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## Warren Weekly (MI)

### **Sportsmanlike conduct**

#### **Local kids participate in first-time free football camp**

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Published: August 9, 2006

One of the National Football League's most prominent all-time figures, coach Vince Lombardi, once said, "They call it coaching, but it is teaching. You do not just tell them. ... You show them the reasons."

Lombardi would be very proud of Pat Cavanaugh. Cavanaugh, a fifth-grade teacher at Wilkerson Elementary, combined his passion for both football and teaching into a free youth football camp July 29 at Halmich Park.

The first-time camp brought in youngsters from as far away as Clarkston, teaching boys and girls between the ages of 11-14 the finer points of the gridiron.

"I love working with kids, and I have a passion for the game of football," Cavanaugh said. "And this camp let me do both."

Of the 62 kids who participated, every camper got a taste of what it is like to play every position and truly learn the game of football.

"The first thing was for the kids to have fun and learn the educational side of the game," Cavanaugh said of the camp. "I think it will help them become better players."

However, the former high school All-State quarterback from Madison Heights Bishop Foley wasn't able to put on this free camp by himself — he had some help from his friends.

Also a former three-year starter at defensive back and two-time captain at Saginaw

Valley State University, Cavanaugh, a Troy resident, had some old pals chip in.

Thirteen of the educator's college teammates and buddies joined some of his former coaches to work with the campers.

Businesses such as Rock Financial, Kachi Deli, Champion Karate and Fast Signs, along with Marty Knollenberg, Dave Klein and the Warren Parks and Recreation Department, made the free aspect of the camp possible with their donations.

"It was a positive camp," Cavanaugh said. "I was very fortunate to have some good sponsors.

"I was very happy with the camp, and I really want to keep the it going," Cavanaugh said about next season's possibilities, "and keep it free."

While next season's free camp is in the works, Cavanaugh and Warren Parks and Rec are getting together to host football classes this September that will be open to all age groups. For these, there will be a charge.

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