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# Panther Sports News

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--With the long-elusive first conference victory finally nailed down, Eastern Illinois University's women netters are prepared for a weekend triangular with two other Gateway Collegiate Conference opponents.

The Lady Panthers bested Indiana State 5-4 Tuesday (April 10) on a final-match, three-set triumph to record their only dual victory in the two-season history of the GCAC.

"We really needed this," EIU coach Gail Richard said Tuesday after the exciting win. "This gives us a psychological edge going against some of our tough opponents. It's good that we got this kind of psychological boost before going against some of the better teams on our schedule."

Two of what Richard referred to as her team's tougher opponents will challenge the Lady Panthers on the Weller Courts this weekend--Southwest Missouri and Bradley.

Southwest will face the Lady Panthers at 3 p.m. Friday as Eastern aims to raise its 3-4 record to the .500 mark. One of the blemishes on Eastern's record is an 8-1 loss to Saturday's 2 p.m. opponent, Bradley.

"We played indoors at Bradley and their players were very used to the courts," Richard said. "Hopefully, we'll be playing outside, which is much better for our players. Also, we were playing out of position the first time. It could make a big difference to have Heather (England, No. 2 singles player) with us so that everyone will be playing in their proper positions."

Junior Nancy Abney (Kankakee-Eastridge) will play No. 1 singles and team with No. 4 singles player Sally Stout (Peoria-Richwoods) at No. 2 doubles. England (Lake Bluff-Lake Forest) will team with No. 3 singles player Patti Kearns (Palatine-William Fremd) at No. 1 doubles. The only winners from the first Bradley meeting, the No. 3 doubles team of Dawn Pavlik (Geneva-St. Edward) and Gina Andres (Mascoutah/Belleville Area CC), will play No. 5 and No. 6 singles, respectively.