

KGYM replaces Patrick with Van Pelt

Written by Jim Ecker

Sunday, 09 November 2014 17:39 - Last Updated Sunday, 09 November 2014 17:54



Dan Patrick is out, Scott Van Pelt is in.

That's the news from Cedar Rapids radio station KGYM, the local ESPN affiliate that had broadcast the Dan Patrick Show on a tape-delayed basis from noon to 3 p.m. on Monday through Friday.

Patrick's final nationally syndicated talk show on KGYM aired Friday. The Van Pelt show will take its place Monday in the same time slot and will be broadcast live.

Patrick's company notified KGYM management last Monday that it did not plan to renew its contract with KGYM. Under terms of the contract, Patrick had to give KGYM a 90-day notice that the contract would not be renewed, which means KGYM could have kept broadcasting the Patrick show for another three months.

However, KGYM management decided to make a clean break of it now instead of waiting until early February. "They are making a business decision, as are we," said Julie Hein, the general manager at KGYM.

"We are disappointed," she said, "but at the same time we also are very proud to have live programming with ESPN. I think it's probably better for us."

Patrick, 58, is considered one of the top radio sports-talk hosts in the country and has a loyal following, but Van Pelt is popular as well.

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Patrick left ESPN in 2007 and helped form his own network, which now includes more than 240 stations nationwide. The show also is broadcast on television and is offered by radio station KCNZ in Waterloo/Cedar Falls.

The Patrick show is broadcast live from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Central time) in many markets, but KGYM aired the show on a tape-delayed basis so it could offer other ESPN programming in the morning. Hein said KGYM was one of the first stations to broadcast the Patrick show after he left ESPN in 2007.

"We were surprised that they were ending our contract to go with another station," said Hein, "and they told us the reason was we weren't carrying him live."

Radio station KXIC is now listed on Patrick's website as the outlet for his show in Cedar Rapids, even though KXIC is located in Iowa City. According to Patrick's website, the show will be broadcast on a tape-delayed basis by KXIC from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., but that apparently could be subject to change.

KXIC carries FOX sports programs on its station. There is a promo on the KXIC website that says the Patrick show will be "coming soon" to its station, but KXIC's daily lineup did not include a listing for Patrick as of 2 p.m. Sunday.