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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY - Charleston, IL 61920
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PREVIEWING THE WEEK (March 4-11)

LS-H+s

- Wednesday, March 4 Women's Basketball at Southwest Missouri (Springfield)
(1st Round, Gateway Conference Tournament)
- Thursday, March 5 Men's Basketball at AMCU-8 Tournament (Springfield, MO)
Men's Swimming at Midwest Swimming Championship (Chicago)
- Friday, March 6 Men's Basketball at AMCU-8 Tournament (Springfield, MO)
Women's Basketball at Gateway Conference Tournament (TBA)
Men's Swimming at Midwest Swimming Championship (Chicago)
- Saturday, March 7 Men's Basketball at AMCU-8 Tournament (Springfield, MO)
Wrestling at NCAA Western Regional (Cedar Falls, IA)
Men's Swimming at Midwest Swimming Championship (Chicago)
- Sunday, March 8 Wrestling at NCAA Western Regional (Cedar Falls, IA)

REVIEWING THE WEEKEND (February 27-28)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

WEEKEND RESULTS: The Panthers won their third in a row with a 70-51 victory over Valparaiso Saturday night . . . earlier in the week, EIU won at Northern Iowa, 65-55, and beat Colorado State, 52-46. . . the Panthers have a 9-17 record and are in 7th place with a 3-10 AMCU-8 mark.

NEXT GAMES: Eastern plays at Western Illinois in the final regular season game on Monday (March 2) and then will compete in the AMCU-8 post-season tournament at Springfield, MO on Thursday through Saturday, March 5-7. . . pairings will be announced Tuesday (March 3).

COACH RICK SAMUELS SEZ: "We have been more deliberate in our offense and consequently our execution has improved . . . plus winning a couple has given some more confidence so we should take some momentum into the conference tournament . . . it's an opportunity to finish the year on a positive note."

AURORA-EAST: JAY TAYLOR, sophomore guard, was the team's 'Player of the Week' for the second straight week . . . he scored 60 points in three games last week getting 23 vs. Northern Iowa, 16 vs. Colorado State and 21 vs. Valparaiso . . . he was also the team's leading rebounder in the three games with 12 vs. UNI, five vs. Colorado State and 10 vs. Valpo, an average of nine p/game during this stretch . . . TAYLOR now leads the team with a 14.8 scoring average (15.4 in conference games) and is getting 5.2 rebounds, second on the team . . . he is shooting 50.9% from the field, 73.9% from the line and has been in double figures in 10 straight games.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (PARK TUDOR): TONY HEMPHILL, junior forward scored 44 points in three games last week with a high of 18 vs. Northern Iowa . . . he has boosted his scoring average to 12.5 overall, 13.2 in the AMCU-8 conference . . . he is shooting 41.7% from the field in all games but markedly better at 47% in league contests . . . he's the team's best free throw shooter at 80.4% with 78-97.

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JOLIET (CENTRAL): NORM EVANS, junior guard, scored 39 points in three games last week to boost his scoring average to 10.4, third best on the team .. he is No. 3 on the team in rebounding with a 4.2 average .. also shooting 49.3% from the field, 77.3% from the line . . .also leads with 75 assists.

WARRENSBURG-LATHAM: MIKE WEST, sophomore center, has rebounded from a back injury to keep his rebounding among the league leaders . . .he had 20 in three games last week with a high of eight vs. Northern Iowa . . .he's now getting 6.1 p/game while scoring 4.7, shooting 44% from the field but only 45.8% from the line.

MEN'S TRACK

WEEKEND RESULTS: After three straight AMCU-8 conference second place finishes, the Panthers bolted to the championship in the indoor league meet with 91 points outscoring Northern Iowa 75, Western Illinois 55, Southwest Missouri 23 and Cleveland State 10. . .this is the second most points scored in the four year history of the AMCU-8 indoor meet. . . EIU had five firsts out of 16 places so depth was a major factor as the Panthers had 14 seconds and/or thirds.

NEXT MEET: JIM MATON, junior middle distance runner, will compete in the NCAA Indoor National Championship running the 1000 at Oklahoma City on Friday and Saturday, March 13-14.

SHELBYVILLE: JIM MATON, junior middle distance runner, earned his second straight AMCU-8 Indoor 'Athlete of the Year' award by winning for the second straight year the 1000 yard and mile runs and anchoring the two-mile relay, all in AMCU-8 record times. . .his individual record times were 2:11.16 in the 1000 which also set a Lantz Fieldhouse record and 4:06.9 in the mile . . .his anchor leg of the two mile relay helped that unit to 1st in 7:35.46 (also a Lantz Fieldhouse record) . . .MATON and Western Illinois's DuBois McDavis have each won five AMCU-8 individual championships, most in the four history of the meet.

SHELBYVILLE: PHIL MATON, senior middle distance runner, accounted for 9 1/2 team points as he finished second to his brother JIM in the 1000 yard run (2:12.35) and mile run (4:11.8) and running a leg of the winning two-mile relay which won in an AMCU-8 and Lantz Fieldhouse record time 7:35.46.

SPRINGFIELD (LANPHIER/LINCOLN LAND CC): DARREN BARBER, a junior, scored seven team points as he was third in the long jump (23-2 3/4) and triple jump (46-0) and fifth in the 60 yard high hurdles (7.72).

OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST: DAN MATAS, senior weightman, scored seven team points as he was second in the shot put in 54-8 3/4 and third in the 35 lb. weight in 50-1 1/4.

AURORA (WEST): IAN ISAACS, sophomore sprinter, scored seven team points as he won the 440 dash for the second straight year breaking his own league mark in a time of 48.72 .. he also ran a leg on the second place mile relay (3:17.57).

DOLTON (THORNBRIDGE): FRED NEAL, sophomore sprinter, earned seven team points winning the 600 yard dash in 1:10.56 . . .he broke the AMCU-8 record (old-1:11.95), the Lantz Fieldhouse record (old-1:11) and EIU varsity record (old-1:10.88) with that time . . .he also ran a leg of the second place mile relay (3:17:57).

LYNWOOD (THORNTON FRACTIONAL SOUTH): AL OAKS, sophomore middle distance runner, earned four team points as he was third in the 880 run in 1:55.29 and ran a leg on the second play mile relay (3:17.57).

BRADLEY-BOURBONNAIS: LONNY VICKERY, senior pole vaulter, won that event with a height of 15-7 3/4.

WHEELING: BOB HOLZER, freshman pole vaulter, was third in that event in 15-1 1/2.

ZION (BENTON): DERRICK LEE, sophomore horizontal jumper, took second in the triple jump in 47-0 1/2.

BERWYN (MORTON WEST): JEFF GENNARELLI, junior weightman, was third in the shotput with a distance of 53-10 1/2.

CAIRO: ERIC CHILDS, sophomore sprinter, was third in the 60 dash in 6.45.

VIRDEN: MIKE HAMMAN, sophomore high jumper, was third in 6-8 1/4.

WRESTLING

WEEKEND RESULTS: The Panthers ended the regular season with a 5-8 dual meet record after defeating Southwest Missouri, 33-3, and losing to Northern Illinois, 28-15, last week.

NEXT MEET: Eastern will compete in the NCAA Western Regional Saturday and Sunday (March 7-8) at Cedar Falls, IA.

COACH RALPH MCCAUSLAND SAYS: "We wrestled well against Southwest . . .these were key matches for our wrestlers to get going heading into this weekend's regional . . .I wish we had wrestled as well against Northern Illinois."

JOLIET (WEST): CRAIG STERR, 118 lber., won both matches last week to improve his record to 24-8 . . .he decisioned Southwest Missouri's Joe Arminas, 24-8, and won by forfeit against NIU.

FOREST PARK (RICH EAST): DEAN SOUDER, 134 lber., downed his NIU opponent, 12-10, and beat Southwest Missouri's Doug Smith, 14-3, to up his record to 19-14.

CHICAGO HEIGHTS (RICH CENTRAL/LINCOLN CC): DEMETRIUS HARPER, senior heavyweight, improved his team best won-lost mark to 28-3 with a 13-7 decision over Northern's Eric Wenckowski and a 12-3 win against Southwest Missouri's Larry Jvern.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS: The Lady Panthers earned a berth in the Gateway Conference Tournament with league victories over Wichita State (68-49 on Thursday) and Southwest Missouri State (71-56 on Saturday) at Lantz Gym. Eastern Illinois took third place in the conference standings with an 11-7 mark and improved to 16-12 overall for its ninth straight winning season. The Lady Panthers also defeated Butler 81-58 on Monday in a non-conference game at Indianapolis, IN.

UPCOMING GAMES: Eastern Illinois, the No. 3 seed in the four-team Gateway Conference Tournament, travels to Springfield, MO to meet second-place Southwest Missouri State (12-6, 18-9) on Wednesday (March 4) in a semifinal game. No. 4 Bradley (10-8, 15-12) plays at Southern Illinois (18-0, 25-2) in Wednesday's other semifinal. The title game will be played at the highest seed remaining on Friday (March 6), with the tournament champion earning an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

COACH BARBARA HILKE SAYS: "We played a super defensive game against Southwest Missouri. I thought we played an intelligent game, and we drove on them extremely well. . . Laura (Mull) held her own against one of the best post players in the Midwest (6-4 Sharon Zeilmann). This game will give Laura an amazing amount of confidence."

DECATUR (EISENHOWER): Senior guard Pat Hamilton had game highs of 23 points and five steals against Wichita State and 16 points and three steals against Southwest. Hamilton leads the team in scoring at 13.2 points per game and steals at 2.3. She is among the Gateway's best in steals and field goal percentage, shooting 53.9 percent from the floor.

AURORA, IN (SOUTH DEARBORN): Sophomore forward Lisa Tyler had 17 points, five rebounds, seven assists and three steals against Southwest and 17 points, 10 rebounds and three assists against Wichita State. Tyler had 20 points, 11 rebounds, five assists, two steals and two blocked shots against Butler. She leads the team in rebounding at 7.6 per game, is tied for team honors in assists at 3.3 and is second in scoring at 13.0 points. Tyler is among the league's elite in rebounding, assists and free throw percentage, shooting 77.1 percent from the line.

TRENTON (BREESE MATER DEI): Freshman point guard Barb Perkes had eight points and seven assists against Southwest and 10 points and five assists against Wichita State. Perkes is tied for the team lead in assists at 3.3 per game and is second in steals at 1.9 and third in scoring at 12.3. Perkes leads the Gateway in three-point field goals made with 33 and is among the league leaders in assists.

ANNA (JONESBORO): Freshman center Laura Mull had nine points, seven rebounds, two steals and two blocks against Southwest and a career-high 13 rebounds, six points, four blocks and two assists against Wichita State. Mull had 14 points and nine rebounds against Butler. She leads the team in blocks with an average of 1.50 per game, is second in rebounding at 5.9 and third in scoring at 7.7. Mull is among the conference's elite for blocks.

SCOTTSBURG, IN: Sophomore guard Sheryl Bonsett tied her career high with 10 assists against Butler. She also had nine points and five rebounds. Bonsett had nine points against Southwest and six points and four rebounds against Wichita State.

ANTIOCH: Sophomore center Brenda Webb came off the bench to score 12 points in 15 minutes against Butler. Webb, who has appeared in all 28 games this year, is fifth on the team in scoring at 6.9 points per game. She also averages 2.9 rebounds.

WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

WEEKEND RESULT: The Lady Panthers broke two conference records and set four school records as they captured fifth place in the Gateway Conference Indoor Track and Field Championship at Cedar Falls, IA on Friday and Saturday. Team scores were: Southern Illinois 118, Illinois State 110, Western Illinois 75, Wichita State 66, **EASTERN ILLINOIS** 62, Drake 54, Northern Iowa 37, Indiana State 21, Southwest Missouri State 10, Bradley 5. The meet concluded the indoor season for the Lady Panthers.

CHICAGO (SOUTH SHORE): Senior Valeta Strickland repeated as league champion with a conference-record toss of 48-11 1/4. She also broke the school mark she held at 48-7 1/4, set a year ago at the Gateway meet.

ST. CHARLES: Senior Janine Jarris took top honors in the 1,000-yard run, winning with a conference-record time of 2:32.19. Jarris' effort in the 1,000 was also a school record. She tied the EIU mark for the mile as she placed fifth in 4:54.70. Jarris also ran a leg on the second-place two-mile relay team which had a time of 9:07.79.

ELMHURST (YORK): Senior Lauren Lynch was second in the 880-yard run with a school-record time of 2:12.39. Lynch, runner-up in the 880 for the second consecutive year, anchored Eastern's second-place two-mile relay team which had a time of 9:07.79. Lynch also ran on the third-place mile relay team which finished in 3:56.30.

BLUE ISLAND (EISENHOWER): Junior Tracy Olawumi placed third in the 600-yard dash at 1:24.56 and was a member of the second-place two-mile relay team which had a time of 9:07.79. Olawumi also ran on the third-place mile relay team which finished in 3:56.30.

HARVEY (THORNTON): Sophomore Lorry Plutz took third in the 440-yard dash at 56.97 and fourth in the 300 at 36.42. Plutz anchored Eastern's third-place mile relay team which finished in 3:56.30.

CALUMET CITY (THORNWOOD): Senior Debbie Zubik captured fourth place in the shot put with a toss of 42-7 3/4.

BOURBONNAIS (BRADLEY-B.): Junior Marcia Rivard ran a leg of Eastern's second-place two-mile relay team which had a time of 9:07.79.

MUNDELEIN: Freshman Pam Kinkelaar ran a leg for the Lady Panthers' third-place mile relay team which finished in 3:56.30.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

WEEKEND RESULT: The Lady Panthers concluded the season with a ninth-place effort at the Midwest Championship at Notre Dame, IN. Twelve teams participated in the three-day meet which ended Saturday.

PEKIN: Senior Tracy Saal took sixth in the 50-yard freestyle at 24.78.

MARSHALL: Senior Connie Wieck was eighth in the 1,650-yard freestyle at 18:36 and tied for 17th in the 500 free at 5:23.