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## 03/11/1985 - Mens Tennis Season Opener

University Marketing and Communications

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# ***Panther Sports News***

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920**

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March 11, 1985  
LS-Hts

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's men's tennis team, led by returning starters Scott Fjelstad (Peoria Heights-Bergan), John Suter (Springfield) and Eric Laffey (Bloomington), opens the season at Evansville Thursday (March 14).

John Bennett, an instructor in the mathematics department, replaces Carl Sexton as head coach. EIU was 12-6 last year and second in the Mid-Continent but lost the Nos. 1-2 singles of the past three years, Jay Johnson and Rob Hopkins, to graduation.

Based on last year's play Fjelstad and Suter have earned those top positions. Fjelstad, working on a fourth letter, has won at every position he has played with a lifetime mark of 35-19 so will move up to No. 1.

Suter, just a sophomore, won the league No. 4 singles title last year, and is the only returning EIU individual champ. He had a 10-7 record.

"Scott has a good touch, good passing shots and a nice volley," says Bennett. "He will beat many on determination and tenacity.

"John has improved his power on all shots, and that alone will wear down his opponents."

Laffey, also just a sophomore, one of six on an underclass dominated squad, is slated for No. 3 singles, jumping two notches from No. 5 where he had a 10-6 record finishing second in the AMCU.

The only two other returning players are Mark Matijasevich (West Chicago) and Don Carstens (Frankfort-Lincoln-Way), and both are competing for a spot in the lower part of the lineup.

"We don't have the experience we have had but this whole team has shown improvement, especially in singles. The players indicated they wanted to play a tough schedule so I expect that will help us improve as the season moves along," Bennett said.

The Panthers conclude the season at the Mid-Continent championship in Chicago on April 26-27.

1985 EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY MEN'S TENNIS SCHEDULE

Thurs., March 14 (3:00)	at Evansville
Tues., March 19 (3:00)	BRADLEY
Thurs., March 21 (2:00)	ROSE-HULMAN

Spring Trip

Friday, March 22	at Jefferson State JC
Saturday, March 23	at Samford
Sunday, March 24	at Tampa area colleges
Monday, March 25	at Tampa area colleges
Tuesday, March 26	at Tampa area colleges
Wednesday, March 27	at Tampa area colleges
Thursday, March 28	at Tampa area colleges
Friday, March 29	at Baldwin Ag CC
Saturday, March 30	at Baldwin Ag CC
Mon., April 1 (3:00)	at Millikin
Tues., April 2 (3:00)	IUPU-INDIANAPOLIS
Fri.-Sat., April 5-6	at Western Illinois Quadrangular
Tues., April 9 (3:00)	at Sangamon State
Thurs., April 11 (3:00)	at Illinois State
Sat., April 13 (11:00)	at Rose-Hulman
Tues., April 16 (3:00)	at IUPU-Indianapolis
Wed., April 17 (3:00)	EVANSVILLE
Thurs., April 18 (3:00)	at Indiana State
Fri.-Sat., April 19-20	EIU QUADRANGULAR
Tues., April 23 (3:00)	SANGAMON STATE
Fri.-Sat., April 26-27	Mid-Continent Championship at Chicago

1985 PANTHER ROSTER

Name	Yr.	Hometown (High School/JC)
Don Carstens	So.	Frankfort (Lincoln-Way)
Scott Eaton	So.	West Chicago
Scott Fjelstad ***	Sr.	Peoria Heights (Bergan)
Bob Kirkwood	Sr.	Lawrenceville (Lincoln Trail CC)
Eric Laffey *	So.	Bloomington
Mark Matijasevich	So.	West Chicago
Scott Sables	So.	Springfield
Scott Simon	Jr.	Mascoutah (Belleville CC)
John Suter *	So.	Springfield

\* Lettermen