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01/17/1985 - Track Season Overview

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Panther Sports News

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LS-Hometowns 21

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Women's track season has slowly crept upon us once again. The Eastern Illinois Lady Panthers will showcase their 1985 edition on Saturday, Jan. 19 at 2 p.m. at Lantz Fieldhouse. Eastern will host Division II power Southeast Missouri State, Gateway-rival Indiana State and Southern Illinois-Edwardsville.

"I believe this will be a good opening meet for us," states Eastern acting head coach Dan Lowery. "We need to prove to some cynics the capabilities and potential of the track program at Eastern Illinois.

"The girls have been taking this meet seriously for the past 45 days. We have been taking an approach that we are going to win the meet . . . not come in second or third . . . or have just a 'respectable' showing. Eastern has a well-balanced program and we hope to prove that in the opening meet of the year."

Field events are the Lady Panthers strong suit in 1985. Sophomores Valeta Strickland (Chicago/South Shore) and Debbie Zubik (Calumet City/Thorntown) figure to battle for medalist honors in the shot put. Zubik holds the school indoor standard in the shot put with a toss of 43'8". Strickland and Zubik both have shattered the Eastern mark in practice.

"We might see a record broken in the shot put by either Strickland or Zubik," admits Lowery. "They both have been pushing each other in practice all season."

Sophomore Janine Jarris (St. Charles) is another Lady Panther who may sparkle on Saturday. The middle distance specialist came off a fine cross country season and should add some stability and excitement to EIU. She is regarded as an up-and-coming force in Midwest track circles. Lowery has high expectations for the business major.

"I expect an excellent performance from J. J. (Jarris) in the open 880-yard run," Lowery boasts with enthusiasm. "She has turned in some excellent times in practice. J.J. is in great condition for the season."