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### 09/22/1989 - 28 High School Bands to Compete at EIU

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File



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
Charleston, Illinois

news

ART TATE, Assistant Director, University Relations  
Office: (217) 581-5981 - Home: (217) 348-7553

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

28 HIGH SCHOOL BANDS TO COMPETE AT EASTERN

CHARLESTON, IL--For those who enjoy "half-time" band performances during football games, there will be a special treat at Eastern Illinois University Saturday (Oct. 7).

That's the day Eastern is hosting marching bands who are competing in the University's 14th annual marching band contest at O'Brien Stadium.

Eastern's Assistant Director of Bands, Dr. Dick Barta, who has been working on preparations for this year's competition almost since the last tuba player walked off the field in 1988, says, "These bands are definitely competitive. Many have developed rivalries between their towns and that competitive spirit will improve the quality of what we see on the field."

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HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

Barta says that because the marching bands have become so highly competitive, the judges must be very specific about what they look for. "We have seven panelists that are asked to look at a specific part of the band's performance," explained Barta. "Each of those scores from the seven areas are then combined to give us a final composite score. The major criterion is that the bands move and perform at the same time. (Because this is a marching band contest, we want to see very little standing around."

"We enjoy hosting the competition," said Barta, "as we're much better equipped to handle the large number of participants than most high schools."

The first band, from Bethany, will begin competing promptly at 9:30<sup>45</sup> a.m. The program will run continuously until Belleville West, the final entry, completes its 15-minute program at 5:30<sup>4:45</sup> p.m.

The bands will compete in five divisions, depending on enrollment. Trophies are then awarded to the top three performers in four separate categories in each division. Categories include outstanding band, drum major, percussion unit, and auxiliary unit.

In addition, Eastern awards three special trophies for the top performances in the contest. The President's Trophy for outstanding field design, the Dean's Trophy for the most musical presentation, and a trophy to the Grand Champion band.

Note to Editor: A complete list of competing bands and their scheduled performance times is attached.