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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "08/28/1984 - John Bennett and Linda Ellsworth New Coaches" (1984). 1984. 560.

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Panther Sports News

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Aug. 28, 1984

LS-Hometowns

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--John Bennett has been named tennis coach and Linda Ellsworth an assistant basketball coach at Eastern Illinois University, athletic director R. C. Johnson announced.

Ellsworth, 26, is a former EIU basketball standout graduating in 1981. At one time she held EIU's career scoring record and still has the best single season average (19.2 in 1976-77) and career rebounding record (844). She was a two-time all-region and all-state choice while the Lady Panthers were a member of AIAW II.

For the past three years she has simultaneously been the head women's basketball coach at Lakewood (MN) Community College, head girls' track, soccer and volleyball coach at Tartan HS in Oakdale, MN, and a science/physical education teacher at St. John the Evangelist (MN).

Bennett, 30, a member of EIU's mathematics department the past three years, has won several United States Tennis Association sponsored summer tournaments throughout central and southern Illinois the past few summers.

He was Lake Land College's No. 1 singles player in 1983 and advanced to the third round of the national junior college tournament. Although graduating with a masters from EIU in 1979, he was eligible to compete at Lake Land as long as he had not played two years at any junior college.

Bennett has also been a tennis instructor in the area the past three years and taught tennis classes at Lake Land while a member of the faculty in 1979. He is a 1972 graduate of Mattoon High School.