

WMT ends broadcasts of prep sports

Written by Jim Ecker

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Radio station WMT (AM-600) of Cedar Rapids has decided to stop broadcasting high school football and basketball games, effectively immediately.

WMT has broadcast prep games on a regular basis since at least 1988 and carried events prior to that as well, according to a company employee.

Radio station KXIC of Iowa City also has decided to end its prep broadcasts. Both companies are owned by Clear Channel Communications of San Antonio, Texas, which owns and operates more than 1,200 stations in the United States.

WMT also has ended its football scoreboard show on Friday nights, a program it called "Football Night in Iowa."

WMT employees directed questions about the company's decision to J.J. Cook, the operations manager at WMT, but the Metro Sports Report was unable to reach Cook Thursday.

Ryan Schlader, a news anchor and producer at WMT, was the primary play-by-play voice for WMT high school broadcasts since 2001.

"It's been a great ride," said Schlader. "I met a lot of great coaches, parents and kids."

Schlader estimates he broadcast approximately 900 football, boys basketball and girls basketball games the past 13 years from all over Eastern Iowa.

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