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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--(February 13, 1986)--Eastern Illinois University's women's track and field team will face seven schools from the Gateway Conference and five from the Big Ten at the Illinois State Invitational on Saturday (Feb. 15) in Normal.

The Lady Panthers will be competing against conference rivals Bradley, Illinois State, Indiana State, Northern Iowa, Southern Illinois, Southwest Missouri and Western Illinois as well as Big Ten foes Illinois, Michigan, Northwestern, Ohio State and Purdue. Murray State, Southern Illinois-Edwardsville, Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Wisconsin-Parkside round out the 17-team field.

The meet begins at 8:30 a.m. with the pentathlon, which includes the 60-meter hurdles, high jump, shot put, long jump and 800 meters. The field events are scheduled to begin at 10:00 and the running events at 11:00.

"It's probably going to be the toughest indoor competition we'll face this season," said Eastern coach Jon Craft. "There are a lot of teams there from the conference, so it will be a pretty good warm-up. We're going into the meet optimistically and with a very positive attitude."

And with good reason since Eastern is coming off its best team performance of the year. The Lady Panthers edged Illinois State 75½-75 in top honors at the EIU Invitational last Saturday at Lantz Fieldhouse.

Junior Lauren Lynch (Elmhurst-York), sophomore Tracy Olawumi (Blue Island-Eisenhower) and freshman Lorry Plutz (Harvey-Thornton) won one individual event apiece and were each members of two victorious relays.

Lynch took first place in the 880 with a time of 2:16.0, Olawumi the 600 in 1:26.83 and Plutz the 440 in 59.2. All three were members of the 880 relay team which had a season-best time of 1:44.70.

Lynch and Olawumi both ran on the two-mile relay squad which set a school record at 9:29.67, while Plutz anchored the mile-relay team with a 57.57 split as Eastern won the relay at 4:00.7.

Other members of the record-setting two-mile relay team squad were junior Janine Jarris (St. Charles) and freshman Marcy Novak (Champaign-Mahomet-Seumour).