

8-7-1985

## 08/07/1985 - EIU Womens Volleyball Schedule

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# Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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CHARLESTON, IL--(August 7, 1985)--With eight freshmen and sophomores on the roster, this year's edition of the Eastern Illinois volleyball team figures to be as inexperienced as a new born babe in swaddling clothes. The Lady Panthers hope to improve upon 1984's 17-20 record and seventh-place Gateway Conference finish.

Third-year head coach BETTY RALSTON has a solid--but young--nucleus to build upon. Leading the Eastern attack will be junior all-league selection MAURA LEFEVOUR (Oak Park-River Forest). The Oak Park, Ill. native led EIU in four offensive categories en route to being named the Gateway's first sophomore all-conference selection. Her .321 hitting percentage and 81 block assists ranked among the league's top 10 in 1984.

"Maura had an exceptional season a year ago for a sophomore," explains Ralston. "She has a lot of areas to improve upon. Also . . . Maura won't surprise people like she did a year ago.

"However, she won't be our only offensive weapon by far. I'm looking for our three seniors (Judy Planos, Misty Buckhold and Lori Berger) to have good seasons. They must provide a lot of leadership and enthusiasm for us to have a successful year."

Outside hitter JUDY PLANOS (Evanston) needs to stay free of injuries in 1985 to assist Ralston's crew. Despite playing in only 87 of 132 games, Planos' 204 kills rank second among returning players. Her hard-hitting and enthusiastic play may be the sparkplug Eastern needs to get over the hump this season.

Outside hitter MISTY BUCKHOLD (Riverton) and middle hitter LORI BERGER (Henry-Senachwine) will play big roles in Eastern's scheme of things. Buckhold--a Riverton, Ill. native--has three years of experience for the Blue and Gray; she has an innate sense of the game and should be a positive influence on the younger players. Berger can be one of the big surprises in the Gateway this season. After transferring from Illinois Central College, she showed flashes of brilliance a year ago. Berger finished second on the team in service aces (60) and block assists (61).

A pair of sophomores figure to be the cornerstones of the foundation for the future--and the present. Outside hitter DIANE EISERMAN (Libertyville) and converted setter JEANNE PACIONE (Mt. Prospect-Wheeling) should see considerable action. Eiserman--a crowd-pleaser with her energetic style of play--netted 168 kills during her rookie campaign.

"Diane improved a great deal during spring ball," states Ralston. "We worked with her on her hitting technique and arm swing. I think it will pay off big dividends; I think Diane can have an exceptional season."

Pacione was converted to setter during spring ball after playing middle blocker a year ago. The Mt. Prospect, Ill. native will be the quarterback of the EIU attack.

Sophomores PANDORA NELIS (Hazelcrest-Hillcrest) and SUE MILOCH (Wheeling) will provide Ralston with a deeper bench than she had a year ago. Nelis--the squad's spiritual backbone--performs admirably in the back row when called upon. Miloch suffered through an injury-plagued rookie year and only saw action in eight games in 1984.

Ralston has a talented corps of freshmen recruits she expects to see an abundance of playing time in 1985. EIU needed height and got it in 6-3 all-state performer MELISA BECKMANN (Germantown-Breese-Central) and lanky 5-11 GINA KNOKE (Waterloo-Gibault). Beckmann hails from Germantown, Ill. and should provide Eastern with some size up front to combat the taller Gateway-rivals. The left-handed hitting Knoke will press the more experienced front row players for playing time.

Setters LEANN THOMAS (Riverton) and DIANE LESSNER (Chicago Ridge-Mt. Assissi) are two hard-working players Ralston brought into the program. Thomas comes from the highly-successful Riverton High School program which has compiled an unbelievable 230-7 record since sixth grade. Lessner is from Chicago Ridge, Ill. and played in the highly competitive Chicago area USVBA spring season.

"I'm real excited about this freshman class," Ralston states. "They are all hard-working and dedicated to improving their games. More importantly, they come from quality backgrounds and should represent Eastern well."

1985 EIU VOLLEYBALL ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	YR.	HOMETOWN (HS)
20	Melisa Beckmann	MH	6-2	Fr.	Germantown, Ill. (Breese-Central)
8	Lori Berger	MH	5-9	Sr.	Henry, Ill. (Henry-Senachwine)
14	Misty Buckhold	OH	5-7	Sr.	Riverton, Ill. (Riverton)
10	Diane Eiserman	OH	5-8	So.	Libertyville, Ill. (Libertyville)
25	Gina Knoke	OH	5-11	Fr.	Waterloo, Ill. (Gibault)
9	Maura LeFevour	MH	5-9	Jr.	Oak Park, Ill. (Oak Park-River-Forest)
13	Diane Lessner	S	5-7	Fr.	Chicago Ridge, Ill. (Mt. Assissi)
30	Sue Miloch	OH	5-10	So.	Wheeling, Ill. (Wheeling)
12	Pandora Nelis	DS	5-4	So.	Hazelcrest, Ill. (Hillcrest)
22	Jeanne Pacione	S	5-7	So.	Mt. Prospect, Ill. (Wheeling)
18	Judy Planos	OH	5-10	Sr.	Evanston, Ill. (Evanston)
3	LeAnn Thomas	S	5-4	Fr.	Riverton, Ill. (Riverton)

Lady Panther Quick Facts

Location	Charleston, Ill. 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	43-31
Conference	Gateway Collegiate
National	NCAA Division I
1984 Record	17-20
1984 Gateway Conference Record	2-7 (7th T)
SID	Don Kojich
Office Phone	(217) 581-2920
Home Court (cap.)	Lantz Gym (6,500)

1985 Eastern Illinois Women's Volleyball Schedule

September

6-7	at Lady Tiger Classic	Memphis, TN
11	at Evansville	Evansville, IN 7 p.m.
13-14	at St. Louis Invitational	St. Louis, MO
17	at Illinois	Champaign, IL 7:30 p.m.
19	at Indiana State	Terre Haute, IN 7:30 p.m.
21	DePaul	Lantz Gym Noon
24	at Illinois-Chicago	Chicago, IL 7:30 p.m.
27-28	at DePaul Invitational	Chicago, IL

October

1	ILLINOIS	Lantz Gym 7:30 p.m.
5	at Valparaiso	Valparaiso, IN 7 p.m.
9	ILLINOIS CENTRAL (EXIB)	Lantz Gym 7:30 p.m.
16	BUTLER	Lantz Gym 7:30 p.m.
18	at Drake *	Des Moines, IA 7:30 p.m.
19	at Northern Iowa *	Cedar Falls, IA 7:30 p.m.
23	ST. FRANCIS	Lantz Gym 7:30 p.m.
25	INDIANA STATE *	Lantz Gym 7:30 p.m.
26	ILLINOIS STATE *	Lantz Gym 7:30 p.m.
30	at Southern Illinois *	Carbondale, IL 7:30 p.m.
31	LOYOLA	Lantz Gym 7:30 p.m.

November

7	at Kansas	Lawrence, KS 8 p.m.
8	at Wichita State *	Wichita, KS 7:30 p.m.
9	at Southwest Missouri *	Springfield, MO 7:30 p.m.
14	WESTERN ILLINOIS *	McAfee Gym 5 p.m.
15	BRADLEY *	McAfee Gym 5 p.m.
22-23	at Gateway Conference Championships	Carbondale, IL

\* Gateway Conference Matches