

Iron Mountain Daily News
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Stars Clash Saturday

Twenty-Five Area Players On West Squad

MARQUETTE - Three hundred people were in attendance to meet and greet the players at the U.P. Football All-Star Game Banquet on Thursday evening.

Parents, family and friends saw their players for the first time all week and had a chance to find out first-hand what they have been experiencing during the week.

The players and coaches took turns introducing each other. The night culminated in a motivational message from guest speaker Dave Carl.

Carl congratulated the players and encouraged them to continue doing the things that have made them successful. Football teaches skills that are valuable throughout your entire life, like perseverance, hard work and responsibility to your teammates.

Carl spoke of his own personal experiences, and what the game of football has meant to him.

The players were encouraged to make new friends with the other all-star players, and to stay in touch when the all-star game is over. The "brotherhood" of football was emphasized, and that all of the players in attendance share new common bonds that will last a lifetime.

The traveling trophy was also on display for all to see. Parents and fans saw it up-close for the first time and many took pictures of their players with it individually.

The U.P. Football All-Star ring was also unveiled. The ring is silver and the crown features a silver U.P. silhouette, inside a black football surrounded by diamonds. The rings are exclusively available to players and coaches.

The U.P. West team includes West Iron County's Jeff O'Claire, Zac Kolbas and Scott Kataja; North Dickinson's Lane Holsworth; Forest Park's Bob Reid, Jeff Sartori, Jim Wheeler, Marcus Smithson, Ed Zarn and Jake Jacobson; Iron Mountain's Corey Runsat, Pat Flood, Mario Frankini, Mitch Pender, Bruce Romagnoli, Adam Kent, Nick Harris and Tim Obradovich; North Central's Tyler Veraghen, Anthony Blahnik and Charles Marcisek; Kingsford's Ryan Kleisner, Nelson Wienke and Cole Welch. and Norway's Jake Meneghini. Iron Mountain head coach Scott Boddy is the team's head coach. North Dickinson's Joe Reddinger is among the assistant coaches.

Tonight, All-Star players will conduct a youth camp at the Superior Dome.

Saturday morning at 8 a.m. (Central time) will be the high school underclassmen recruiting combine at the Dome. Any players in grades 9-12 may attend.

Registration may be performed at the door and the cost is \$75. All Combine and Youth Camp participants will receive free attendance to the U.P. Football All-Star Game.

U.P. Football All-Star Game will begin at 2 p.m. Doors to the dome will be open at 1 p.m. Cost is \$6 at the door.

The tailgate, located at the YMCA and presented by Vango's, will begin at 11 a.m.