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# Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920  
DAVID KIDWELL, *Sports Information Director*  
OFFICE: (217) 581-2920 HOME: (217) 345-4166

Feb. 3, 1981  
LS-AS-TRACK-HT

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--With two strenuous weeks of competition and conditioning behind, Eastern Illinois University's track team will matchup with the state's best in the annual Illinois Intercollegiate Friday and Saturday (Feb. 6-7) at the University of Illinois Armory.

Nearly 20 universities will be competing for the championship which commences at 6:30 p.m. Friday and concludes Saturday afternoon. Illinois is the defending champ but EIU Coach Neil Moore says, "Southern Illinois has really improved so I'd give them the edge.

"Illinois State might be a surprise team . . . they're probably favored for third. We're shooting for third place . . .of course, we'd like to win but third is more realistic and I'd be extremely happy with that."

The Panthers have several individuals capable of scoring led by freshman Claude Magee (Clermont, FL), who has been dominating dual meets in the long jump and 60 dash.

"Claude would have to jump close to 25 feet to win it. Last year 22-11 was sixth, and he went a freshman record 23-6 last week so he should be in there somewhere.

"He ran a 6.2 in the 60 last week and that equalled last year's winning time so he's capable there, also," Moore said.

Although having won the mile two straight weeks, Reo Rorem (Gilman) will be entered in the two-mile. "Reo's conditioning is not far enough along for the mile . . . he's not had that much speed work, mostly volume so Tom (Woodall, assistant coach) thought he was more ready for the two-mile.

"He's gone 9:04 which would make him closer to last year's winning time of 8:52 . . . in the two mile he'll have more time to make up some distance."

Joe Sheeran (Lake Villa-Grayslake) sat out last week in preparation for the three-mile Saturday. "Joe rested last week so he's pointing towards this meet. He's run a

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14:08 which is in the ball park of what's needed."

Rick Francis (Oakland) is competitive in the 35 lb. weight. A hammer thrower outdoors, Francis is "a self-made athlete . . . his main love is the hammer but Pat (O'Brien) has been working with him on the 35 lb. weight, and Rick most definitely has a chance to place," said Moore.

Augustine Oruwari (Nigeria) and SIU's David Lee should run neck-and-neck in the 60 high hurdles. Lee is the defending champ while Oruwari tied for second.

"Lee's an outstanding athlete . . . but so is Oruwari," says Moore. "Augie has a solid shot . . . he's looked better each week and should compete well.

"I'm most happy with several freshmen, also . . . John Gassman (Olney) and Dave Houston (Granite City-South), for instance. Gassman has been a two-miler and Houston's gone in the 1000.

"Neither have been awed by the competition . . . they don't hang back, they just go for the win. Overall, it's a promising group."