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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

DAVID KIDWELL, *Sports Information Director*

OFFICE: (217) 581-2920

HOME: (217) 345-4166

April 14, 1981
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's O'Brien Field will be the site of the Midwest Open Track and Field Championships on Saturday (April 18) beginning at 10 a.m. Eleven teams are scheduled to compete.

A non-scoring meet, the Midwest Open is a quality meet designed to give individuals the opportunity to qualify for the national meet the third weekend in May.

Teams attending Saturday's competition are Terre Haute Track Club, Washington University, Illinois, Indiana State, Purdue, Missouri, SIU-Edwardsville, Minnesota, Indiana, Western Illinois, Illinois State and Eastern.

"There will be some really tight races," said Head Coach John Craft. "We ought to fare all right . . . we should do well in each event.

"Our main goal will be to make some qualifying times for Nationals. We'll also be aiming to qualify some individuals for the Becky Boone Relays next weekend."

Cited by Craft as top performers for Eastern in the upcoming meet are Mary Burroughs (Chicago/Harlan) and Liz Greathouse (North Chicago) in both the 100 and 200 meter dashes.

"Both girls were running well last weekend at Illinois. Mary set a school record in the 200 with a 24.98 . . . Liz was right behind her," said Craft.

In the 400 meters, freshman standout Renee Johnson (Chicago/South Shore) will be the Panthers' best bet. "She's capable of a lot better than the 58.5 she ran last weekend," said Craft.

Another freshman, Mona Fowler (North Chicago) is coming on strong in the 100 meter hurdles. "She was second last weekend . . . we're expecting her to do something for us in this meet."

Distance runner, Nancy Kramer (Decatur/MacArthur) who made the qualifying mark in the 5000 meter run with a time of 17:50.59, is expected to put in another fine showing

EIU WOMEN'S TRACK
ADD 1

as well as teammate Gina Sperry (Litchfield) in the 1500 meters.

Melody Madley (Charleston), a newcomer to the javelin, is "learning to throw it and is doing well," according to Craft.

The Panthers hope to have the services of sprinter/long jumper Gayle Brandon (Danville) on Saturday. "Gayle's had a slight strain, but she should be back at full strength this weekend." However, fellow sprinter Gail Stephens suffered a similar fate in last week's competition and is a question mark for this coming weekend.