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## 03/05/1985 - EIU Basketball Versus Northern Iowa

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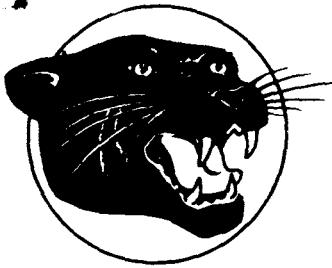
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# **Panther Sports News**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's basketball Panthers will host Northern Iowa at 7:30 Wednesday (March 6) in the first round of the Mid-Continent post-season tournament.

EIU, 17-10 overall, finished third in the Mid-Continent regular season race with a 9-5 record following Monday's 67-66 overtime win at Wis-Green Bay.

Northern Iowa, 12-15 overall, is 6-8 and in sixth place in the league but knocked Western Illinois out of a tie for the league title with a 79-70 win last Saturday.

The winner of this game will play the winner of the WIU-Valparaiso contest Friday night. If Western, the league's No. 2 team, wins then the game will be played in Macomb since the Leathernecks are the higher seeded team.

Other first round pairings are No. 1 Cleveland State hosting No. 8 Wis-Green Bay and No. 4 Southwest Missouri hosting No. 5 Illinois-Chicago. The championship will be played Sunday afternoon (March 10) at the site of the highest seeded team remaining in the tournament.

"We'd like to get another crack at Western Illinois or Cleveland State who each defeated us at home the last week of the season," said Coach Rick Samuels, "so our players are looking forward to this postseason tournament.

"First though we need to get by Northern Iowa and since we've beaten them twice already it's always difficult to do it a third time in one year."

The Panthers are led by the scoring of Jon Collins (East St. Louis-Cahokia) who has an 18.6 scoring average. Guard Troy Richardson (Dolton-Thornridge) leads the Mid-Continent in assists and steals with 6.8 and 2.8 averages p/game, respectively.