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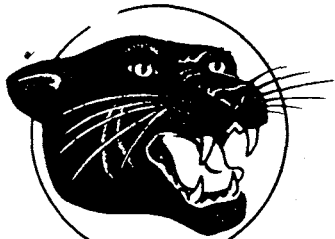
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# **Panther Sports News**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 3, 1985  
LS-AS-Gateway

CHARLESTON, IL (Dec. 3, 1985)--The battle lines are drawn for the Eastern Illinois women's basketball team as it prepares to march north to Northern Illinois University to take part in the 3rd Annual "Fastbreak Fest" (Dec. 6-7).

The matchups are a hoop promoter's dream come true. The Lady Panthers--3-1 on the season after capturing 3rd place at the Badger Invitational--will take on intra-state rival Northern Illinois (2-1) at 8:30 p.m. Friday. EIU holds a 6-1 lead in the series between the two Land of Lincoln state schools.

If that game doesn't tickle your fancy, the first one should send goose pimples up and down your side. The opening game of the "Fest" pits No. 10 Tennessee (2-1) against honorable mention top 20 foe Kansas State (4-1). Tennessee is coached by United States Olympic Gold Medal-winning coach Pat Head Summitt.

"This tournament is a real important step for our program," explains EIU head coach Barbara Hilke. "I think we showed last weekend at the Wisconsin Invitational that we can play with some quality schools. Tennessee and Kansas State are considered among the top programs in the country. Northern Illinois has one of the top freshman classes around . . . they will be difficult to beat. I know just playing this level of competition will help us down the road."

The Lady Panthers are led by their Inside-Outside tandem of CHRIS ALDRIDGE (Taylorville) and MELANIE HATFIELD (Lawrenceburg, IN). Aldridge--a 5-10 150-pounder--leads EIU in scoring with a 22.3 average. She scored a Badger Invitational and career-record 32 points in Eastern's 70-64 win over Wisconsin. Her effort against the host-Badgers was one point off the school record set by Toni Collins a year ago.

The cat-quick Hatfield pilfered the opposition's pockets for 20 steals last weekend at Wisconsin. The Naismith Award Candidate (for best player below 5-6) was credited with nine steals against St. John's (NY) and a tournament record 11 versus the Badgers. She is averaging 14.3 ppg; Hatfield was named to the all-tournament squad for her 33-point, 20 steal tourney performance.

Freshman guard SHERYL BONSETT (Scottsburg, IN) has been a surprise in the early-going for the Lady Panthers. The personable Indiana native is third on the team in scoring with a 10.8 average. She has scored in double figures in three of the first four games of the season. Bonsett also leads the club in free throw shooting with a .833 mark.

6-2 senior SUE HYND (Ottawa) is in the middle for Eastern. "Slender Sue" is averaging six points and nearly three boards a game for Hilke's squad. Hynd has yet to break loose and dominate a game like she is capable of.

A pair of freshmen frontcourt specialists are seeing considerable action on the front line assaults. 5-11 LISA TYLER (Aurora, IN/South Dearborn) and 6-2 BRENDA WEBB (Antioch) are averaging 5.3 and 4.0 rebounds a game, respectively. Both players are also scoring at a 3.3 ppg clip.

Guard LaTonya Dirroh and forward Shelly Roberts are the mainstays of the Northern Illinois attack. Dirroh is averaging a team-leading 22.7 ppg and was named the MVP of the Central Florida Rotary Classic. Roberts was also named to the all-tournament team and is averaging 12 points a contest. NIU defeated Central Florida 96-85 in a wild game to win the tourney title.

The Tennessee Lady volunteers are 2-1 on the season after losing to No. 1 ranked Texas 74-52, last weekend. Guard Shelly Sexton is the Lady Vols' leading scorer with a 13.7 average. Forward Bridget Gordon is chipping in 12 points and nearly eight boards a game. Carla Horton is leading Tennessee's rebounding charge with a 9.7 average.

The very formidable and underrated Kansas State Lady Cats are coming off an impressive 87-50 drubbing of Minnesota in the title game of the Minnesota Lady Dial Classic. Pre-season All-American Cassandra Jones and Carlissa Thomas are the KSU pace-setters. Jones is averaging 11 ppg while Thomas is the squad's leading scorer (15.0) and rebounder (10.8). She was named the MVP of the Lady Dial Classic.

1985-86 EASTERN ILLINOIS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STATISTICS 3-1 overall (Home: 0-0, Road: 3-0, Neutral: 0-1)

	ST-GM	MTS	FGM-FGA	PCT	FTM-FTA	PCT	PTS	AVG	REB	AVG	PF-D	AST	BS	ST	TO
Chris Aldridge	4-4	142	31-78	.397	27-39	.692	89	22.3	34	8.5	12-0	6	0	12	15
Melanie Hatfield	4-4	150	22-64	.344	13-16	.813	57	14.3	29	7.3	12-1	15	3	30	19
Sheryl Bonsett	2-4	122	14-27	.519	15-18	.833	43	10.8	5	1.5	8-0	11	0	8	15
Sue Hynd	4-4	94	11-32	.344	2-5	.400	24	6.0	10	2.5	11-0	2	1	4	5
Pat Hamilton	0-3	20	5-7	.714	2-4	.500	12	4.0	1	0.3	1-0	0	0	2	3
Lisa Tyler	3-4	103	4-19	.211	5-8	.625	13	3.3	21	5.3	4-0	6	1	5	7
Brenda Webb	0-4	57	4-15	.267	5-7	.714	13	3.3	16	4.0	10-0	0	1	3	2
Michelle Newman	1-3	34	2-12	.167	4-7	.571	8	2.7	7	2.3	3-0	2	0	3	4
Shelly Ethridge	2-3	55	2-9	.222	2-2	1.000	6	2.0	4	1.3	5-0	5	0	2	10
Kerry Walsh	0-2	12	1-2	.500	0-2	.000	2	1.0	4	2.0	1-0	-	-	1	-
Liz Cavanagh	0-1	4	1-1	1.000	1-2	.500	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ann Brown	0-2	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.5	2-0	0	0	0	0
EIU Team	4-4	800	97-266	.365	76-110	.691	270	67.5	147	36.8	69-1	46	6	70	70
Opponents	4-4	800	107-249	.430	39-61	.639	253	63.3	176	44.0	91-5	57	16	55	103

GAME-BY-GAME RESULTS

Date	W-L	EIU	OPP	High Scorer	High Rebounder
11-22	W	80	60 at Xavier (OH)	Aldridge 29	Aldridge 10
11-23	W	64	56 at Miami (OH)	Aldridge 21	Aldridge, Hatfield, Tyler 9
11-29	L	56	73 \$ St. John's (NY)	Hatfield 14	Hatfield 10
11-30	W	70	64 \$ Wisconsin	Aldridge 32	Aldridge 11

\$ Badger Invitational (Madison, Wisconsin)