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Panther Sports News

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LS-4S-Gateway

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CHARLESTON, IL (Dec. 17, 1985)

--The first third of the season is over for the Eastern Illinois women's basketball team and the Lady Panthers are sporting an impressive 7-2 non-conference mark. EIU will take a couple of weeks off for final exams and Christmas break before beginning preparation for the Gateway Conference ledger.

The Lady Panthers will take on Wichita State (3-4) on Thursday, Jan. 2 at 7:30 and Southwest Missouri State (1-6) Saturday, Jan. 4. Both games will start at 7:30 p.m. in Lantz Gym.

"I'm extremely pleased with our record at this date," admits seventh-year head coach Barbara Hilke. "We really have only played bad one game . . . against St. John's. One of our strengths is that we play so well as a team. Everybody on the team gets just as big of a thrill from an assist as a basket. I think that is great.

"We must take our conference schedule one game at a time. Both Wichita State and Southwest Missouri are tough teams. Jenny Parr-Cook (Wichita State) and Jeannette Tendai are two of the top forwards in the league. This is a really difficult way for us to begin the Gateway season."

Eastern's team-oriented attack is led by a host of players. Senior CHRIS ALDRIDGE (Taylorville) is the Lady Panthers' leading scorer with an 18.8 average. The All-American candidate also leads the club in rebounding with 7.0 a game. Recently she became the sixth player in school annals to eclipse the 1,000 point mark in a career.

The outside version of EIU's Inside-Outside tandem is 5-5 senior MELANIE HATFIELD (Lawrenceburg, Ind.). The Naismith Award candidate became the seventh player in Eastern history to score 1,000 career points with a 12-point outburst against Ball State. As the shortest player on the team, she is third on the team in rebounds (4.6), first in block shots (7) and second in scoring (14.8). The cat-quick guard also is among the league leaders in steals (5.3 ave.).

The third double-figure scorer is Senior center SUE HYND (Ottawa). She is chipping in 10 points an outing. The tallest Lady Panther at 6-2, Hynd is also averaging 4.2 boards a game. Hynd is hitting nearly 49% from the field and 74% from the charity stripe.

Freshmen LISA TYLER (Aurora, Ind./South Dearborn) and SHERYL BONSETT (Scottsburg, Ind.) are the youngsters in EIU's starting five. The 5-11 Tyler may be playing her first year of collegiate basketball . . . nevertheless she may be the glue to Eastern's squad. She has the second lowest amount of turnovers on EIU's first five. Tyler is averaging nearly eight points a game while bringing down 5.8 boards a contest. Her dead-eye approach to shooting has enabled her to lead the club in field goal shooting with a .538 mark. In the last five games, Tyler is shooting a .686 (23-34) clip while averaging 11.6 ppg.

Bonsett is fifth on the team in scoring with a 6.9 average. The former All-Indiana selection is running the EIU offense. She is leading the team in free-throw shooting with an .818 percentage.

Junior PAT HAMILTON (Decatur/Eisenhower) has been seeing more playing time recently. The former All-Capitol Conference pick scored a career-high 21 points in Eastern's 98-64 romp over Ball State. Hamilton notched 21 points, one rebound, three assists and three steals in 24 minutes of action.

BRENDA WEBB (Antioch) has been performing more than adequately in spelling Hynd in the middle. The 6-2 freshman scored a career-high eight points in EIU's win over Ball State.

CHARLESTON, IL--(Dec. 17, 1985) It shouldn't come as any surprise that Eastern Illinois freshman basketball player LIZ CAVANAGH (Springfield/Sacred Heart Academy) feels like part of a jigsaw puzzle.

"I see my freshman year as a learning process, and there are times we really don't know what to do. We will fit in more next year," the 5-6 sparkplug reasoned.

Playing time has been limited for the pre-medicine major, but you can't play the game if you don't know the fundamentals.

Despite the lack of playing time, Cavanagh feels she has made considerable strides. And for that matter, so does her coach, Barbara Hilke.

"Liz is a very special person, and a very disciplined player," Hilke disclosed.

"She is a very coachable young lady and she does exactly what we ask her. She is just a great pleasure to have on the team."

Against Butler in a recent game, Cavanagh came off the bench and was responsible for a number of steals and made several contributions to taking the ball away from Butler. She is averaging 1.8 ppg for the 7-2 Lady Panthers.

It should also be pointed out that Cavanagh is hardly a stranger to the Eastern campus, having attended women's summer basketball camp last year.

"When I came to camp here, I felt very comfortable. Eastern isn't a small university, but the campus isn't strung out like it is at some places.

"I knew I liked it here, and when it came time to decide between St. Louis University, Washington University and Eastern, it really wasn't that much of a challenge," Cavanagh explained.

And if there is one thing the Sacred Heart Academy product likes, it is a challenge.

1985-86 EASTERN ILLINOIS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STATISTICS 7-2 overall (Home: 3-0, Road: 4-0, Neutral: 0-2)

	ST-GM	MTS	FGM-FGA	PCT	FTM-FTA	PCT	PTS	AVG	REB	AVG	PF-D	AST	BS	ST	TO
Chris Aldridge	9-9	295	68-156	.436	33-48	.688	169	18.8	63	7.0	20-0	24	1	26	29
Melanie Hatfield	9-9	312	56-133	.421	22-27	.815	134	14.9	41	4.6	19-1	45	7	48	37
Sue Hynd	9-9	220	38-78	.487	14-19	.737	90	10.0	38	4.2	21-0	5	2	10	12
Sheryl Bonsett	7-9	248	23-55	.418	18-22	.818	62	6.9	15	1.7	19-0	23	0	19	38
Lisa Tyler	8-9	248	28-52	.538	15-20	.750	71	7.9	52	5.8	12-0	22	1	12	18
Brenda Webb	0-8	97	12-30	.400	12-15	.800	36	4.5	26	3.3	19-0	1	2	5	5
Pat Hamilton	0-8	73	20-33	.606	4-8	.500	44	5.5	5	0.6	4-0	5	0	10	7
Michelle Newman	1-7	80	9-28	.321	7-11	.636	25	3.6	17	2.4	10-0	2	0	5	7
Shelly Ethridge	2-6	92	4-19	.211	6-6	1.000	14	2.3	7	1.2	7-0	9	0	5	14
Kerry Walsh	0-7	55	4-8	.500	3-8	.375	11	1.6	15	2.1	4-0	4	0	2	3
Liz Cavanagh	0-5	28	4-9	.444	1-2	.500	9	1.8	4	0.8	1-0	4	1	7	2
Ann Brown	0-7	58	4-10	.400	5-7	.714	13	1.9	10	1.4	7-0	3	0	0	8
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EIU Team	9-9	1800	270-616	.438	140-193	.725	680	75.6	322	35.8	145-1	146	13	152	170
Opponents	9-9	1800	239-545	.439	79-122	.648	557	61.9	340	37.8	179-6	138	36	99	227

GAME-BY-GAME RESULTS

Date	W-L	EIU	OPP	High Scorer	High Rebounder
11-22	W	80	60 at Xavier (OH)	Aldridge 29	Aldridge 10
11-23	W	64	56 at Miami (OH)	Aldridge 21	Aldridge, Hatfield, Tyler 9
11-29	L	56	73 S St. John's (NY)	Hatfield 14	Hatfield 10
11-30	W	70	64 S Wisconsin	Aldridge 32	Aldridge 11
12-6	W	87	65 * Northern Illinois	Hatfield 20	Tyler 11
12-7	L	69	75 * Tennessee	Hynd 23	Tyler 8

S Badger Invitational (Madison, Wisconsin)

* Fastbreak Fest (DeKalb, Ill.)

12-10	W	81	58	BUTLER	Hatfield 20	Aldridge 7
12-13	W	75	42	ST. LOUIS	Aldridge 16	Aldridge 6
12-14	W	98	64	BALL STATE	Hamilton 21	Aldridge 10