



Predators hunt down new Mitsubishi scoreboard

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By Andrew Lippe

For hockey fans in Nashville, TN, this off season has already been anything but a quiet one. Since being ousted in the first round of the postseason by the San Jose Sharks, the arena has changed names and the owner Craig Leipold has sold the team to Canadian billionaire Jim Balsillie. The Nashville Predators also recently sold their scoreboard. They will install a new Mitsubishi video display September 1 in the newly named Sommet Center.

"We are going analog to digital in our new control room," said Blake Grant, director of technical operations for the Nashville Predators. The Predators do dual feeds in HD and SD. This season the Predators had 12 games in HD on FSN South and expect more in the upcoming season. The Sony Jumbotron was outdated and could not be updated with the current technology.

The old scoreboard will be replaced but not be destroyed. It was auctioned off on Nashville's metro ebid site. The Twin City Cyclones, a North Carolina hockey team in the Southern Professional Hockey League, purchased the Jumbotron for \$10,000. The team will play their inaugural season in the Coliseum Annex located in Winston-Salem.

ANC Sports and Mitsubishi will provide the new scoreboard for the Sommet Center. "OES will be responsible for time keeping, displaying game statistics, and the scoring system," said Grant.

The scoring system includes two scoreboards, four sided game and shot clocks as well as an Arena Football play clock. The arena is also home to the Nashville Kats. OES is also the scoring system for the Wachovia Center, Quicken Loans Arena, and the AT&T Center in San Antonio.

"Fans in Nashville are more sophisticated then when the team first arrived," Grant said. "We needed to pick up pace with more replays, more stats just to keep up with them."

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