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Panther Sports News

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For Immediate Release

(PANTHER WOMEN CAGERS OPEN SEASON)

CHARLESTON, IL, Nov. 23 -- Eastern Illinois University women's basketball team opens the 1981-82 season in the River Roast Thanksgiving Invitational, at St. Louis, MO., this weekend. EIU faces University of Missouri-Rolla, Friday morning at 9 o'clock. Should the Panthers be victorious they would meet the Belmont (Tenn.) College-Southeast Missouri State victor Saturday at 9:30 a.m. Consolation action begins at 5 p.m., Nov. 27. The championship is scheduled at 8 p.m., Saturday evening.

Here is Eastern's tentative starting lineup for the game against Missouri-Rolla, according to third-year coach Bobbie Hilke: (1980-81 statistics in parenthesis where applicable)

5'6"	G - Nancy Kassebaum, Jr., Belleville, IL(East) (15.3 ppg, 4.2 rpg)
5'4"	G - Kelly Waldrup, Jr., Coulterville, (Coulterville) (1.9 ppg, 0.7 rpg)
5'7"	G-F - Kathy Lanter, Jr., Georgetown, (Georgetown) (5.9 ppg, 2.2 rpg)
5'11"	F - Toni Collins, Fr., Lincoln, (Jamaica of Sidell, IL)
6'1"	C - Dede Edwards, Sr., Lafayette, CO (Centarus) (4.7 ppg, 3.0 rpg)

Kassebaum is the lone returning starter from last year's 25-10 team which finished in the final eight of the AIAW Division II Nationals. Nancy needs four (4) points to reach the 1,000-point plateau. She has 996 (462 her freshman season and 534 last year) points, and ranks third in EIU career scoring behind Joanne Archer (1977-81) 1,256 and Linda Ellsworth (1977-81) 1,517. Kassebaum has 351 assists in her career (218 last season).

"Our main area of concern is that this group (tentative starters) does not have game experience, just in scrimmages," commented coach Hilke. "We are looking forward to opening the season."

Following the invitational at St. Louis, MO, this weekend, EIU travels to Cedar Falls, IA, next weekend to compete in the Peach Basket Invitational hosted by University of Northern Iowa in the UNI-Dome, Dec. 3-5.