



U.P. FOOTBALL ALL-STAR GAME



Day 1 of All-Star Week Complete

MARQUETTE, MI – Day 1 of the All-Star week is in the books. What a day! All of the players checked in and each team got to practice twice. The East practiced inside yesterday afternoon and last night, while the West was outside for both practices. It is hard to tell which team has an advantage, but they are definitely using two different philosophies.

The East team performed many drills and partial sets, but didn't have much one-on-one contact or hitting. Day 1 concluded for the East with a giant game of scatterball in the Dome. For the West, it was full pads for both practices with lots of hitting.

The West practice resembled the first week of any practice, with all of the players eager to show each other who was better and who could hit the hardest. They were holding nothing back and the adrenaline was high for the West. Each team appears to know its strengths, and are playing to them.

Time will tell which strategy will suit each team best, but after 56 years of no U.P. Football All-Star Game, it is safe to say that the game has not lost any luster while sitting on the shelf for that long. Energy is high and there is electricity in the air surrounding every player and coach. This game is back with a vengeance!

Other All-Star Updates: The food drive performed Monday for the Beacon House food pantry was able to take in over 500 pounds of donated food, which is greatly appreciated by their staff and residents. Great job to all who contributed. A special thanks goes out to the Marquette High School Dance Team for helping with the Food Drive.

Econo Foods and Super One groceries also donated power bars, juice and snacks for all of the players and coaches. The Marquette Dance Team assembled the snacks into goody bags, which were then placed in each room for the players and coaches when they checked in.

Tuesday evening will serve as the Media Day at the Dome. From 7PM-9PM, players will get their individual and team pictures taken. They also will be available for interviews with any media that is on hand. ESPN Radio will be doing a live broadcast from the Dome, as will TV6. Several newspapers have indicated they will be present speaking with the players and coaches.

Wednesday's schedule has been modified to include a very unique event for the players...an All-Star Player Challenge. The Strongest Man, the Fastest Man, the Quarterback and Receiver Challenge, as well as a Kicking and Punting Challenge. The Player Challenge will be in the Dome from 1:30PM-4PM. The competitions will be light-hearted, but are already being intensely discussed by the players, as everyone is out to showcase their physical prowess and defend their school's reputation. The coaches will be taking a much-deserved break by shooting a round of golf at one of the local courses, complements of the All-Star Game.

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