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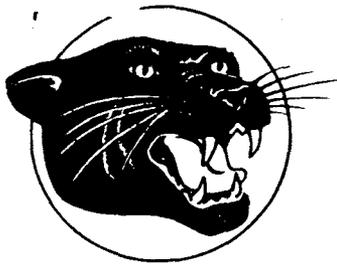
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--(Feb. 24, 1986)--The Eastern Illinois women's swim team will compete in the meet that they have worked for all season when they compete in the Midwest Championships starting Thursday.

"This is the real meet we've been pointing for all season," said Eastern head coach Ray Padovan. "This is what the season all comes down to."

The meet will consist of 13 teams and will be hosted by Illinois-Chicago. Eastern will be up against the likes of Notre Dame, Western Illinois, Illinois State, Northern Michigan, UW-Milwaukee, and Indiana Central, among others. "This meet will have some good competition," Padovan said. "Last year we finished in the top half, and we hope to do better than that finish this year."

Although the competition will be strong, Eastern's swimmers are confident they will place well. Long-distance specialist Connie Wieck (Marshall) is nervous but confident. "My season has definitely been on the upswing, and I hope that continues in the Midwest meet," Wieck said. "It's taken me two years under coach Padovan to get the times I have now, times that I am happy with. I hope to do better in the Midwest meet than I did in conference," said Wieck.

Freshman Carolyn Guditis (Chicago/Mother McAuley) says she was very pleased with her times throughout the season and hopes to top it all off with a good performance in the Midwest meet. "My goals are to better my times in the 200 butterfly and the 200 freestyle," said Guditis. "I expect to drop a lot of time, especially in the 200 freestyle. The week of rest will definitely do me some good. I am really psyched up for this meet, I want to make the finals, no more of that consolation stuff," said Guditis.

Eastern's most consistent swimmer all season has been junior co-captain Tracy Saal (Pekin). Saal is Eastern's best short-distance swimmer. I've been swimming really consistent all season, some of my times weren't as good as last year at this time, but I

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know they'll improve in the Midwest meet," Saal said. "I'd like to do at least as well as I did last season, when I was in the finals of the consolation heats."

Coach Padovan is also confident that his swimmers will do well. "We've had a pretty good season, we just want to improve on our times, after that, places will take care of itself," Padovan said.