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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, ILL (May 19, 1986) -- The Eastern Illinois women's track finished fifth out of ten teams at the Gateway Conference Championships this past weekend at Wichita, KS.

Southern Illinois won the team title with 155 points while Western Illinois was second with 143. Illinois State (106), Wichita State (81) and the EIU (39) rounded out the top five squads.

Junior VALETA STRICKLAND (Chicago/South Shore) finished second in the shot put with a toss of 47-5 1/2. She was the Lady Panthers' highest finisher over the three day meet while establishing herself as one of the premier shot putters in the Gateway Conference. Strickland won the league's indoor title this winter while setting a school standard.

DEBBIE ZUBIK (Calumet City/Thornwood) was fourth in the shot put with a put of 44-2 1/4 while also competing in the discus. The shot put was the only event where two EIU performers scored points in.

Middle-distance specialist JANINE JARRIS (St. Charles) placed fifth in the 1500 meter run with a clocking of 4:40.34. She was ranked in the Top 5 in three different events for the Lady Panthers during the season.

Sprinters TRACY OLAWUMI (Blue Island/Eisenhower) and LORI PLUTZ (Harvey/Thornton) did well in the 400 and 200 meter dashes. Olawumi--a sophomore--was fifth in the 400 meter dash with a time of 56.41. She also was a member of the 4 x 400 meter relay team that claimed 3rd place. Plutz finished sixth in the 200 meter dash (24.87) while also being a member of the same bronze-medal winning relay team.

Junior LAUREN LYNCH (Elmhurst/York) captured fourth-place in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:14.42 while also leading off the 3rd-place winning 4 x 400 meter relay team.

Freshmen KRISTI BAUM (Belleville/O'Fallon) and PATTI FRIGO (Lansing/TF South) were sixth and fifth in their respective events. Baum placed sixth in the javelin with a 131-1 effort while Frigo high-jumped 5-4 to earn the fifth position.

Heptathlete TINA DAWSON (Mulkeytown/Sesser-Valier) was sixth in her speciality with 4289 points. Her highest finishes were in the long and high jumps.

BEVERLY THOMAS (Joliet/Central) was third in the 400 meter intermediate hurdles with a 1:03.04 time. The freshman also was a member of the 4 \times 400 meter relay team which finished third.