Broncos drop quick ax on Ron Egloff

Ron Egloff knew there were no guarantees when he walked onto the Denver Broncos training camp, a free-agent tight ned from the University or Wisconsin, eight years ago.
And, despite seven soild years in the National Football League, Egloff knew there were no guarantees as he prepared for the 1984 football season.
Ron Egloff was cut last week by the Denver Broncos. He has yet to be picked up by another team. He is facing an end to this career — an end as audden and unexpected as was his emergence as an NYL player back in 1977.
I was surprised it kappened this year, said Egloff in a phone converse to form his Denver bone. He Gironco coach Dan Revers) is trying to start

a youth movement. I figured maybe one or two more years and I'd have to watch out. But turns out it happened this year."

THERE IS so hint of manic depression in his voice — friends of the 1973 Plymouth Salem grad know that isn't his style. Not is there a hin of bitterness in Egioff's voice.

"Hey, I hew this wasn't a secure occupation when I got into it," he said Pretty soon, it's your turn. You have to go. I thought it was going to happen a couple of more years down the road, that's all."

The official explanation from Bronco management was that Egioff's acc, coupled with the emergence of young-sters Clarence Kea and Dan Sumners, idl to Egioff's release. Junes Wight and John Sawyer, two veterans, were

football

also retained by the Broncos.

"I think the feeling was that they (Deaver) have ecough young potential, and Egioffs age was a factor, that made Ron expendable, and Denver assistant public relations man Barry Hawkins. "There was some surprise around here that he was cut so early. But once everyone alts back and looks at the four tight ends who were kept, it's peptity obvious Ron was the odd-man out.

"Ron doesn't have the greatest speed ov've ever seen. I think the past three

years there's been talk of replacing him, but every year he's mananged to escape. Until now."

Egloff, primarily a back-up tight end, caught 64 passes for 747 yards with three touchdowns for Denyer, He became a starter when Reeves imple-mented a two tight-end offense two

THERE'S PERHAPS another factor involved in Egioff's axing. Money.

"I have no idea if my contract had

anything to with it," said Egioff. "All I know is that they kept a gpy who was making \$33,000.50 it may have."
Egioff aigned a three-year contract before last \$22200, reportedly in the stredgit range. However, the contract was contingent upon Egioff making the team. He will not draw a Bronce salary in \$48.
"Right now is a rotten time to try and catch on with another team," he said. "Most teams still have II guys they've got to cut. So, I'll wait. Something will probably come two or three weeks into the season. If I don't get any offers from the NFL, I'll reprier the USFL, If nothing works out there, I'll hang em µp. hang 'em up.
"I still think I can play," he said.

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Ron Egioff disposed Bronco

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"COACH DOMRE?" Zalenski says. "I got this point guard you might be interested in I recruited him for Concordia, but I think he's too good to play

Division III.

"What's his name," Domke asks.

"Erich Hartnett, from Plymouth Salem."

Not exactly like that, but, you get the flavor. In
one fell swoop, Domke's basketball program galace
a highly regarded assistant coach and a promising
young player.

a mgm) regarder assistant touch an an a promiser.

"I'm most happy about having Rich," Domke said, and I'm just ecstatic about getting Hartnett.

The front of it all is that Domke saw Hartnett play several times last seaso, but didn't try to re"I't not every day I get a player I didn't recruit.

Erich is a great player. A lot better than I thought be was last year. I didn't need another guard, That's why I didn't go after him. But, watching him play this summer, it became evident be was better than a lot of the guard's I had, in fact, my guards told me that themselves," Domke said.

HARTNETT HAS been extremely impressive this summer. He's playing in the Sandy Sanders summer league in Ann Arbor which features top college and pro players. "He's been unbellevable," said Zalenski, who is coaching Hartnett this summer. "He's averaging 20 to the summer." He's averaging 20

coaching Harinett this summer. He's averaging 30 points a game, He is twice the playor! I bought be was. He went up against Eric Turner the other hight and just tore him up.*
Harinett was so impressive, Central Michigan coach Dick Parfiti offered him a schofarahly.

"Erich always felt he was a Division I talent," and Zalenski. "He decided that instead of being a wall Zalenski." He decided that instead of being a

basketball

DASKELDAII

Tole player in Division I, he'd rather play heavily in Division II and possibly become an All-American by the time he's a sophomore or junior.

There are very few kids who can come right out of high school and contribute at the college level. We definitely feel he'll contribute We play three and four guards. We have another outstanding point guard returning, but there's no reason why Erich couldn't battle his way into the starting lineup.

"This is the beat thing for me," said flatinett.
"I'm getting the equivalent of a full ride at Orchard Lake St. Mary. I would have had to pay at Concordia. And the level of basketball is a lot better. I'm just real happy."

HARTNETT WILL be doing battle with Lance
Davis for the polat guard apot alongaide potential
All-American David Howard. Howard and Hartnett,
have played side by side this summer and have
been extremely effective.

"I think they're averaging three ally-oops a
game, Zalenski said.

"He's great to play with, "Hartnett said. "All I do
isget him the ball and he socres."
Zalenski thinks Hartnett has a great chance to
start at St. Marv.

Zatensti thinks Hartnett has a great chance to start at St. Mary,
"Til put it this way," he said. "It'll be his fault if he doesn't (start)."
Dornke, meanwhile, is counting his blessings. Breaks of this nature don't always come his way. Quite the opposite, in fact. Donnke barely missed

sport shorts . HOOP COACH SOUGHT

Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy High School is in need of a freshman basketball coach for this

scasson.
Anyone interested in this non-teaching position abould contact Mercy athletic director De Loris Yager at 478-3010 as soon as possible.

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Farmington Hartbon girls basketball team is in need of some players for the 1984 season. Anyone interested in playing junior varily or varily basketball should show up at the Harrison gym between the hours of 10 and 11:30 aam 30 m. Monday-Friday. Or, call coach Gary Sine at 393-4018.

landing the head coaching poet at University of De-troit and at Oakland University.

But, he has steadily built up the program at St.
Mary, Last year, the team won 15 of its final 16
games to finish with a 21-13 record St. Mary is a
NAIA independent school. They compete against
schools from the Great Lakes intercollegiate Athietic Conference — Wayne State, Grand Valley,
Hillisdale, Northwood, Saginaw Valley, plus other
NAIA independents.
"We olay more sames than, I think, anvone else
"We olay more sames than, I think, anvone else

NAIA independents.
"We play more games than, I think, anyone else
in the state. We will be playing in five tournaments
this year. We have a lot of fun and we play a lot of
good basketball," Domke said. "I can't wait."

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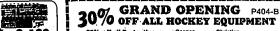
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