

Prep juniors can strut stuff at combine workout session

By STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Dick Corbin, a former football recruiting coordinator at Harvard University, knows how difficult it can be to evaluate players on film. That's why Corbin started the Reebok Preseason Combine, a service that allows high school juniors to work out in front of college coaches.

The Reebok Preseason Combine, in its second year, will make seven stops throughout the country, starting with Saturday's visit to Garden City High School.

The combine, which is free of charge, starts at 1 p.m. and runs until 6:30 p.m.

May is considered evaluation month for college coaches. Coaches are allowed to watch high school prospects on 20 days during the month, Corbin expects a big turnout of coaches.

"When you see a person, eyeball a person, see how he conducts himself firsthand, it's beneficial," Corbin said. "About a year and a half ago, I felt, 'Why not use these skills, get a service, and hit up one of these big corporate people (as a sponsor)? It's a way for Reebok to market its product and also a way for Reebok to pay back the kids with a free combine.'"

Corbin, who recommends that players bring their high school transcripts, is also counting on a large player turnout.

"We won't be back unless we get 350 or 400," Corbin said. "It's a number we need to have to

FOOTBALL

make it go."

Garden City football coach Bob Eisminger said filters about the combine have been sent to about 100 schools in the state.

Each player's height, weight and wingspan will be measured at registration, which starts at 1 p.m. An academic hour (in which financial aid, recruiting rules, scholarships and preparation for the ACT and SAT tests are discussed) is held from 1 to 2 p.m., followed by combined evaluations.

Players will be evaluated in the 40-yard dash, the 185-pound bench press, shuttle run, vertical leap, standing long jump and corner run.

It is most beneficial for skilled players to excel on the track since no footballs are allowed to be used, Corbin said.

"If a quarterback has cement feet, I don't care if he can throw 90 yards; he can't play," Corbin said. "You've got to run to play football. A kid has got to run before you receive a ball."

University of Michigan assistant head coach Lloyd Carr said he knows about the combine and is interested in the results in case a member of U-M's staff is unable to attend. Carr called the Observer Tuesday from Cleveland, where he was recruiting.

Bowling Green State University recruiting coordinator Terry

Malone, a 1978 Redford Catholic Central graduate, said the combine is a great idea. Malone, who recruits in the Detroit area, said he has talked to about 20 high school coaches this week who are planning to have some athletes attend the combine.

Colleges that are unable to send a representative to watch still receive evaluation results on each player through the mail, Corbin said.

"The nice thing about this is it doesn't cost the kids anything and it won't 'break' anybody," said Malone, who stays at his parents' (Paul and Miriam) Farmington Hills home when recruiting in the Detroit area. "We won't eliminate anybody from this, but what it does is it definitely reinforces what coaches say about a prospect's size and speed. And there might be some kids out there who you didn't hear about show up and have pretty good numbers."

Corbin said he was referred to Garden City by Riverview football coach Don Lechner, past president of the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association. Weather permitting, all the drills will be run outside, Corbin said.

Corbin said players should wear shorts and the shoes they feel most comfortable in running a 40-yard dash. He suggests players bring a pair of gym shoes and a pair of track shoes.

"We hope they're all Reeboks," he said, jokingly.

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

CLASSES/SHOWS

PISTOL CLASS
The Wayne County Sportsmen's Club will offer a series of classes on pistol safety and marksmanship beginning Monday, May 9, 532-0285.

SHOTGUN CLASS
The Western Wayne County Conservation Association will offer a basic shotgun class beginning Tuesday, May 17, on the club grounds in Plymouth, 535-0436. A pistol class begins June 1, a rifle class begins July 6, and a muzzle-loading class begins Aug. 3.

BOAT SHOW
The second annual Hands On Boat Show, offering buyers an opportunity to test drive products on the water, will be held June 17-19 at the Pontiac Lake Recreation Area, 539-0108.

ARCHERY

3-D SHOOT
Royal Oak Archers will hold a 3-D shoot beginning at 8 a.m. Sunday, May 15, on its walk-through range in Lake Orion, 693-1369.

KAMP FOR KIDS
Royal Oak Archers will hold a 3-D shoot to benefit Ted Nugent's Kamp For Kids beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 21, 693-1369.

BIRDING

SPRING BIRD WALK
The E.L. Johnson Nature Center

in Bloomfield Hills will offer a guided bird walk beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday, May 8. There is a \$2 registration fee and participants should meet at the Visitors Center, 433-0885.

CANOEING

HURON RIVERFEST '94
Two canoe flotillas will be paddling the Huron River on two consecutive weekends, May 13-16, and May 20-22. Cost is \$5 for insurance, \$10 for canoe rental (or bring your own) and \$12 per day, per person for food (or bring your own food and cooking equipment), 769-5123 or 229-2422.

FISHING DERBYS/CLUBS

SOUTHFIELD FISHING DERBY
The 10th annual Southfield Fishing Derby will be held Saturday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on the Rouge River in Southfield, 354-4967 or 354-9603.

FOUR SEASONS

The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Maplewood Center in Garden City, 477-3816.

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets 7 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Junior High School, 420-2233.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS

Metro-West Steelheaders, a non-profit club dedicated to educating the public on improving, preserving and promoting anadromous sport fishing, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at Garden City High School, 420-2965.

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