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Panther Sports News

April 24, 1984

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

LS-Softball 55

DAVID KIDWELL, Sports Information Director

OFFICE: (217) 581-2920

HOME: (217) 345-4166

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's softball team will be busy this weekend.

The Lady Panthers will play eight games in four days beginning Friday (April 27) with a double header against the Gateway Collegiate Conference's top team, Illinois State. Eastern will then conclude league play with a twin bill Saturday at Indiana State and cap the regular season with two two-game sets at home, Sunday with DePaul and Monday with Evansville.

"We're really just eager to have the chance to play," EIU head coach Deanna D'Abbraccio said. "We've never had the chance to build any momentum with all the rain-outs this spring. Maybe we can get some momentum in the next 10 games."

The Lady Panthers carried a 9-14 overall record into a Tuesday double-header at Southern Illinois-Edwardsville and stand eighth in the GCAC at 2-6 entering Friday's contest with Illinois State, 11-1, 16-12.

"There's nothing I'd like more than to go in and knock off the conference's top team," D'Abbraccio said. "I've said it before and I'll keep saying it, 'any team in this conference can beat any other team on any given day.'"

Saturday's opponent, Indiana State, entered this week's action with a 4-5 mark in conference play, 11-12 overall, good for fifth-place in the GCAC.

"These are all crucial games for us," D'Abbraccio said. "The conference tournament will be seeded Sunday night and a few more wins would really help us."

With the 10-team league tournament only a week away, D'Abbraccio said she will be looking for her squad to return to the form it showed in a double-header split with Indiana April 19.

"Our defense was outstanding against Indiana, we hit the ball well and we were very aggressive on the base paths. We need to regain that form to do well at the conference tournament," which opens May 3 in Springfield, MO, D'Abbraccio said.