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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

DAVID KIDWELL, Sports Information Director

OFFICE: (217) 581-2920

HOME: (217) 345-4166

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--(April 17, 1985)--New Baden, Ill. native Shelly Ethridge has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball at Eastern Illinois University next fall.

The 5-foot-7 guard averaged 19.9 points a contest for Breese Mater Dei High School last season. She also garnered nearly six steals and five rebounds a contest for the Knights. She was instrumental in leading Mater Dei to a 19-2 mark and the regional championship game. The Knights captured the league title with a perfect 10-0 record.

Ethridge was named All-Mid State Conference as a senior while also receiving all-area honors from the Belleville News-Democrat. She was also selected to the Suburban Journal all-area squad.

"Shelly probably has the quickest hands of any guard we saw in the state this year," praises EIU head coach Barbara Hilke. "She plays good sound defense and has played in a man-to-man defensive system. Another thing that struck me about Shelly was her creativity while passing. She has great anticipation on where her teammates are on the court."

Ethridge, however, isn't only at home on the basketball court. She also has toiled for the Knights' tennis, softball and track team. The talented athlete is considered one of the premier softball players in the area.

"Shelly has been a real pleasure for me to coach," explains her high school coach Mike Abegg. "She has the biggest combination of desire and raw guts to get the job done of any player I've ever seen. She works hard everyday in practice to improve her skills. Shelly is just a natural athlete.

"One day this spring she ran in a track meet with only one practice . . . she had been playing softball. Shelly won the 100 meter dash, 100 meter low hurdles and the discus. I was amazed that she didn't miss a step while running the hurdles."

Ethridge plans to major in physical education and hopes to become a coach someday.

She joins four other Midwest prep products that have signed to play at Eastern next fall. The list includes: 6-3 center Ann Pluhm (Litchfield); 6-0 forward Lisa Tyler (Aurora, Ind./South Dearborn); 6-2 forward Brenda Webb (Antioch); and 5-7 guard Liz Cavanagh (Springfield/Sacred Heart Academy).