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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Nancy Kassebaum (Belleville-East) leads Eastern Illinois University women's basketball team in steals (72) and assists (82).

Kassebaum, an All-State pick last year as a freshman has led the Panthers in scoring in four of its 16 contests. Averaging nearly 16 points per game as a guard, Kassebaum has been instrumental in helping Eastern compile a mid-season mark of 10-6.

"I feel she is the most outstanding guard in the state," said head coach Bobbie Hilke. "Our opponents really fear what Nancy can do to them," Hilke added.

"She has the quickest hands of any player we've seen play," said Hilke. "She's having another outstanding year . . . getting better and better defensively."

Kassebaum, a recreation major, is a 1979 graduate of Belleville East High School. She is the daughter of Ralph and Carole Kassebaum of 20 Eastland Dr., Belleville.