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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--The Eastern Illinois women's track squad will have its final tune-up prior to the Gateway Conference Championships this Friday at Lantz Gym (6:30 p.m.) in the Lady Panther Invitational. Other teams competing include: Bradley, Southwest Missouri, North Central and Parkland College.

"We are going to train through this meet in preparation for the conference meet in two weeks," explains Lady Panthers acting head coach Dan Lowery. "This is our last chance to work out the little kinks before the Gateway Conference Championships.

"I expect our entire team to do well in the meet. We have the potential to place first or second in every event."

Eastern is led by middle-distance specialist Janine Jarris (St. Charles). The sophomore business major has taken more than five seconds off the EIU 880-yard run record. She ran a 2:14.50 a couple of weeks ago. Jarris has yet to be defeated by a runner in the conference and has been named the league's player-of-the-week twice this season.

Sophomore Valeta Strickland (Chicago/South Shore) has regained her Lady Panther shot put standard. At the Redbird Invitational last week she putted the shot 47'11 3/4". Strickland eclipsed the old mark by almost three feet. Denise Macon (Chicago/Kenwood) also broke the old record with a put of 45' 1 3/4". Both performers are expected to contend for top honors Saturday.

Freshman Lauren Lynch (Elmhurst/York) has established herself as a force to be reckoned with in Gateway Conference track circles. She placed an impressive fifth in the 500 meter dash at the Redbird Invitational. She also has competed well in the 600 yard dash and is expected to make an attempt at the 880 yard run at the Lady Panther Invitational.

Another freshman who has had impressive showings has been long sprinter Tracy Olawumi (Blue Island/Eisenhower). She finished fourth in the 400 meter at the Redbird Invitational and is a member of EIU's mile relay team.