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THE WEEKLY EDITION

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

'TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID'

MARCH 9, 2022

MORE THAN A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

VOL. 106 | NO. 79

'UNEVENTFUL' UNOFFICIAL

Story by Corryn Brock, Madelyn Kidd

Photo by Rob Le Cates

Members of the Charleston police and fire departments say Unofficial 2022 was less chaotic than in years past.

Daily Eastern News editors traveled with both departments as they responded to calls both related and unrelated to Unofficial.

Over the course of the day, the

Charleston Police Department issued 22 citations for ordinance violations and made three felony drug arrests connected to Unofficial. The Charleston Fire Department responded to three calls connected to Unofficial, two being for intoxicated individuals and one for a car wreck on Fourth Street and Lincoln Avenue.



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Official Unofficial citations, felony charges

22 CITATIONS:

- Two for obscene conduct (public urination)
- Nine for public possession of alcohol
- One for possession of a fake I.D.
- Seven for purchase/acceptance of alcohol by minors
- Two for minor possession of alcohol
- One for possession of cannabis

As well as...
THREE DRUG-RELATED FELONIES

Graphic by Luke Taylor

About
The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published weekly on Wednesday, in Virdon, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and online during the summer term except during university vacations or examinations. One copy per week is free to students and employees. Additional copies can be obtained for 50 cents each in the Student Publications Office in Buzzard Hall.

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Comments / Tips
Contact any of the above staff members if you believe your information is relevant.

Corrections
The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds or is made aware of by its readers will be corrected as promptly as possible. Please report any factual error you find to Editor-in-Chief Corryn Brock at 581-2812.

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If you would like to work for *The Daily Eastern News* as a reporter, photographer, columnist, cartoonist, copy editor, designer or videographer, please visit it at the newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING MARCH 9-16

<p>WEDNESDAY Student Senate Meeting 7 p.m. - Stevenson Hall</p>	<p>SATURDAY</p>	<p>MONDAY</p>
<p>THURSDAY Council on Academic Affairs 2 p.m. - Witters Conference Room, Booth Library</p>	<p>SPRING BREAK!</p>	
<p>FRIDAY</p>		
	<p>TUESDAY</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY</p>

Send your event information to dennewsdesk@gmail.com to be added to our online and print calendars!

'The Vehicle' to celebrate 60th anniversary

By Madelyn Kidd
News Editor | @DEN_news

Eastern's student-run creative arts magazine, *The Vehicle*, is taking submissions from the Eastern community for the 60th anniversary print issue and new online issue until March 21.

The submissions are open to Eastern employees, students and alumni for visual art, fiction, poetry, drama/plays and creative nonfiction.

Submissions can be sent to <https://thevehicle.submittable.com/> submit by March 21.

Colleen Abel, *The Vehicle's* advisor and assistant professor of English, said the magazine has been running since 1959 and has published works by authors and students.

The Vehicle has always been stu-

dent-run and following COVID-19, it was difficult to publish issues.

"For a long time, *The Vehicle* was an extracurricular organization," Abel said. "However, due to COVID, it became too difficult to work on issues and the magazine had to go on hiatus for a couple of years. That's what makes the return of the magazine so exciting. It's also the first time we will put out issues since *The Vehicle* has changed from an extracurricular organization to a course housed in the English department. For the first time, *The Vehicle* is being taught within the professional writing concentration, as a special topics course in literary publishing. It's likely that, going forward, *The Vehicle* will get its own course in permanent rotation in the department, which is awesome.

For the relaunch, *The Vehicle* is

publishing two issues this semester; a 60th anniversary print edition and a new online issue.

The online issue will focus on submissions from Eastern employees, students and alumni.

The Co-Editor-in-Chiefs of the Vehicle are Maddi Walton and Katie Webb.

There are separate submission boxes on the website for each submission type: drama, poetry, creative nonfiction, art and fiction.

The guidelines for drama submissions are: plays 10 minutes in length, 10-15 pages, formatted as double space and traditional play formatting.

The poetry guidelines include: poems in any style which examine human experiences in new lights, no more than three pages, and submit

up to five poems each submitted separately.

The creative nonfiction guidelines are: preferably under 3,000 words, can be creative nonfiction of any kind and formatted in double space 12 point Times New Roman font.

The guidelines for the art submission include: any form of art, maximum to three artworks per artist and formatted as a JPEG with a minimum of 800 to 1000 pixels on the shortest side of the artwork.

The fiction guidelines include: no more than 5,000 words, any genre which showcases stories from Eastern community members and formatted as double spaced as 12 point Times New Roman font.

Madelyn Kidd can be reached at 581-2812 or at mekidd@ieu.edu.



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Partygoers talk to Lt. Brett Compton after telling an individual to run before they were ticketed for a violating a city ordinance regarding obscene conduct, in the backyard of the second house of the crawl for Unofficial 2022.

» JUMP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Citations included: nine tickets for public possession of alcohol, seven tickets for purchase/acceptance of alcohol, two tickets for minors possessing alcohol, two tickets for obscene conduct (public urination), one ticket for possession of cannabis and one ticket for possession false identification.

CPD Lt. Brett Compton, who worked the day shift during the party, has been working Unofficial since the start of the tradition. He said the parties typically lead to more police involvement than in other weekends.

"It's definitely a lot busier than we normally have, so there's more calls for ser-

vice. But, in general, they're not terrible. I mean, as long as everybody kind of has a general sense of responsibility, but some kind of forget basic safety and over-consumption and things like that."

Compton said he tries to have fun while working during Unofficial.

"I try and have a lot of fun because, you know, most of the kids, they're just trying to have a good time and all that so you try to have a little fun with them too, and at the same time do our job," Compton said. "I think we accomplished that today."

CFD Captain Blake Graven, who has been with CFD since 2000 and a captain since 2009, said 10 years ago Unofficial was bigger than recent years leading to more Unofficial related calls.

Officer Brian Siefferman, who worked

the night shift, said Unofficial was "pretty uneventful" compared to years past.

"In the years past, there's been a lot more fights, a lot more problems at the bars," Siefferman said.

In his seventh year of working during Unofficial, Siefferman said things have calmed down for the biggest party of the year for Eastern students.

"It's definitely more tame than it used to be," Siefferman said.

Compton and Siefferman offered their advice for a smooth weekend for Unofficial 2023.

"Just be respectful to the neighborhood because the parties are happening (in) college housing but the housing that is in the middle of residential neighborhoods, so it's not all college housing surrounding where the neighbors aren't go-

ing to care," Compton said. "They're going to get disturbed by the noise they're going to get disturbed when you come urinate in their yard, which was most of the complaints we had today, the noise and people walking in the yards and urinating on (the yards) They don't appreciate that so if they can curb those couple of things, then they're not going to get as much attention from the police."

Siefferman those who host the house parties would benefit from keeping an eye on partygoers.

"Make sure to try to keep your guests out of the street, on the property," Siefferman said.

Corryn Brock and Madelyn Kidd can be reached at 581-2812 or at dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

Letter from the editor

Introducing myself as CPD's overlord



Corryn Brock

One of the most frustrating things I have come to learn in my four years at the *Daily Eastern News* is that, despite our efforts, we cannot educate those who do not wish to be educated.

Why? Because some people would rather be willingly ignorant despite having things explained to them time and time again.

But, I'll give it another go and hope that this time is different.

On Saturday, I and two other editors from the *News* did three ride-alongs with the Charleston Police Department and Charleston Fire Department. I rode with Lt. Brett Compton and Officer Brian Siefferman for both of mine.

I followed along with their shifts from 10 a.m. to 3 a.m. and watched as they worked during Unofficial 2022.

I made the decision to cover Unofficial in this way because it would be a different and potentially more informative way to cover the parties.

After this weekend, I feel it is important that I dispel some rumors. Contrary to popular belief (and one hell of a rumor), I do not actually give orders to CPD.

I know some of you may be disappointed to find that out, but not as disappointed as I was. Here I was, thinking "wow, these guys really have to obey my every demand and shut down every party I want them to." Imagine my surprise when I learned I actually had to just ride in the car and watch them do their job. (And yes, this is a joke, NOT to be taken seriously.)

Jokes aside, I had no control over what the police were responding to and how they decided to react.

That being said, those at the parties had the ability to choose their actions as the day went along, and with that, choose their potential consequences.

Over the weekend, 22 citations were given to some of those celebrating Unofficial. Those are the result of choices people made.

If you chose to publicly urinate in someone's yard or walk around with an open container on public streets, you chose to do something that could potentially have consequences that you may not like.

That's how life works.

Every choice we make has consequences, and whether they are negative or positive we have to be prepared to answer to those consequences.

Participating in Unofficial, you open yourself up to a lot -- future (or current) employers seeing photos you or someone else posts



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

A partygoer flips off the camera at the second house party for Unofficial 2022.

of you, potential physical harm from people at the party (or from yourself depending on how intoxicated you get) and potentially getting ticketed and arrested if you violate city ordinances or laws.

With all of that in mind, you have to decide what you want to do. Do you want to take the risk and party on or stay home? I know I've chosen the party route plenty and would not fault anyone for doing the same. (Especially with the weather Saturday morning.)

And that leads to the bigger issue and something I have already discussed.

I chose to cover Unofficial because we always do. I have previously explained why I made that decision and I stand by it.

Though I try to explain the reasoning be-

hind these choices when questions arise, I've aware I'm not working with logical people on this one.

But while I won't be spending any more time explaining my work to people who refuse to try to understand concepts that really are not all that complex, I will also not be tolerating threats to myself and my staff.

The posts are getting old and honestly weird. If you are really that obsessed with me and the choices I make for this newspaper, you are more than welcome to call me, email me or come in and speak to me to have a discussion. However, you are not welcome to say publicly that you are going to jump me or seek out my address.

I know y'all like to tussle, but I'm not like

that. It'll be charges and me getting my newly acquired police force on you before you land the first punch.

My best advice? Give it up.

I sleep peacefully every night while you sit up thinking about weird, offbeat things to say on an app that was intended for high schoolers. You're obsessed with talking about someone who does not think about you.

Get help, touch grass, turn your phone off...I don't know what the best option is, but choosing one and moving on with your life would serve you well.

Corryn Brock is a senior journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or at deneic@gmail.com.

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Corryn Brock Theo Edwards Madelyn Kidd Luke Taylor Adam Tumino Ashanti Thomas

Social Commentary

CFD movie night made for good Unofficial

On Saturday during Unofficial, the *Daily Eastern News* had editors do ride-alongs with the Charleston Police Department and Charleston Fire Department.

I was the sole editor who rode along with CFD Fire Station 2's shift, which consisted of Captain Blake Graven, Lieutenant Jordan Philpott and firefighter/paramedics Grant Hale and Wyatt Walters.

I arrived at the fire station at 10 a.m. and was informed that ride-alongs typically leave at 10 p.m., so that is the latest I stayed being able to be with CFD for 12 hours of their 24-hour shift.

CFD works in 24:48 shifts, meaning firefighters work 24 hours then get 48 hours off and the cycle repeats.

CFD typically have ride-alongs which are medical students or EMTs in training, so it was a new experience for them and me to have a journalist riding along.

When responding to calls in the ambulance, I rode in a seat in the back, but when transporting a patient to Sarah Bush Lincoln they had me sit in the passenger seat instead.

I would have ridden in an extra back seat in the fire truck as well, but the only fire calls were for RIT for Mattoon Fire Department, which were called off before the truck even left the block.

**Madelyn Kidd**

Rapid Intervention Team, RIT, is a standby team of firefighters whose only job is to stand-by during fires for another department, and if a firefighter(s) is trapped, unconscious, disoriented, etc. within the fire, the RIT goes in to save the firefighter.

CFD provides a RIT for the Mattoon Fire Department when they have fire calls and Mattoon does the same for CFD.

Throughout Saturday, I accompanied CFD on dispatch calls and hung out with them at Fire Station 2 in between calls.

My ride along began with a tour of the station and going over rules I needed to follow

while on calls.

Then the first call came in at 10:48 a.m. for a psych evaluation. The individual declined going to the hospital.

After the paramedics got in contact with a doctor at Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital who confirmed the individual didn't need to be brought to the hospital, the individual signed a waiver confirming they were waiving the ambulance ride.

The ambulance calls were divided up between the four men with two pairs who switched off who responded to calls. They were paired as Philpott and Hale, then as Graven and Walters.

The first call was responded to by Philpott and Hale and before the ambulance returned to the station, there was another ambulance call. Thus, Philpott and Hale also responded to that call because they hadn't returned to the station to trade off with the next pair of responders.

The second call came in at 11:15 a.m. about an individual feeling faint. Once we reached the individual, they were feeling better and didn't need a ride to the hospital anymore.

The next three ambulance calls I rode along on were related to Unofficial and can be read about on p. one and three.

The final dispatch call I rode along on was

a call at 5:50 p.m., for a man in a car in the Walmart parking lot who had been there all day and the caller was concerned about him. Upon arrival with Philpott and Hale, CPD were already talking to the man with his car door open, and the ambulance wasn't needed any longer.

Throughout the day in between calls, CFD and I watched TV including the show "Practical Jokers" and movies "The Other Guys," "I Love You, Man" and "Into the Wild."

Those on shift were able to spend the day relaxing in between calls since it was the weekend. Hale explained to me that 24-hour shifts on weekdays were spent working on paperwork and chores, but weekends were more relaxed.

CFD also made me dinner when they made themselves dinner, which was so nice of them, and they didn't have to do that. However, they did, and I got to eat a bacon cheeseburger made on the grill and tater rounds with firefighters on the evening of Unofficial.

During Unofficial, a lot of Eastern students were out partying, but I was having a movie night with CFD and wouldn't change a minute of it.

Madelyn Kidd is a junior Journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or at mekidd@eiu.edu.

Social Commentary

At the end of the day, I am just trying to do my job

Throughout my two semesters working at the *Daily Eastern News*, I never thought I would be flipped off and yelled at for doing my job.

For the coverage of Unofficial 2022, the *News* decided to place reporters and a photographer with the Charleston Police and Fire Departments for safety reasons.

I started my ride-along with Officer Jacob Evans at 10:00 a.m. and ended it at 2:30 a.m. with Officer Dan Hale.

As the photographer, I can't say I wasn't surprised when I started getting heckled, yelled at and flipped off when I was at the parties.

After arriving to the first Unofficial call of my ride-along, I realized just how crazy these parties can be.

Although nothing I saw was as crazy as years prior, if you know you know, I still wasn't prepared to see the gigantic group of people drinking, dancing and passing out.

**Rob Le Cates**

When we arrived on scene, a girl was laying on the ground in between two houses, limp-bodied.

Luckily, she was taken to the hospital, but it just goes to show why these parties can be dangerous and that people should drink re-

sponsibly.

After Jacob came back to the car, yes, we are on a first-name basis, he accompanied me so I could take pictures of the party.

I thought I might share some things said to me while I was taking pictures.

"Yeah, take my picture, see what that does."

"The *Daily Eastern News* is a fucking joke."

Several "Hey, take my picture" in slurred speech with people doing poses from 2013.

I got several dirty looks and saw a lot of middle fingers, but also got a lot of pictures of people flipping me off, so in the end, who really wins?

I don't know if it was because I had a camera or if I was with the paper. Either way, it put me on edge.

I swear I'm not a bad guy.

Even though I was with an officer, the possibility of something happening frightened me a little.

It was at our third response to the parties,

that I got one of the funniest pictures I had taken that day.

Two officers and I were standing in a backyard watching over the partiers when someone strayed away from the party.

The person decided to relieve themselves in some dead shrubs.

Silence washed over the crowd of partiers, and when the officers started to walk towards the man urinating, the crowd then exploded into laughter and cheering.

In case you didn't know, a citation for public urination is \$100.

For my first ride-along, I think it went well. I didn't get as much heat as I thought I would. Maybe it's just luck but I hope it stays that way because, in the end, I am just doing my job. I hope people understand that.

Rob Le Cates is a sophomore journalism major. He can be reached at rllcates@eiu.edu or at 581-2812.

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK:
ARE YOU TRAVELING
FOR SPRING BREAK?**

CHECK OUT DAILYEASTERNNEWS.COM TO SEE WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Unofficial 2022: Drinks, drugs and designated drivers



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Partygoers leave the second house on the Unofficial 2022 house party crawl.



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

People party at the second house of the Unofficial 2022 house party crawl.



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

A individual urinates in a backyard at the second house on the house party crawl for Unofficial 2022. He was later cited by police for the alleged offense.



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Partygoers socialize at the second house of the Unofficial 2022 house crawl.



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

A two vehicle accident that happened on the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and Fourth Street during Unofficial 2022. Occupants of one of the vehicles were attending the Unofficial house crawl.



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Charleston Police Officer Dan Hale runs a test to identify a substance found during an arrest.

Panthers sweep Grambling State over weekend

By Adam Tumino

Sports Editor | @adam_tumino

The brooms were out in Louisiana over the weekend as the Eastern baseball team picked up a three-game sweep over Grambling State.

The Panthers have won five of their last six games and are now 6-3 on the season.

Eastern's offense was productive in all three games, scoring a combined 31 runs in the three games. The pitching in turn held the Tigers to 15 runs, 11 of which came in one game.

The opener on Friday was the lowest-scoring game of the series, with the Panthers winning 7-4.

Senior pitcher Trevor Nicholson led the way in the win, allowing just one unearned run in six innings while striking out 12 batters, the highest total for an OVC pitcher in a game so far this season. He was named OVC Pitcher of the Week on Monday for his effort.

Out of the bullpen, Jackson Nichols and Ryan Ignoffo allowed three runs, two of which were unearned, in a combined 2.1 innings. Zane Robbins came in to face the final two batters, striking them both out to earn his first save of the season.

The Panther offense scored once in the first inning and four times in the seventh before picking up two insurance runs in the top of the ninth inning.

Five of the Panthers' runs were unearned, scoring four times on errors and once on a wild pitch.

Lucas DiLuca and Logan Eickhoff, the first two hitters in the Eastern lineup, both went 2-for-5 in the game.

Saturday's game featured 24 runs and



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern pitcher Kyle Lang winds up for a pitch against Bellarmine on March 9, 2021, at Coaches Field. Lang pitched a season-high 7 innings, allowing 6 hits and 1 run in an 8-1 Eastern win.

seven home runs, with Eastern holding on to win 13-11.

The Panthers scored five times in the second and twice in the third, with a grand slam from DiLuca in the second giving the Panthers a sizeable lead.

Grambling got on the board with back-to-back home runs in the fourth, setting the tone for a nine-run inning for the Tigers.

Eastern was down 10-9 in the seventh when an three-run home run from Nathan

Aide put the Panthers ahead for good.

Hayden Birdsong got the win after pitching 4.2 innings of relief in which he gave up just 2 runs. Robbins threw a shutout ninth inning to pick his second-straight save.

Birdsong was the last Panther to give up a run to Grambling, as Eastern won the series finale 11-0 behind pitcher Cameron Doherty and his seven shutout innings.

Doherty gave up just four hits and struck out eight batters in the game.

DiLuca and Aide had big games once again, going a combined 4-for-7 with five RBI and four runs. Ignoffo hit an inside-the-park home run in the Panthers six-run fourth inning.

Eastern will head back south this weekend for a three-game series against Alabama A&M on March 11 through March 13.

Adam Tumino can be reached at 581-2812 or ajtumino@eiu.edu.

Softball team goes 2-3 during weekend action in Alabama

By Adam Tumino

Sports Editor | @adam_tumino

The Eastern softball team spent its third-straight weekend down south, playing five games in the Alabama State Black and Gold Tournament from March 4 through March 6.

The Panthers went 2-3 in those games, picking up wins against Alabama State and Eastern Kentucky and are now 8-12 on the season.

They opened the weekend with a double header Friday, dropping the first game 10-6 to North Alabama and then winning the second game 9-4 against host Alabama State.

In the win, pitcher Rachel Kaufman allowed two earned runs in 4.1 innings before Alexa Rehmeier pitched the final 2.1 innings, allowing no hits

and just two walks. Home runs from Lindy Milkowski and Kendall Fields helped lead the Panther offense in the win.

The Panthers dropped both games of a double header Saturday, losing to North Alabama again by a score of 7-4 and then losing 13-11 to Eastern Kentucky.

They played Eastern Kentucky again on Sunday, beating the Colonels 6-3.

Sophomore pitcher Olivia Price picked up her first win of the season, allowing three runs in five innings before Kaufman replaced her for the six-out save, her second of the season.

The Panthers scored three runs in the fifth inning, taking a 4-3 lead on a single Jaylen Pritchard that drove in Marama Makea and Megan Burton, with the latter scoring on a throwing

error.

Eastern was scheduled to play a game against No. 2 Alabama, but it was canceled because of severe weather.

Cravens had two home runs over the weekend to bring her season total to an OVC-leading seven, which is tied for 22nd in the nation.

Rehmeier's work over the weekend puts her at 4-2 with a 2.60 ERA on the season with 36 strikeouts in 37.2 innings.

The Panthers will be in Carbondale for the SIU Saluki Invitational this weekend. They play Northern Illinois and Southern Illinois on March 13 and play Northern again on March 14.

Adam Tumino can be reached at 581-2812 or ajtumino@eiu.edu.

Team Leaders

Hannah Cravens, 2B

.348/.411/.742

7 Home Runs, 13 RBI

Lindy Milkowski, C

.254/.347/.556

4 Home Runs, 17 RBI

Alexa Rehmeier, RHP

4-2, 3.60 ERA

37.2 Innings, 36 Strikeouts

Rachel Kaufman, RHP

2-4, 3.75 ERA

37.1 Innings, 24 Strikeouts

Athletes of the Issue

TREVOR NICHOLSON



The Eastern baseball team swept Grambling State over the weekend, and senior Trevor Nicholson started the series strong.

Nicholson pitched six innings in the series opener Friday, allowing a single earned run and striking out 12 batters, the highest single-game total in the OVC this season. He was named OVC Pitcher of the Week on Monday.

HANNAH CRAVENS



Eastern second baseman Hannah Cravens continued her hot start to the season in the Alabama State Black and Gold Tournament over the weekend.

Cravens hit .353 over the five game tournament with two home runs, five RBI and six runs scored. She has seven home runs on the season, which leads the OVC and is tied for 22nd in the nation.

OVC Tournament sees end of era for conference

By Adam Tumino

Sports Editor | @adam_tumino

The OVC Basketball Championships were back in Evansville, Indiana, for the fifth-straight year. It was also the last time the current format of the conference competed, with three schools, including both the men's and women's champions, will be leaving the OVC in less than four months.

The women's champion Belmont and the men's champion Murray State are two of those schools, as is Austin Peay.

Belmont and Murray State certainly left their final OVC Tournament in style, capping off a memorable four days of basketball in the Ford Center.

The women's bracket started off the Tournament with what was the biggest upset of the week, with eight seed Tennessee State knocking off fifth-seeded Eastern.

The teams entered the game headed in different directions, with Eastern having won its last three games and 10 of its last 14 and Tennessee State losing the last eight games of the regular season.

Eastern and Tennessee State were both ranked in the top 10 in the nation in steals during the regular season, and combined for 38 steals in the game, 22 belonging to the Tigers.

The other women's game in the opening round featured an upset as well, with seventh seed Southern Illinois-Edwardsville beating six seed Tennessee-Martin 86-84.

Tennessee-Martin fought back furiously in the second half after trailing 46-26 at halftime. The Skyhawks outscored the Cougars 58-30 in the second half, but it was not enough.

The higher seed won each of the remaining five games in the tournament, setting up a matchup between top seed and reigning statement Belmont and second seed Tennessee State.

The championship game was a defensive struggle, with Belmont winning 51-29 to win the tournament for the sixth time in seventh seasons.

Bruins' star Destinee Wells was named Tournament MVP for the second-straight season.

Joining Wells on the All-Tournament Team was teammate Madison Bartley, Tennessee Tech's Anna Jones and Anna Walker and Katelyn Young of Murray State.

On the men's bracket, No. 22 Murray State unsurprisingly reached the championship game after an 18-0 season in conference play.

Meeting the Racers in the finals were defending champions Morehead State, the third seed in the tournament that advanced after beating second seed Belmont in the semifinals.

The championship game was a back-and-forth affair that featured 10 ties and 10 lead changes and came down to the final seconds of the fourth quarter, with the Racers coming out on top with a 71-67 win.

Morehead State's Johni Broome put on a show in the final round for the second straight-season.

Last season Broome scored 27



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Members of the Eastern Illinois University women's basketball team link arms while the national anthem plays before the first game in the OVC Tournament in the Ford Center in Evansville, Indiana, on March 2, 2022. The Panthers lost 72-61 to Tennessee State.

points with 12 rebounds in a game the Eagles won 86-71. He came out strong again this year, scoring 32 points to go with eight rebounds.

But unlike last season, it was not enough. The Racers were led by Tevin Brown, who scored 23 points while playing all 40 minutes. Justice Hill added 21 points in 37 minutes.

Murray State shot 10 percent less from the field than Morehead State, but made three more three pointers and five more free throws in the game to give them the edge.

Broome, Brown and Hill were all named to the All-Tournament team and Hill was named Tournament MVP.

Also making the All-Tournament team was Morehead State's Ta'Lon Cooper and Murray State's KJ Williams, who was named the OVC Player of the Year.

While the tournament signaled the end of an era for the OVC, and the impending departures of some of the conference's top basketball programs will certainly affect the future, some remaining teams made an impact in Evansville.

Morehead State's men's team seems poised to be a force going forward, at least in the next several years.

On the women's side, Tennessee Tech is looking to become the second-straight OVC team to win the WNIT, as Tennessee-Martin did last season.

Eastern's strong finish to the regular season has the Panthers trending upward as well heading into next season.

The upcoming additions of Little Rock, Southern Indiana and Lindenwood will bolster the conference going forward, and while the future of OVC basketball remains a bit uncertain, there are things to look forward to.

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BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern senior Abby Wahl attempts to put up a shot over two Tennessee State defenders in the third quarter of the first game in the OVC Tournament on Mar. 2. Wahl scored 10 points and had nine rebounds in the game, which the Panthers lost 72-61 to the Tigers.