

U.P. Football All-Star Game schedule, rosters finalized

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By Journal Sports Staff , The Mining Journal

MARQUETTE - Nearly two dozen Superiorland players along with three coaches have been named to the rosters for the Upper Peninsula Football All-Star Game to be played on the final Saturday of this month.

Organizers have also finalized the schedule for the week leading up to the game, to be played at the Superior Dome at 3 p.m. on June 30. Doors open at 2 p.m. for the fifth edition of the game since it was restarted after a more than 50-year hiatus in 2008.

The game's 81 players, all seniors who have completed their high school playing careers, are again split into East and West squads, with all 23 from the area except those in Baraga County on the East unit. In fact, exactly half of the East squad is made up of players from Marquette, Alger, Luce and Schoolcraft County schools.

Article Photos



Marquette's Garrett Pentecost rushes past Cheboygan's defense for a first down in the first quarter on Sept. 2. (Journal file photo)

The rosters feature multiple players from each of the four schools that made the 11-man football playoffs last fall, plus one from the eight-man playoff team at Superior Central. They include six players from Marquette Senior High School, four from Ishpeming, and two each from Westwood from Munising.

Negaunee, which missed making the playoffs as a wild-card, five-win team, will also send two players to this month's game, as will Newberry, which was 4-5.

One player each is coming from Gwinn, which suspended its season partway through last fall, Manistique, L'Anse and Baraga.

The coaching staffs include Bill Harrison of Gwinn for the East and Doug Hodges and Eric DeMink of Baraga for the West.

The game's organizers will donate proceeds to Beacon House, the U.P. Sports Hall of Fame and the football program at two U.P. high schools to be determined by a drawing among those that haven't been chosen in the past.

Several other schools will also receive donations of all-star game equipment, including practice jerseys and footballs.

Activities are scheduled for each day during the week before the game and include the following:

Monday, June 25 - Players and coaches check-in at Northern Michigan University's Meyland Hall; food drive for Beacon House pantry at check-in.

Tuesday - Team and individual photos in the evening as part of media day.

Wednesday - Players Skill Challenge, including competitions for fastest man; strongest man; and challenges for receivers, quarterbacks, kicking and punting.

Thursday - Players and coaches travel to Big Bay to visit the Bay Cliff Health Camp, a facility for children with disabilities, and spend time with campers showing them football drills and joining them for dinner.

Friday - All-Star Banquet, including guest speaker Eric Beverly, a former Detroit Lions and Atlanta Falcons NFL player.

Saturday - In the morning preceding the game, the Underclassmen Testing Combine, for football players that will enter grades 9-12 to measure speed, strength and agility.