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Panther Sports News

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LS-Hometowns

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--The Eastern Illinois women's swimming team will compete at the Gateway Conference Championships Feb. 8-10 at Western Illinois University in Macomb.

The Lady Panthers are 2-6 on the year in dual meets. They defeated Valparaiso 56-49 and Illinois-Chicago, 57-55. Eastern is optimistic about placing in the top four in the meet.

"I figure we will place fourth in the meet," states Lady Panther mentor Ray Padovan. "Southern Illinois is the prohibitive favorite and Illinois State and Western Illinois will battle for second.

"I think Jamie (Pistorio), Debbie (Kroening) and Tracy (Saal) will finish somewhere in the top six in their events. We will use this meet as a springboard to the Midwest Swimming Championships in March."

EIU is led by seniors Debbie Kroening (Carbondale/Community) and Jamie Pistorio (Barrington), and sophomore Tracy Saal (Pekin). Kroening--the owner of four Eastern standards--placed third in the 200-yard butterfly at the Illinois Intercollegiates.

Pistorio--the squad's captain--finished fifth in the 200-yard individual medley and fourth in the 100-yard breaststroke at the Illinois Intercollegiates. She also is the owner of a pair of Lady Panther records.

The third member of the "musketeers" is Tracy Saal. Saal captured runners-up honors in the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle at the Illinois Intercollegiates. She will be counted upon to earn vital points in the short freestyle events.

Other members of the team who will see action include: Patricia Brown (Rockford), Cathy Gallagher (Rolling Meadows), Linda Malone (Charleston), Sally Mulcrone (Chicago/Morgan Park), Sheila Mulcrone (Chicago/Morgan Park), Mary Nopolski (Tinley Park), Donna Scheffler (Homewood/Homewood-Flossmoor), Terri Weaver (Hoffman Estates), Kimberly White (Naperville/Central), Connie Weick (Marshall) and Julie Woerner (Peoria/Woodruff).