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906-228-2500
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Youth Football Camp Slated at Dome Friday

MARQUETTE - The Upper Peninsula Football All-Star players will get a chance on Friday to try their hands at coaching. They will be the instructors for a Youth Football Camp to be held at the Superior Dome.

The camp will take place from 7-9 p.m. and is open to any youth football players, boys and girls, in grades one through eight.

The cost for the camp is a \$10 donation. No pre-registration is necessary.

Throughout the week, the importance of giving back to the community is emphasized. The youth camp is a great way for the players to influence the next generation of U.P. football players.

The youth campers will be instructed on a number of fundamental football skills. After a group warm-up and stretching routine, they will get a chance to practice all of the basic fundamentals involved with football, while the all-star players provide valuable feedback and guidance.

Proper stance, blocking, catching, throwing, receiving a hand-off, kicking and punting are all techniques that will be addressed. The campers will also get to practice diving catches into a soft high jump pad.

"It was not too long ago that the all-stars were in the same position as the youth players. It rekindles their fire to see these youngsters out here having so much fun with such a pure love for the game of football. It takes us all back to our younger days," said Andy Crouch, Lake Linden-Hubbell coach and West All-Star team coach.

Many of the all-star players have helped coach in their area youth programs and that experience shows.

"The all-star players are an excellent group of young men and have a passion for helping others," said Paul Jacobson (Negaunee), East team head coach. "They feel fortunate for the opportunities they have been given and don't hesitate to help the next group of players coming along.

"There will definitely be some leaders that stand out when you watch them coaching the kids."

The camp will end with all of the all-stars forming a tunnel and the campers getting to run an officially timed 40-yard dash, just like the college and professional players.

All campers will get free admission to the All-Star Game at 3 p.m. Saturday.

There also will be a special introduction at halftime, where the campers will go to mid-field, line up in a football stance, then race to the end zone. It is sure to be quite a thrill to race in front of several thousand fans cheering them on.

Information about the U.P. Football All-Star Game, can be found online at www.xcelsportstraining.net, or by calling 608-279-6960.