

3-22-1983

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "03/22/1983 - Melanie Hatfield Completes Season" (1983). 1983. 484.
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March 22, 1983
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Melanie Hatfield (Lawrenceburg, IN) has completed her freshman season for Eastern Illinois University women's basketball team.

The Lady Panthers finished in the final four of the Gateway Collegiate Athletic Conference tournament. EIU ended its first NCAA Division I season 22-7, winning seven of its last nine games.

"Melanie found a home at the wing spot towards the middle of the season," coach Barbara Hilke said. "She proved a valuable asset in our team scoring average (76.1). She filled the gap created by injuries and made the grade as a starter (started 17 games). Consistency on defense and offense kept her on the court and you could see her gain confidence every time out."

Hatfield was Eastern's fourth-leading scorer (9.2) and third-leading rebounder (5.4). She scored a season-high 22 points against St. Joseph's, and pulled down a season-high 15 rebounds against Chicago State.

A psychology major, Hatfield is a 1982 graduate of Lawrenceburg High School where she played forward, guard and center. She was named Associated Press All-State Honorable Mention and to the 11-member Indiana High School All-Star team her senior year.

She is the daughter of Ronald and Carol Utley of Lawrenceburg, IN.