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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--(February 19, 1986)--Sophomore Jim Maton (Shelbyville) and senior Larry Thoennissen (Morton) will be in the spotlight Saturday (Feb. 22) as Eastern Illinois University's men's track and field squad concludes its home indoor season hosting the EIU Invitational at Lantz Fieldhouse.

Nine other schools are entered in the non-scoring meet, including Association of Mid-Continent Universities Conference rivals Southwest Missouri and Western Illinois. Other teams competing are Harper Community College, Illinois Benedictine, Illinois Wesleyan, Millikin, St. Louis Community College, Southern Indiana and Western Kentucky. Field events are scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. and running events at 2:15.

The Panthers will be attempting to qualify Maton and Thoennissen for the NCAA Division I National Championship on March 14-15 at Oklahoma City, OK.

"We're shooting for the NCAA meet with Maton and Thoennissen," said Eastern assistant coach Tom Akers.

Maton will compete only in the 1,000 yard run, an event which has a qualifying standard of 2:08.70. He ran a career-best 2:10.91 last Saturday (Feb. 15) in a five-team meet against Indiana State, Southern Illinois, Western Illinois and Bradley at Lantz Fieldhouse. Maton will also be going after the Eastern school record of 2:10.6, which was set by Bob Feller in 1979.

Thoennissen will compete in the 35-pound weight throw, an event which has a qualifying standard of 62-2½. He established a school record of 58-1 on Feb. 1 at the prestigious Illini Classic.