

Sports

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Chris Parenti is all knuckles with this pass, but to the ball during a game at the EMU summer the Livonia Franklin senior managed to hang on football camp.

Flingin' Football

EMU puts zest into grid camp

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Football camps do not have to be an exercise in moaning and groaning. Though most are, they do not have to be all blood, sweat and tears.

No. Jim Harkema, head football coach at Eastern Michigan University, has come up with a camp that may revolutionize football camps. Instead of no-pain-no-gain, Harkema's camp stresses fun.

Harkema, along with assistant coach Doug Babcock, has developed a

camp primarily for quarterbacks, receivers and defensive backs. Teams gather once a week for six weeks and play seven-on-seven pseudo-football games on a 40-yard field.

HERE'S HOW the camp works. There are 10 seven-on-seven games going on at the same time. The games are played on 40-yard fields.

The offense, which basically consists of a quarterback and six receivers, scores points for every catch (five points) then a point for every yard the catch nets. The 40

yards must be covered in one play for the offense to get credit for a touchdown. Touchdowns are worth 90 points (40 for the yardage and a 50-point bonus).

Quarterbacks have four seconds to throw the ball. Failure to release the ball within four seconds results in a sack for the defense.

The defense, which consists primarily of seven defensive backs, scores points for sacks (15), dropped passes (five), deflected passes (10) and interceptions (35).

A game consists of four 15-minute (running time) quarters. One team will play offense for one full quarter, alternate, and play defense for the full second quarter. You wind up playing two quarters each of offense and defense.

There is no contact. Players wear shorts and T-shirts and the games are very fast-paced. When Livonia Franklin defeated Detroit DePue last week, the final score was 1,400-1,100.

THE CAMP finished its second year July 16 and was, by all accounts, largely successful. Twenty high school football teams, including Franklin, Garden City and Birmingham Seaholm from the Observer's Eccentric area, took part in the camp on the campus of EMU in Ypsilanti.

Dave Farris, head coach at Wayne State University, liked Harkema's concept so much he held a similar camp of his own this summer and attracted 12 teams.

"The camps are basically a lot of fun," said Livonia Franklin head football coach Armand Vigna, whose Patriots were undefeated going into the final week. "The kids are pretty much on their own, and they have a great time."

"But, at the same time, we learn our basic pass offense and our basic pass defense. We get a chance to work on these things against other teams in a game situation."

The camp is also beneficial to Harkema and his program at EMU. It provides a nice scouting forum and it forms a showcase for both the university and Harkema's program.

"Exposure is the big thing for us," Harkema said. "We want to get as many kids on campus as we can so they can see what a nice university this is."

Said Vigna: "I would like to see this introduced into junior high schools as an intramural program. Because of a lack of competition on the junior high level we have really been suffering at the skill positions over the years. Not enough kids are able to run, throw and catch. This program would allow them to do that on a competitive level."

There was plenty of running, throwing and catching during the past six weeks at EMU. Football camps may never be the same. Kind of makes you feel sad for those poor linemen — what do they do for fun in the summertime? Lift weights?



Franklin players Mark Kerpet (left) and Parenti discuss the last play. At the EMU camp, many plays are ad-libbed from the line of scrimmage.

57-year-old Hatch sets national mark

By C.J. Risak
staff writer

Melba Hatch knew exactly what she wanted.

The Canton resident eyed Tuesday's Redford Senior Olympics with great expectations. Her goal was clear — the national record in her age group in the two-mile run.

As lofty as that might seem, Hatch didn't disappoint. Despite hot, muggy weather and a lack of opposition — Hatch was the only woman competing in Class D (42 and over) — she obliterated the former national record, trimming nearly 40 seconds from the standard.

Hatch finished in 13:46.88. The former 55 and over mark was 14:26.

"That's the reason I went, really," said the 57-year-old Hatch when asked if she knew she had broken a national record. "I thought I had a chance."

"I have trouble finding track meets. I run in a lot of road races, but there aren't many track races for master runners."

WHILE HATCH knew what she was after Tuesday at the Redford Senior Olympics, she wasn't always so certain. She took up jogging at the urging of friends five years ago, but soon gave it up.

"I really didn't like it," she recalled. "I found all sorts of excuses not to run — it was too hot, I was too tired, or it was raining."

An advertisement for the 10-kilometer Emily's Fun Run got her interested again. Hatch figured she'd give it a shot, and that would be it for her racing career.

She trained for a short period for the Emily's run, twice going — and barely finishing — six miles (10 kilometers is 6.2 miles). But she made it through the Emily's run.

"After I finished, I never even thought to check to see if I'd won anything," Hatch said. "A few days later, I happened to be in Emily's store, and the book with the results was open on the counter, so I asked how I had done."

Hatch was astonished to discover she had won her age group (50-55). That was 1981, and she's been on the run ever since.

A TYPICAL training week covers about 40 miles, Hatch said. "I train for road racing actually. I'll go 7 1/2 or eight miles three or four times a week and four miles a couple of times. Then I race on weekends."

"I don't have any strict training guide. If I feel like it, I'll go further. If I don't, I won't."

Hatch's running career took her to the World Masters Track and Field Championships in Puerto Rico in 1983. She ran three races: the 10-kilometer track, the 10-kilometer cross country, and the 800 meters. She finished with silvers in the first two and a bronze in the 800.

"When I first started running, I never thought I'd win anything," said Hatch. "I was just running to keep in shape."

But a modest goal has harvested a major accomplishment for Hatch — a national record.



DAN DEAR/staff photographer

Melba Hatch of Canton legged her way to a national record for 55-59 year-old women in the two-mile run at the Redford Senior Olympics.

REDFORD SENIOR OLYMPICS RESULTS

Tuesday at Hillcrest Junior High Class A (21-27 years)

Long jump (men): 1. Mark Scarsantino, 16-1; 2. Doug Curlew, 15-7; 3. Don Wend, 14-3.
High jump (men): 1. Mike Cadeau, 8-4; 2. Jerry Burke, 5-10.
High jump (women): 1. Sharon Lowry, 4-10.
Shot put (men): 1. Don Wend, 35-8; 2. Scott Grudson, 34-4.
Discus (men): 1. Don Wend, 74-10; 2. Doug Curlew, 59-0.

50-yard dash (men): 1. Jerry Burke, 8.04; 2. Bob Zimmerman, 8.09; 3. John Anderson, 8.10.
100-yard dash (men): 1. Jerry Burke, 11.15; 2. John Anderson, 11.16; 3. Bob Zimmerman, 11.17; 4. Mark Scarsantino, 12.18.
100-yard dash (women): 1. Lisa Morita, 14.68.
120-yard low hurdles (men): 1. John Anderson, 15.81; 2. Mark Scarsantino, 17.23; 3. Mike Oestl, 17.55.
440-yard dash (men): 1. Doug Curlew, 58.05; 2. Mike Oestl, 1:03.02.

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Middleweight Darnell's fists floor Philly foe in 1st round

By Jim Hughes
staff writer

Steve Darnell spent more time dressed in a tuxedo than he did in his boxing shorts Thursday night, but the evening wasn't a total disappointment for the 21-year-old Livonia middleweight. He made the most of his night in the spotlight.

Darnell, who shared top billing with former Olympic gold medalist Steve McCrory in "Uptown Thursday Night, The Event" at the Birmingham Ice and Sports Arena, made short work of his scheduled six-round bout with Louis Bell. He knocked out the stiff from Philadelphia, then signed autographs, shook hands and conversed with the pro-Darnell crowd.

This was something new for "Stevie D," who ended his bout 1:36 into the first round and raised his professional record to 9-0-1 with six knockouts. He's accustomed to being on the undercard instead of headlining. After Darnell retreated to the locker room and es-

caped the well-wishers — many of whom were women — he reflected on his night.

"The last show I was in at Wyandotte, it was like that," he said of his new-found celebrity status. "But this time there was definitely more. I don't mind it one bit, to be honest with ya."

DARNELL COULDN'T have picked a better time and place to stir his stuff. The atmosphere of the quaint arena suggested Vegas, complete with valet parking, hot hors d'oeuvres for the \$100 ticket-holders, card girls in mini tuxedos, ashtrays from Caesars Palace, a fashion show, and an appearance from former world heavyweight champ Muhammad Ali.

Seizing the opportunity, Darnell impressed the estimated crowd of 1,800 with heavyweight left hands that had ring-side observers boxing. Bell (4-1) was the aggressor at the start of the fight, but his burr-saw approach to boxing made Darnell get to work early.

Bell tossed a flurry of wildin-

punches before Darnell realized the fashion show was over. He offset the attack by backing up and jabbing. He then dropped Bell with a combination, although it could have been ruled a slip.

No sooner had the referee waved the two fighters together after the count, Darnell was right back to work. He unloaded a powerful left hand to the unsuspecting Bell and finished it with a left uppercut.

Darnell, who first raised his hands to the ref as if to signal the bout should be stopped, looked disgusted after the brief workout. He said Bell had no business being in the ring.

"I wanted to dance and show my stuff," Darnell said as he ripped the tape off the tooth of his trade. "He didn't want to fight. The guy definitely wasn't hurt. He wasn't on queer street, he just didn't want to fight. He shouldn't be called a professional if he doesn't have the heart to fight."

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