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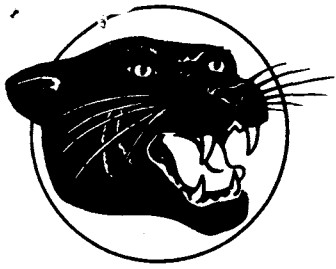
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL (May 9, 1986)--The 1986 spring season for the Eastern Illinois women's tennis team has come to an end, but preparations are already underway to develop next year's team.

The Lady Panthers finished the fall season with an overall record of 4-3 and finished 2-3 in the conference. In the spring, a 7-9 overall record was compiled while the team finished 2-4 in the conference.

The team will lose four players next season to graduation. They include No. 1 Lauri Lehman (Belleville-Belleville AC), No. 2 Diana Durkee (Lebanon-Belleville AC), No. 3 Sally Stout (Peoria-Richwoods), and No. 7 Patti Kearns (Palatine-William Fremd).

For the year, the seniors' records are as follows: Lehman, 8-15; Durkee, 9-11; Stout, 7-16; and Kearns, 10-5. (These totals do not include conference results.)

Junior Lori Zupanci (Edwardsville), No. 4, had an even record of 11-11, while freshman Maureen McKeon (Northbrook-Glenbrook North), No. 5, and Lisa Stock (Elmhurst-York), No. 6, finished 10-10 and 9-15, respectively. Belleville East product, freshman Elizabeth Stuckey, No. 8, finished 7-1 overall.

"Our singles games have lacked in strength this year," notes Richard, "but our doubles squads have been quite strong."

The Lehman-Durkee duo captured an 11-9 record while No. 2 duo Stout-McKeon finished 12-10 and Stock-Stuckey, No. 3, pulled out a few surprises, finishing 15-7.

Next year will be one of rebuilding for the lady netters.

"Lots of kids have sent letters to me expressing an interest in joining our tennis team," says Richard, "I think Eastern has developed a good image through its curriculum . . . I think the team has developed a good image through our 'nice team' way of playing the game . . . we are a team that shows good court etiquette."

Eastern signed three recruits for next fall. They include Kimberly Rhodes (Pekin-Pekin), Sheila Marcial (Belvidere-Belvidere) and Gretchen Fagen (Homewood-Marian Catholic).

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Rhodes was set in the No. 1 spot three of her four years in high school, qualified for state, won more than 80 (singles/doubles) trophies in USTA sanctioned tennis tournaments in Illinois and Indiana, and holds many other honors.

"Kim is a strong doubles player . . . she will probably play with Maureen (McKeon) in doubles. They are both aggressive and should complement one another well."

Richard says Marcial is a good singles player as well as a strong doubles player.

"Our singles area is where we've lacked strength. I'm hoping Sheila will be able to help us in that area," notes Richard.

Fagan- also a good singles player- was ranked 17th in the Chicago district. She has a CATA ranking of 17 and a Western ranking of 72.

"Although next year will be one of rebuilding," remarks Richard, "It will be good for the team in many ways. It will give the girls time to work together over the next three or four years and enable them to become stronger."