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1-29-1986

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University Marketing and Communications, "01/29/1986 - EIU's Men's Track and Field at Indiana Invitational" (1986). 1986. 1040.

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Panther Sports News

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LS-Hts <u>31</u>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL (January 29, 1986) -- Sophomore Jim Maton (Shelbyville) will lead eight members of Eastern Illinois University's men's track and field squad into the Indiana Invitational at Bloomington, IN on Friday and Saturday (Jan. 31-Feb. 1).

Eastern will also be represented by senior Larry Thoennissen (Morton), junior Dan Matas (Oak Park-River Forest), sophomore Jeff Gennarelli (Berwyn-Morton West), junior Phil Maton (Shelbyville-Illinois College), freshman Fred Neal (Dolton-Thorn-ridge), sophomore Rod McMullen (Edwardsville) and freshman Ian Isaacs (North Aurora-West).

Jim Maton enters the meet unbeaten in the 880 and the mile, with season bests of 1:54.07 and 4:14.09, respectively. He had also run 2:12.74 in the 1,000 to lead the Panthers. But Maton and Co. will be tested at the Indiana Invitational.

"That will be high-powered competition over there," said Eastern head coach
Neil Moore. "They need to be tested against real tough competition, and they'll get
it over there. We'll really find out how good we are."

Eastern enters the meet after a stellar performance against Association of Mid-Continent Universities Conference rivals Western Illinois and Southwest Missouri. The Panthers rolled up 104 points to Western's 58 and Southwest's 56 in a five-team meet last Saturday.

Thoennissen leads the Panthers in the 35-pound weight throw with a season best of 55-5 3/4 and is second in the shot put at 54-4 3/4. Matas is leading the shot put at 55-1, and Gennarelli has a season best of 51-7 in the shot put.

Phil Maton, older brother of Jim Maton, has run 2:17.45 in the 1,000, while Neal has season bests of 1:56.22 in the 880 and 1:13.45 in the 600.

McMullen is the team leader of the 60-yard high hurdles at 7.67 and is second in the 60 at 6.68. Isaacs leads the Panthers in the 440 with a 49.92 and ran on a mile relay team that is tops at 3:22.09. Other members of the relay are freshman Gary Sharp (Cairo), sophomore Mark Heise (Charleston) and junior Scot Adamson (Moweaqua).

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