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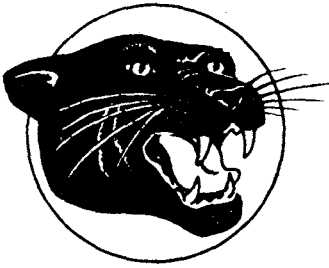
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--(January 29, 1986)--Eastern Illinois University's women's track and field squad will host the Lady Panther Invitational at Lantz Fieldhouse on Saturday (Feb. 1). Field events are scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. and running events at 11:00.

Eastern is the meet's defending champion. Other teams entered are Bradley, DePaul, Indiana State, Purdue, Southern Illinois and Western Illinois.

The Lady Panthers are coming off a fourth-place effort at the Purdue Invitational as the host Boilermakers won with 96 points to EIU's 29. Purdue is the only team in the meet which has faced Eastern this season.

"All the meets we have are pretty competitive," said Eastern head coach John Craft, "so we have to be pleased with the way we're performing. We feel that we're right on schedule."

Junior Valeta Strickland (Chicago-South Shore) certainly is on track with an impressive first-place showing in the shot put at the Purdue Invitational with a throw of 46-10½.

"Valeta had never beaten the girls from Purdue before," Craft said, "so she got a lot of gratitude from beating them. She deserved it."

Junior Janine Jarris (St. Charles) was runner-up in the 1,000 meters at Purdue in 2:54.6. The 1,600 relay team of junior Lauren Lynch (Elmhurst-York), freshman Beverly Thomas (Joliet-Central), freshman Jeannine Mackin (Oak Lawn) and sophomore Tracy Olawumi (Blue Island-Eisenhower) was also second in 4:00.0.

Eastern won the four-team Lady Panther Invitational a year ago with 68 points. Bradley was second with 35, Southwest Missouri third with 30 and Parkland CC fourth with 10.