

U.P. All-Star Football Game Re-Launches Saturday

MARQUETTE -- The U.P. High School Football All-Star Game will showcase many of the U.P.'s best recently graduated seniors on Saturday at Northern Michigan University's Superior Dome.

Seven players from the Western end of the U.P., including four from Ewen-Trout Creek, will play for the 44-member West team. The East squad will include players from schools such as Marquette, Negaunee, Westwood, North Dickinson and as far east as Sault Ste. Marie.

Forest Park's Bill Santilli is the head coach for the West team, which also includes players from Bessemer, Wakefield-Marenisco, Ontonagon, most of the West-PAC, as well as Iron Mountain and Kingsford. Jeff Olson of Ishpeming heads up the East.

The game kicks off at 3 pm (EDT). Tickets are \$5. WLUC-TV6 will broadcast the game live.

Xcel Sports Training is presenting the game. Proceeds from the event will be donated to U.P. charities (The Beacon House and The U.P. Sports Hall of Fame).

Local players

E-TC graduated seniors Garrett Byrne, Steven Jousma, Chase Leskala and Nick Miskovich will suit up for the West. They had a good run last season, falling in the first round of the playoffs to eventual Division 8 State Champion Crystal Falls Forest Park.

Bessemer's Pat Hampston, Wakefield-Marenisco's Marcus Dunbar and Ontonagon's Tim Tucker will also play for the West.

The players were selected with input from coaches across the U.P. Honors from the Upper Peninsula Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association were also considered. Both the East and West team will suit up 40-45 players with a half dozen coaches for each team.

Xcel Sports founder Todd Goldbeck is hoping for a big turnout, estimating 2,000 tickets have been sold already.

"Get over to Marquette and watch some great football," he said. "These are the best players from throughout the U.P. We want to get this to be an annual event and need the fans to support the game."