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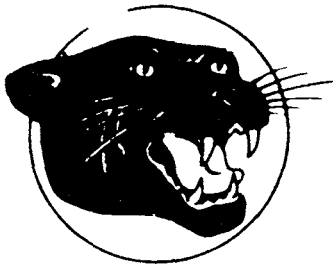
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL (April 8, 1986) - The Eastern Illinois women's track team will attempt to improve its marks in preparation for the Drake Relays, as they compete in the Murray State Invitational this weekend.

"We want to get good marks to Drake to qualify," said Eastern head John Craft. "Drake only invites the competitors with the best times and distances," Craft said.

Eastern's Valeta Strickland (Chicago/South Shore) has already qualified for the Drake Relays. Strickland put the shot put 48-0, which is the qualifying distance.

Other competitors for Eastern hoping to have good times at Murray State to qualify for the Drake Relays are Lauren Lynch (Elmhurst/York) in the half-mile. Lynch holds the half-mile indoor record for Eastern with a time of 2:12.

Janine Jarris (St. Charles) is another runner with the ability to place well at Murray State and qualify for the Drake meet. Jarris is Eastern's 1500 meter specialist.

Unlike the SEMO Relays, the Murray State Invitational will have team scoring. "We just need good performances by all the girls," said Craft.