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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SOCKLERS ESTABLISH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University Football Hall of Famer and retired prep football coach Harry Sockler and his wife, Beulah, of Robinson, are providing an endowment to enhance Eastern's football program.

The endowment will primarily assist with scholarship aid for student-athletes from the East Central Illinois area competing in football.

Their gift qualifies them for membership in the EIU Foundation's President's Society, honoring individuals who have contributed \$1,000 or more annually, and in the Heritage Society for individuals who contribute planned and estate gifts.

"It is fitting that the Socklers, who have been long associated with Eastern and its football program, would want to assure that the football program continues to attract athletically talented students. Their creation of an endowment fund through the EIU Foundation marks another major step in enhancing the future of athletes at Eastern," said Stephen C. Falk, Eastern's vice-president for development.

Inducted into EIU's Football Hall of Fame in 1984, Sockler was captain of the football team in 1934 and also competed in track before graduating in 1935.

In 23 years as a high school head coach at Westville, Robinson and Western Illinois University High, Sockler's teams logged a 169-22-8 record which culminated with his 1977 induction as one of 12 charter members in the Illinois High School Coaches Hall of Fame.

He gained most of his statewide recognition at WIU's 200 student lab school where he rang up a 114-12-2 mark from 1951-68. The 1967 Western High team was undefeated, untied and unscored upon. Altogether his teams won 20 conference championships; 12 teams were undefeated and untied with winning streaks of 36, 29, 17, 16 and 13 games.

The Marshall native also coached basketball for five years with two Robinson teams winning regional titles.