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02/05/1985 - Basketball To Host Bradley

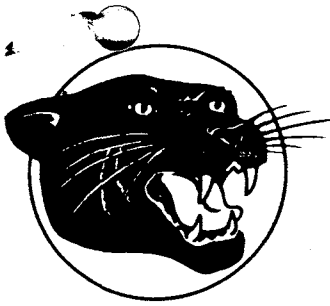
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Panther Sports News

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LS-WBB

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--What goes around, comes around and the Eastern Illinois women's basketball team (10-9, 2-7) begin their second time around on the Gateway Conference's merry-go-round of a schedule as they will entertain Bradley (11-7, 5-4) at 7:30 p.m. Thursday night at Lantz Gym. EIU also hosts Western Illinois (5-13, 2-7) at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Bradley defeated EIU 85-73 in the second week of league play in January. However, the Lady Braves will be without the services of junior college transfers Marlene Flanagan, Altina Smith and Felicia Brown for the remainder of the season. Smith and Brown are out due to academic woes and Flanagan was dismissed from the squad. Brown scored 32 points in the defeat of the Lady Panthers. Lea Ann Machias leads the Braves in scoring with a 10.8 average while junior center Deb Davis is pacing the squad in rebounding with a 6.6 average.

The Lady Panthers upended Western Illinois 76-53 at Macomb earlier this year. Senior Toni Collins (Lincoln/Jamaica-Sidell) led a balanced EIU onslaught with 19 points and eight boards. Junior forward Chris Aldridge (Taylorville) chipped in 14 points and five boards while Lori Conine (Paris/Kansas) and Melanie Hatfield (Lawrenceburg, Ind.) had 12 a piece.

"I hope we can bounce back here at home after a tough road trip last week," says Lady Panther mentor Barbara Hilke. "Bradley will definitely feel the loss of Flanagan and Brown. They will be a good test for us.

"Despite losing two games last week, I saw some positive signs out there. We played some good defense against Southwest for the last 28 minutes. We must learn to keep our intensity for 40 minutes or else we will find ourselves down by 10 or 12 points at the beginning of the game again."

Aldridge and Collins lead Eastern in most offensive categories. Aldridge--the most consistent performer to date-- is second in rebounding (7.0) and scoring (14.2). The junior all-conference candidate tops the squad in field goal shooting with a .514 mark. Collins--a two-time all-league pick--is the team's leading scorer with a 14.9 average. She also leads the club in boards with a 7.7 average.

Slender Sue Hynd is averaging 8.9 ppg in the pivot. She scored 21 points in the 76-72 loss to Southwest Missouri last Saturday. She is also averaging 4.6 rebounds a game.

CHARLESTON, IL (Feb. 4, 1985)--QUESTION: Besides the cargo of the most recent Space Shuttle mission, what is the best kept secret in America today?

ANSWER: Eastern Illinois women's basketball player Chris Aldridge.

The unselfish performer is the "unsung" hero of the Lady Panthers this season. Aldridge is second on the team in scoring with a 14.2 average while also copping runner-up honors in rebounding with a 7.0 mark. The Taylorville, Ill. product is the heart and soul of the EIU attack; she leads by example.

"I'm a perfectionist," Aldridge sternly states. "If something is going to get done, I want it done right . . . or not at all. I have to be more aggressive because I don't have the size other people who play my position do."

Other than being a consistent player at the offensive end of the floor, Aldridge is EIU's premier defender. The 5-foot-10, 150-pounder is often matched-up against opponents that are 2-4 inches taller and 40-50 pounds heavier. She holds her ground--despite the deficiency in size--with speed and determination.

"I feel Chris is definitely an all-conference candidate," lauds EIU head coach Barbara Hilke. "She works very hard on the court. Chris is our most consistent player. Sometimes she amazes me that she plays with so much pain."

Aldridge has been playing with bad ankles, bumps and bruises for most of her EIU career. After last season, she had surgery on her left ankle to repair some torn ligaments. Aldridge has had chronic ankle sprains since her prep days at Taylorville High School. Most medical observers thought she wouldn't be ready till mid-season, but she was ready to test her ankle when practice commenced on Oct. 15.

The all-conference candidate made her presence felt on the court in the Lady Panthers' opening game of the year at the Central Florida Invitational. Aldridge calmly sank an eight-footer in the lane with two seconds left to send the game into an extra session. Despite losing the title game to host Central Florida, Aldridge was honored for her aggressive play by being named to the all-tournament team. Less than two weeks later, she received all-tournament laurels at Eastern's own Heath Candy Classic.

Most players would have hung up their high-tops after the lengthy list of ailments that have plagued Aldridge. Nevertheless, she keeps giving it 100% every time she steps across the sideline.

"I would be bored to death if I didn't play basketball," admits Aldridge. "I wouldn't know what to do."

The physical education major just doesn't excel on the basketball court. Aldridge earned a perfect 4.0 GPA last semester. She has aspirations of coaching basketball and teaching upon graduation next May.

For the time being though, she is content with helping Eastern win the Gateway Conference title. With more players like Aldridge, the brass ring for the Lady Panthers may not be far away.

1984-85 EASTERN ILLINOIS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STATISTICS (10-9 overall, 2-7 Gateway) HOME: 6-3, AWAY: 3-6, NEUTRAL: 1-0

| Name | ST-GM | MTS | FGM-FGA | PCT | FTM-FTA | PCT | PTS | AVG | REB | AVG | PF-D | AST | BS | ST | TO |
|-------------------------------|-------|------|----------|------|---------|-------|------|------|-----|------|--------|-----|----|-----|-----|
| Toni Collins, Sr., Forward | 19-19 | 626 | 113-227 | .498 | 57-86 | .663 | 283 | 14.9 | 147 | 7.7 | 51-2 | 45 | 21 | 31 | 58 |
| GCAC | 9-9 | 291 | 48-95 | .505 | 25-37 | .676 | 121 | 13.4 | 59 | 6.6 | 32-2 | 21 | 10 | 14 | 34 |
| Chris Aldridge, Jr., Forward | 19-19 | 637 | 113-220 | .514 | 44-68 | .647 | 270 | 14.2 | 133 | 7.0 | 54-1 | 26 | 1 | 29 | 66 |
| GCAC | 9-9 | 305 | 59-112 | .527 | 17-28 | .607 | 135 | 15.0 | 70 | 7.8 | 28-0 | 15 | 1 | 13 | 38 |
| Melanie Hatfield, Jr., Guard | 17-19 | 639 | 97-205 | .473 | 36-55 | .655 | 230 | 12.1 | 86 | 4.5 | 61-5 | 77 | 1 | 47 | 87 |
| GCAC | 8-9 | 313 | 41-90 | .455 | 15-25 | .600 | 97 | 10.8 | 35 | 3.9 | 32-3 | 34 | 0 | 20 | 51 |
| Sue Hynd, Jr., Center | 10-19 | 378 | 72-138 | .522 | 25-33 | .758 | 169 | 8.9 | 87 | 4.6 | 32-0 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 24 |
| GCAC | 6-9 | 186 | 33-63 | .524 | 10-11 | .910 | 76 | 8.4 | 41 | 4.6 | 16-0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 13 |
| Lori Conine, Sr., Guard | 13-18 | 558 | 72-163 | .442 | 14-28 | .500 | 155 | 8.6 | 36 | 2.0 | 36-1 | 45 | 5 | 31 | 59 |
| GCAC | 6-8 | 221 | 28-70 | .400 | 3-8 | .375 | 59 | 7.4 | 8 | 1.0 | 20-1 | 16 | 1 | 8 | 31 |
| Kim Maxey, Jr., Guard | 16-19 | 667 | 67-162 | .414 | 18-28 | .643 | 152 | 8.0 | 81 | 4.3 | 39-1 | 86 | 2 | 26 | 65 |
| GCAC | 8-9 | 319 | 30-79 | .380 | 6-6 | 1.000 | 66 | 7.3 | 27 | 3.0 | 20-1 | 47 | 1 | 13 | 23 |
| Kerry Walsh, Fr., Center | 0-14 | 112 | 11-27 | .407 | 11-15 | .733 | 33 | 2.4 | 17 | 1.2 | 17-0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 4 |
| GCAC | 0-5 | 40 | 3-10 | .300 | 4-6 | .667 | 10 | 2.0 | 7 | 1.4 | 9-0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| Michelle Newman, Fr., Forward | 0-18 | 124 | 12-30 | .400 | 13-15 | .867 | 37 | 2.1 | 14 | 0.8 | 8-0 | 7 | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| GCAC | 0-9 | 57 | 6-18 | .333 | 5-7 | .714 | 17 | 1.9 | 3 | 0.3 | 7-0 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| Ann Brown, Fr., Forward | 0-14 | 82 | 9-25 | .360 | 5-10 | .500 | 23 | 1.6 | 28 | 2.0 | 9-0 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| GCAC | 0-5 | 27 | 2-7 | .286 | 3-4 | .750 | 7 | 1.4 | 9 | 1.8 | 4-0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Pat Hamilton, So., Guard | 1-7 | 63 | 7-21 | .333 | 1-2 | .500 | 15 | 2.1 | 13 | 1.9 | 4-0 | 6 | 0 | 7 | 4 |
| GCAC | 0-6 | 38 | 5-11 | .455 | 1-2 | .500 | 11 | 1.8 | 6 | 1.0 | 2-0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| EASTERN ILLINOIS | 19-19 | 3900 | 573-1218 | .470 | 221-334 | .662 | 1367 | 71.9 | 674 | 35.5 | 304-10 | 299 | 39 | 192 | 369 |
| GCAC | 9-9 | 1800 | 258-553 | .467 | 89-134 | .664 | 605 | 67.2 | 289 | 32.1 | 165-7 | 141 | 13 | 82 | 185 |
| OPPONENTS | 19-19 | 3900 | 559-1229 | .455 | 158-256 | .617 | 1276 | 67.2 | 672 | 35.4 | 307-9 | 297 | 71 | 166 | 408 |
| GCAC | 9-9 | 1800 | 280-559 | .501 | 86-140 | .614 | 646 | 71.8 | 320 | 35.6 | 148-3 | 159 | 27 | 87 | 193 |

DEAD BALL REBOUNDS--EIU (46); OPPONENTS (50)

GAME-BY-GAME RESULTS

| Date | W-L | EIU | OPP | High Scorer | High Rebounder |
|---------|-----|-----|----------|----------------------------|--|
| Nov. 23 | W | 77 | 73 (OT) | at Florida International * | Aldridge 20 Hatfield 11 |
| Nov. 24 | L | 49 | 75 | at Central Florida * | Collins 13 Collins 16 |
| Nov. 28 | W | 69 | 41 | at Butler | Hynd 16 Maxey 13 |
| Dec. 1 | W | 76 | 56 | MIAMI (O) | Hatfield 21 Hatfield, Maxey 4 Collins, Hynd |
| Dec. 7 | W | 87 | 44 | XAVIER (O) \$ | Conine 18 Aldridge 13 |
| Dec. 8 | W | 94 | 85 (30T) | EASTERN WASHINGTON \$ | Hynd 21 Aldridge 13 |
| Dec. 12 | W | 81 | 59 | at Ball State | Collins 23 Collins 9 |
| Dec. 14 | L | 76 | 83 | at Wisconsin | Collins 20 Collins, Maxey 3 Aldridge, Hatfield |
| Dec. 21 | W | 80 | 58 | EVANSVILLE | Hatfield 20 Collins 22 |
| Jan. 3 | L | 65 | 80 | ILLINOIS STATE | Aldridge 18 Aldridge 13 |
| Jan. 5 | L | 69 | 74 | INDIANA STATE | Collins 18 Collins 10 |
| Jan. 10 | W | 76 | 53 | at Western Illinois | Collins 19 Collins, Hynd 8 |
| Jan. 12 | L | 73 | 85 | at Bradley | Collins 22 Aldridge 10 |

* Sunroast Invitational (Orlando, Fla.)

\$ Heath Candy Classic