



# U.P. FOOTBALL ALL-STAR GAME



## Day 4 (Thursday) All-Star Reception

MARQUETTE, MI – What a night! Thursday saw the return of Steve Mariucci to the U.P. Four Hundred people were in attendance at NMU’s University Center to meet and greet the players. Parents, family and friends saw their players for the first time all week and had a chance to find out first-hand what the players had been experiencing during the first part of the week. The players and coaches took turns introducing each other, and the night culminated in an emotional message from Steve Mariucci. His passion for U.P. football was evident in every statement, right down to his special U.P. tie clip.

He congratulated the players and encouraged them to continue doing the things that have made them successful thus far. Academics, hard work, determination, keeping the game of football fun and connecting with your parents and families were all addressed.

The Emmy-winning documentary “Father Figures”, produced by ESPN and NFL Films, which showcased Mariucci, was shown prior to his speech. The crowd on hand gave Mariucci an enthusiastic standing ovation to end the program.

The Traveling Trophy was also on display for all to see. Many players took the opportunity to get their picture taken with it individually. The trophy will be presented to the winning team, where it can be passed to other teams representing the winning squad throughout the year, before returning to Marquette for next year’s game.

The U.P. Football All-Star Ring was also unveiled. The ring is produced by Jostens and will be available for any players or coaches that participate in the game. The ring is silver and the crown features a silver U.P. silhouette, inside a black football surrounded by diamonds. Each player or coach will have their name, school, position, and year on the ring. The rings will be exclusively available to players and coaches, and the design will remain the same for future years as well.

On Friday evening, the All-Star players will conduct a youth camp at the Dome from 7PM-9PM. Any youth players in Grades 1-7 can attend for a \$10 donation to the all-star game. Saturday morning at 9AM will be the high school underclassman Recruiting Combine at the Dome. Any players in grades 9-12 may attend. Registration may be performed at the door and the cost is \$75. All Combine participants will receive free attendance to the U.P. Football All-Star Game. There will also be a dance clinic for girls in grades 1-5 at the same time in the Dome. Cost is a \$10 donation and walk-ups are encouraged to attend. All activities will take place inside the Dome and all proceeds will be donated to the Beacon House and the U.P. Sports Hall of Fame.

The U.P. Football All-Star Game will begin at 3 PM. Doors to the Dome will be open at 2 PM. Cost is \$5 at the door. The tailgate, presented by Vango's, will begin at Noon and run up until game-time.

###