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03/12/1984 - Stacy Cook Great Career

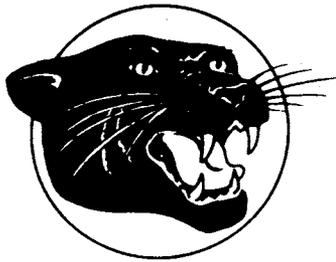
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's Stacy Cook (Lincoln/Illinois Central CC) appears to have a second great career ahead of her.

Cook, a second team All-Gateway Collegiate Conference volleyball player last fall, made her mark on the basketball court this season, her first year with the Lady Panther cagers.

"Stacy was great for our team," EIU head coach Bobbie Hilke said. "She has the charisma and playing ability to back up her rash statements about how good we can be."

Cook appeared in 15 games for Eastern after the end of the volleyball season and before she succumbed to a knee injury which required surgery.

"We really suffered after she went down. That really threw us for a loop," Hilke said. "That's how important she is to our team."

Eastern compiled an 11-4 record with Cook in the lineup, dropping to 4-3 after her departure. Her importance was partially measured in statistics, as she scored 9.5 points and pulled down 6.2 rebounds a contest.

"She has great intensity and refuses to lose," Hilke said. "We are eagerly awaiting her return next year."

With Cook healthy and all of Eastern's starters returning to the lineup, the Lady Panthers hope to improve on their 1983-84 record of 16-12 and fifth-place Gateway Conference finish. With a little luck, Eastern may challenge for the GCAC title and an automatic bid to the 1985 NCAA national tournament.