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02/05/1986 - Swim Team On The Road

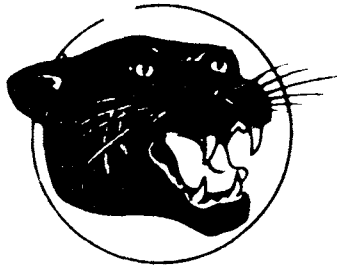
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--(Feb. 5, 1986)--Eastern Illinois' women's swim team will go on the road this weekend as they travel to Illinois State University to compete in the Gateway Conference championship meet.

"This will be a good meet for us, in preparing us for the qualifying meet for nationals," said Eastern head coach Ray Padovan. "This meet will have a lot of events spread out over three days."

Southern Illinois is expected to be the top finisher in the meet, with Western Illinois and Illinois State fighting it out for second. "Our conference is so spread out in terms of talent," Padovan said. "Southern has been ranked in the top five in the country for several years, and ISU and Western both have pretty strong teams. Northern Iowa and us are about even," Padovan said.

Eastern will look to junior co-captain Tracy Saal to do well in the meet. Saal finished first in the 100 yd. freestyle against Illinois-Chicago last weekend with a time of 56.48. Senior Sheila Mulcrone is also one of Eastern's more consistent swimmers. Mulcrone finished with a second in the 200 yd. individual medley last weekend with a time of 2:27.3.

"We don't have an even well balanced conference, we have a great diversity of talent," said Padovan. "I'm sure none of the teams will be using this as their high point of the season. "This is definitely not a culmination of the season, it's more for preparation for the nationals." Padovan said.