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12-10-1982

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "12/10/1982 - Melanie Hatfield Guard on Women's Basketball Team" (1982). 1982. 350.

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Dec. 10, 1982
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Melanie Hatfield (Lawrenceburg, IN) is a guard on Eastern Illinois University women's basketball team.

The Lady Panthers, in their first season as an NCAA Division I member, are currently 7-0.

Hatfield has started the last three games teaming with Nancy Kassebaum, Eastern's career scoring leader, in the back court.

She is Eastern's third leading rebounder averaging eight per contest (48 in six games) with a season high 15 against Chicago State.

Hatfield is Eastern's third leading scorer averaging 11.7. In Eastern's 92-54 victory over St. Joseph's Hatfield scored 18 of her game-high 22 in the first half. She is shooting 50% (33-66) from the field.

"Mel is very smart," coach Barbara Hilke said. "When she shoots she looks to take that initial step to the basket as she releases.

"She penetrates the lane and is able to gain rebounding position against taller women. She will either throw the outlet or bring the ball up court."

She is the daughter of Ronald and Carol Utley, Lawrenceburg.

The Lady Panthers now break for semester exams. Eastern's next action is Dec. 17-18 in the four-team Northern Kentucky Invitational with Belmont (TN) College, Kentucky State and host NKU. EIU faces Kentucky State in first round action Dec. 17 at 8 p.m. (CST).