



# U.P. FOOTBALL ALL-STAR GAME



## Day 1 of All-Star Week Complete

MARQUETTE, MI – Day 1 of the All-Star week is in the books. What a day! All of the players checked in and each team completed two practices. Both teams got to practice in the Dome, with the East getting the first chance in the afternoon and the West doing so in the evening. It is hard to tell at this point which team has an advantage. Both teams are working hard to prepare themselves for Saturday's game.

The players did not have much chance to relax once they checked in. After getting settled into their rooms and a quick lunch, there was a brief team meeting with all participants. Once the general expectations were given, the group split up and began their practices.

Coach Paul Jacobson, Negaunee, and his East staff had their players in meetings to begin their practice. He will be calling the offense and was discussing blocking schemes, which plays would be most effective, and how they would utilize their strengths, while Todd Kangas, Manistique, had the East Defensive players scheming as to how they would stop the West offense.

Coach Scott Boddy, Iron Mountain, had the West players go right outside for their practice and began to get their players acclimated by performing position-specific drills and fundamentals. Each group of players was taken by the coach that would be working with them for the week. After working individually and seeing how all of the players responded, the group was brought together to work as single offensive and defensive units.

Energy is high and there is electricity in the air surrounding every player and coach. Both teams have lots to prove. The East team has revenge on their minds as they seek to take possession of the All-Star Trophy after seeing it paraded in front of them for the past year by the West teams. The West philosophy is simple: defend what they feel is rightfully theirs. They had a very convincing victory last year and feel they can do the same again.

Other All-Star Updates: The food drive performed Monday for the Beacon House food pantry was able to take in over 700 pounds of donated food, which is greatly appreciated by their staff and residents. That is up over 200 pounds from last year's donation. The Beacon House staff thanks all who contributed.

Econo Foods and Super One groceries also donated power bars, juice and snacks for all of the players and coaches. A thanks also goes out to the Marquette Dance Team for helping to assemble the snacks into goody bags, which were then placed in each room for the players and coaches when they checked in.

Day 2 (Tuesday) will see everyone settle in to a regular routine of two practices, along with Media Day in the evening. Team and individual pictures will be taken and players will be available for interviews to any attending media.

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