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7,000 See North Beat South, 21-7, In All-Star Football Battle; Bill Jennings Bright Star On Offense

Negaunee-Against the backdrop of a perfect summer night, high school football stars of last year, brought together under the lights Saturday at the Negaunee playgrounds in the Peninsula's first all-star attraction, gave 7,000 satisfied customers one of the best exhibitions of the grid sport they will see this season.

The North squad defeated a fighting South entry, 21-7, in a game marked with tough line play, a scintillating running attack of the North and remarkable coordination from end to end on both squads.

If there was any question in the minds of any as to the value of the game or the dangers of exploitation, a glimpse of the setting Saturday night, or study of the details would be convincing that those who criticized the project "missed the boat" on the best opportunity they've had in years to help the sport.

Praise Unanimous

In the 7,000 that jammed the stands and claimed every inch of space around the gridiron were hundreds from other communities, every one pleased with every detail of the first all-star game they've seen north of the Straits. Unanimously they went for it and want it as an annual feature. But back to the ball game.

It is probably fortunate for the North team that it had a guy called Bill Jennings, from Negaunee, piloting the glory train. For elusive and speedy young Mr. Jennings, star of the stars Saturday night, directed the squad play, scored two of the three North touchdowns and the three extra points and produced the thrill plays of the night. Jennings, all-state halfback, proved conclusively that he entered the throne room of football last fall by right of merit, as he ran, passed and kicked the North squad to a clean-cut victory.

South Gets Good Start

North was slow in starting, the line needing a few plays to get the feel of the game. In the early minutes, South had the advantage and went down the field into North territory. After an exchange of downs with a costly North fumble giving the squad a moment of concern, the North finally wheeled into action. South kicked over the goal line and it was North's ball on its 20-yard line.

Jennings Gets First Touchdown

Jennings ripped off five yards and passed twice, to Chiapuzio (Bessemer) for nine and to Splan (Soo) for 13 yards. Then he carried the ball himself 26 yards to the 15 and went to the six yard line. Berg made it first down on the five and the L'Anse boy picked up three more yards on two attempts. Jennings lugged it over and kicked the goal.

About five minutes later, South tied up the game. It penetrated deep into North territory primarily with Wickholm, Escanaba, Melchiori and Bengry, Stambaugh, and Finn, Escanaba end, the first named leading the attack, the Stambaugh boys contributing nice running and Finn doing a hot shot job of pass receiving. The ball went over and Jennings faded back into punt formation. North line did not hold and South poured in, Wickholm blocking the kick. Gil Anderson, Norway, recovered in the end zone for the touchdown. Wickholm went over for the extra point. It was the only time South was in a threatening position.

North Starts Rolling

The teams left the field at half time tied, 7-7, but Jennings, Berg, Splan and Chiapuzio, the first-string backfield, aided by a capable line that opened up consistent holes, went into high gear in the third.

Jennings electrified the audience with a thrilling runback of a punt half the distance of the field. South got off the best punt of the night, from its goal line to the North 45-yard line, Jennings took it on the fly. With a bewildering change of pace, he left potential tacklers in his wake and then broke for the northwest corner of the gridiron, being tumbled five yards from the goal line. In three drives at the line Berg went over for the touchdown and Jennings kicked to make it 14-7.

Haglund (Gladstone), Erspamer (Norway), Wickholm (Escanaba), tried valiantly in the third to come back, but a tough line and an alert secondary stopped them whenever South threatened.

In the closing minutes of the third period, Jennings again spark-plugged the North in a touchdown drive. Neither side made any gain for a few minutes of see-saw battle. Then Jennings returned a punt to the 28-yard line, passed to Spain on the 39 and a triple reverse, with Chiapuzio carrying, went for 11 to the 27. Jennings passed successively to Olson (Ironwood) and Splan, to bring the ball to the eight. Splan made no gain and Jennings drove over, then scored the extra point.

South's Effort Fails

Even in an all-star game there is a noticeable difference in play between the first stringers and the reserves and this was obvious in the fourth period. South made a bid for a touchdown, aided by three successive penalties against North. There were several choice morsels of football during the period, but no sustained drive to bring either team to pay dirt.

The starting lineups:

NORTH-Elmblad (L'Anse) and Olson (Ironwood), ends; Doherty (Soo) and Koski (Negaunee), tackles; Doney (Ishpeming) and Rogers (Soo), guards; Sanregret (Houghton), center; Jennings (Negaunee), Berg (L'Anse), Chiapuzio (Bessemer), and Splan (Soo), backfield.

SOUTH-Van Laanen (Iron Mountain) and Finn (Escanaba), ends; Gorrell (Iron Mountain) and Greenwood (Menominee), tackles; Bergstrom (Kingsford) and Anderson (Norway), guards; Sablich (Stambaugh), center; Wickholm (Escanaba); Erspamer (Norway); Radloff (Kingsford) and Haglund (Gladstone), backfield.

Rogers, for the North, and Van Laanen, for the South, were honorary captains.

Every player selected for the all-star squad was used.

Officials: Hiney, Negaunee, referee; Dick Schram, Escanaba, umpire; Wallace Cameron, Gladstone, head linesman, and Martin Trethewy, Houghton, field judge.