

44TH ANNUAL

Minnesota Football Showcase (MFCA All-Star Football Game)

3:00 PM Saturday December 3, 2016 * U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis

December 2016 Game Summary

South 15, North 7

Head Coaches: North – Jeff Ferguson (Totino-Grace); South – Mike Grant (Eden Prairie)

Now renamed the Minnesota Football Showcase and under the primary sponsorship of the Minnesota Vikings, the MFCA All-Star Football Game entered a brand new era on December 3, 2016. The All-Star Game made its indoor debut at the spectacular U.S. Bank Stadium in downtown Minneapolis. The All-Star Game was played as a post-season event for the first time, after being played as a summer event for 54 years.

What happens when you take 94 of the best players in Minnesota (including 45 All-State players), have 16 of the top coaches in Minnesota (including 8 MFCA Hall of Famers), practice for three days and play in the best football venue in the world? Answer: the defenses dominate, the longest scoring play is a defensive touchdown and an offensive lineman becomes an Offensive Most Valuable Player while performing as a fullback. All of that happened in the 44th Annual All-Star Football Game. The game was managed by Dave Fritze and his staff from the MFCA.

The South defeated the North 15-7 and the South All-Stars now lead the overall North-South series 13-10-1.

The first quarter was scoreless. The North's touchdown came with 5:42 remaining in the second quarter. Completing a six-play, 46-yard drive, Jaran Roste (QB Alexandria) hit Michael Wandmaker (WR Andover) with a 7-yard touchdown pass. The PAT was good by Connor Cusick (PK Virginia). The halftime score was North 7, South 0.

The third quarter was also scoreless, making the score North 7, South 0 after three quarters.

The South All-Stars scored all of their points in the fourth quarter, taking the lead on a two-yard touchdown run by Christophor Bain (RB, Grand Meadow) and a two-point conversion run by Eric Wilson (OL/FB Benilde-St. Margaret's) with 10:11 remaining. The score culminated a 16-play, 55-yard drive and put the South in the lead 8-7.

With 6:25 remaining, the South sealed the victory with a 40-yard pass interception and return for a touchdown by Brock Boltmann (DB, Edina). The PAT by Grant Ryerse (PK East Ridge) was good to complete the scoring.

MVPs: North – Offense Sam Gibas (RB, Elk River), Defense Joe Russell (DB, Totino-Grace); South – Offense Eric Wilson (OL/FB, Benilde-St. Margaret's), Defense Brock Boltmann (DB, Edina)

Over 100 All-Star Game alumni players and coaches attended the All-Star Game and the first-ever All-Star Alumni reception.

In addition to the All-Star Football game, the Minnesota Football Showcase featured performances by the Lakeville North High School Marching Band, the Eastview Lightning Dance Team and Cheer Teams from Brainerd, Egan, East Ridge, Edina, St. Michael-Albertville and White Bear Lake.

The 43rd annual summer high school All Star football game was held on Sat. June 25th at St. Cloud State University. The game, sponsored by the MFCA and in conjunction with the Randy Shaver Tackle Cancer Foundation, was played at Husky Stadium once again. The game continued the recent tradition of a "North vs. South" format. Mike Rowe, of Cold Spring high school, was the head coach for the North and Matt Gegenheimer, of Prior Lake, was the South head coach. The game was once again managed by Dave Fritze and his staff of the MFCA.

The North team displayed a versatile offense in outscoring the South 38-19. The game was close at half time with the North leading 14-13. The North then utilized some big plays in the second half to pull away for the one sided victory.

Game awards went to standout players for both teams. Beau Pauly of Becker was named as the Defensive Player of the Game for the North team with Kyle Lange of Upsala/Swanville named Defensive Player of the Game for the South. Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton's Blake Kragnes was named Offensive MVP for the North.

The win by the North closes the gap between the North and the South in "head to head" competition with the South holding a narrow 12-10-1.

The All Star game will be seeing some major changes after this year's contest. The next All Star game will be played in December at the new Viking facility, U. S. Bank stadium.