



U.P. FOOTBALL ALL-STAR GAME



Day 5 (Friday) Youth Camp & Last Practice

MARQUETTE, MI – Friday evening the all-star football players hosted a football camp at the Dome for youth football players in grades 1-6. The youth players were instructed in a proper warm-up and stretching routine prior to beginning the camp. The all-star players then rotated the youth through a variety of stations, which emphasized fundamental football techniques. The all-stars demonstrated the proper stance for each position. The youth also learned how important it is to run a proper route when you are a receiver and what the correct way to get a hand-off from the quarterback is. Defensively, the youth practiced backpedaling and covering an opposing receiver. Quarterback basics were handled by the all-star signal-callers and the youth enthusiastically took to passing the ball to all-star players who ran routes. Kickers also got a chance to “tee it up” by having the all-stars make mock goal-posts with their own arms for the youth to aim at.

Youth players had a feel of the big-time when they got to run a 40 yard dash. The players from the east and west lined the runway and cheered the youth on as they ran as fast as they could through the tunnel. The youth then got high-fives from all of the all-stars before getting a special message from a former NFL player.

Mike Maslowski, former Kansas City Chief player, who owns the franchise single season tackles record, was on hand to motivate the youth and instruct them how important it was to do well in school and work hard at everything you do. Many youth had their picture taken with Maslowski following the camp’s conclusion. All youth in attendance at the camp will receive free admission into the all-star game.

Friday also marked the last day of preparation for the players and coaches before the game. The coaches had the players practice all of their special teams alignments, as well as several actual drives and situations. The players were on high alert, and it was evident that both teams were fine-tuning the plays they felt would give them the best chance for success in the game.

Both teams will practice once on Saturday morning, where they will have each have their final walk-throughs and make any last-minute adjustments. Tension is high and the players are anxious to tackle someone in a different colored jersey.

The U.P. Football All-Star Game will begin at 3 PM. Doors to the Dome will be open at 2 PM. Cost is \$5 at the door. The tailgate, presented by Vango's, will begin at Noon and run up until game-time. The tailgate will be held in the Beacon House parking lot, which is across the street from the Dome.

Saturday morning also has some other events taking place. The high school underclassman Recruiting Combine starts at 9AM in the Dome. Any players in grades 9-12 may attend. Registration may be performed at the door and the cost is \$75. All Combine participants will receive free attendance to the U.P. Football All-Star Game. There will also be a dance clinic for girls in grades 1-5 at the same time in the Dome. Cost is a \$10 donation and walk-ups are encouraged to attend. All activities will take place inside the Dome and all proceeds will be donated to the Beacon House and the U.P. Sports Hall of Fame.

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