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### 04/02/1984 - Annual Panther Club Fund Drive

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# Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

DAVID KIDWELL, *Sports Information Director*

OFFICE: (217) 581-2920

HOME: (217) 345-4166

April 2, 1984  
Select 10

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--The annual Panther Club fund drive supporting Eastern Illinois University athletics will commence on Wednesday (April 4).

Over 150 volunteers working through the auspices of the EIU athletic department and Panther Club organization will attempt to raise \$200,000 during the month of April.

"The past two years we have set a goal of \$180,000 and topped that both times with pledges in excess of \$200,000. Our final official figures this year were \$125,000 cash collected and \$68,000 of in-kind services which was a record amount," said EIU Athletic Director R. C. Johnson.

"With the economic outlook continuing to improve, our directors thought it was realistic to increase the goal to \$200,000 this spring. We're shooting for \$147,000 in cash and \$53,000 in-kind pledges."

The pledge drive commissioner will again be Charleston attorney Ogden Brainard. He along with Johnson and new Panther Club officers, President Carl Koerner of Koerner Distributing in Effingham and Vice-President Allan Heath of L. S. Heath & Sons candy company of Robinson, have devised the game plan.

"We have the same basic approach of 150 active fund raisers soliciting support through one-on-one contact. However we have changed the organization a bit," Johnson explained.

"Because the Panther Club has grown so large we have consolidated our fund raising teams from six to three in order to assist us a bit with administrative control."

A member of the Panther Club Board of Directors and an athletic administrator will head each of the three teams formed by the letters EIU.

Team E is headed by board director Jerry Bennett and athletic promotions director Kevin Anglin, Team I by board member Charlie White and associate athletic director Joan Schmidt and Team U led by board director Bob Kovack and associate AD Ron Paap.

The remainder of the board directors and athletic staff as well as volunteer workers are divided equally among the three teams.

There are seven membership levels, \$25, 100, 250, 500, 1000, 3000 and 10,000. The drive will officially conclude with a fourth quarter report on Wednesday, May 2 followed by the annual Victory/Awards Banquet on Wednesday, May 9.

Koerner was last year's Most Valuable Player with over \$6500 in pledges plus his sponsorship of two Effingham golf outings.

Dave Diana, former president of Eisner Food Stores of Champaign, was the recipient of the Glen Hesler Award which annually goes to an individual who makes an outstanding contribution throughout the year to EIU athletics.

"We have upgraded the awards this year with a special recognition award going to a person or persons who raise over \$10,000 in cash. That person will receive a free trip to Florida, including lodging, when the basketball team competes next January in a tournament in the Lakeland and Orlando area," Johnson said.