

1986

## 1986 - Womens Volleyball Information

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# Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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LS - AS

Volleyball - V. Opp.

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## EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

### 1986 WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL INFORMATION

Location . . . . .	Charleston, IL 61920
Nickname . . . . .	Lady Panthers
Colors . . . . .	Blue and Gray
Enrollment . . . . .	9,800
President . . . . .	Dr. Stanley Rives
Athletic Director . . . . .	R.C. Johnson
Associate Athletic Director . . . . .	Ron Paap
Associate Athletic Director . . . . .	Joan Schmidt
HEAD COACH . . . . .	BETTY RALSTON
Office Phone . . . . .	(217) 581-2924
Record at EIU . . . . .	59-48 (3 years)
Career Record . . . . .	114-81 (5 years)
Conference . . . . .	Gateway Collegiate
National . . . . .	NCAA Division 1
1985 Record . . . . .	16-17
1985 League Record . . . . .	3-6 (7th)
SID . . . . .	DON KOJICH
Office Phone . . . . .	(217) 581-2920
Home Phone . . . . .	(217) 345-6287
Home Court . . . . .	Lantz Gym (6500)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CHARLESTON, IL (August 7, 1986)--Challenges. An inevitable factor of life that extends an individual to the furthest realm of mental and physical ability.

The Eastern Illinois volleyball team will be more than challenged by its schedule under fourth-year head coach Betty Ralston. The Lady Panthers--16-17 overall and 3-6 in the Gateway Conference (7th place) a year ago--will embark on its stiffest and most trecherous slate in history.

Eastern will take on three 1985 "Top 20" teams--including (No. 19) San Diego State on the road and Illinois (No.11) and Penn State (No. 20) at Lantz Gym. Regional powers Idaho State, Northern Arizona, Central Michigan, Northern Illinois, Mississippi, Utah, Louisiana State and DePaul dot the schedule--along with Gateway favorites Southern Illinois and Illinois State.

"Some people will look at that schedule and say that I'm crazy," explains Ralston. "Every year I've been here I have tried to make our program and schedule more competitive. I feel we are making strides and every recruiting class has been more talented than the previous one.

"We have several early season tests...opening the season at Northern Illinois and then taking a trip to California. I feel the character and leadership of the team must emerge early for us to be successful.

"The key this season will be that all 13 members of the squad be team-oriented and make personal sacrifices for the team. If that happens, this group of individuals will have an immense amount of success."

No spots on the club are chiseled in stone. When pre-season camp gets underway August 15, every team member will start at square one. No less than four individuals will vie for starting nods at each position.

A pair of freshmen, a sophomore and a junior will battle it out for setting duties early in the campaign. Collegiate rookies **DONNA SICHER** (Oak Forest) and **CLAUDINE BORKOVEC** (Darien/Hinsdale South) figure to give returning squad members junior **JEANNE PACIONE** (Mt. Prospect/Wheeling) and sophomore **LEANN THOMAS** (Riverton) a run for their money.

The 5-6 Sicher prepped at perennial Illinois volleyball power Oak Forest High School. She was a two-time all-conference and all-area selection for the No. 3 team in the state and the No. 8 team in the Midwest.

"Donna is the most-experienced setter we have ever had here at Eastern Illinois," Ralston states. "She works extremely hard and is dedicated to the sport of volleyball. I expect her to be one of the leaders of the team as a freshman. Donna has a good chance to be the starting setter early in the season."

Pacione led the team in assists a year ago with 764 and is the second leading returning hitter with a .204 mark. She is also expected to see some action at outside hitter. Thomas tallied 186 assists a year ago while Borkovec played for Hinsdale South High School and led the Hornets to a 33-3 record in 1985.

Transfer **LAURA BRUCE** (LaGrange/Lyons) and junior **DIANE EISERMAN** (Libertyville) appear to have the inside tracks on the outside hitting positions. Bruce sat out last year after transferring from George

Washington University in the nation's capitol. The sophomore was an all-conference selection at Lyons High School during her prep career. Eiserman recorded 287 kills and a team-leading 264 digs a year ago.

Highly-honored freshman **SUE SCHAMBERGER** (Lena/Lena-Winslow) and sophomore **GINA KNOKE** (Waterloo/Gibault) should see action on the outside. Schamberger--a 5-10, 150-pounder--was all-state as a senior while leading Lena-Winslow High School to its second consecutive berth in the Elite 8. The lanky Knoke impressed many observers a year ago with her stellar defensive play and consistent improvement at the net.

The middle may very well be the most potent area of Eastern's offense. High-powered sophomore **GIANNA GALANTI** (LaGrange/Lyons) and senior **MAURA LEFEVOUR** (Oak Park/Oak Park-River Forest) have the early edge at middle hitter. Galanti registered 78 kills and 38 total blocks in only 71 games as a freshman. The 5-9 LeFevour has the leading returning hitting percentage with a .246 mark and hopes to return to her 1984 all-conference form.

Incoming freshman **BETH BRENNAN** (Westmont/Benet Academy) and **ANN RUEF** (Rockford/Guilford) may also register some playing time in the middle. Brennan earned all-area honors while at Benet Academy while Ruef was named all-conference as a senior.

5-4 senior defensive specialist **PANDORA NELIS** (Hazelcrest/Hillcrest) rounds out the squad. The inspirational leader of the team had 78 digs and 12 service aces a year ago.

1 9 8 6 E A S T E R N I L L I N O I S  
V O L L E Y B A L L S C H E D U L E

August			
29-30	at N. Illinois Invitational (Loyola, N. Illinois., Bowling Green, Eastern Illinois)	DeKalb, IL	TBA
September			
3	at San Diego State	San Diego, CA	9:30 p.m.
5-6	at University of San Diego Classic (Idaho St., U.S. International, Northern Arizona, University of San Diego, Eastern Illinois)	San Diego, CA	TBA
9	ILLINOIS	Lantz Gym	7:00 p.m.
11	PENN STATE	Lantz Gym	7:00 p.m.
12-13	at DePaul Invitational (Central Michigan, Marquette, Mississippi, DePaul, Eastern Illinois)	Chicago, IL	TBA
15	TOLEDO	Lantz Gym	7:00 p.m.
27	at Marquette	Milwaukee, WI	7:00 p.m.
28	at Loyola	Chicago, IL	4:00 p.m.
October			
1	EVANSVILLE	Lantz Gym	7:00 p.m.
2	SAINT LOUIS	Lantz Gym	7:00 p.m.
7	ILLINOIS-CHICAGO	Lantz Gym	7:00 p.m.
10-11	at Southern Illinois Classic (Louisiana St., Utah, So. Illinois, Eastern Illinois)	Carbondale, IL	TBA
14	at Butler	Indianapolis, IN	7:00 p.m.
17	at Bradley *	Peoria, IL	7:00 p.m.
18	at Western Illinois *	Macomb, IL	4:00 p.m.
21	at St. Francis (IL)	Joliet, IL	7:00 p.m.
24	DRAKE *	Lantz Gym	7:00 p.m.
25	NORTHERN IOWA *	Lantz Gym	2:00 p.m.
31	at Indiana State *	Terre Haute, IN	7:00 p.m.
November			
1	at Illinois State *	Normal, IL	7:00 p.m.
8	VALPARAISO	Lantz Gym	1:00 p.m.
10	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS *	Lantz Gym	7:00 p.m.
14	WICHITA STATE *	Lantz Gym	7:00 p.m.
15	SOUTHWEST MISSOURI *	Lantz Gym	7:00 p.m.
21-22	at Gateway Conference Championships	TBA	

All times are CDT/CST

\*Gateway Conference matches

1 9 8 6 E A S T E R N I L L I N O I S  
V O L L E Y B A L L R O S T E R

NO.	NAME	POS	HT	YR	HOMETOWN (HS)
3	LeAnn Thomas	S	5-4	So.	Riverton, IL (Riverton)
7	Donna Sicher	S	5-6	Fr.	Oak Forest, IL (Oak Forest)
8	Sue Schamberger	OH	5-10	Fr.	Lena, IL (Lena-Winslow)
9	Maura LeFevour	MH	5-9	Sr.	Oak Park, IL (OP-River Forest)
10	Diane Eiserman	OH	5-8	Jr.	Libertyville, IL (Libertyville)
12	Pandora Nelis	DS	5-4	Jr.	Hazelcrest, IL (Hillcrest)
13	Claudine Borkovec	S/OH	5-7	Fr.	Darien, IL (Hinsdale South)
14	Beth Brennan	MH	5-9	Fr.	Westmont, IL (Benet Academy)
15	Gianna Galanti	MH	5-10	So.	LaGrange, IL (Lyons)
18	Ann Ruef	MH	5-10	Fr.	Rockford, IL (Guilford)
22	Jeanne Pacione	S/OH	5-7	Jr.	Mt. Prospect, IL (Wheeling)
25	Gina Knoke	OH	5-11	So.	Waterloo, IL (Gibault)
30	Laura Bruce	OH	5-9	So.	LaGrange. IL (Lyons)

Final Tachikara 1985 Top 20 Volleyball Poll

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Stanford                        | 11. Illinois *               |
| 2. Pacific                         | 12. California-Santa Barbara |
| 3. Cal. Poly-SLO<br>So. California | 13. Arizona State            |
| 5. UCLA                            | 14. Brigham Young            |
| 6. Nebraska                        | 15. Colorado State           |
| 7. San Jose State                  | 16. Western Michigan         |
| 8. Hawaii                          | 17. Arizona                  |
| 9. Texas                           | 18. Texas A & M              |
| 10. Purdue                         | 19. San Diego State *        |
|                                    | 20. Penn State *             |

\* denotes 1986 EIU opponents