

Women have fun, raise cash at U-M football academy

By KIMBERLY A. MORTON
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of Michigan head football coach Lloyd Carr is used to coaching but he and his staff tackled the challenge Saturday, June 17, at the second annual Michigan

Football Women's Academy. "I thought the whole camp was great," said Rosalie Perry, a longtime resident of Farmington Hills. "I had a marvelous time." Approximately \$30,000 was raised from the five-hour academy to benefit the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center in Ann Arbor, according to Janine Kish, a spokeswoman from the center.

Fund-raiser

"As a cancer survivor I think this is a neat fund-raiser for the cancer center," said Pat Recker, 63, of Livonia whose three sons graduated from the University of Michigan. "I had a wonderful day that was very educational. Everyone was so friendly and sincere about their enthusiasm."

The Michigan Football Women's Academy was initiated in 1999 by Carr, who coached football during the mid-1970s at John Glenn High School in Westland, to help women understand and learn the game while benefiting the "Coach Carr Cancer Fund," established to supplement patient care and wellness programs within the U-M Cancer Center.

"We're going to teach you about the fundamentals of football and of the things you take for granted when you watch the game. When you leave here you'll know more about football

than your husbands, brothers and sons. You may be a little underdressed," joked Carr, "but you're smart and tough and that's all that matters."

Taking charge

Under the direction of 2000 Academy Director Erik Campbell, a former Wolverine player and current wide receiver coach, the women learned terminology, rules and regulations, player equipment, team offense and defense, special teams and nutrition.

"We're season ticket holders and I usually go to the game with my car phones on because I like to listen to them explain things to me. Even after all these years I got tired of still asking the same questions women ask so I decided to go by myself and learn," said Perry, 68.

Learning side by side teammates, ranging in age from teenagers to women in their upper 70s, participants were divided into groups for personal coaching by Wolverine football coaching staff members and players.

Participating at their own comfort level, Carr and his coaches repeatedly encouraged the women to "go with the flow" and "have a lot of fun."

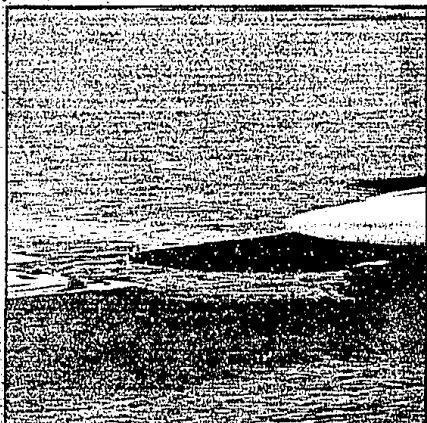
"You are the best looking, best smelling football players in the

country," said coach Campbell to the women who packed the bleachers at Oosterbaan Indoor Fieldhouse in the Michigan Football Complex. "We all know someone who has been touched by cancer, whether it's a family member or friend."

Sponsors included Macaroni Grill; Absopure; Pepsi; Christian Dior; AAA Michigan; Dovebid-Norman Levy; Bank One; Benard L. Mass Foundation;

Bleznak & Associates; Domino's Pizza; Moe Sport Shops; Keebler; Wolverine Rental; Jackson Printing Company; Polo Fields; Cheeser Flower Shop; Bauer Dunham & Barr; What Is It This Week?; Main Street Ventures; Signature Sports & Promotions; and Busch's Vail Land.

For information or to make a donation to the Coach Carr Cancer Fund, call at (734) 615-0665.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Tackle: Rosalie Perry (right) of Farmington Hills practices tackling her teammate Hanky Vandewedge.

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