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04/30/1985 - Shelly Eddington Softball

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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL (April 30, 1985)--The All-American kid--AAK for short. That's what her teammates call her.

Her real name is Shelly Eddington (Brighton/Southwestern) and as a pitcher/designated hitter for Eastern Illinois University's women's softball team, this AAK said she feels "right at home".

"I enjoy the team very much," says the former Southwestern High School graduate. "Everyone gets along very well . . . it seems like we've been playing together for a longer time than we have. Everyone seems comfortable with one another."

Now a senior, Eddington looks back on how she got started in her softball career.

"When I was about ten, my brother played catch with me using a baseball. He would throw the ball hard. I didn't especially like baseball."

But when her cousin began coaching a softball team, she decided to join.

"Softball was different . . . now it's my favorite sport," she says.

As a student at Lewis and Clark Community College, Eddington decided it was time for a change. She applied at "five or six" universities--including Eastern--where she hoped to continue playing softball.

"It was pretty much of an accident on why I came to Eastern," Eddington recalls. "The secretary at Lewis and Clark had told my coach to call Eastern's coach--when actually, Eastern's coach hadn't called."

Eastern's softball coach, Deanna D'Abbraccio, had just at that moment received Eddington's letter of application, came out to see her play and decided she liked her.

"I'm glad to have her on the team. She's a complete, all-around player," says D'Abbraccio.

Eddington says she has two personal goals for the season--to hit well and to pitch her best. Those achievements are quickly being met.

"Shelly's not only a pitcher," states D'Abbraccio, "she's a pitcher and a hitter."

Eddington's main goals for the season are simply to "have fun," and to "help teammates achieve their goals."

"It's important to remember to play as a team," emphasizes Eddington.