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### 11/03/1982 - Women's XC to Compete in Gateway Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship

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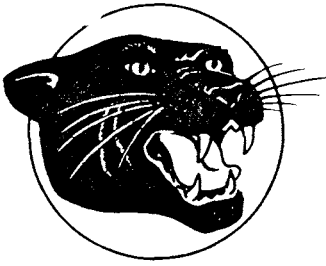
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# Panther Sports News

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Nov. 3, 1982

LS-Hometowns

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's women's cross country team will compete in the first Gateway Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship Saturday (Nov. 6) in Normal.

EIU joins the host Illinois State Redbirds, Bradley, Drake, Indiana State, Northern Iowa, Southern Illinois, Southwest Missouri, Western Illinois and Wichita State.

"I said it last week and I will say it again . . . Illinois State is the favorite with (Wendy) Van Mierlo and (Sara) Schumacher. They finished one-two here in the Illinois Intercollegiate," said Coach John Craft, whose Panthers were third in that meet.

"Gina Sperry (Litchfield) ran a super-duper race last Saturday. Her 17:41 time is a career best and tied a school record.

"Margaret Smith (Effingham-St. Anthony) also ran an excellent race as she has been fighting a cold for over a week. All our times came down last Saturday," Craft said.

"Anne Ogle (Quincy) ran the fastest race for a freshman in my four years of coaching here. Sperry had an 18:45 her freshman year on our course and Anne ran 18:22. She is off to a very promising career here."

Also, competing for the Panthers will be Nancy Kramer (Decatur-MacArthur) and Megan Irons (Palatine-Fremd) who ran 18:46 and 19:24, respectively, last week. Those times were their season bests.