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02/29/1984 - Volleyball Signs Two Preps

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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University volleyball coach Betty Ralston took a step toward building her program's future recently by signing two outstanding high school athletes.

Jeanne Pacione and Susan Miloch of Wheeling High School in Wheeling, Illinois will join the Lady Panther spikers next fall after leading their team to a 28-7 mark last fall.

Pacione, a 5-foot-8 hitter and setter, and Miloch, a 5-foot-10 hitter, received All-Mid-Suburban League honors last fall and bring a winning attitude to Eastern.

"Both Sue and Jeanne have great desire and a great attitude as well as a constant desire to improve," said Nancy Rimdzius, their high school coach. "They were great team leaders for me and I'm sure their desire will give them continued success in the future."

Ralston, who will be entering her second season at the Panther helm after debuting with a 26-11 mark, said she plans to groom Pacione as a setter while Miloch concentrates on hitting and defense.

"They are both fundamentally sound players and the top two high school athletes that we were actively persuing," Ralston said. "They will have to make some adjustment to the college game, but because they've played some excellent competition in high school, I don't expect the transition to take very long."

The prep teammates combined to form an awesome double blocking combination that Rimdzius said "stopped some of the best spikers in Illinois." Ralston cited the pairs' blocking ability as one of the players' strong suits, adding that "not too many high school players can block as well as they can."

Both Pacione and Miloch have said they are interested in Eastern's education program, with Pacione leaning toward special education and Miloch desiring secondary education.

Pacione played four years of basketball at Wheeling High, where she used her 24-inch vertical jump to her advantage. Miloch also possesses outstanding jumping ability with a 23.5-inch vertical jump.

"Those are excellent marks for high school," Ralston said. "With the intense jump training program we'll put them through next fall, that should even get better."