

## Press Box Design and Function

The press box today can no longer survive as a counter with windows for viewing the field, a few outlets and a microphone for the announcer. The press box has become a multi-media center for most sports. The counter is now lined with computers, printers and Ethernet cables from end to end. The space is divided up into small rooms for announcer, media, sound, video and other functions. It is vital to make use of these spaces and adaptable to the different sporting events.

### Track Timing System:

The track timing system can be as simple as two computers operating in the press box to sometimes 12 computers or more connected in the system. The timing computers in the press box are communicating with the timing camera(s) on the field as well as scoreboard displays and other computers that may be mobile around the athletic venue. The timing computers are sending results data to the announcer, the scoreboards, the media, the web and even cell phones.

The power and data connections are many times at a minimum and it is a struggle to get everything connected to power and spread out to make work conditions manageable. There are cables, power cords and surge protectors strung all over the counters and floors to get everyone powered and connected in the network. There are Ethernet switches and wireless access points stacked and hung in out of the way places. Troubleshooting becomes a guessing game in the mess of connections.

### Scoreboards:

The new scoreboards in stadiums and mobile versions are very sophisticated with their capabilities. The large stadium scoreboards many times are installed with a media cabinet that is capable of sending video, graphics and real time data to the scoreboard displays. These media cabinets usually have inputs for Ethernet, HDMI, Composite and a variety of other connections depending on the functions built in the system.

The media cabinet is many times placed in its own area and requires a small staff to run it depending on the type of sporting event and the function of the scoreboard display. The scoreboard media cabinet most times needs to have some form of connectivity to each area of the press box, depending on the event, software and staff to operate the presentations on the scoreboard display. Running temporary connections for each event is messy, unsafe and many times not always reliable or all the parts are just not available.