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# **Panther Sports News**

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LS-Hts 30

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--The competition keeps getting better and better for the Eastern Illinois University men's cross country team, and this Saturday's meet (Sept. 29) is no exception.

The Panthers are entered in the Illinois Invitational in Champaign. The 10,000-meter race begins at 10 a.m. Other teams involved are Bradley, Illinois, Illinois State, Indiana, Indiana State-Evansville, Nebraska, Southern Illinois-Edwardsville, Western Illinois and Western Michigan.

"It's definitely a lot higher quality than it was at Kenosha (Wis.)," said Eastern assistant coach Tom Akers of the Midwest Collegiate Championship, where the Panthers were fifth last weekend. "We're going to get our first 10-K race under our belts, and we'll get to know the course. We'll try to be as competitive as we can."

The meet should be beneficial in two ways, Akers said. Eastern will compete on the same course in November for the NCAA District IV Qualifying Meet, and the Panthers get to run against Mid-Continent rival Western Illinois.

Eastern again will be represented by eight runners. They are senior Nick Whiteside (Mount Vernon), senior Scott Pillsbury (Petersburg-Porta/Lincoln Land CC), freshman Dale Righter (Mattoon), senior Scott Tracy (Northbrook-Glenbrook North), senior Mitch McClure (Paxton-Parkland CC), junior Dan Newman (Elmhurst-York), sophomore Mike Madix (Decatur-Eisenhower) and freshman Jeff Armstrong (Streator).

Senior Bruce DeRuntz (Granite City-North/Spoon River CC) will not compete. "He's got a pinched nerve in his back," said Akers. "He had the same problem last year and was out for the whole season."

Armstrong moved into the lineup by winning the junior varsity triangular meet against Danville and Vincennes last Thursday.