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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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LS-Women's BB

75

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--The time has come for the Eastern Illinois women's basketball team to put up . . . or shut up. The Lady Panthers--7-4 overall and 0-2 in the Gateway Conference--take to the back roads of Illinois this week to take on Western Illinois (4-7, 1-1) Thursday night and Bradley (7-4, 1-1) Saturday afternoon.

"This is a very crucial road trip for us this week," notes sixth-year head coach Barbara Hilke. "If we have any aspirations of contending for the league title, we must win both games. The team must stay away from the crucial mental mistakes that have been killing us in the last two games. This week should show the type of character this year's team has."

Despite the Lady Panthers' mini-slump, a bright spot for Hilke's squad must be the consistent play of guard Kim Maxey (Mattoon). The 5-foot-9 junior is third on the club in rebounding with a 5.4 average. The heady performer makes up for a lack of height and being a step slow with an uncanny sense of where the ball is at all times.

"Sometimes it amazes me how Kim gets rebounds she really shouldn't," Hilke states. "She just really loves the game of basketball and has a thorough knowledge of what is taking place on the court."

In the last four games the sharp-shooter has zeroed in on the range that has eluded her earlier this season. Maxey has hit 22 of 40 from the field (.550) during that stretch--predominantly from the 18-22 foot range. On the season she is averaging 8.5 points and 4.1 assists per game.

EIU's leading scorer is two-time all-conference selection Toni Collins (Lincoln-Jamaica-Sidell). The senior forward averages 14.7 ppg and a team-leading 8.6 rebounds a game. Junior Chris Aldridge (Taylorville) holds down the other forward spot. She is second on the team in scoring (13.7) and rebounding (7.0).

Junior Melanie Hatfield (Lawrenceburg, Ind.) leads the club in assists (52) and steals (30). She also is averaging almost 13 points a game. Senior guard Lori Conine (Paris/Kansas) is the fourth EIU player averaging in double figures in scoring hitting at a 10 ppg clip.

WALSH DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

CHARLESTON, IL--Without a flicker of her eyes, she watches with a great amount of intensity as the coaching staff talks the first-team through a new play on offense. The rookie makes a mental note of where she should be on the low post if the team runs this particular offensive pattern when she is in the game.

Eastern Illinois' Kerry Walsh isn't your typical, ordinary freshman basketball player. Although Walsh wasn't highly recruited from suburban Chicago's Marillac High School, EIU head coach Barbara Hilke feels she has a diamond in the rough.

"Kerry has tremendous court sense," proclaims Hilke. "She has excellent hands and sets some awesome picks. Kerry has been a great addition to our squad. The big thing about her is that you never have to tell her anything twice.

"Potentially she is an excellent rebounder. The only reason she hasn't seen more playing time is because the three people in front of her have more experience. Her time will come."

Walsh works hard in practice everyday to improve her game and keep mentally tough. The Des Plaines, Ill. native never knows when she may be called upon to play and spell one of the starters. Even though she isn't gifted with a lot of natural ability, Walsh performed admirably throughout her prep career.

The 6-foot-1, 165 pounder garnered second-team all-Girls Catholic Athletic Conference honors as a senior. She is the school's all-time leading rebounder with more than 600 boards over four years. Walsh averaged 15 points a game last season and is the first Marillac player ever to letter four years in basketball.

The good-humored Walsh has averaged 2.8 points and 1.3 rebounds in eight games for the Lady Panthers this season. She scored eight points and grabbed four rebounds in EIU's 69-41 rout of Butler. Walsh has shown a fine touch from the charity stripe as she is hitting at an .800 clip.

"Kerry is just learning to put all her basketball skills together," Hilke stated. "I expect her to materialize into a fine Division I power forward here at Eastern."

"Kerr-Bear" isn't only concerned about basketball. She likes to spend her spare moments away from the court and books to help handicapped children. Her family is also very important to her.

"I just think she is a neat person." noted Hilke.

Hats off to Hilke for plucking the diamond in the rough. It is definitely Eastern's gain in more ways than one.

1984-85 EASTERN ILLINOIS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STATISTICS (7-4 overall, 0-2 Gateway) HOME: 4-2, AWAY: 2-2, NEUTRAL: 1-0

Name	ST-GM	MTS	FGM-FGA	PCT	FTM-FTA	PCT	PTS	AVG	REB	AVG	PF-D	AST	BS	ST	TO
Toni Collins, Sr., Forward GCAC	11-11 2-2	372 76	66-136 13-27	.485 .481	30-49 7-10	.612 .700	162 33	14.7 16.5	95 16	8.6 8.0	22-0 5-0	25 2	15 4	18 4	35 14
Chris Aldridge, Jr., Forward GCAC	11-11 2-2	363 69	61-124 13-27	.492 .481	29-41 2-3	.707 .667	151 28	13.7 14.0	77 19	7.0 9.5	29-1 5-0	12 4	3 0	17 3	33 7
Melanie Hatfield, Jr., Guard GCAC	10-11 2-2	368 68	61-125 6-14	.488 .429	20-27 0-0	.741 -	142 12	12.9 6.0	49 7	4.5 3.5	34-3 6-1	52 14	1 0	30 5	45 12
Lori Conine, Sr., Guard GCAC	8-11 1-2	371 53	51-106 7-16	.481 .438	8-14 0-0	.571 -	110 14	10.0 7.0	28 2	2.5 1.0	19-0 4-0	35 7	4 0	22 0	34 2
Kim Maxey, Jr., Guard GCAC	9-11 2-2	386 78	42-94 13-22	.447 .591	9-18 0-0	.500 -	93 26	8.5 13.0	59 8	5.4 4.0	21-0 2-0	45 10	1 0	14 1	41 5
Sue Hynd, Jr., Center GCAC	5-11 1-2	210 34	38-80 3-9	.475 .333	15-21 0-0	.714 -	91 6	8.3 3.0	41 5	3.7 2.5	15-0 3-0	2 0	5 0	4 0	13 2
Michelle, Newman, Fr. Forward GCAC	0-10 0-2	68 8	6-14 1-4	.429 .250	10-10 2-2	1.000 1.000	22 4	2.2 2.0	9 0	0.9 -	1-0 0-0	2 1	0 0	2 0	5 0
Kerry Walsh, Fr., Center GCAC	0-8 DNP	67	8-17	.471	6-7	.857	22	2.8	10	1.3	5-0	1	0	0	2
Ann Brown, Fr., Forward GCAC	0-8 0-1	58 5	8-19 1-1	.421 1.000	1-2 0-0	.500 -	17 2	2.1 2.0	17 0	2.1 -	5-0 1-0	3 1	1 0	4 0	2 0
Pat Hamilton, So., Guard GCAC	1-2 0-1	27 9	6-15 4-5	.400 .800	1-2 1-2	.500 .500	13 9	6.5 9.0	7 1	3.5 1.0	2-0 0-0	5 1	0 0	4 1	4 1
EASTERN ILLINOIS GCAC	11-11 2-2	2300 400	347-729 61-125	.476 .488	129-191 12-17	.675 .706	823 134	74.8 67.0	406 61	36.9 30.5	151-4 26-1	181 39	29 4	112 14	209 43
OPPONENTS GCAC	11-11 2-2	2300 400	324-732 71-124	.443 .573	80-126 12-21	.635 .571	728 154	66.2 77.0	371 60	33.7 30.0	184-6 24-1	168 45	43 1	87 10	228 32

DEAD BALL REBOUNDS--EIU (28), OPPONENTS (31)

GAME-BY-GAME RESULTS

Date	W-L	EIU	OPP	High Scorer	High Rebounder
Nov. 23	W	77	73 (OT)	at Florida International *	Aldridge 20 Hatfield 11
Nov. 24	L	49	75	at Central Florida *	Collins 13 Collins 16
Nov. 28	W	69	41	at Butler	Hynd 16 Maxey 13
Dec. 1	W	76	56	MIAMI (O)	Hatfield 21 Hatfield, Maxey 4 Collins, Hynd
Dec. 7	W	87	44	XAVIER (O) \$	Conine 18 Aldridge 13
Dec. 8	W	94	85 (3OT)	EASTERN WASHINGTON \$	Hynd 21 Aldridge 13
Dec. 12	W	81	59	at Ball State	Collins 23 Collins 9
Dec. 14	L	76	83	at Wisconsin	Collins 20 Collins, Maxey 3 Aldridge, Hatfield
Dec. 21	W	80	58	EVANSVILLE	Hatfield 20 Collins 22
Jan. 3	L	65	80	ILLINOIS STATE	Aldridge 18 Aldridge 13
Jan. 5	L	69	74	INDIANA STATE	Collins 18 Collins 10

* Sunroast Invitational (Orlando, Fla.)

\$ Heath Candy Classic