



U.P. FOOTBALL ALL-STAR GAME



Day 5 (Friday) Last Practice & All-Star Banquet

MARQUETTE, MI - Friday 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. Tension is high and the players are anxious to tackle someone in a different colored jersey.

Friday evening was the All-Star Banquet, where over three hundred people were in attendance to meet and greet the players. Parents, family and friends saw their players for the first time all week and had a chance to find out what the players have been experiencing during the week. The players and coaches took turns introducing each other, and the night culminated in a motivational message from guest speaker, Mike Maslowski, former Kansas City Chiefs linebacker.

He congratulated the players and encouraged them to continue doing the things that have made them successful thus far. He emphasized that life will always give you obstacles, but if you want something enough, you must work hard and sometimes do things you don't want to, if you are to overcome those obstacles and be successful. Maslowski spoke of his own personal experiences, and the obstacles that he overcame to achieve his dream of playing in the NFL.

The Traveling Trophy was also on display for all to see. Parents and fans saw it up-close for the first time and many took pictures of their players with it individually. The trophy will be presented to the winning team, where it can be passed to other teams representing the winning squad throughout the year, before returning to Marquette for next year's game.

The U.P. Football All-Star Game will begin at 3 PM. Doors to the Dome will be open at 2 PM. Cost is \$6 at the door.

###