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03/07/1983 - Womens Basketball Team

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Panther Sports News

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March 7, 1983
LS-AS-Women's BB

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University women's basketball team advances to the semi-finals of the First Gateway Collegiate Athletic Conference Tournament Wednesday (March 9) at Illinois State. Tip-off is 8 p.m. in Horton Field House.

The Lady Panthers, 22-6 for the season, defeated Wichita State 82-71 Saturday while Illinois State defeated Western Illinois 76-60 in Horton. Other quarterfinal results were Southern Illinois-Carbondale over Bradley, 81-52, and Drake defeating Southwest Missouri 98-70.

"We're excited to get another shot at Illinois State," head coach Barbara Hilke said. "It should be a great game."

Eastern's excellent free throw shooting (20-29) was the margin of victory at Wichita State. The Lady Panthers are now shooting 65% from the line and in their last six games have hit over 67%.

Nancy Kassebaum (Belleville-East) just added another honor to her long list as she was named 3rd Team COSIDA Academic All-American. She had already been named COSIDA District 4 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin) All-American last month. The 5-6 senior, Eastern's all-time scoring leader (1853), scored 22 against Wichita State on 10-16 floor shooting (63%).

"Nancy and Kathy Lanter (Georgetown) contributed in their usual fashion," Hilke said. "They both had a really good game. They always play well, but the difference in the game was the performances of our players coming off the bench. Darla Farthing (Oakland) had a great game.

"We needed that from her to help us deal with their height advantage. Sue Hynd (Ottawa) kept us in it late in the game with her performance at the free throw line. Toni Collins (Lincoln-Jamaica) did a great job for us on the boards (Collins had a game high 12 rebounds). I was pleased with the way our kids (Eastern started two seniors, two sophomores and one

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freshman against three seniors, one junior and one freshman) were going right inside and drawing the fouls," Hilke said.

With a victory at Illinois State, Eastern would move into the championship game either at Drake or Southern Illinois-Carbondale Friday night (March 11). The winner of the GCAC tourney earns an automatic bid to the NCAA Division I Championships.