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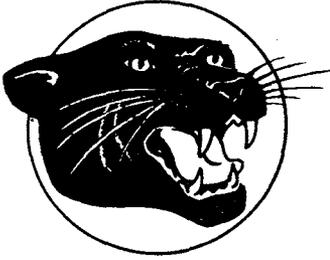
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Panther Sports News

Feb. 25, 1981
LS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's track team will compete in a doubleheader this weekend.

Friday night (Feb. 27) the Panthers will host their own Open Invitational involving eight teams.

Then Saturday, Eastern will take about 20 individuals to Champaign to compete in the Illini Classic.

Friday's meet will begin with both track and field events at 7 p.m. in the Lantz Fieldhouse. Southeast Missouri, Millikin, St. Louis, Maryville (MO) College, Chicago Circle and DuPage CC are the competing teams plus "a few individuals from Illinois," said Coach Neil Moore.

The classiest meet will be Saturday. This includes teams from the Big Ten, Mid-American and Southeastern Conference as well as several midwestern colleges.

"Next to the NCAA championship, this is the toughest indoor meet in the midwest.

"Normally it is a two-day meet but this year just one so we are having our Open Invitational on Friday . . . we'll use a format just as in the past as if we had prelims on Friday night for the Classic. Plus the invitational will allow our younger people a chance to compete this weekend," Moore explained.

Through the first few indoor meets veteran Reo Rorem (Gilman) has been the most consistent. A fifth year senior, Rorem retained this spring's eligibility after missing last year with an injury.

Last weekend he chopped seven seconds off his previous best '81 mile time to run in 4:10.9, then came right back to take second with a 1:57.8 in the half.

"Since he didn't compete in cross country, he was running the first couple meets on just bare endurance," said Moore. "Lately he's been given a little more speed work in practice and really starting to show marked improvement.

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"I'll think he'll come down to 4:05 or 4:06 pretty quick and then level off . . . but he's stayed injury free so far and appears to be able to give us a solid full season."