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04/09/1986 - Barb Perkes Signs Letter Of Intent

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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CHARLESTON, ILL. (April 9, 1986)--Trenton, Ill. native BARB PERKES has signed a national letter of intent to attend Eastern Illinois University and play basketball next fall for the Lady Panthers.

The 5-8 1/2 point guard prepped at Breese Mater Dei High School and led the Lady Knights to an impressive 70-16 record over a banner four-year career. Perkes helped lead her prep squad to three regional championships and two appearances in the Sweet 16. As a senior, the gutty performer scored 30 points in the Supersectionals against Class A state runner-up Massac County.

Perkes averaged a team-leading 21.3 points a game for the Knights despite missing several games with a calf injury. Her 1641 career points is a school standard. The intense competitor holds a plethora of Breese Mater Dei records. The list includes: career steals (423), single game assists (19), season assists (154) and season steals (141).

"I firmly believe that Barb is the top point guard prospect in the state ...bar none," states Eastern Illinois head coach Barbara Hilke. "I haven't seen a player with her combination of determination and athletic ability in the state in a long time. She is very team-oriented and has a competitive fire that won't quit.

"One of the reasons that I'm sure attracted Barb to Eastern Illinois was the rapport she developed with the players. We meshed as a team very well. I look for Barb to play...and play often next year. She has great moves toward the basket and is an exceptional ball-handler. I can't reiterate the fact that she wants to win so much."

Perkes' list of accolades is equally as impressive as her records. She was named the Mid-State Conference's Most Valuable Player as a

sophomore, junior and senior. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch and St. Louis Globe-Democrat both named the creative play-maker to their first-team all-area teams. Perkes also received all-league laurels four straight seasons and was named special mention to the Southern Illinoisan All-Star squad.

"Barb is a very quick and alert player," states Breese Mater Dei head mentor Mike Abegg. "She possesses all the things a great point-guard needs...shooting and driving ability...a tremendous passer...and she handle the ball with either hand. I think that Eastern Illinois is getting one of the top prospects in the state. She also has a competitive spirit that makes you want to succeed."

The dynamic player also is an outstanding student. Perkes was named the 1985-86 Breese Mater Dei Scholar-Athlete. She owns a grade point average in excess of 3.7 and wants to major in business.

The versatile athlete is an all-state softball player--along with a state qualifier in track and tennis. She picked Eastern Illinois over Bradley, Southern Illinois and Notre Dame.

Perkes joins EIU early-signee **LAURA MULL** as recruits the Lady Panthers have in the fold for next season. Mull--a 6-2 senior from Anna-Jonesboro High School--led the Wildcats to their first-ever 20-win season and first ever conference basketball title. She averaged 17.4 points and 13 rebounds a game for A-J's 21-2 squad. The only two losses A-J had were two state-runner-up Massac County. Mull was also selected as the Southern Illinoisan Player-of-the-Year. She also set a school record with 1367 career points.