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## All-Stars Teach Kids the Basics

MARQUETTE - Approximately 50 area children took to the Superior Dome in Marquette on Friday night for the Upper Peninsula All-Star Football Youth Camp.

The East and West All-Star teams split into separate skill groups, and coached first through seventh graders on football fundamentals.

"For the All-Star players, it gives them a chance to be the coaches, and for the kids that are here, we just want to emphasize the fundamentals of football," Todd Goldbeck of Xcel Sports Training said. "We're working on good stances, catching, taking hand-offs, and all those repetitive things that happen in football."

After spending about 10 minutes at a station, the kids huddled with the All-Star players, broke, then moved on to work with a new set of players at the next station.

"This is a way for the All-Star kids and the younger kids to really connect," Goldbeck said. "The kids have watched them from sitting in the stands, and now they actually get to be right down on the field playing catch with the high school players they look up to. It's a special bond they are creating."

It was hard to tell who was having more fun; the kids or the All-Stars.

"I do some reffing, but (coaching like this) is a little bit different," Gladstone wide receiver Michael Coyne said. "It's nice to see the kids out here, and nice to get a chance to help them out. Just fooling around and putting a smile on their faces, it's nice to see them having fun."

Coyne was helping out at the quarterback station, catching passes from kids as they were coached by North Central quarterback Brian Ve eser.

"It's good to see kids out playing football and enjoying it," Coyne said.

Nic Tuma of Marquette was one of the kids who had a lot of time throwing passes with Ve eser and Coyne.

"They taught me how to use my shoulder to throw the ball, which gives you more power and lets you throw farther," Tuma said. "He (Ve eser) also showed me how to hide a fake and pull (the ball) out and throw it.

"I want to be a quarterback, and this is a lot of fun," added Tuma. "It's cool hanging out with all the guys."

With such a unique opportunity to spend some one-on-one time with some of the players they've watched play, it is easy to say the clinic has expanded the kids' football experience.

"We just want to keep them enthusiastic about the game of football," Goldbeck said.