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01/16/1985 - Ann Brown Becomes Defensive Specialist

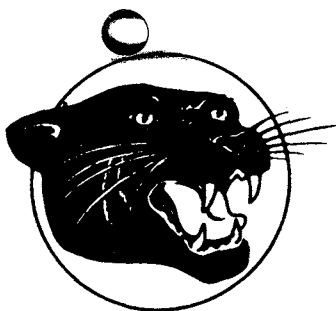
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL (Jan. 16, 1985)--There are specialists in virtually any field you can imagine. Doctors . . . lawyers . . . educators . . . engineers and sports. In the past decade athletics have become extremely precise and high-tech in nature. Women's basketball is no exception.

Eastern Illinois' Ann Brown came to the Charleston campus five months ago as an unheralded freshman from Evanston, Ill.--a north suburb of Chicago. She was a two-time all-Central Suburban League Selection while averaging better than 15 ppg for Evanston High School. Brown was considered more of a threat at the offensive end of the court than at the defensive end.

While performing for the Lady Panthers, however, Brown has become more noted for her defense. A specialist of sorts. A case in point: Against Ball State earlier this season, EIU was holding on to a slim four point lead with five minutes gone in the second half when Lady Panthers head coach Barbara Hilke summoned Brown off the bench to guard Ball State's main offensive threat Emma Jones. Brown blanketed Jones and proved to be the catalyst to lead EIU to an 81-59 win.

"Ann probably is one of our top defensive players--especially along the baseline," praised Hilke after the win. "She has good body control in her shot. She just needs to be a little more patient."

Brown is averaging 2.1 points per game in eight games this season. She also is averaging 2.1 rebounds a contest. Her top offensive effort of the year came in EIU's 87-44 win against Xavier (O) in the opening round of the Heath Candy Classic. The 5-foot-10, 150-pounder scored four points and grabbed five rebounds in 15 minutes of action. She also contributed two steals and assists in the rout of the Lady Musketeers.

While prepping for Evanston HS Brown led the Wildkits to a school record 17-7 mark as a junior. She was also named Evanston's Outstanding Female Athlete as a senior; Brown was also named to the Pioneer Press All-Area squad a year ago.