



# MINNESOTA FOOTBALL SHOWCASE (MFCA ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME)



## DECEMBER 2016 ALL-STAR GAME FACTS & FIGURES (And Ironies)

1. All-Star Game firsts:

- First All-Star Game under the new name “Minnesota Football Showcase”
- First All-Star Game under the sponsorship of the Minnesota Vikings
- First All-Star Game at U.S. Bank Stadium
- First All-Star Game played indoors
- First All-Star Game played in the month of December (also the first Minnesota high school football game ever played in the month of December)
- First time that two All-Star Football games were played in the same calendar year (just over 5 months apart – June 25 and December 3)
- Most MFCA Hall of Fame coaches to participate in a single All-Star Football Game = 8
- The December 2016 game was the first to have two inducted MFCA Hall of Fame members as the head coaches (Mike Grant 2014, Jeff Ferguson 2015).
- In the current annual All-Star series Mike Grant becomes the first three-time All-Star Game head coach (and also the first with a 3-0 All-Star Game record)

2. First time in a long time:

- First time that the All-Star teams stayed in a hotel since the very first All-Star game in 1945.
- First time that the North and South All-Star teams practiced at separate locations since 1946
- First game to have only two touchdowns scored since 1996 (fifth overall – 1957, 1960, 1993, 1996, December 2016)
- North player Josh Heiman was the first All-Star player from Ely High School since Paul Raunikar (North) in 1976. This is a span of 40 years and 42 All-Star games.
- Welcome back! In December 2016, these schools have player representatives in the All-Star Football Game for the first time in more than 10 years: Big Lake (2003), Elk River (2004), Ely (1976), Greenway (1999)
- This was the third All-Star Game to feature two head coaches who opposed each other in a State Championship game the previous season (also in 1976 and 1995).

3. Gary Sloan (South Assistant Coach, Grand Meadow) is the ninth coach to participate in the All-Star Game while being the reigning MFCA “Coach of the Year”

4. Minnesota becomes the 15th state to play its statewide All-Star Football game as a post-season event. The others are:

Alaska	Kentucky	South Carolina
Alabama-Mississippi	Maryland	Tennessee
Florida	Mississippi	Vermont
Georgia	Nevada (Southern)	Virginia
Hawaii	North Carolina-South Carolina	

5. The South now leads the overall North-South series 13-10-1. The South leads the current North-South series 5-2.

6. Players and coaches representing a record 89 schools and 37 sub-districts participated in the December 2016 All-Star Game.

7. Larry Thompson (Lakeville South) served as a South assistant coach in this All-Star game. It was the final game of Thompson’s 38-year head coaching career. Thompson was the Lakeville head coach from 1979 to 2004 and the Lakeville South head coach from 2005 to 2016. In addition to leading teams to six Prep Bowls and winning three state championships, Thompson coached in two All-Star games (1985 and December 2016) and coached 33 players (25 Lakeville, 8 Lakeville South) who participated in the All-Star Game. Larry Thompson was inducted into the MFCA Hall of Fame in 2014.

8. Largest and smallest schools represented in 2016:

Largest = Minnetonka (enrollment 2,940)  
Smallest = Cromwell-Wright (enrollment 76)

9. First time representatives in December 2016:

Providence Academy, SMB Wolfpack

10. Twin brothers in the Minnesota All-Star Football Game?

Zachary and Joshua Ojile are the fourth set of twin brothers in the All-Star Game, and the first since 2007.

11. We have 55 two-generation families that have participated in the All-Star Football Game (families where a father and a son (or grandfather and grandson) have both played in the All-Star Game). Three were three identified for this game:

Year	Relationship	Name	School/City	Team	Position	
1987	Father	Kevin DeVore	Bloomington	Jefferson	Metro	OT
2016	Son	Graham DeVore	Mahtomedi	North	TE	
1986	Father	Chris Mussman	Owatonna	Outstate	NG	
2016	Son	Jack Mussman	St. Cloud Tech	North	OL	
1993	Father	Pete Smith	Cromwell	Outstate	WR	
2016	Son	Zion Smith	Cromwell-Wright	North	ILB	

12. Game records: no game records were set or tied in this All-Star Game

13. Weather:

- 32 = outside temperature at game time; however it was a climate controlled 68 inside U.S. Bank Stadium

14. Most Valuable Player Awards:

- The All-Star Game MVPs were from Class 4A, 5A and 6A (2). This is the first time that a Class 6A player (2) received an MVP Award since 2014.
- The North Defensive MVP Award won by Joe Russell (Totino-Grace, DB) is the fourth for a Totino-Grace player and the first since 2014.
- The North Offensive MVP Award won by Sam Gibas (Elk River, RB) is the second for an Elk River player and the first since 1989.
- The South Offensive MVP Award won by Eric Wilson (Benilde-St. Margaret's, OL/FB) is the first for a Benilde-St. Margaret's player.
- The South Defensive MVP Award won by Brock Boltmann (Edina, DB) is the second for an Edina player and the first since 1958 (Jim Moe, Lineman, South).

15. How many All-Star players have all of the following honors: All-State, State Football Champion and All-Star Game MVP Award winner? There are now 15 All-Star players to have all of these honors, including three in this game:

- Sam Gibas (North, Elk River, RB)
- Joe Russell (North, Totino-Grace, DB)
- Eric Wilson (South, Benilde-St. Margaret's, OL/FB)

16. Connor Cusick (North, Virginia, PK) scored on a PAT. He is the first Virginia player to score in the All-Star Game since Jim Marcella in 1975. This is a span of 41 years and 42 All-Star games.

17. Most starters: Totino-Grace had three players in the North starting line-up (1 offense, 2 defense) and Champlin Park had two players in the North starting line-up (1 offense, 1 defense).

18. How many All-Star Games have included players from all State Championship teams of the previous season = 6  
This occurred in six All-Star Games:

Five classes: 1978, 1981, 1988

Six classes: 2000, 2009

**Seven classes: December 2016**

19. How many MFCA “Mr. Football Award” winners have played in the All-Star Football Game? Six

First presented in 2004, the “Mr. Football Award” is an annual award recognizing Minnesota’s best high school football player. The Mr. Football Award is sponsored by the Minnesota Football Coaches Association and the Minnesota Vikings. Six winners of the “Mr. Football Award” have played in the All-Star Football Game:

Year	First Name	Last Name	School/City	Team	Position
2005	Nick	Mertens	East Grand Forks	Outstate	QB, PK
2009	Varmah	Sonie	Apple Valley	Metro	DB, WR
2010	Zach	Vraa	Rosemount	Metro	WR
2013	Bridgeport	Tusler	Osseo	North	INJD, RB
2015	Robbie	Grimsley	Hutchinson	South	WR, KR, PR, DB
Dec 2016	Wade	Sullivan	Lakeville North	South	RB, KR, PR

20. Players who scored defensive touchdowns in the All-Star Football Game = 15 players in 12 All-Star Games

The defensive touchdown scored by Brock Boltmann (South, DB, Edina) was the 15th defensive touchdown scored in the All-Star Game and the first since 2011.

Irony: the last two defensive touchdowns scored in the All-Star Game occurred at U.S. Bank Stadium (December 2016) and TCF Bank Stadium (2011).

21. Christophor Bain (South, RB, Grand Meadow) scored a rushing touchdown on a two-yard run. He is the fifth player from tiny Grand Meadow High School (enrollment 95) to score in the All-Star Game. Grand Meadow is tied with Eden Prairie, Hutchinson, Rocori, Rosemount and Totino-Grace for second most players (5) to score in the All-Star Game. Cretin-Derham Hall leads with seven players.

22. Christophor Bain (South, RB, Grand Meadow) is the ninth 9-Man player to score in the All-Star Game and the first since 2014. His touchdown was the fifth rushing touchdown scored by a 9-Man player in the All-Star Game and the first since 2009 (Kevin Lindh, Outstate, RB Houston).

23. How many All-Star head coaches have coached All-Star MVP award winners from their own high school team? Eight

Jeff Ferguson (North, Totino-Grace) becomes the eighth head coach to do this (MVP Joe Russell, Totino-Grace, DB, MVP North Defense).

24. The last two South All-Stars head coaches have both been from the West Metro-South sub-district (Matt Gegenheimer, Prior Lake in June 2016 and Mike Grant, Eden Prairie in December 2016)

25. With the unique circumstance of having two All-Star games played in calendar year 2016, here are some facts regarding combined participation in both the June 2016 and December 2016 All-Star games:

- Schools/teams with players in both All-Star games = 33
- Most total players in both 2016 All-Star games = 5 (East Ridge)
- Schools/teams with participants (players or coaches) in both All-Star games = 38
- Most total participants in both 2016 All-Star games = 6 (Totino-Grace)
- Schools/teams with coaches in both All-Star games = 2 (Blaine, Delano)
- Mankato East was the only school to have an All-Star team captain in both All-Star games played in 2016 (Logan Swanson in June 2016 and Desmond Bassett in December 2016).