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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's Gina Andres (Mascoutah) will compete this week at the Gateway Collegiate Conference tennis championships.

Andres, a junior, will represent her school at the three-day tournament beginning Thursday (April 26) by vying for titles in No. 6 singles and No. 3 doubles, where she teams with junior Dawn Pavlik.

Andres has compiled a 6-5 record in singles this spring while the Andres-Pavlik combination boasts Eastern's best record, 8-3, prompting pre-tournament optimism from EIU head coach Gail Richard:

"I'm expecting our No. 3 team to score points for us at the conference," Richard said. "I think they could win a match or two in the championship bracket and then sweep through and win the consolation. They could score as many points as the whole team scored last year" when EIU finished tied for ninth.

"Dawn and Gina are a really smooth team. Their record shows how well they work together and they never give up on a point," Richard added.

Richard attributed Andres' recent singles success, which includes four consecutive victories, to the junior's hard work on implementing an aggressive serve-and-volley style of play.

"Gina's singles have definitely improved," Richard said. "She has a really good serve with a lot of spin. When her serve is working, opponents have trouble returning it, so she can serve, take the net and volley."