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## 03/10/1986 - Softball Want To Make Top 20

University Marketing and Communications

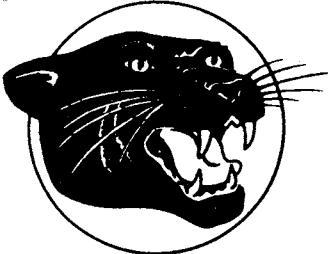
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# Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--The Eastern Illinois University Lady Panther softball team has one goal this year: to make the top 20 poll in the nation.

Now that may sound like a mighty big goal, but first-year coach Janet Marquis is convinced that the Lady Panthers have the talent.

"The entire key to having a tremendous season is getting off to a good start on our Spring road trip at South Carolina," she admitted.

The Lady Panthers travel to Columbia, SC March 22-26 where the EIU sluggers will meet teams from Wayne State, Macomb Community College, Bloomsburg University and the host Gamecocks.

Eastern has two other invitationals in the early part of the season; at the Miami, Ohio, Invitational March 28-29 where they will face Eastern Michigan twice (not a doubleheader) and Big Ten power Michigan.

Even though Miami is the host team, Eastern will not play the Redskins.

On April 11-12, the Lady Panthers will travel to State College, PA where they will compete in the Penn State Invitational. Teams entered include Adelphis, Ohio State, Central Michigan, Connecticut, Virginia, Rhode Island and Penn State.

"Just looking over the entries, you can tell that these invitationals will include some of the finest teams in the nation," the new mentor explained.

One reason for Marquis' optimism is the fact that Eastern lost only two players via the cap and gown route last year.

But compensating for that fact is a sophomore hurler, Zam Mogill (Streator, IL), seniors, Trice Keil (Mt. Carmel, IL), catcher and co-captain Tammi Rettig (Bloomington, IL), who plays first base and co-captain Jan Wamser (Libertyville, IL), who plays second base.

Other players expected to provide plenty of excitement this spring include sophomore Angel Lendvay (Mundelein, IL), an All-Conference right-fielder; junior Kathy Range

(Cahokia, IL), a former "St. Louis Post-Dispatch" all-area player, and outfielders Brenda Jackson, sophomore, (Lyons, IL/Morton West); Natalie Whittman (Bartlett, IL-Elgin), sophomore and junior Ellen Castleman (Barrington, IL).

Mogill, who led the Lady Panthers with an ERA of .57 last season, is expected to be one of the top hurlers in the Gateway Collegiate Athletic Conference, and is the holder of several pitching honors.

"While we feel quite confident with Zam on the mound, Sara Karcher (Wayne City, IL) will also see quite a bit of action on the mound.

"Of course, Marquis continued, "we must keep free of injuries. This is so important to having a successful season. Another aspect of having a good or outstanding season is having a good mental edge.

"And we have exactly this. I'm really big on concentration and the team that concentrates is going to win those 1-0 games," she added.

The Lady Panthers have been practicing inside the Lantz track and field complex, but Marquis is hoping to get outside before leaving for South Carolina.

"I must admit that there is one other thing that really worries me. This is my first year as head coach, although I have previously been an assistant here at Eastern.

"If I tell the girls to do something or play a particular way, I will accept full responsibility if the play blows up in our faces. And this is kind of scary."

But with the talent Eastern has this spring, Marquis will forget all about those apprehensions after the Lady Panthers get a couple of wins under their belts.

1986 LADY PANTHER SOFTBALL ROSTER

<u>NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>POS.</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>HOMETOWN/HIGH SCHOOL</u>
15	Ellen Castleman	OF	Jr.	Barrington, IL/Barrington
13	Amy Grodeon	3B	Fr.	Mascoutah, IL/Mascoutah
17	Connie Hamers	C	Fr.	Whitby, Ontario Canada/Henry St.
20	Brenda Jackson	OF/C	So.	Lyons, IL/Morton West
12	Sara Karcher	P/IF	So.	Wayne City, IL/Wayne City
11	Trice Keil	C	Sr.	Mt. Carmel, IL/Franklin
19	Angel Lendvay	OF	So.	Mundelein, IL/Mundelein
22	Mary Jo McCarthy	SS	So.	Pickering, Ontario Canada Pickering
24	Zam Mogill	P	So.	Streator, IL/Streator Township
14	Kathy Range	3B	Jr.	Cahokia, IL/Cahokia
18	Tammi Rettig	1B	Sr.	Bloomington, IL/Bloomington
25	Steff Spooner	1B/P	Jr.	Park Ridge, IL/Barrington
23	Cindy Streid	Utility	Jr.	St. Joseph, IL/St. Joseph
9	Jan Wamser	2B	Sr.	Libertyville, IL/Libertyville
16	Natalie Whittmann	OF	So.	Bartlett, IL/Elgin

HEAD COACH: Janet Marquis;

GRADUATE ASSISTANT: Nancy Swain

1986 SCHEDULE

March 22-26	At South Carolina Spring Trip (Wayne St., Macomb Community College, South Carolina, Bloomsburg University)	TBA
March 28-29	At Miami, Ohio Invitational (Eastern Michigan (2), Michigan	TBA
April 4	At Bradley*	TBA
April 5	At Western Illinois*	TBA
April 8	At Evansville	3 p.m.
April 11-12	At Penn State Invitational (Penn State, Adelphis, Ohio State, Central Michigan, Connecticut, Virginia, Rhode Island)	TBA
April 16	At DePaul	3:30 p.m.
April 18	DRAKE*	2:30 p.m.
April 19	NORTHERN IOWA*	1 p.m.
April 22	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS*	2:30 p.m.
April 25	At Indiana State*	3 p.m.
April 26	At Illinois State*	1 p.m.
April 28	BALL STATE	1 p.m.
May 2	WICHITA STATE*	2:30 p.m.
May 3	SOUTHWEST MISSOURI*	1 p.m.
May 8-10	At Gateway Conference Championships (Peoria, IL)	TBA