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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University swimmer Greg Lanchester (Carbondale) qualified for the NCAA II National Swimming Championship in two relay events recently at the Illinois Intercollegiate in Chicago.

Lanchester swam legs of the 800 and 400 freestyle relays which finished first and second, respectively, in 7:07.9 and 3:14.6.

A freshman, Lanchester will represent the Panthers on those relays at the NCAA II finals, March 19-21 at Youngstown State in Youngstown, OH.

"We swam the best mid-season meet since I've been here," said Coach Ray Padovan, in his 15th year. "Besides winning nine of 18 events, we had 14 cutoff times for the national meet . . . it wasn't something we pointed to.

"It's just that we have a more mature group this year . . . mostly juniors and seniors. Once the first couple qualified, everyone just picked up on the momentum."