

Iron Mountain Daily News
215 E Ludington St.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801
906-774-2772
www.IronMountainDailyNews.com

East Gets Even With West

Curt Kemp

Football Stars In Superior Dome

MARQUETTE - Inside the Superior Dome in Marquette for the Upper Peninsula Football All-Star Game on Saturday was the atmosphere of a Friday night in the fall.

Negaunee public address announcer Sean O'Donnell's voice was heard over the loudspeakers, and Miners head football coach Paul Jacobson stalked one sideline while Iron Mountain's Scott Boddy prowled the other.

And as for the players, the jumping up and down and knocking of helmets before player introductions made it clear they all wanted one thing: the win.

Though Jacobson's Miners lost to Boddy's Mountaineers last football season, and the East fell to the West in last year's inaugural All-Star Game, Negaunee's head coach - and moreso the East team - got redemption Saturday when the East defeated the West, 21-6.

In the first quarter, as Jacobson ran the sidelines following East quarterback Kyle Jensen (Gladstone) into the end zone to put the East up 7-0, it was clear the game was enjoyable for the East Team head coach.

"For me, it's just a privilege working with these fine young men from the Eastern U.P. All Stars. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I'm just very grateful to be a part of it," Jacobson said.

In the second quarter, after the West Team's Jake Meneghini (Norway) scored the team's only points on a 17-yard hook-and-ladder play, it seemed apparent those in the stands enjoyed the game.

But, maybe the biggest cheers of the day came when 5-foot-8 cornerback Dustin Demers of Manistique bolted into the West backfield and took down a far bigger West player.

"Every time I made a tackle, my teammates would come up and congratulate me, 'that was a big play, big play.' They were all surprised," Demers said. "It was just the most excitement I've ever had in a football game."

Demers admits he isn't shy about whether he enjoyed himself Saturday.

"Best week all summer. I guarantee it," he said.

Demers was named the East Team's defensive MVP after posting a game-high 10 tackles.

Offensively, Jensen led the East with 149 yards rushing on 10 attempts to go along with a 22-yard touchdown strike to Justin Salzman (Menominee) in the third quarter.

Jensen was named the East's offensive MVP; Salzman was presented the Character Award.