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WIRELESS SHOCK SENSORS

Good Vibrations: Jayhawks Secure Priceless Sports Memorabilia

For University of Kansas sports fans, there are few places in the world held in such reverence as the Booth Family Hall of Athletics, Lawrence, Kan. The hall holds treasured items such as the 2008 NCAA men's basketball championship trophy, the original center court from Allen Fieldhouse and other gems like Wilt Chamberlain's letter jacket, regarded as a crown jewel by many Jayhawks fans.

Crown jewels require protection. Recently the university selected wireless intrusion technology to guard its priceless sports memorabilia yet still allow the public an opportunity to appreciate it up close.

The Booth Family Hall of Athletics was opened to the public in January 2006 without a security system. The university quickly began examining several options for enhancing the protection provided by public safety officers who closely monitored the 26 display cases.

"The amount of protection for our new facility was not to the standard we would have liked. We have several valuable and sentimental items on display and are very proud of our history," said Candace Dunback, hall curator. "We accept artifacts by donation and by loan. For those who trust us with their loaned items, we owed it to them to keep their memorabilia safe."

Naturally, the university concluded a customized security system was needed and turned to locally based integrator Lynn Electric, Communications and Security. The company was founded in 1977 as a small electrical contractor dedicated to doing business with general contractors and homebuilders. Over the past 30 years, Lynn Electric gradu-

ally expanded its breadth and depth of service to include a 24-hour service department serving residential, commercial and industrial clients, design/build services, commercial/industrial new construction, and preventive and predictive electrical maintenance. Most recently, the company added a full-service communications division for installing and servicing fire alarm and security systems, surveillance systems, data networks and building integration.

The project's goal was to help centralize and efficiently monitor the sports memorabilia displays, as well as utilize the university's central monitoring sta-

Display cases at the University of Kansas' Booth Family Hall of Athletics are secured with Honeywell wireless shock sensors, each covering an 8-ft. radius. The hall contains valuable artifacts such as the 2008 NCAA men's basketball championship trophy.

tion. Video surveillance was the first option the university and Lynn Electric examined as a possible solution.

"We originally started talking to them about cameras," said Ryan Kruse, Communications Division president at Lynn Electric, Communications and Security. "Eventually the conversation led to how the school was protecting each display."

Due to the facility's location – adjacent to Allen Fieldhouse where the Jayhawks play basketball and their fans cheer them on – the customized system had to be able to withstand loud noises and vibrations, yet be sensitive enough to determine the difference between a minor vibration and an intrusion. While glass-breakage sensors seemed a possible fit, Lynn Electric instead chose to use shock sensors placed on each display.

"Using that technique, any significant movement of the glass would cause the alarm to set off before an intruder could



PHOTO COURTESY OF LYNN ELECTRIC, COMMUNICATIONS AND SECURITY



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOOTH FAMILY HALL OF ATHLETICS

get to the memorabilia," Kruse said. This approach gives the police more time to respond, whereas a glass-breakage sensor would trip only if the glass was physically broken.

The integrator used Honeywell wireless shock sensors to secure the glass. Each sensor covers an eight-foot radius. Each of the 26 cases has from one to five sensors installed at the corners, depending on the size of the case. Altogether, Lynn Electric used the sensors to create more than 80 wireless zones.

Additionally, to accommodate late basketball games, the system is programmed to arm when all fans and personnel are out of the building. To reduce false alarms, the system then auto-disarms when security personnel are present and able to monitor. Although the system disarms during normal business hours, the sensors will chime if they detect significant movement on the glass.

The next challenge was integrating the security system so the cases could be monitored by the university's central monitoring station, which sends alarms to university police. Using Honeywell relay modules, the security system was routed into the school's fire alarm system. Due to the size of the space, the hall is divided into quadrants using separate relays, with at least six displays assigned to each section. This has proven more effective than dividing by wireless zones, because university police can proceed

“To accommodate late basketball games, the system is programmed to arm when all fans and personnel are out of the building.”

to the problem area more quickly. When a sensor transmits an alarm, for instance, the panel can immediately tell the police or public safety officer which quadrant to investigate. This is much more efficient than having the individual sensors report to the relays.

“If you were to divide by zones, for example, it becomes much harder to locate the cabinet because you're dealing with dozens of zones instead of only four sections,” Kruse said. “It's much more intuitive for a panel to tell you to investigate ‘West Quadrant’ than it is to investigate something arbitrary like ‘Zone 81.’”

Kruse said Lynn Electric, Communications and Security will continuously update the integrated system as the hall adds memorabilia. For example, the integrator recently helped the university add seven new pan-tilt-zoom cameras to the room.

“With so many valuable items in one place, the facility could potentially be very vulnerable,” Dunback said. “But the system has been very dependable — one less thing to worry about.” — **Contributed by Kevin Piel**, senior marketing manager, Honeywell

PROJECTS in the News

The University at Buffalo in New York has a widely distributed multi-campus environment with varied security needs in different departments. Food services alone are responsible for more than \$20 million annually. There are 300 vending machines, retail convenience stores, cafes and restaurants, as well as supply rooms for warehousing the goods. Both theft and vandalism can incur huge losses. The University has moved to an open-platform IT approach with a centrally managed solution using Milestone XProtect IP video management software, operating more than 100 cameras, with more to be added over time. The surveillance hardware is a best-of-breed mix from Axis Communications, Sony and Pelco. “The Milestone platform gives us central management and distributed control, with a flexible choice of cameras and system setups,” reported Keith Curtachio, director of IT for the Faculty Student Association, University at Buffalo. “The IP network technology is scalable to many locations with remote access and very easy central administration that is cost-efficient for the most effective use of our IT resources and infrastructure.” He explained that the food service business requires the transport of cash, which presents a risk for theft. “We were the first department with security and to use surveillance, which used to be analog: VCRs to DVRs. We also had to put temperature sensors into coolers that had to be kept secured. It's expensive to lose large amounts of food,” Curtachio stressed. **Digital Surveillance Solutions**, led by Mike Blumenson, as a Certified Milestone Partner, has been helping the University at Buffalo roll out IP video. Vandalism makes up the majority of the problems with crimes such as theft occurring mostly at night. Curtachio said there have been many arrests and convictions over the past several years because of this system.



GVI Security Solutions Inc. won a contract to provide a comprehensive video surveillance system for the prison system of one of the largest nations in Latin America. The project includes a broad range of GVI Samsung Electronics video surveillance solutions encompassing a wide selection of high performance GVI Samsung anti-vandal cameras selected to meet location- and environmental-specific needs in the prison system, including indoor and outdoor applications and accessories. The project also includes GVI Samsung PC-based dual codec standalone DVRs and an extensive array of GVI switchers, controllers, hubs and transceivers. The initial installation in five of the correctional system's prison facilities is scheduled for rapid completion before the close of 2008, the company reported at press time. “The prison system of one of the largest countries in Latin America faced a critical need to upgrade the security in their facilities,” said Fernando Tomasiello, GVI senior vice president, Int'l Operations and Sales. “Their decision to select GVI Samsung Electronics for rapid deployment in five of their prisons was due both to the superior quality of our products as well as the high value placed on GVI's extensive service and support networks in the region.” This is the 10th major Latin American region announcement for GVI in 2008.