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Panther Sports News

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26

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, ILL (June 11, 1986)--Hickory Hills, Ill. native TOM PUKSTYS has signed a national letter of intent to attend Eastern Illinois University and become a member of the Panthers' track team.

The former Stagg High School standout was one of the most versatile weightmen in the Illinois high schools ranks as a senior. Pukstys placed third in the shot put with a put of 57-10 3/4 while also garnering a fourth-spot in the discus with a toss of 172-3 in the IHSA State Track Meet held in May at Charleston.

"I think Tom has the potential to be one of the top weightmen in Eastern history," explains EIU head coach Neil Moore. "Actually his best event may be the javelin. It's not a sanctioned event in Illinois high schools...Tom threw 208 feet at a Junior National meet and that is outstanding considering he doesn't practice the event all the time. He has all the makings to be a standout in three events."

Pukstys is scheduled to compete this summer in a four-state meet with prep stalwarts from Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois. He also is expected to participate in the nationally-renowned Keebler Invitational in Elmhurst.

Stagg High School has been a fertile recruiting ground for Moore over the past few years. Eastern record-holders Bob Mazanke and Larry Priebe are graduates of Stagg while Pukstys' prep coach--Chris Stec--has his bachelor's and master's degrees from EIU.