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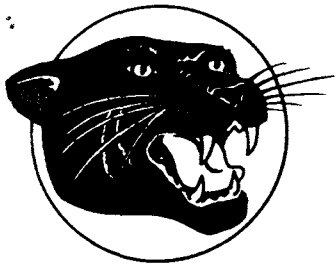
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL (March 19, 1986)--Eastern Illinois University's men's track and field Panthers will begin their outdoor season on Friday and Saturday (March 21-22) at the Louisiana State Relays in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Eastern will also compete against Louisiana Tech in a dual meet on March 27 at Ruston, Louisiana, and at the Northeast Louisiana Invitational on March 29 at Monroe, Louisiana.

Two members of the Panthers -- seniors Larry Thoennissen (Morton) and Jay Flatt (Sessor-Niantic Harristown) -- are entered in the Domino's Relays at Tallahassee, Florida, on March 21-22 and in the Florida Relays at Gainesville, Florida, on March 28-29. Thoennissen will compete in the hammer, shot put and discus, while Flatt will compete in the hammer.

"What we're trying to do is go where there is some good weather, so we can practice the outdoor events," said Eastern head coach Neil Moore. "Hopefully, this will give us a head start for the outdoor season. When we come back, we'll know what we can do and what we need to work on."

EIU concluded its indoor season on March 2 with a second-place performance at the Association of Mid-Continent Universities Conference Indoor Championship at Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Sophomore JIM MATON (Shelbyville), who was named AMCU Athlete of the Year after winning two individual events and anchoring a first-place relay team at the conference meet, led the Panthers in indoor scoring with 85 1/2 points. Maton was first on the squad for 880 yards at 1:53.89, the 1,000 at 2:10.50 (a school record) and the mile at 4:12.83.

Senior LARRY THOENNISSEN (Morton) ranked second among the Panthers with 71 points. Thoennissen was tops in the 35-pound weight at 59-2 3/4 (a school record) and second in the shot put at 54-9 1/2.

Freshman IAN ISAACS (North Aurora-West) was third in scoring with 52 1/4 points. Isaacs was first on the team for the 440 at 49.29 and the 60 at 6.46. He was fourth in the 300 at 32.2 and the 600 at 1:14.27.

Junior DAN MATAS (Oak Park-River Forest) ranked fourth among the Panthers with 40 points. Matas was tops in the shot put at 56-4 1/4 and second in the 35-pound weight at 49-0.

Sophomore ROD MCMULLEN (Edwardsville) was fifth in scoring with 36 points. McMullen was first on the team for the 60 hurdles at 7.47, second for the 300 at 31.8 and fifth in the 60 at 6.59.