



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

By expanding the walls of this 68-foot tractor trailer, the world's largest mobile sports medicine facility on wheels is created.

"We can go anywhere," said co-creator and athletic trainer Karl Glass.

## Clinic to go

### Mobile unit takes medics to athletes

By Amy Rosa  
staff writer

At first glance it looks like any 68-foot tractor trailer. But when the sides open up and the walls pull out, it expands into the world's largest sports medicine facility on wheels — and its depot is the Henry Ford Hospital parking lot in West Bloomfield.

The Athletic Mobile Unit, the \$460,000 branch of professionals from the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, made its first appearance at its new home last Thursday.

Parked and expanded to its full 900 square feet, the mobile unit was the object of wide-eyed, open-mouthed stares as visitors wandered inside through the maze of rehabilitation, exercise and testing equipment.

On hand was co-creator of the unit, Karl Glass, an athletic trainer at the hospital's Center for Athletic Medicine in downtown Detroit.

Clad in sweats and tennis shoes, Glass said he was getting used to the idea that he will now be spending the majority of his working time inside the unit, instead of his office in downtown Detroit.

"THIS THING is the only one of its kind," he said. Glass said that seeing the month-old unit has prompted calls from people all over the state, wanting to know what it is and what it does. "It hasn't even been used in a professional capacity yet either," he said.

What it is, is a room on wheels containing state-of-the-art testing, screening, exercise and injury rehabilitation equipment. The machines do everything from establishing variable resistance on different body parts, to testing the major body extremities by computer.

"Basically the mobile unit has been designed as an extension of the hospital's athletic medicine center, and can bring service anywhere to those who need it," Glass said.

ANSWERING WHAT it does gets more complex, he said. For the most

**'Basically the mobile unit has been designed as an extension of the hospital's athletic medicine center, and can bring service anywhere to those who need it.'**

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part the unit will remain parked at the West Bloomfield Ford hospital site Monday through Thursday for regularly scheduled appointments for injury rehabilitation.

Patients who live nearby — and there are a lot of them, according to Glass — can now come for treatment in the unit instead of going all the way to Detroit. Scheduled visits begin Monday, Oct. 17.

The mobile unit, living up to its name, will then go on the road weekends for special sporting events, like the upcoming high school football, cross country and soccer state championships.

"We'll be there to respond to any injuries immediately," Glass said. "This allows not only more access into athletic medicine on the road, but we now have the expertise and equipment to improve athletic performance away from home too."

GLASS SAID there will be no charge for a staff physician and him to travel to the contests and provide whatever services are necessary.

"We just feel the high schools deserve some help. We're trying to meet the needs of the public." One of the worst mistakes that can be made regarding an athlete's health is to treat an injury incorrectly, he said.

"Many people don't know a sports career can be ruined by doing the wrong thing."

THOUGH THEY'LL staff the high school championship games free, Glass and other physicians will charge a fee to take the unit to cor-

porations or business for different services.

The hospital hopes to engage companies who want to have large numbers of employees receive physical examinations, or who want their workers to have injury prevention or other health-related presentations.

"It's a lot easier to bring the medical office to the work force than vice versa," Glass said, pointing out the unit's new TV and video system for such presentations.

Also on the agenda for the unit

will be the World Cup Tennis Tour at Cobo Hall next month and a Detroit Lions mini camp in the spring.

"We're going to use the mobile unit for all kinds of things."

THE MOBILE unit "was a key factor" in deciding to join the hospital's team, said Glass, who has been on staff at the hospital for four years.

He said he was approached by Dr. David Collon, orthopedic specialist at Henry Ford, who wanted to copy the sports vehicle that the Professional Golf Association had for its athletes while on tour.

Collon, who also serves as team physician for the Detroit Tigers and Lions, and orthopedic consultant for the Red Wings, "knows what it is like to need an on-the-spot medical facility," Glass said.

"Our athletic unit is bigger (than the PGA's) and was built with more emphasis on medicine, than exercise," he said of the project, paid for by business and private donations.

## Area librarian wins 5-year career award

Jean Jambas, young adult librarian at the Farmington Community Library Hills branch, has won the Lolita D. Fyan Award.

The award will be presented Friday, Oct. 13 at the Michigan Library Association conference, Dearborn.

The Fyan Award recognizes the outstanding contributions of a young librarian with less than five years' experience. Jambas began her library career at the Farmington Library in 1986.

As a longtime Farmington Hills resident, she previously for the library as a student assistant and as a library assistant in the Oakland County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

As young adult librarian, Jambas developed a cooperative project between the library and the Farmington Public Schools classroom teachers, media specialists, and students at the three high schools. "I believe that students should be introduced to new technologies as part of the college preparatory curriculum," Jambas said.

She successfully proposed including a database search in the public library as a required component for a research paper. Her target audience was four classes in each of the three public schools, with 300 students participating in the project.

Because high school students traditionally have limited money, Jambas developed a Library Services and Construction Act proposal to fund the project. When the Library of Michigan denied her grant proposal, Jambas solicited the help of the Farmington Friends of the Library for the needed money. Total project costs were about \$800.

THESE HIGH school research projects were completed in June. Evaluations from teachers and students indicated that such a project was beneficial in exposing students

to new library sources that will be helpful in college.

Library director Beverly Papal agrees. "This project has also been excellent in terms of improving cooperation and communication between the public library and the school system. Hopefully, this is the beginning of several projects between the two organizations," she said.

Papal feels that Jambas has demonstrated a creative approach, a progressive image of the professional librarian, and diligence in securing funding for her project.

Jambas is known by young adults in the community for her participation in the Detroit Storytelling League. She used her string-figure storytelling techniques at the Michigan Renaissance Festival, in many elementary classrooms, and at her Storyteller's Booth at the Farmington Kid's Day.

Her interest in science fiction led to creation of a Science Fiction Fan Club, which now meets regularly at the Farmington Hills branch library.

HER INTEREST in video led to a young adult production on a local cable channel.

"Jean Jambas brings a vitality and enthusiasm to young adults in our community," Papal said. "I am proud to have her on the library staff."

While the Fyan Award for Young Librarian of the Year is open to librarians across the state, the Farmington Community Library has been particularly honored by receiving this award five times in the last 12 years.

Previous Farmington Community Library staff to receive the Fyan Award are: Beverly Daffern Papal, 1976; Jill Locke, 1978; Barbara Shumer, 1981; and Gerald M. Furi, 1984.

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