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04/01/1986 - Track Starts Outdoor Season

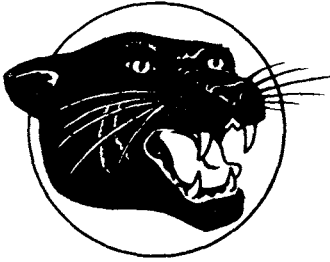
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL (April 1, 1986) - The Eastern Illinois women's track team will open the outdoor season this weekend when they travel to Southeast Missouri to compete in the SEMO Relays.

"This will be a very competitive meet," said Eastern head coach John Craft. "The sponsors will issue watches to first place finishers and t-shirts to those placing second, so this meet offers incentive to do well."

Eastern is coming off a successful indoor season, and they hope it will carry over into the outdoor season. "The time off between the end of the indoor season and the outdoor season did us good," Craft said. "We're pretty healthy."

Eastern's runners expected to have strong showings in the SEMO Relays are Lauren Lynch (Elmhurst), Tracy Olawumi (Blue Island) and Valeta Strickland (Chicago).

Lynch placed second in the half mile during the indoor conference meet. Olawumi also took a second in the 600-meter run. Olawumi will be running the 400 during the outdoor season.

Strickland was the conference champion in the shot put during the indoor season.

The SEMO Relays doesn't have many individual events, but Craft believes the team will put together some strong relay teams for the meet.