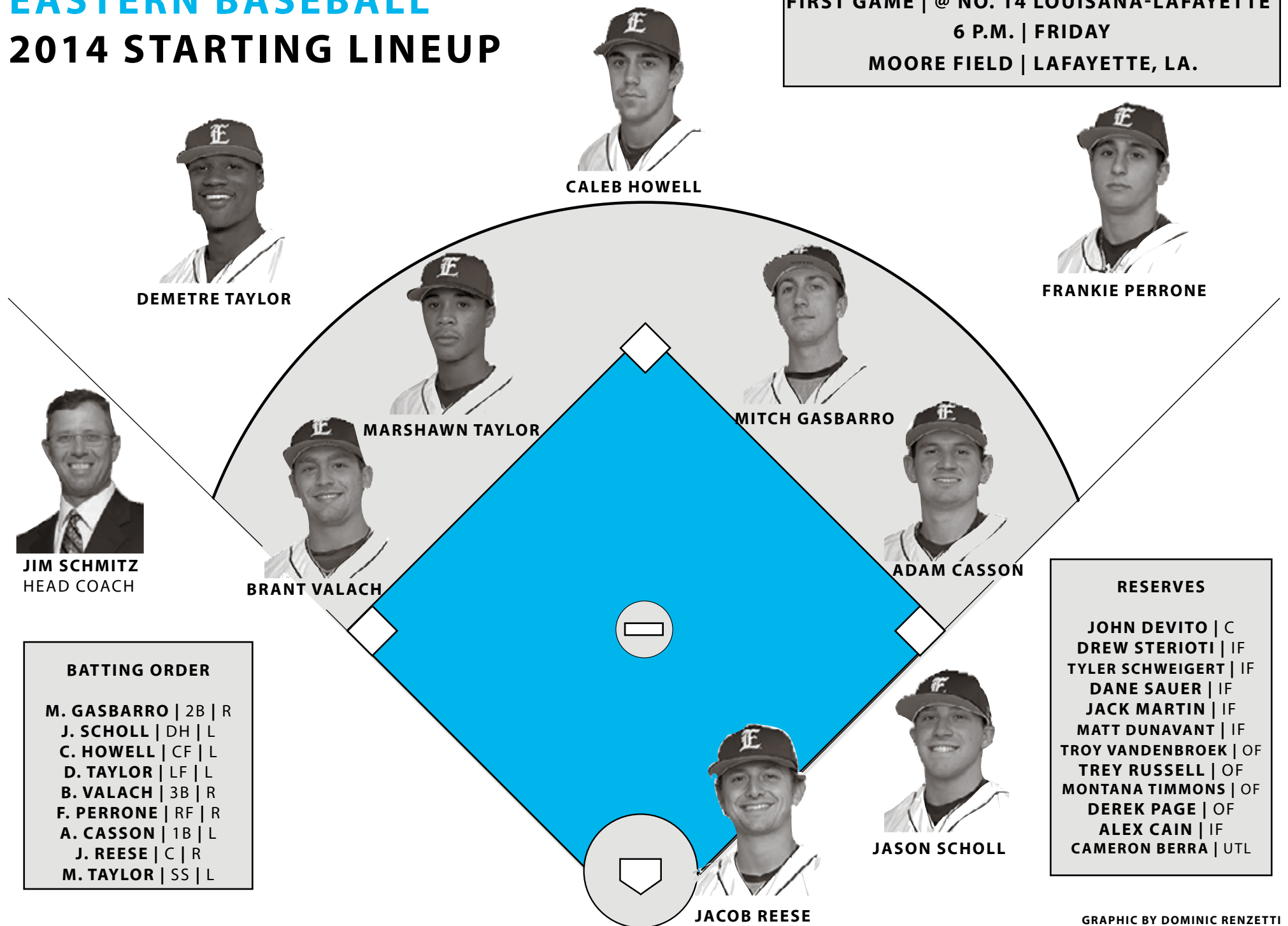
But Howell will not be the only player to have a new spot, as red-shirt sophomore Demetre Taylor has

earned himself a starting job in left field.

BASEBALL, page 7

EASTERN BASEBALL 2014 STARTING LINEUP

FIRST GAME | @ NO. 14 LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE
6 P.M. | FRIDAY
MOORE FIELD | LAFAYETTE, LA.



BATTING ORDER

M. GASBARRO | 2B | R
J. SCHOLL | DH | L
C. HOWELL | CF | L
D. TAYLOR | LF | L
B. VALACH | 3B | R
F. PERRONE | RF | R
A. CASSON | 1B | L
J. REESE | C | R
M. TAYLOR | SS | L

RESERVES

JOHN DEVITO | C
DREW STERIOTI | IF
TYLER SCHWEIGERT | IF
DANE SAUER | IF
JACK MARTIN | IF
MATT DUNAVANT | IF
TROY VANDENBROEK | OF
TREY RUSSELL | OF
MONTANA TIMMONS | OF
DEREK PAGE | OF
ALEX CAIN | IF
CAMERON BERRA | UTL

