



U.P. FOOTBALL ALL-STAR GAME



All-Star Players Learn More Than Just Football

MARQUETTE, MI – The first U.P. Football All-Star Game in 57 years was held on Saturday, June 28 at the Superior Dome. The game featured eighty-six players from throughout the U.P., as well as thirteen coaches.

In addition to football, players spent the week performing several charitable functions, including a food drive and a youth football camp. They got a chance to feel what it was like to give back to the community and help the young players who aspire to be like them. They were reminded that it wasn't too long ago they were the starry-eyed kids that looked up to the high school football stars of the U.P.

A special guest, Steve Mariucci, also gave the players motivation and words of encouragement at an All-Star Reception for the players and their families. He delivered a message for them to keep the game fun, spend more time with your families, give yourself to charitable causes and that the game of football prepares you for success in life.

Players spent the week making friends and being teammates with opponents they usually considered enemies on the field. Schools and conferences were combined into two teams, East and West. Players quickly found out that their rivals are not much different than they are. Friendships were built; ones that will endure beyond the week. Another good life-lesson to carry forward.

With over 3000 people in attendance, and many more watching the live telecast from home, the game was a success by any measure. The most important measure of success, however, is that a group of outstanding young men took a step toward being productive contributing members of our society. They are responsible, considerate, and hopefully will continue to give back to the people and communities that have helped them on their individual paths of success.

The class of 2008 U.P. Football All-Stars have set the bar high, but there is no doubt the Class of 2009 will represent themselves just as well next year.

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