

St. Ignace News  
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## West Downs East 38 - 14 in U.P. Football All-Star Game at Superior Dome

MARQUETTE – Turnovers made the difference in the annual Upper Peninsula Football All-Star game as the West capitalized on three East mistakes in the first half, en route to a 38-14 victory at the Superior Dome in Marquette Saturday, June 28.

This was the first time the event was held since 1951.

On the opening possession, the East lost the football on an attempt to field a punt. Four plays later, the West's Ethan Saver (Menominee) scored on a five-yard run. Nick Koskiniemi (Calumet) kicked the extra point for a 7-0 West lead at the 8:22 mark.

Seven minutes later, the Copper Kings kicker added a 16-yard field goal to build the West lead to 10-0.

The West continued to build on its lead, using an offensive air attack to score its next two touchdowns. West quarterback Emmett Bjorn (Calumet) connected with Ryan Perocheschi (Norway) on an 11-yard scoring pass, then, from 17 yards away from the end zone, hit Shaver for a touchdown pass. After Koskiniemi's successful extra point kicks, the West took a commanding 24-0 lead.

The East scored two second-half touchdowns as Casey Hares (Ishpeming) and Pete Formolo (Sault Ste. Marie) each answered from one-yard out. J.P. Theriault (Sault Ste. Marie) kicked the extra points.

The West closed out its scoring attack as Josh Droese (Kingsford) and Marcus Dunbar (Wakefield-Marenisco) scored second half touchdowns. Koskiniemi added the extra points.

## 86 Players on All-Star Team

There were 86 players from 36 schools participating in the East-West All-Star game, playing in front of more than 3,200 fans and media. Area players included: St. Ignace – Nick Montie, Derek Marshall, and James Peterson; Pickford – Richard Gibson, Joe Jenkins, and Jordan Potter; Engadine – John Troyer; Cedarville – Sheldon Tassier; Rudyard – Pete Lawlor; Sault Ste. Marie – JP Theriault, Pete Formolo, Zack Anderson, Nick Cushman, and Nate Moran.

For the East team, there were also four players from Negaunee, three from Powers-North Central, Marquette, Manistique, Rapid River, and North Dickson, two from Ishpeming, Gladstone, and Westwood, and one each from Escanaba and Bark River-Harris.

St. Ignace's Nick Montie and Engadine's John Troyer were named captains for the East during the week of practice.

The West team included five players from state champions Menominee (Division V) and Crystal Falls-Forest Park (Division VIII), five from Stephenson, four from Ewen Trout-Creek and Kingsford, three from Calumet, Norway, and L'Anse, two from Iron Mountain, West Iron County, and Baraga, and one from Wakefield-Marenisco, Houghton, Bessemer, Lake Linden-Hubbell, and Ontonagon.

## History of U.P. All-Star Game

The first Upper Peninsula all-star football game was played in 1946 at Negaunee, with the North defeating the South 21-7. In the second year, the North posted a 25-6 win over the South.

In the four years that followed, the South prevailed 6-0, 7-0, 6-0, and 13-7, however, the annual game ended in 1951.

Todd Goldbeck of Madison, Wisconsin, founder of Xcel Sports Training, restored the annual Upper Peninsula East-West Football All-Star Game after a 57-year hiatus.

Mr. Goldbeck's company specializes in holding Recruiting Combines, which are programs designed to test high school athletes in various physical categories that college football programs across the country use to assess high school talent. The Combines worked well in the U.P. and the players who attended were excited when asked if there would be any interest in a U.P. Football All-Star Game.

"We are excited to continue the tradition that started back in the 1940's," said Goldbeck. "This is definitely the start of an annual event, and a great way to give back to the U.P."

Proceeds for the game and the week's activities were donated to the Beacon House and the U.P. Sports Hall of Fame.



St. Ignace (LaSalle) players Nick Montie, James Peterson and Derek Marshall.



Pickford players Jordan Potter, Richard Gibson and Joe Jenkins.



Sheldon Tassier, John Troyer and Pete Lawlor