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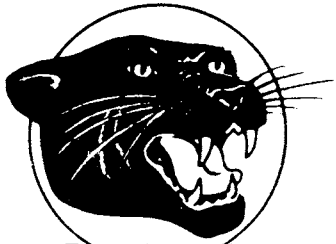
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Panther Sports News

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April 24, 1984

LS-Hts 28

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's women netters will open play at the Gateway Collegiate Conference tennis championship Thursday (April 26) in Wichita, Kansas.

After placing ninth last season, the Lady Panthers will be aiming to improve that showing and have already exhibited signs of doing that this spring.

"I think Eastern could play the spoiler role at the conference tournament," EIU head coach Gail Richard said. "We're peaking right now and I think we're ready."

Eastern has compiled a 4-8 record, including one GCAC victory, a 5-4 decision against Indiana State. Although the Lady Panthers have dropped five other contests to league foes, Eastern has scored points in those matches, especially in the doubles positions.

"I expect our doubles teams to score some points for us this weekend, especially our No. 2 and No. 3 teams," Richard said. "They've both been playing very well for us recently, so I'm looking for them to score."

The No. 3 team of juniors Dawn Pavlik (Geneva-St. Edward) and Gina Andres (Mascoutah-Belleville Area CC) boasts the squad's best record, 8-3, including victories over Bradley's No. 2 and No. 3 teams and wins over Western Illinois' and Indiana State's No. 3 pair.

"Dawn and Gina are a very smooth team," Richard said. "Their record shows how well they work together."

The No. 2 team of junior Nancy Abney (Kankakee-Eastridge) and sophomore Sally Stout (Peoria-Richwoods) carries a 6-4 record with five wins in the last seven matches.

"They have been a strong doubles team, although they started slowly. We switched doubles combinations during the fall season and it took them some time to adjust," Richard explained.

Eastern's singles entries at the three-day tournament will include Abney at No. 1, Heather England (Lake Bluff-Lake Forest) at No. 2, Patti Kearns (Palatine-Wm. Fremd) at No. 3, Stout at No. 4, Pavlik at No. 5 and Andres competing at No. 6.

Kearns and England will form Eastern's No. 1 doubles combination.