

**August 19, 1946**

The Mining Journal  
Marquette, MI

### **Sidelights On All-Star Game**

Negaunee-Negaunee can take a bow smack dab in the middle of the spotlight. The all-star grid game was a great attraction. From the time gates opened until they were closed, there was nothing but the finest of showmanship and sportsmanship. The first all-star game was everything the public had been promised-and more.

Giving the state high school association the benefit of the doubt and conceding it is concerned with possible exploitation of the high school athlete, it is too bad the executive committee and director could not have attended in a body. Maybe that's too much to expect, but their fears, if they were genuine, would have been stilled.

Many men would have dropped plans in the face of a heckling attitude from officialdom, but Oscar Wassberg, Negaunee, who dreamed up the game, persisted. He came through with the finest sports show the Peninsula has had in years. He has every right to be exceptionally proud of the caliber of the performance through every detail of the game.

Vance Hiney, veteran referee, said the line play was "really tough stuff in there" and asserted that with one possible exception he saw nothing last year that compared to what the boys gave Saturday night. Wallace Cameron, who is both a superintendent of schools and football official, said the game was better than nine out of 10 football games during the year.

The boys themselves were happy over it and expressed appreciation for the chance to participate in the first all-star event. They made a great impression during their week in Negaunee. Here's what they said: Breitung Hotel-"We've never had better behaved hotel guests than these high school boys. We've fallen in love with them." Elks and K. of C.-"We had the pleasure of entertaining as clean-cut a bunch of kids as you'd ever want to meet. They were tops." Coach Joe DeCook-"This has been a great week. I never had so much pleasure working with boys. Honestly, it was a thrill to be with them." Coach Ronberg-"I didn't know boys could be so cooperative, so understanding, so quick to get into a team spirit. And they all knew their assignments."

The color of the occasion was heightened by the Negaunee City band with a pre-game concert, and the Ahmed Shrine patrol, in gay and colorful outfits, which drilled in a novelty setting. The floodlights were turned out and the men drilled with small lights on their shoulders and ankles in a red, white and blue color scheme. They got a round of enthusiastic applause from the audience. Bill Jennings caught the fancy of the crowd as he darted in and out and through the south squad most of the night, but the crowd also appreciated the work of Elmblad, L'Anse end, who did an outstanding piece of work. Berg, L'Anse, was also a power in the backfield. There were very few fans from Bessemer, but they could have well been proud of Chiapuzio, a fighting fellow who was in on every play. McCleeland, Calumet, and Sanregret, Houghton, were alternated quite regularly between offense and defense, and they turned in sterling performances. For the south, Wickholm proved himself a power and Haglund, Gladstone's contribution, was always dangerous. Merchiori, Bengry, Erspamer and Greenwood were outstanding and Finn had to be watched constantly for pass receiving.

The game should have been well covered. Three visiting newspapermen were on the field and others in the stands. We felt sorry for Buck Erickson, Ken Gunderman and Jim Ripley, of Iron Mountain, Escanaba and Menominee, respectively. They are from towns "south of the border" and they were hot to see the south team win. But they had to take down a lot of notes about the north team as it piled up a 27-7 lead. Erickson finally broke down and confessed Jennings could make the Menominee range team.