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# **Panther Sports News**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--(March 18, 1986)--The Eastern Illinois University women's tennis team (0-3) is on its way south--and relaxing is not what the trip is all about. The Lady Panthers will match up with eight non-conference teams in six days.

After their opening tournament at the Northern Illinois Quadrangular on February 28 through March 1, in which EIU lost to each of its three opponents, the Lady Panthers have worked on their weak point--singles play.

"I'm glad to finally see the sun (in Charleston)," says head coach Gail Richard. "We can finally get outside and do some practicing . . . We haven't been outside yet this season to practice.

"What we learned from our first match," explains Richard, "is that we didn't have the patience we needed in our singles play . . . Skill-wise we were even with the teams we played, but we lacked in confidence and concentration . . . We have been working hard on staying 'up' . . . We have tried to transfer what we have in doubles to our singles play."

Richard says she is excited about the trip, which will allow the team to face a variety of teams such as Western Kentucky, University of South Dakota, and Trenton, among others.

"We will have the opportunity to play different kinds of opponents with a mix of abilities," says Richard.

Upon return from their spring break schedule, the Lady Panthers will travel to Principia on April 1.