

Michigan

Eastern Michigan coach Chris Creighton enjoys second go-around at Sound Mind Sound Body

By **Michael Niziolek**[Follow on Twitter](#)

on June 12, 2015 at 5:57 PM, updated June 15, 2015 at 5:15 PM

MACOMB -- Eastern Michigan was playing catch-up last year when its new coaching staff made their first appearance at Sound Mind Sound Body (SMSB).

The high school football camp is one of the largest of its kind in the country. It features more than 1,200 student-athletes along with dozens of collegiate staffs.

Creighton came to the camp last June less than six months into his tenure as EMU's coach. It was a challenge to connect with players they had no previous relationship with.

"We are going hard man, we are in it," Creighton said, enthusiastically. "This year the difference is we just get to hit the ground running."

The Eagles coach can't comment on any individual recruits, but it was obvious by just spending a few minutes next to the 46-year-old coach his coaching staff has laid the ground work for its class of 2016 recruiting class.

A group of players including Chandler Park's Jalen Martin, and Burnsville's Kamal Martin stopped to chat with the coach on their way to the practice field. Both of the players confirmed they have Eastern Michigan scholarship offers.

Jalen Martin is a 6-foot-3, 200-pound wide receiver with offers from Central Michigan, Western Michigan, Toledo, Miami (OH) and Akron.

The Eagles were the first to offer Kamal Martin, a quarterback out of Minnesota that can play multiple positions. According to 247 Sports, **he is a 3-star prospect ranked 11th in his state.**

Eastern Michigan's entire coaching staff was in attendance for day one of the camp, and most of the staff was back for day two. On Friday, the Eagles sent a small contingent of coaches to a camp at Northwestern.

Creighton was also part of the SMSB's 'What it takes to make it' speaking series that included fellow Mid-American Conference coach's P.J. Fleck (Western Michigan) and Dino Babers (Bowling Green).

Each coach addressed an auditorium full of players with a three-to-five minute speech.

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Camps will continue to keep Eastern Michigan's coaching staff busy the next few weekends. The Eagles are hosting camps of their own each of the next three weeks.

The camps will be an important part of the team's recruiting effort this year since Creighton made the decision to not accept any commitments until they had the players on campus for camps.

By the end of last summer, EMU had verbal commits for half of its 25-person class. Creighton is optimistic he will be receiving a similar number of calls in the coming months.

Michael Niziolek covers local sports for MLive Ann Arbor News. Email him at mniziole@mlive.com or follow him on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or [Google+](#)

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