

Edison's a Joke in Pennsylvania

Edison Schools has become laugh fodder for newspapers' humorous New Year's predictions. Too good to miss:

>From the York, Pa., Daily Record's facetious sports predictions for 2002:

March 13: Edison Schools Inc. announces sweeping reforms aimed at bringing high school sports back to solvency. Among the more controversial changes: all swimmers will be sponsored by "Vinny's Pizzeria and Hoagie Shop"; the javelin, shot put and discus will be condensed into one throwing event - the thingamabob toss; and football officials will be required to share whistles.

Sept. 3: Continuing toward its goal of containing costs in high school sports, Edison Schools Inc. declares that nets will no longer be used in volleyball or tennis matches. "They cost a lot, and we don't really need them," says one official. Players will be required to use the honor system and indicate whether or not their shot would have gone over the net, had one been in place.

Nov. 18: Catching everyone off guard, Edison Schools Inc. announces that the high school football state playoffs will be contested on PlayStation2. "Actually staging the games in, like, stadiums would be far too expensive," claims one official.

Dec. 29: Admitting there's nothing he can do to cure baseball's financial woes, commissioner Bud Selig hands the sport's reins over to Edison Schools Inc. Edison immediately announces its first cost-cutting measure - teams will play the 2003 season without third basemen. "They just make way, way too much money," says one official. "The left fielder can just move in a little." -- York Daily Record Sports Editor Chris Otto

>From the Philadelphia Inquirer's facetious predictions for 2002:

March 28: Weeks after his firm signs a five-year contract to run Philly schools, Chris Whittle abruptly quits as president of Edison Schools Inc. to join a Trappist monastery in New Mexico. In a surprise move, the Edison board names former Philadelphia Superintendent David Hornbeck to succeed Whittle. "I told you God was on my side," Hornbeck says.

April 3: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge orders a rocket attack on the headquarters of Edison Schools Inc.