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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "03/09/1984 - Chris Aldridge Proves Herself" (1984). 1984. 448.

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Panther Sports News

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March 9, 1984
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's Chris Aldridge (Taylorville) proved herself as a quality Division I forward during the 1983-84 season.

Aldridge led the Lady Panthers in rebounding with 193 boards this season as she helped her team to a 16-12 record and a fifth-place finish in the Gateway Collegiate Conference with a 10-8 mark.

"Chris really rises to the challenge of facing much bigger opposition," EIU head coach Bobbie Hilke said. "She really gets up for important games and her leaping ability comes through when it gets tough inside."

Aldridge not only pulled down many important rebounds for the Lady Panthers, but the 5-foot-10 sophomore put the ball in the bucket. She finished the season as the team's second-leading scorer with an 11.6 point average, including three 20-plus point performances.

She scored a career high 26 points against Western Illinois and threatened to set a new single-game rebounding record, but came up three short with 17 boards against Bradley.

"Chris' ability to play inside really helped our team because it enabled us to move Toni (Collins, EIU's leading scorer) to a wing," Hilke said.

Aldridge's play earned her a starting position in 25 of Eastern's 28 games this season and with the other four starters also returning, Eastern hopes to challenge for the GCAC title and an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament in 1984-85.