

Negaunee's Jacobson Coaches In State All-Star Game

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By CRAIG REMSBURG Senior Sports Writer

NEGAUNEE - Other than the final score, Paul Jacobson wouldn't change a thing about his serving as a West assistant coach during Saturday's 30th Annual Michigan High School All-Star Football Game.

"Besides that (a 20-16 West loss to the East), it was a great week," the long-time Negaunee High School head coach said Tuesday. "I was sad to see it end. I've been talking with (West head coach) Rod Zimmerman (of DeWitt) since the game and as a staff, we wouldn't do anything different. We did everything we wanted to do."

Leading 16-0 at the half, the West squad saw East running back Jeremy Lanford (Westland John Glenn) score on a 1-yard run with 10 seconds left in the game for the winning touchdown.

The East mounted a 96-yard drive for the winning score in a game hosted by the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association at Spartan Stadium in East Lansing.

"We had our chances," Jacobson said. "We were up 16-0 at the half and we had good field position on that last drive. We shot ourselves in the foot a little in the second half."

Jacobson said coaching talented athletes along the offensive line was a highlight.

"Talent-wise, they were great," he said of his linemen, noting two of them - Paul Jorgensen of DeWitt (Northwestern University) and Connor Kruse of Lowell (Michigan State) - are headed for Big Ten schools. "All the linemen were great kids and very respectful," Jacobson said.

The NHS coach added the Upper Peninsula's representatives at the game, Gwinn defensive lineman Jordan Adediran and Norway punter Brady Grayvold, "did well" for the West.

Adediran made one solo tackle and assisted on two others; Grayvold punted eight times for a 39-yard average. His longest went 54 yards, and five times he punted the ball inside the 20-yard line.

Jacobson said his efforts to get the 6-2, 282-pound Adediran on the West's offensive line went nowhere.

"Once the Cheboygan coach (Jack Coon) saw Jordan, he wanted him up front on defense," Jacobson said, 80-29 in 11 years at NHS.

The Miners' coach said he picked up "something here and there" at practices and the game he can use when he leads the Miners this fall.

But despite having a "great experience," Jacobson won't be able to coach at the game again.

"You can only do it one time," he said. "It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity ... and an honor to be a part of it."

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