

3-5-1986

## 03/05/1986 - Track To Compete In Last Chance Meet

University Marketing and Communications

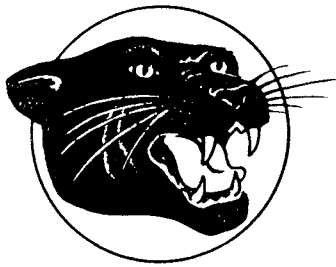
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# **Panther Sports News**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL (March 5, 1986) --Seven individuals from Eastern Illinois University's women's track and field squad will compete Saturday (March 8) in the Last Chance Meet at Bloomington, Indiana. The non-scoring meet is scheduled to begin at 11 CST.

Heading the list of Eastern participants is junior Valeta Strickland (Chicago-South Shore), who will compete in the shot put after winning the event with a school record toss of 48-7 $\frac{1}{4}$  at the Gateway Collegiate Athletic Conference Indoor Championship last weekend. The qualifying standard for the NCAA Division I National Championship, which will be held on March 14-15 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is 49-10.

"The meet gives us a chance to upgrade some performances and for the purpose of seeing if Valeta can qualify for the national meet," said Eastern coach John Craft. "The reason I want to take more people is because they can help pump Valeta up. We're also going over there to see if we can run faster."

Representing Eastern in the mile relay will be junior Lauren Lynch (Elmhurst-York), freshman Beverly Thomas (Joliet-Central), freshman Lorry Plutz (Harvey-Thornton) and sophomore Tracy Olawumi (Blue Island-Eisenhower). The foursome combined for a season best 3:52.13 at the conference meet.

Freshmen Tina Dawson (Mulkeytown-Sesser-Valier) and Patti Frigo (Lansing-Thornton Fractional South) will compete in the high jump. Dawson captured third in the pentathlon at the Gateway meet, and Frigo took sixth in the high jump.