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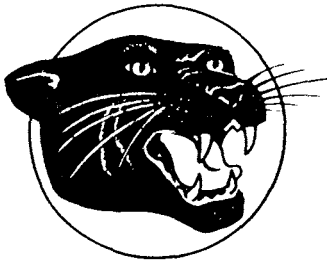
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Panther Sports News

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Feb. 18, 1981
LS-AS-TRACK-HT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's track team will be hosting the defending Ohio Valley Conference indoor champ, Murray State, plus neighboring Illinois State Friday in Lantz Fieldhouse.

Field events begin at 7 p.m. Track events start at 7:30 with the final event, the mile relay, set to go off at 9:30.

"This will be our toughest dual competition," said Coach Neil Moore. "Murray won the OVC indoors and finished second outdoors . . . Illinois State is sending a lot of its people to the Central Collegiate but will have some outstanding individuals here.

"We'll use our numbers (of people) to score. I think we'll also do fairly well in the field events . . . I believe that's where Murray and ISU are a little weak," Moore said.

Individually most attention will be focused on NCAA I qualified Augie Oruwari (Nigeria) and freshman sensations Claude Magee (Clermont, FL) and Dave Houston (Granite City-South).

Oruwari qualified for the NCAA national indoor meet with a 7.28 (FAT) in the 60 hurdles at the Illinois Intercollegiate. "Augie has looked extremely sharp. We already know we can go to the national meet . . . now we'd like to do a little more.

"Our goal is to make Division I All-American. Last year 7.15 won it and 7.36 placed, so we'd like to work on his time a bit this weekend."

Magee has set a freshman long jump record of 23-6 $\frac{1}{4}$ and a varsity record of 6.1 in the 60 dash, which is the event that Magee "may have a shot at qualifying in," according to Moore.

"He needs a 6.0 to qualify, and that's tough . . . but he'll get good competition from ISU's Glen Warren this Friday. Warren has run a 6.3 so that should help motivate Claude," Moore explained.

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Magee is a "diamond in the rough. His high school coach at Clermont, Vern Eppinette, is an Eastern grad whose father (Bob) still lives in town . . . Vern wrote that he had a good sprinter and long jumper that was being overlooked a bit by schools in the south. Magee was the state champ in the long jump and 100 dash.

"We corresponded for quite awhile and eventually signed him, although we had a lot of help getting him. What we like is his potential . . . we haven't had someone in the long jump with his speed and explosion . . . John (Craft, women's track coach) has been giving him some extra schooling," Moore explained.

"At this time he's learning how to hitch kick . . . once he gets that down, then I think he can go over 24 feet in the near future. Plus he's run a 21.8 in the 200 . . . his versatility makes him quite valuable."

Houston has been the season's surprise as his 2:13.72 (FAT) ranks as No. 8 on the all-time 1000 run list, and just a half second off the frosh record.

"Dave keeps getting better . . . I think he has lowered his time in just about every meet. He was fourth in the Illinois Intercollegiate which is quite an accomplishment for a freshman.

"In fact, he came very close to winning it . . . he just started his kick a little late."

Murray may have the meet's top individual, David Warren, who has run a 1:47 half mile but sat out last year to train for the Olympics.

"Also, they have a whole stable full of English distance runners which should make for some excellent competition in the longer races," Moore said.