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Jacobson, Boddy to Lead East and West All-Stars

MARQUETTE – Negaunee and Manistique High Schools will have a strong showing on the sidelines as a combined six coaches have been invited to lead the East squad in the Second Annual U.P. All-Star Football Game.

The East team will be coached by Negaunee Miners head coach Paul Jacobson, with assistant Kevin Jacobson of Negaunee, as well as Todd Kangas, Chris Marana and Ed Marietti of Manistique, and Marty Spencer from LaSalle/St. Ignace.

“I’m looking forward to working with Marty Spencer, Todd Kangas and his crew from Manistique, and I think they’re excellent coaches,” Jacobson said. “They all bring a different perspective and knowledge of the kids from different areas of the U.P. That’s going to make things that much easier.”

“As long as we’re on the same page, we’re going to be fine,” Jacobson added. “We’ve been able to communicate and talk back and forth among the staff, and the biggest thing is being on the same page in our preparation.”

Jacobson, who took his 2008 Miners all the way to the District Finals game where Negaunee was beaten by Gladstone, 19-0, holds a 74-29 record at Negaunee High School.

The West team will have Iron Mountain’s Scott Boddy at the helm, with Andy Crouch (Lake Linden-Hubbell), John Croze and George Twardzik (Calumet), Joe Reddinger (North Dickinson), and Don Sawaski (Houghton) as assistants.

The coaches will be assigned the task of preparing the top graduating seniors in Upper Peninsula football for the game, which will kick off at 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 20.

That shouldn’t be too hard for the East team, as Jacobson and his staff will be anchored by a number of their own players.

Negaunee will send Chad Cram (2008 ABC Offensive team selection at fullback), Mike McBride (2008 Dream Team) and Dillon Menard (ABC Offensive Team at defensive back) to the game, while Manistique’s Dustin Demers (2008 Dream Team), Terry Martin (2008 Dream Team) and Josh Mickelson (ABC Offensive Team at quarterback) will also be on the team.

The West team will be led by Iron Mountain’s Pat Flood (667 rushing yards and 11 TD’s, completed 20 of 35 passes for 313 and 1 TD, and caught 8 passes for 194 yards and 4 TD’s), linebacker Tyler McGaha from Baraga (38 solo and 40 assisted tackles, 5 picks and 3 fumble recoveries), running back Dan Perrault of L’Anse (2008 Dream Team), and Bruce Romagnoli of Iron Mountain (82 tackles, 23 solo at linebacker, 2 sacks, 1 pick and a safety).

“One of the biggest concerns is the communication between the coaches and the staff and getting everybody on the same page,” Jacobson said. “We’ve been able to have the flexibility this year of doing our own playbook, so from day one we’ll all be able to be on the same page. As far as terminology is concerned, we’ll be calling an apple an apple and an orange and orange, so we’re looking forward to it.”