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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, ILL. (April 1, 1986)--Eastern Illinois University's annual Panther Club fund drive begins Wednesday, April 2.

Over 150 volunteers working through the auspices of the EIU athletic department and Panther Club organization will attempt to raise \$225,000 during the month of April.

The pledge drive commissioner will again be Charleston attorney Ogden Brainard. He along with EIU Athletic Director R.C. Johnson and new Panther Club officers, President Dick Cain of Decatur and Vice-President Bob Kovack of Mattoon, have devised the game plan.

"Our goal this year is the same as last year...\$225,000," explains Johnson. "One of our goals is to get at least \$150,000 cash and \$75,000 in-kind services...I believe we can do it. Our staff, board of directors and workers are really excited about this year's campaign.

"We will have the same approach as in the past...15- active fund-raisers soliciting through one-on-one contact. We will have three fund-raising teams competing for awards at the end of the campaign. Another one of our goals is to get 90 new members into the Panther Club. We need to work hard to get more people active and a part of the Panther Club."

A member of the Panther Club Board of Directors and a member of the Eastern Illinois athletic department will head each of the three teams formed by the letters EIU.

Team E is captained by Mary Komada of Charleston and athletic promotions director John Seketa. Team I is headed by Steve Aceto of Mattoon and associate athletic director Joan Schmidt. Team U is led by Bob Kovack of Mattoon and associate athletic director Ron Paap.

Board members on Team E are Jerry Bennett, Bruce Bernardi, Bill Glenn, Sonny Greco, Allan Heath, Bob Hickman, Woody Kramer, Dave Musgrave, Ed McClane, Eli Sidwell, Ray Suddarth and Frank Vala.

Team I board members are Jim Allee, Adonna Bennett, Ted Bertuca, Dick Cain, Roger Dettro, Obed Henderson, Carl Koerner, Dan Marvin, Earl Walden, Jack Wetzell and Charlie White.

Team U is composed by board members Tom Comer, Olga Durham, Howard Eads, Norm Endsley, Jim Hatfield, J.W. Oglesby, Bob Rupel and Dick Stark.

There are seven membership levels, \$25, 100, 250, 500, 1000, 3000 and 10,000. The drive will officially conclude with a fourth quarter report on Wednesday, April 30. The annual Victory/Awards Banquet will be Friday, May 9.

Carl Koerner, a former Panther Club President, was honored as the Most Valuable Player last year by raising a record \$11,000. Team E, captained by Dave Musgrave, raised more than \$78,000 to win the Most Valuable Team award.

Ogden Brainard, Charleston attorney and commissioner of the fund drive since its inception back in the mid-1970s, was the recipient of the fourth Glen Hessler Award which is presented annually to an individual who makes an outstanding contribution throughout the year to EIU athletics.