

Escanaba Daily Press
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Athletes Prepare For U.P. Football All-Star Game

MARQUETTE - Fourteen area athletes will participate in the 2009 Upper Peninsula All-Star Football game set for June 20 at 3 p.m. in the Superior Dome.

Eleven of them will play for the East team, including All-U.P. Dream Team quarterback Kyle Jensen of Gladstone and the 2008 Class A-B-C signal-caller Josh Mickelson of Manistique.

Joining them are Dream Team tackle Terry Martin and return specialist Dustin Demers, both of Manistique, Class A-B-C guard Josh Hadel of Gladstone and Manistique's Garde Kangas and Gladstone's Bruce Anderson.

On East's defensive roster are All-U.P. Class D interior lineman Justin Plimpton and linebacker Earl Lancour of Rapid River.

Also on East's roster are Rapid River's Travis Depuydt and Bark River-Harris's Tyler Hanson.

Negaunee's Paul Jacobson is the team's head coach. He will be assisted by Negaunee's Mark Marana, Manistique's Todd Kangas, Chris Marana and Ed Marietti and St. Ignace's Marty Spencer.

Three former North Central gridgers are playing for the West. They include Class D offensive end Tyler Veraghen, defensive end Charles Marsicek and Anthony Blahnik.

West's head coach is Iron Mountain's Scott Boddy. His assistants are Lake Linden's Andy Crouch, Calumet's John Croze and George Twardzik, Houghton's Don Sawaski and North Dickinson's Joe Reddinger.

The game will be broadcast on tape delay by WLUC-TV6 on a date to be determined.

A charity golf outing starts the week's activities June 14 at the Heritage Golf Course in Marquette.

Players and coaches check in June 15. A food drive for the Beacon House Food Pantry takes place from 10 a.m. to noon.

Media Day activities are planned for June 16 from 7-9 p.m. The Players' Skill Challenge is planned for June 17, with the All-Star Reception taking place June 18.

The Youth Football Camp for grades 1-8 is scheduled for June 19, with the all-star players serving as instructors.

The Recruiting Combine for the players takes place June 20 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Proceeds from the game will be donated to Beacon House, U.P. Sports Hall of Fame, YMCA Strong Kids Program, Bay Cliff Health Camp and two U.P. high schools to be named later today.