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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--John Gassmann (Olney), sophomore cross country runner at Eastern Illinois University, was consistently in EIU's top 10 finishers this past fall.

Gassmann just missed attaining All-Conference honors as he finished ninth in the field with a time of 26:29.

He went on to finish 74th at the regional meet, second of Eastern runners and just 18 seconds behind EIU's top finisher.

Eastern coach Tom Woodall said, "John was probably the most improved runner on our squad . . . got a late start because of a foot problem . . . kept getting stronger and stronger. His best feature is his fine attitude . . . expect to hear a lot about John Gassmann in the future."

Eastern was 4-1 in dual meets and won the MCC title for the third time.