

MILTON HIGH SCHOOL

COMBINING VOICE ANNOUNCEMENTS WITH SCHOOL SPIRIT

A COMMUNITY CASE STUDY - AUGUST 2008

ABOUT THE FACILITY

In Milton, Georgia, Milton High School officials suspected it was time to do something about the football stadium's sound system before the team opened its season. The sound system was outdated and it paled in comparison to the rest of the state-of-the-art facility. Attendees mentioned that they couldn't understand announcements and several home owners in the neighborhood complained of too much volume. Replacing the system was never a mandate; since, the always-tightening school budget understandably accounted for other priorities.

That was until Milton, state champs for four years running, played its first home football game of 2007. During the game, a lightning storm passed into the region. Officials reacted cautiously and quickly, ordering an evacuation of the stadium. However, there was one problem: No one attending the game could understand the announcement as it played over the paging horn system.

"They needed to ask people to leave," said Mike Shetler, who works for Atlanta-based VisionQuest Design and Production. "[But] no one understood the announcement."

Vowing not to allow a repeat of what happened that day, school officials renewed their commitment to overhaul the sound system. Through a referral, Mike made contact with the school. "They have a Jumbotron video scoreboard. They have artificial turf. It's more like a college stadium rather than a high school stadium," Mike commented. As someone familiar with high quality audio, he wanted to make sure the sound quality matched the rest of the facility.

THE SOUND SYSTEM

Milton High School had an old traditional paging horn system. "It was a bad design with loudspeakers everywhere and lots of echoes," Mike says. "Also, it was underpowered and distorted and had feedback issues." But the horns were weather-resistant, and that's important for an outdoor stadium like the one at Milton High. So he first tried to fix the problem, rather than purchase new equipment. It still didn't work.

That's when Mike arranged a demonstration of Community's R-Series loudspeakers, which are not only weather-resistant, but provide the kind of detail and fidelity Milton High School officials were looking for. How did they respond? "The demo was very successful and the school said 'yes' immediately," Mike remembers.



SOUND SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

When the job began, he first installed three R2-694Z loudspeakers on the front of the press box, as well as two R.5-66TZ two-way loudspeakers on the sides of the press box, to fill the home stands and field. As for the visitors' stands, Mike's options were limited. School officials had asked him to look for a workaround to avoid noise complaints from home owners in adjoining neighborhoods. As a solution, Mike installed one R2-52Z on a pole right behind the press box that throws the sound to the other side of the field, powered by a Face F1200TX amplifier, while the Rane RPM-26Z multiprocessor delays the sound from the home side loudspeakers so everything is synchronized.

"With the Community speakers, the pattern control we got helped us reduce the sound in the neighborhoods," Mike

states. "More importantly, the intelligibility really popped. You could understand everything crystal clear." That's important since the stadium is used year round – not just for football. And now that the school has a high-fidelity sound system, they can do a lot more with it, such as play audio from the videos on the scoreboard, including revenue-generating commercials.

Milton High School is well-known for its high-energy pep rallies and musical presentations and the Community loudspeakers have made an incredible difference on student performances. "They now have plenty of volume on the field and a reduced volume in the surrounding neighborhoods," Mike says. "And they can make announcements, emergency and otherwise, that are clearly understood."

EQUIPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Three Community R-Series Model R2-694Z loudspeakers
- Community R-Series R2-52Z loudspeaker
- Two Community R-Series Model R.5-66TZ loudspeakers
- Face Audio F1200TX 3U 2-Channel Power Amp
- Rane RPM-26Z Programmable Multiprocessor

ABOUT VISIONQUEST DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Tony Shannon started VisionQuest Design and Production over 20 years ago as a set designer for Disney. The company specializes in design-build sound, lighting, video and control systems, as well as interactive video walls. Customers are mostly medium-sized churches in the Atlanta area (300-1,800 seats). Contact Mike Shetler or President Tony Shannon at (770) 982-8600 or tony@visqst.com

THE LOUDSPEAKERS

There is a Community R-Series for every installation. Highly weather-resistant for outdoor applications, but appropriate for indoor use as well, the R-Series offers exceptional voice clarity and sound projection capability.



A copy of the R-Series Application Guide can be downloaded from our website www.communitypro.com. Our All-Weather, All-Purpose loudspeaker System brochure featuring R and WET is also available for download from www.communitypro.com.

Celebrating 40 years of innovative loudspeakers, Community has been a leading supplier of professional loudspeaker systems since 1968. Headquartered in Chester, Pennsylvania, Community distributes its products to over fifty countries on six continents.

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