



## U.P. FOOTBALL ALL-STAR GAME

### Houghton, Rapid River & Other U.P. Schools Get All-Star Donations

MARQUETTE, MI - The U.P. Football All-Star Game continued its giving ways by announcing that two U.P. high school football teams will receive donations from the game this year. Houghton and Rapid River will each have money donated directly to their football programs.

“When this game was started, it was always a goal that we would eventually be able to donate directly to all of the high school football programs throughout the U.P.”, said Todd Goldbeck.

The schools are picked at random, similar to the NBA lottery draft. The teams that have the most wins have the least chance to be picked. Once a school has been selected, that school will be removed from the lottery until all other schools have also been chosen.

“The lottery is a very unique and fun way to select the schools”, said Goldbeck. “The schools that need the most help right now will receive benefits first. It is very important that all U.P. programs are supported so that each school can maintain a competitive team for these kids to play on.”

Every U.P. football program will get an equal donation from the all-star game, in the amount of \$1000, so the more successful the all-star game becomes, the more teams that can be selected as beneficiaries each year. It is a future goal to provide a donation to one team from each of the five conferences each year.

“This game would not be possible without the schools providing a positive environment for all of these student-athletes to succeed. Giving back to their football programs will hopefully help each school continue their football tradition”, states Goldbeck.

The football team of each school may choose to use the money in a number of different ways. Equipment, maintenance, weight room and uniforms are just a few places that the school may decide will be the most effective use of the funds.

In addition to the two schools selected, the East and West all-star head coaches will receive half of the footballs used during the week leading up to the game. There are 36 new leather footballs and the all-star coaches usually split them up between their staff. Each year, a full set of new leather game balls will be used, then donated to the teams of each head coach. This year, Manistique and Lake Linden-Hubbell will get the footballs.

Also, all of the practice jerseys were donated to U.P. football programs. There is a full set of white jerseys with red numbers that went to Forest Park, and the black jerseys with white numbers were given to Iron Mountain. There were 45 jerseys of each color, which the schools can use for their freshman or JV teams, as well as their varsity practice.

“When it is all said and done, I think the all-star game did very well this year”, said Goldbeck. “We gave back to several different groups and the players had fun throughout the week. That is what the game is all about.”

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