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# Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY - Charleston, IL 61920  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHARLESTON, IL.--At the halfway point of the season, Eastern Illinois University's women's basketball team is fighting for second place in the 10-team Gateway Conference.

"We think we have a good chance for the four-team playoffs at the end of the season," concluded EIU Coach Barb Hilke. "We lost our first four games--three by five or fewer points--but have won six of our last nine. We have a fairly set lineup now, and we are getting some quality response from the bench." Current EIU record is 6-7 and 3-2 in the conference.

Hilke had special praise for 5-11 sophomore forward Lisa Tyler of Aurora, In. (South Dearborn High School). After 13 games, Tyler is leading the team in scoring with 14.8 points per game and is leading in rebounding with 7.8 per game. She is hitting 48 % from the field (73 of 151) and 80 % from the line (47 of 56).

Barb Perkes, 5-8 freshman guard from Trenton, Ill. (Breese Mater Dei High School) is second in EIU scoring with a 12.1 average, including an impressive 11 of 26 (42 %) from the three-point range.

With 24 straight league wins, Southern Illinois University paces the Gateway with a 5-0 mark with Southwest Missouri, Eastern, Bradley, Illinois State, Northern Iowa, and Western battling for the second spot. The post-season playoff winner will be an automatic entry in the national tournament.

Eastern's remaining Gateway Conference games this month feature 7:30 p.m. home contests against Western Thursday, Jan. 22 and against Bradley Saturday, Jan. 24. League road battles will be at Indiana State in Terre Haute at 7 p.m. (Indiana time) Wednesday, Jan. 14, at Illinois State at Normal at 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18, at Drake University in Des Moines at 7:30 Thursday, Jan. 29, and at Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls at 7:30 Saturday, Jan. 31.