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# Panther Sports News

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL (May 12, 1986)--Eastern Illinois University's Panther Club topped its spring fund drive goal for the sixth straight year reporting a total of \$261,805 --an all-time high.

The goal was \$225,000 and its the fourth straight year cash pledges and in-kind services have exceeded \$200,000.

Athletic Director R. C. Johnson made the announcement and presented awards to a large enthusiastic audience of Panther Club workers at Friday night's Victory Banquet at the Mattoon Holiday Inn.

"Obviously we are pleased with setting a new record this year in our annual fund drive," states Johnson. "Especially when you consider the fact that the Eastern Illinois University Tenth Decade Campaign is underway with the Make Room for Art project and the recently completed Brighten O'Brien drive. There also have been numerous community projects this year . . . and this is also an election year.

"I'm very proud of the dedication and hard work demonstrated by our staff and workers. Our goal was to get 90 new members and we signed up 253. I think that is fantastic."

Team "U" received the Most Valuable Team award by raising more than \$91,000. It was captained by Bob Kovack of Mattoon and Eastern Illinois Associate Athletic Director Ron Paap. Panther Club Board of Directors on Team "U" include: Tom Comer, Olga Durham, Howard Eads, Norm Endsley, Jim Hatfield, J.W. Oglesby, Bob Rupel and Dick Stark.

Carl Koerner of Effingham, past president of the Panther Club, was honored as the Most Valuable Player for the second consecutive year, by personally raising over \$14,000--an all-time record.

Former Panther Club President Allan Heath of Robinson was the recipient of the fifth-annual Glen Hesler Award which is presented annually to an individual who makes an outstanding contribution throughout the year to Eastern Illinois University athletics.

The Glen Hesler Award is the highest honor the athletic department can bestow on an individual.

The award was presented to Heath by Roger Dettro--the first recipient of this honor named for the late Glen Hesler. Hesler was an Eastern Distinguished Alumnus who for many years was EIU's most active Panther Club member.

"Allan Heath is the past president of the Panther Club and has demonstrated his support and devotion to Eastern Illinois University," explains Johnson. "He was on the Board of Directors of the Brighten O'Brien Campaign . . . he sponsors our Panther Club Picnic . . . and Allan is active in several projects at Eastern. I can't say enough about the job and contribution he has made to Eastern Illinois."

Bill Skinner was presented the Brent Bennett Rookie of the Year Award. He raised more than \$6000.

Assistant basketball coach Steve Yount was given the Board of Directors Award presented to a member of the athletic staff who makes an outstanding contribution to the fund drive.

Special awards for outstanding service were presented to the team captains, Steve Aceto, Mary Komada and Kovack.

The Membership Development Award went to Mike David for signing up 30 new members.