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## 10/11/1983 - Womens XC Plagued By Injury

University Marketing and Communications

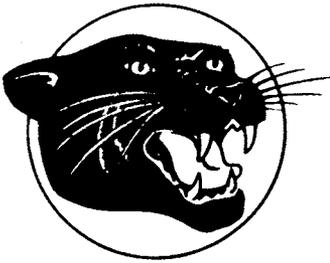
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# Panther Sports News

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LS-Hts 2<sup>nd</sup>

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Matching last season's third-place finish at the Illinois Intercollegiate cross country meet may not be within reach of the 1983 Eastern Illinois University women harriers.

The young squad has been plagued by key injuries all fall and lacks a number of experienced runners, with all but two of the team members competing for the first time at the college level.

One of the most promising of the crew of first-year runners will not run at the intercollegiates slated to begin at 10 a.m. Saturday at Southern Illinois-Edwardsville. Teresa Paul (Aledo), who has already missed a large proportion of this fall's meets due to ankle problems, will not compete at the state meet.

Paul's absence coupled with the loss of the top pre-season prospect, Margaret Smith, (Effingham-St. Anthony), who is sitting out the entire season with a stress fracture, leaves the Panthers hopes with sophomore Anne Ogle (Quincy) and senior Carrie Mortell (McHenry).

Ogle has led the Panthers across the finish line in every race this season and has one victory, in a dual meet with Southern Illinois-Carbondale, to her credit. Mortell boasts the most college experience and will be supported by freshman Janine Jarris (St. Charles). Also, senior Sharon Cizek (Lyons-Morton West), who is running cross country for the first time in her college career, has turned in some fine performances this fall.

However, EIU coach John Craft said his squad would be hard pressed to finish higher than fifth place and predicted that Illinois State would win the team title.

"Illinois State has five people who have run under 18:00 this year. They've had some injury problems, too, and may not be able to run everyone this weekend, but they'll still be very tough," Craft said.