



U.P. FOOTBALL ALL-STAR GAME



Post-Game Conclusions

MARQUETTE, MI – What a week! What a game!

The players and coaches put the finishing touches on a full week of activities by taking the field at the Superior Dome in front of 2000 fans. The atmosphere was electric and the fans were excited to see their local U.P. players compete in one more high school football game. Judging by the player and parent interactions, everyone had a good experience and made new friends. Players had a chance to compare their talents to other U.P. all-stars that they previously had only heard about.

For the players not pursuing football in college, the game provided a last chance to put on the pads and have some fun. For the players reporting to college football camp in the fall, they got a taste of playing in a large stadium, as well as a week of practice with the pads on getting used to harder hits and more physical contact. Every player was introduced at pre-game, and got to run through a giant inflatable tunnel.

The game itself was close throughout, with the West scoring first on a run by Josh Siler-Forest Park. The East scored back twice, giving them a touchdown lead just before the half. The first was a run by Gladstone's Kyle Jensen, and also one-yard plunge by quarterback Ivan Niemi-Westwood. The West did get a chance to even the score when they threw a jump ball to Kingsford's Dylan Tengesdahl, who appeared to come down with the ball in the end zone, but he could not hang on for the touchdown. After a scoreless third quarter, the West tied the game with a perfect pass from Nate Sturos-Calumet to Mike Schmaus-Ontonagon. The score remained locked at 14-14 late into the fourth quarter. The East took the lead on a scramble by the athletic quarterback Gerrit Mortensen of St. Ignace. Improvising, Mortensen hit Kollin Jensen of Gladstone, who broke free from his defender and darted into the end zone to put the East ahead for good. The final score was East: 21, West: 14.

The individual awards were as follows: East Offensive MVP: Kollin Jensen-Gladstone, Defensive MVP: Justin Farley-Westwood, Character Award: Aaron Skrenes-Westwood, West Offensive MVP: Josh Siler-Forest Park, West Defensive MVP: Andy Carpenter-Kingsford, Character Award: Blake Frantti-Calumet. Individual awards were decided on by the coaching staffs of each team. The traveling trophy was presented to the East team and coach Todd Kangas-Manistique. A miniature version of the trophy was also presented to Paul Jacobson-Negaunee, who was the head coach for the victorious East team in 2009, and another was presented to Bill Santilli-Forest Park, who coached the West Team to victory in the inaugural 2008 All-Star Game. The traveling trophy may be passed between schools representing the East, then brought back to Marquette for next year's game, where Coach Kangas will receive his miniature trophy for this year's victory. Next year's game has been set for June 25, 2011.

Totals are being finalized and the proceeds will be donated to several U.P. charities and schools.

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