

Soo Evening News
Monday, June 30, 2008

West Rolls Past East In First U.P. All-Star Football Game Since 1951

MARQUETTE - The West team built a large halftime lead and cruised to a 38-14 victory over the East in the Upper Peninsula Football All-Star Game at the Superior Dome Saturday.

This year's event was the first U.P. All-Star game in 57 years.

Eastern Upper Peninsula players on the East roster included Sault High's Zach Anderson, Nick Cushman, Pete Formolo, Nate Moran and J.P. Theriault. Other area players were Richard Gibson, Joe Jenkins and Jordan Potter of Pickford; Derek Marshall and James Peterson of St. Ignace; Pete Lawlor of Rudyard; Sheldon Tassier of Cedarville and John Troyer of Engadine.

Pete Formolo, of Sault Ste. Marie had a rushing touchdown for the East.

Sault High's Zach Anderson did not participate in the game because of a knee injury he sustained in practice earlier in the week. Anderson, who has already signed a football scholarship with Northern Michigan University, is not expected to need surgery for the injury, which was diagnosed as a minor sprain.

Former Detroit Lions coach Steve Mariucci was the keynote speaker for the All-Star Game Reception Thursday evening at NMU.

The West's roster featured a combined 11 players from Division 5 defending state champion Menominee and Division 8 state titlist Crystal Falls-Forest Park

Calumet quarterback Emmett Bjorn was named the West's offensive MVP following the game, and threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Ryan Peroceschi of Norway and a 22-yarder toss to Menominee's Ethan Shaver.

Bjorn passed for 133 yards, completing 12 of 15.

Shaver, who is also heading to Michigan Tech to play football, finished with a combined 113 yards running, passing and receiving.

Marcus Dunbar and Josh Droese also had rushing touchdowns for the West in the second half. Droese's was a 68-yard touchdown scamper.

NMU recruit Cody Kangas of Manistique led the East in yardage with 69 rushing and 58 passing. He was named offensive MVP for the East. Casey Hares of Ishpeming, another NMU recruit, had the other rushing touchdown for the East.

The final unofficial yardage gave the West a 311-227 advantage, although many of the East's yards came on a few plays late in the second half.

The game was presented by Xcel Sports Training. Teams practiced at Northern Michigan University in Marquette the entire week, stayed in the dorms and ate at the NMU Wildcat cafeteria.

Next year's game has already been set for June 27, 2009.