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11/23/1982 - Womens Basketball Opens Season

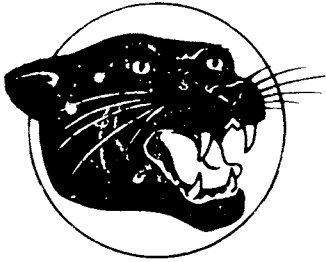
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Panther Sports News

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LS-AS-Women's BB-
Hometowns

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University women's basketball team opens the 1982-83 season, its first in NCAA Division I, in defense of last year's Thanksgiving Invitational crown at Missouri-St. Louis this weekend.

The Lady Panthers meet Creighton in opening round action Friday morning.

Other teams participating are Indiana State, Southern Illinois-Edwardsville, Southwest Missouri State, William Penn, Wisconsin-Green Bay and Missouri-St. Louis.

Eastern defeated SIU-Edwardsville to win last year's UMSL Thanksgiving classic, 73-55. Panther fourth-year head coach Barbara Hilke has announced her tentative starting lineup:

(1981-82 statistics in parenthesis)

- G - Nancy Kassebaum, 5-6, Sr., Belleville-East (16.4 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 7.2 assists per game)
- G - Beth Sass, 5-7, So., Elk Grove Village (3.1 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 1.4 assists per game)
- C - Darla Farthing, 6-0, So., Oakland (2.6 ppg, 2.7 rpg) --OR-- Susan Hynd, 6-2, Fr., Ottawa
- F - Toni Collins, 5-11, So., Lincoln (Jamaica) (17.1 ppg, 10.6 rpg)
- F - Kathy Lanter, 5-7, Sr., Georgetown (12.3 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 4.8 assists per game)

"We are ready to play someone else," Hilke said. "We don't know a lot about Creighton however they will have played before this weekend.

"First off the bench for us will be Susan (Hynd) or Darla (Farthing) and after those we will just have to wait and see. We do have a triple scoring threat with Kathy (Lanter), Nancy (Kassebaum) and Toni (Collins). Beth (Sass) has looked very good and has earned a starting spot," Hilke added.

Kassebaum, Eastern's all-time scoring leader with 1540 points, was named COSIDA District IV Fourth Team Academic All-American. She was also named a First Team All-Regional choice and was the state's Most Valuable Player. She is also Eastern's all-time assist and steal leader with 581 and 422, respectively.