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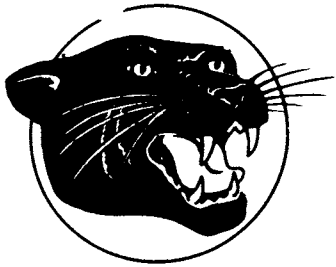
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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "08/20/1984 - Pepsi Cola Bottling Company Contributed \$50000 to EIU Intercollegiate Sports" (1984). 1984. 555.

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Panther Sports News

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Aug. 20, 1984

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--The Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Marion has contributed \$50,000 worth of athletic scoreboards directly benefitting nine Eastern Illinois University intercollegiate sports.

"Altogether five scoreboards will either be added, replaced or converted to provide additional information for our students and area fans," said athletic director R. C. Johnson, "and we're certainly indebted to Pepsi for its generous support."

A new Lantz Gym basketball scoreboard and message center will be ready for this winter's season. A 19 foot message center will be installed on the south wall of the gym while a new scoreboard will be hung from the ceiling. It is similar to the current one except wrestling and volleyball scores/times can be utilized on the new one.

"We'll use the message center to promote and provide information for both men's and women's basketball," said Johnson. "We can also provide announcements for upcoming events and have fun with some cheerleading slogans. I think this will be something the fans will really enjoy."

The football stadium scoreboard will be converted to provide digital track timing. "Obviously EIU track teams can benefit from this, but it's also a real plus for the IHSA state meets. Although unofficial, fans can follow a winning time rather than wait several moments for an official announcement," Johnson explained.

A pace timer has been added in the Lantz Gym swimming pool. Coach Ray Padovan says the major advantage "will be in our everyday practice sessions where more than one person can be timed . . . its real use will come as a training device."

A baseball scoreboard, similar to the one installed for softball two years ago, has already been located at Monier Field earlier this summer.

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Pepsi executives instrumental in this project were Harry Crisp, chairman of the board of the Marion Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company, Frank Peck, who is the president, Ron Barrow, the northern division vice-president and Mike McCool, general manager of the Mattoon plant.