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11/11/1980 - EIU To Host Volleyball Championship

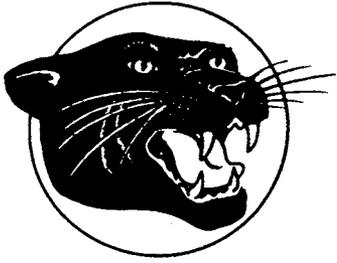
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University will host the IATAW state volleyball championship Friday-Saturday (November 14-15). Games will be played in both McAfee and Lantz Gymnasiums.

Play begins at noon Friday and continues through 7:30 p.m. that night. A single elimination tournament with a play-off for third and fourth place follows on Saturday. The championship match is slated for 7:30 p.m., Saturday, in Lantz Gym.

The Panthers, seeded third, enter this year's tournament with a 34-18 record and an excellent shot at upsetting number one-ranked Lewis University (37-5). Lewis is 10-1 in Division II State competition this year while Eastern is 4-2.

"Eastern plays a lot more Division I schools than does Lewis, thus part of the reason for the difference in records," said tournament director Deanna D'Abbraccio.

Loyola University is seeded second coming into the tournament. They hold the distinction of being the only in-state Division II team to defeat Lewis. In the five times the two teams have squared off this season Lewis came out on top in all but the last encounter.

Rounding out the top four in the eight team tournament is Northeastern with a record of 22-21 overall and a 7-6 record against in-state Division II schools.

According to D'Abbraccio, any of the top four teams could wind up in the championship match.

"The key games to see on Friday are the 7:30 ones in both Lantz and McAfee Gyms the number one and three seeds and two and four seeds," said D'Abbraccio.

Teams seeded five through eight will also see some hotly contested matches as number five seed, College of St Francis with a 16-25 record will battle number seven seed, St. Xavier 15-9 while number six seed, Bradley University, 13-16, will face number eight seed, Chicago State, 20-16 overall and 3-8 with in-state Division II schools.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL (EIU)
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"The results of the matches are even more hard to pick if you look at competition earlier in the season between the five, six and seven seeds," said D'Abbraccio. "Bradley beat St. Francis, St. Francis beat St. Xavier, while St. Xavier beat Bradley. It's anybody's guess how the pool play will end up. I predict a lot of very close matches," D'Abbraccio added.

Using the results of Friday's pool play, the eight teams will be re-seeded before entering single elimination play on Saturday in Lantz Gym.

Saturday's quarterfinal action is scheduled for 9 and 10:30 a.m., noon and 1:30 p.m. with the semifinals to be held at 3 and 4:30 p.m. The play-off for third and fourth place is a 6 p.m. with the match for the state title slated for 7:30 p.m.