



## U.P. FOOTBALL ALL-STAR GAME



### Day 4 (Thursday) Youth Camp

MARQUETTE, MI – Thursday evening the all-star football players hosted a football camp at the Dome for youth football players in the area. 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 take a hand-off from the quarterback. Defensively, the youth practiced backpedaling and covering an opposing receiver. The all-star lineman taught them how to stay low and properly use their hands when blocking an opponent. 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. The youth also got to practice diving catches by leaping into a large padded high jump pit, then show off their favorite touchdown dances.

Youth players had a feel of the big-time when they got to run a 40 yard dash, which was timed electronically, just like the pros. 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. All youth in attendance at the camp received a camp certificate and free admission to the all-star game.

There is only one more day of practice left before the two teams take to the field on Saturday. Both teams have come quite a long way since the beginning of the week and are looking like teams who have played together for an entire season. The players have embraced each other as teammates and it shows in their chemistry on the field. Saturday should be a very exciting match-up.

Friday evening is the All-Star Banquet, which will provide the players a chance to see their families and tell them all about how the week has gone. It is being held at the NMU University Center, and the guest speaker is Mike Maslowski, former Kansas City Chiefs linebacker.

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.

Saturday morning also has some other events taking place. The high school underclassman 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 \$55. All Combine participants will receive free attendance to the U.P. Football All-Star Game.

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