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01/22/1986 - Track and field top honors

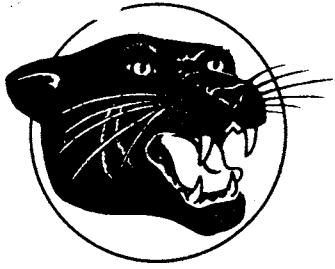
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL-- (Jan. 22, 1986)--Eastern Illinois University's women's track and field squad took top honors Jan. 18 in a triangular meet at Lantz Fieldhouse, but the Lady Panthers face a stiffer challenge this Saturday.

Eastern Illinois will compete next at the Purdue Invitational at 11:00 a.m. CST in West Lafayette, IN.

The Lady Panthers are coming off an impressive season-opening triumph over Indiana State and Southeast Missouri. Eastern Illinois had 81 points to Indiana State's 53 and Southeast Missouri's 34.

"I was real pleased with our performance," said Eastern head coach John Craft. "I thought we ran very well for the first meet of the year. We're happy, but we have got to keep in perspective that this was just our first meet.

"The excitement is tempered by the fact that it is going to get pretty rough from here on out. We've still got a long way to go, but it's better to win than to lose."

Leading the Lady Panthers to victory were triple winners Beverly Thomas (Joliet-Central), Lorraine Plutz (Harvey-Thornton) and Tracy Olawumi (Blue Island-Eisenhower). Thomas, Plutz and Olawumi combined with Jeannine Mackin (Oak Lawn) to win the 880-yard relay in 1:45.94 and the mile relay in 4:09.02. Thomas also won the 60 hurdles in 8.55, Plutz the 440 in 1:01.23 and Olawumi the 600 in 1:28.38.

"Several people had outstanding performances," Craft said. "We got a lot of scoring from our freshmen. This group has meshed together pretty well. It's a good team situation. It's a joy to coach them. They work really hard and know how to compete."

Two-time champions for Eastern Illinois were Janine Jarris (St. Charles), Lauren Lynch (Elmhurst-York), Patti Frigo (Lansing-Thornton Fractional South) and Mackin. Jarris took top honors in the mile at 5:15.85, and Lynch won the 880 at 2:21.54. Jarris

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and Lynch combined with Kerri Sperry (Litchfield) and Marcy Novak (Champaign-Mahomet Seymour) for a victory in the two-mile relay at 9:47.02. Frigo won the high jump at 5-0 and the long jump at 5.10 meters.

Freshmen referred by Craft include Thomas, Plutz, Mackin, Frigo and Novak. Olawumi is a sophomore, while Jarris, Lynch and Sperry are juniors.