

West All-Stars Come Up Short

Jensen's late TD catch gives East edge in closely-played game at Dome

Daily Mining Gazette-Houghton
P.O. Box 368, Houghton, MI 49931

By Brandon Veale - DMG Sports Editor

MARQUETTE - After two relatively one-sided games, the third edition of the U.P. Football All-Star Game was almost perfectly even: down to a yard here and two yards there.

However, those decisive yards went to the East All-Stars, which prevailed 21-14 Saturday in the Superior Dome.

"They had one more big play than us," North quarterback Nate Sturos of Calumet said. "It came down to that one play."

That one play came with 4:42 remaining in the game, as East QB Gerrit Mortensen (St. Ignace) found a wide-open Kollin Jensen (Gladstone) sprinting down the left sideline after running a wheel route out of the backfield. Jensen, whose older brother Kyle was the East Offensive MVP in the 2009 game, extended to make the grab and reached the end zone untouched.

"The ball was a little bit in front of me, and I just hoped to God I caught it," he said.

It was Jensen's second touchdown of the day and more than enough for the Brave running back to follow in his brother's (a quarterback) footsteps as an MVP.

"I knew there'd be a little pressure on me, but I think it went well," he said.

Jensen's game-winning TD broke a tie forged when two of the Copper Country's premier athletes this season linked up for a perfect play.

Early in the fourth quarter, Sturos hit Mike Schmaus of Ontonagon along the right sideline.

"My line gave me time to find my receiver. He ran a good route and made a good catch," Sturos said.

Schmaus, who will play for Michigan Tech next fall, barely kept himself inbounds for the last few yards to complete the 25-yard scoring play.

"I didn't know where I was, I just kind of tiptoed in," Schmaus said.

Schmaus also figured in West's crazy last-gasp fourth down play. West quarterback Paul Angeli (West Iron) pitched a lateral to Schmaus, who ran deep into his own backfield and reversed field to avoid several East tacklers. Schmaus threw a forward pass to Justin Fila (Norway), who found a seam and got multiple blocks but was tackled just two yards short of the first-down marker.

Sturos completed 10 passes for 93 yards, including the touchdown and a 34-yard strike to a diving Jacob Herres (Stephenson) along the right sideline earlier in the drive. He also ran for 12 yards on five carries. The touchdown was Schmaus's only catch of the game. He also had one rush for nine yards.

On the defensive side, Lake Linden-Hubbell's Brandon Sundblad had three solo and three assisted tackles for West and forced a fumble on the opening kickoff, recovered by Calumet's Nels Anderson.

Six plays later, Josh Siler of Forest Park dove into the end zone from two yards out to open the scoring. Siler is slated to play defensive back for the Huskies, but finished the offensive portion of his prep career with 82 yards on 15 carries and was named West's Offensive MVP.

After the opening score, West stymied East's first drive inside the 10-yard line but went 3-and-out on its next possession. Six plays later, Jensen broke open on the left for a 19-yard TD run to tie the game with 3:53 left in the first quarter.

East took the lead early in the second quarter after an 11-play drive ended in Ivan Niemi (Westwood)'s 1-yard QB sneak.

West came painfully close to tying the game just before the half. Sturos led West down the field with a healthy dose of Siler on the ground, but back-to-back throws to Dylan Tengesdahl (Kingsford) in the end zone fell incomplete. Tengesdahl did well to get a hand on both contested efforts, but was not ruled to have held on to either when he hit the ground.

West, under the direction of LL-H head coach Andy Crouch, put on a ball-control clinic familiar to any Lakes fan to start the third quarter, but the 16th play of the drive, an Angeli pass, was intercepted by East's Steve Seronko (Gladstone) at the 2-yard line.

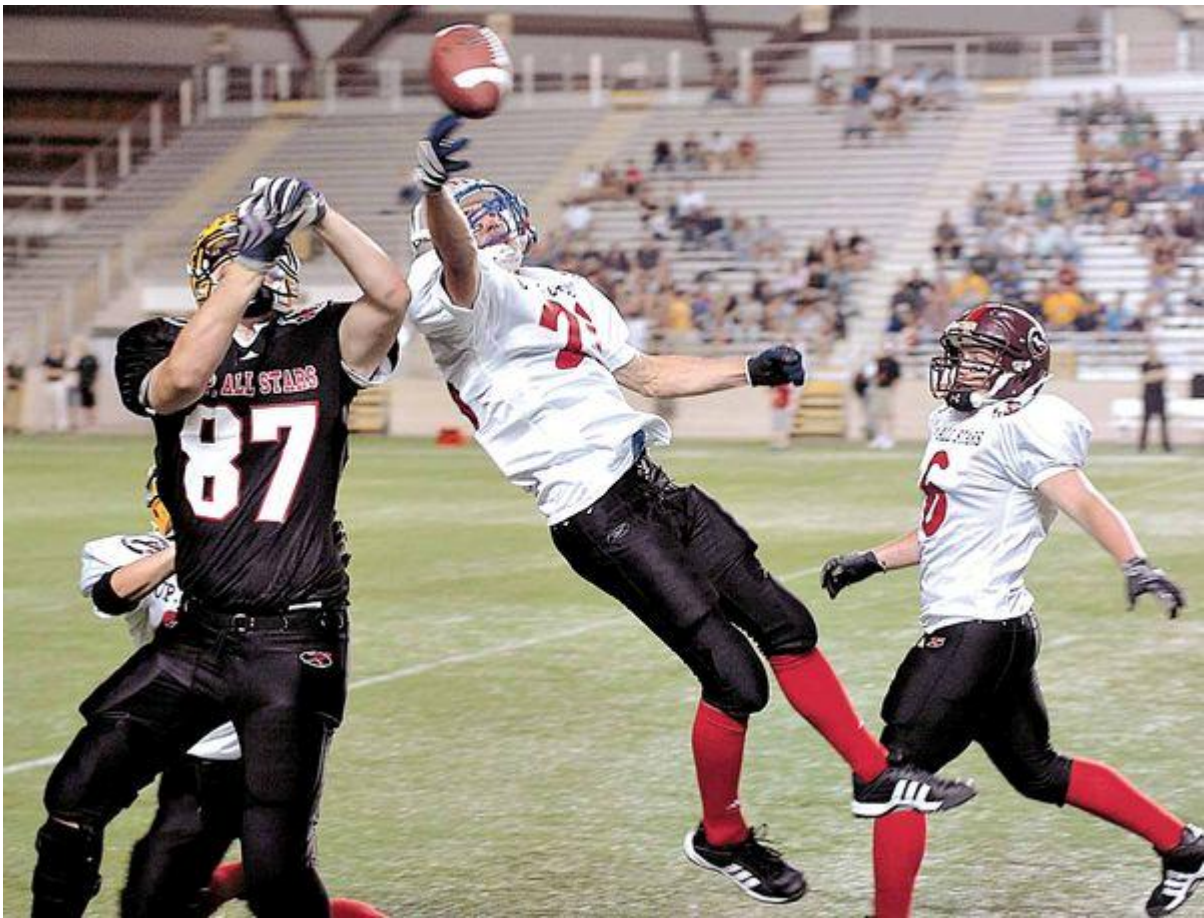
East responded by driving down the field to the shadow of the goal line, but fumbled a snap on first and goal from the 3. West's Andy Carpenter (Kingsford) fell on it to end the drive. Carpenter, who also recorded two solo and eight assisted tackles, was West's Defensive MVP.

Carpenter's recovery started a 15-play effort that led to Schmaus's touchdown catch, but Jensen would finish the scoring a few minutes later.

Despite the defeat, the West stars appear to have finished their careers on a high note.

"The entire week was a blast. It was a great experience," Sturos said.

NOTES: Calumet's Blake Frantti was given the West's Character Award ... The other two East awards both went to Westwood Patriots. The East Defensive MVP was Justin Farley (five solo tackles, six assists) and Character Award went to Aaron Skrenes ... L'Anse's Parker Miller had two carries for four yards and also caught a pitch from Schmaus on a hook-and-lateral play for a gain of 13.



Ben Steber, center, of the West All-Stars (representing Calumet) breaks up a pass intended for East's Dustin Getzloff (representing Bark River-Harris) as Cody Doan (representing Ontonagon), right, looks on during Saturday's U.P. Football All-Star Game at the Superior Dome in Marquette. (DMG photo by Brandon Veale)



Mike Schmaus (Ontonagon) celebrates by getting a lift from his east teammate Andy Hartwig (Iron Mountain) after scoring a game-tying touchdown in the fourth quarter. West all-stars Blake Frantti (#70-Calumet), Kevin Lasanen (#67-Calumet) & Joel Heimerl (West Iron Co.) look on.

Fact Box

West 7 0 0 7 - 14

East 7 7 0 7 - 21

First quarter

W -Josh Siler (Forest Park) 2 run (Brady Grayvold [Norway] kick), 10:00

E -Kollin Jensen (Gladstone) 19 run (Anders Brouillire [Manistique] kick), 3:53

Second quarter

E -Ivan Niemi (Westwood) 1 run (Brouillire kick), 10:18

Third quarter

No scoring

Fourth quarter

W -Mike Schmaus (Ontonagon), 25 pass from Nate Sturos (Calumet) (Grayvold kick), 10:27

E - Jensen 42 pass from Gerrit Mortensen (St. Ignace) (Brouillire kick), 4:42

Statistics

Total offense -West 276 (153 rush, 123 pass), East 325 (184 rush, 141 pass)

First downs - West 14, East 14;

Rushing - West, Siler (Forest Park), 15-82, 1 TD; Justin Fila (Norway), 8-32; Sturos (Calumet), 5-12; Paul Angeli (West Iron) 4-8; Justin Heupel (Kingsford) 2-8; Schmaus (Ontonagon), 1-5; Parker Miller (L'Anse), 2-4; Beau Dubois (West Iron), 2-3; Erik Rynesh (N. Central), 1-minus 1

Rushing - East, Jensen (Gladstone), 7-46; Mortensen (St. Ignace) 5-44; Cam Anderson (Sault Ste. Marie) 6-25; Niemi (Westwood), 6-19, TD; Brett Nault (Ishpeming), 3-14; Davin Salo (Rudyard) 4-11; Cody Dagenais (Negaunee) 5-9; Brad Robinson (Munising) 3-8; Dylan Rye (Pickford) 2-8;

Passing -West, Sturos (Calumet), 10-15-93-1 TD; Angeli (West Iron) 9-15-22-1 INT

Passing - East, Mortensen (St. Ignace), 7-8-133-1 TD; Salo (Rudyard) 1-2-8; Niemi (Westwood), 1-2-18.

Receiving -West, Jacob Herres (Stephenson) 3-37; Dylan Tengesdahl (Kingsford), 3-35; Schmaus 1-25, TD; Miller, 1-13, Fila 1-9, Andrew Hartwig (Iron Mtn.) 1-5

Receiving - East, Jensen 3-61, 1 TD; Lucas Kleiman (BR-Harris) 1-50; Robinson 2-18, Phillip Hood (Engadine) 1-8; Dustin Getzloff (BR-Harris) 1-4, Nault, 1-2