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05/08/1987 - Panther Club

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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY - Charleston, IL 61920
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (MAY 8)

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CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University's Panther Club went over \$300,000 for the first time topping its spring fund drive goal for the sixth straight year.

The 1987 record total pledged is \$313,605, a 19.7% increase over last year. It also was nearly a half million beyond the \$270,000 goal.

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

Another record shattered was 438 new members. The figure reported was nearly four times the goal of 120.

"The \$300,000 plus figure is phenomenal. . . just an incredible accomplishment by a large group of dedicated people who believe in the program," said Johnson.

"Equally impressive is the number of new members. Altogether we're approaching 1500 people . . . that plus the revenue is a great indication that the club is continuing to expand locally as well as throughout the region.

"We are most appreciative of this visible support and confidence displayed in the Panther athletic program."

Team 'E' received the Most Valuable Team award by raising \$111,583. It was captained by Mary Komada and Paul Lueken with Panther Club board directors Jerry Bennett, Bruce Bernardi, Mike David, Ron Dawes, Fred Edgar, Bill Glenn, Sonny Greco, Allan Heath, Bob Hickman, Dave Musgrave, Ed McClane, Roger Roberson, Eli Sidwell, Bill Skinner, Ray Suddarth and Frank Vala.

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Carl Koerner of Effingham, a past president of the Panther Club, was honored for the third straight year with the Most Valuable Player award "by personally raising over \$21,000 . . .that's an all-time record high by one individual," said Johnson.

Eli Sidwell and Jerry Bennett, Charleston realtors, were the co-recipients of the sixth Glen Hesler Award which is presented annually "to an individual or, in this case, individuals who make an outstanding contribution throughout the year to EIU athletics," said Johnson.

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

"This is the athletic department's highest honor presented to someone outside the department. Both Eli Sidwell and Jerry Bennett have been heavily involved with the Panther Club since the beginning and have volunteered countless hours towards its success."

Jerry Myerscough of Charleston was presented the Brent Bennett Rookie of the Year award. He raised \$1530 and signed six new members.

EIU Athletic Trainer Dennis Aten, who raised \$10,180, 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 three team captains, Komada from Team 'E', Jim Erdmann from Team 'I' and Dick Stark from Team 'U'.

Veterans raising over \$6000 in cash and in-kind pledges were Panther Club President Bob Kovack, Charlie White, Dave Musgrave, Komada, Koerner and Sidwell. Rookies over \$1500 were Judy Konrad, Bob Spoo and Myerscough. Membership Development Award went to Kovack who signed the most new members, 22.