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09/25/1985 - Gianna Galanti

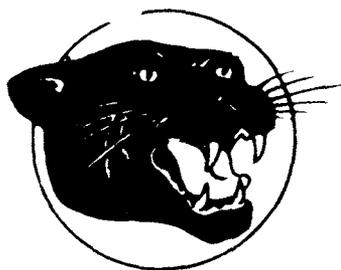
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL (Sept. 24, 1985)--Her name sounds like a bottle of Italian wine and Eastern Illinois freshman GIANNA GALANTI plays volleyball with the style and grace of a vintage bottle of "vino." Bellissimo !!

Galanti has taken the EIU volleyball scene by storm. She has five block solos and 15 block assists while only seeing action in 27 of the Lady Panthers' 47 games. The hard-hitting LaGrange, Ill., native also has 34 kills. Most of them are the shot out of the cannon variety.

"Gianna is by far one of the most skilled athletes I've ever coached," lauds third-year EIU head coach Betty Ralston. "She probably doesn't know how good she can be. With a lot of hard work and learning what the game is all about, Gianna can be one of the top players around in a couple of years."

The Lyons Township High School graduate is an exceptional all-around athlete. The facts speak for themselves. Galanti was considered one of the Top 100 volleyball players in the Midwest by Volleyball Chicago as a senior. The 5-foot-10, 142-pounder was named all-conference in volleyball, basketball and softball as a prepster.

The soft-spoken physical education major picked Eastern over the likes of Illinois State, Texas A & M, Mississippi and Northern Illinois "because it was closer to home."

"Eastern had the exact program I was looking for," explains Galanti. "I wanted a well-rounded collegiate experience . . . not just volleyball. I'm really glad I picked EIU. I love it here.

"One of my goals when I came here was to start and help the team make the conference playoffs. I think both of them are attainable but I don't want anything given to me . . . I want to earn it."

Bravo . . . Bravo!!