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**April 2, 2009**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PLAYERS ANNOUNCED FOR MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME JUNE 27**

The names of the 86 players who will participate in the 36th Annual Minnesota High School All-Star Football Game have been announced by the Minnesota Football Coaches Association. The 2009 All-Star Football Game will be held on Saturday June 27 at Husky Stadium on the campus of St. Cloud State University. The kick-off will be at 7:00 PM. This will be the fifth year that St. Cloud State has hosted the All-Star Football Game.

The All-Star Football Game will showcase outstanding senior players from the 2008 high school football season. Players and coaches representing 76 schools and 31 conferences will participate in this year's game. They were selected by members of the Minnesota Football Coaches Association.

The 2009 All-Star Game will be the 36th in the current annual series and the 47th overall. For the 30th year, the game will feature the Metro All-Stars versus the Outstate All-Stars. Through 29 games, the Outstate All-Stars lead the series 15-14. In the 2008 game, quarterback Greg Morse of St. Paul Como Park threw for 200 yards and connected on two touchdown passes, rallying the Metro All-Stars to a 22-17 victory over the Outstate All-Stars.

The 2009 All-Star Game will include 14 players from the 2008 Associated Press All-State First Team, including James Peterson of Blaine, the Associated Press Player of the Year. Seven players from the All-State Second Team will also participate in this year's game.

Among the players selected are University of Minnesota recruits Matt Garin of Eastview and Josh Champion of Fergus Falls. Also selected were Division IAA recruits Damon Andrews of Triton (North Dakota), Marcus Binns of Cretin-Derham Hall (UND), Tyler Gimmestad of Marshall (NDSU), Cole Jirik of Northfield (NDSU), Bruce Manz of Buffalo (South Dakota), Taylor Nelson of Minnetonka (NDSU), Terrell Sinkfield of Hopkins (Northern Iowa), Varmah Sonie of Apple Valley (Northern Iowa, Minnesota's Mr. Football 2008), Tobi Saporu of Blaine (Northern Iowa), Blair Townsend of Coon Rapids (North Dakota), Kevin Vaadeland of Park Rapids (NDSU), A.J. VanVoorhis of Champlin Park (NDSU) and Cooper Wahlo, Jr. of Woodbury (NDSU).

The Head Coaches for the 2009 All-Star Football Game are John DenHartog of Hopkins (Metro) and Mark Esch of Mankato West (Outstate). Together, they have a combined career head coaching record of 101 wins and 66 losses.

**Co-Sponsored by the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association**  
**Game Director - Dave Fritze \* 1182 Lexington Ridge Court \* Eagan MN 55123\* (C) 651-230-1007**  
**Assistant Directors: Mike Fritze and Jim Becker**  
**Public Relations / Game Historian: Dave Giles**

Assisting John DenHartog with the Metro All-Stars are coaches Marc Franz of Rogers, Dick Gaughran of Eden Prairie, Dave Hopkins of Holy Family Catholic, Beau LaBore of Woodbury and Mike Zweber of Lakeville North.

Assisting Mark Esch with the Outstate All-Stars are coaches James Cortez of Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg (Class 1A State Champion), Jason Freed of Houston (9-Man State Champion), Todd Oye of Luverne, Vern Schnathorst of Detroit Lakes and Scott Tschimperle of Glencoe-Silver Lake (Class 3A State Champion).

The 2009 Honorary Coaches are Stan Skjei of Bloomington Jefferson (Metro) and Deryl Ramey of Brainerd, formerly Head Coach at Willmar (Outstate). Skjei and Ramey were the Head Coaches in the 1988 All-Star Football Game.

For the 11th year, Gustavus Adolphus College (St. Peter) will host the All-Star Football training camp. The players and coaches will report to Gustavus on Sunday June 21 to begin the seven-day camp. The teams will travel from St. Peter to St. Cloud on Saturday June 27 to play the All-Star Game at St. Cloud State University.

Tickets can be purchased from the high school coach in your community. Tickets will also be available at the Husky Stadium gate on June 27.

Here are some facts regarding the 2009 rosters:

Most representatives (one school) = 3: Eastview (3 players), Hopkins (2 players, one coach), Woodbury (2 players, one coach)

Most representatives (one conference) = 14: Lake Conference (12 players, 2 assistant coaches)

Largest and smallest schools represented: Eden Prairie (enrollment 3,099) and Verndale (enrollment 111)

First time representatives in 2009: Holy Family Catholic, Lakeview (Cottonwood), MACCRAY

In 2009, these schools are represented in the All-Star Football Game for the first time in many years:

Duluth East (1989), New Ulm Cathedral (1998), St. Bernard's (1990), Verndale (1998), Virginia (1985), Warroad (1992), Winona (1996)

All-Star Game History: The Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association is proud of this game and its history. The Minnesota High School All-Star Football Game, an annual event since 1974, was first played in 1945. High School All-Star Football games were played in 1945, 1946 and 1952 through 1960 before the current annual series began at Memorial Stadium in 1974. Originally played in a North versus South format, the current Metro versus Outstate format began in 1980. Through the years, over 3,600 players and 413 coaches have participated in this game. A total of 67 players from the Minnesota High School All-Star Football Game have gone on to play or coach in the National Football League.

To honor the players and coaches who have contributed to the history of this game, the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association has established a History section on the All-Star Football Game website at <http://www.allstarfootball.org/>. In the History section, you will find the following information: history overview, all-star game results, coaches' history, all-star rosters by year, participation totals by school, players and coaches by school, game records, game alumni in the NFL and game facts. The History section includes all Minnesota All-Star Football Games from 1945 through 2008 (46 games overall).

A complete list of the Metro and Outstate players and coaches follows. Questions may be directed to Game Director Dave Fritze at 651-230-1007. Game history questions may be directed to Dave Giles at [dtkgiles@yahoo.com](mailto:dtkgiles@yahoo.com) or 651-274-9359.



# MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME



## 2008 METRO ALL-STARS ROSTER

| Name                | Position | School/City            | Conference         |
|---------------------|----------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Rob Bathe           | OL       | Wayzata                | Classic Lake       |
| Marcus Binns        | RB       | Cretin-Derham Hall     | Suburban East      |
| Tate Christopherson | DB       | Osseo                  | Northwest Suburban |
| Jared Cross         | DL       | Champlin Park          | Northwest Suburban |
| Luke DeWall         | PK, DB   | Stillwater             | Suburban East      |
| Eric Dooley         | OL       | Eagan                  | Lake               |
| Avery Duncan        | RB       | St. Bernard's          | Tri-Metro          |
| Thomas Flack        | DL       | Burnsville             | Lake               |
| Matt Garin          | DL       | Eastview               | Lake               |
| Garrett Glaus       | DB       | Rosemount              | Lake               |
| Ian Goldsmith       | DB       | Mounds View            | Suburban East      |
| Spencer Harris      | DL       | DeLaSalle, Minneapolis | Tri-Metro          |
| Alex Jensen         | TE       | Eastview               | Lake               |
| Stephen Johnson     | RB       | Mahtomedi              | Classic Suburban   |
| Ismail Karon        | LB       | Mnetonka               | Classic Lake       |
| Jordan Larson       | LB       | St. Paul Central       | St. Paul City      |
| Jon Lehman          | OL       | Coon Rapids            | Northwest Suburban |
| Chris Leiverman     | DB       | Waconia                | Wright County      |
| Bruce Manz          | OL       | Buffalo                | Mississippi 8      |
| Logan Marks         | OL       | St. Thomas Academy     | Classic Suburban   |
| Seth Mathis         | LB       | Anoka                  | Northwest Suburban |
| Mike McNamee        | LB       | Lakeville South        | Lake               |
| Brandon Meath       | DB       | Totino-Grace           | North Suburban     |
| Kyle Mulrooney      | DL       | Andover                | Northwest Suburban |
| Bryce Nelson        | OL       | Simley                 | Classic Suburban   |
| Taylor Nelson       | TE       | Mnetonka               | Classic Lake       |
| Tom Olson           | OL       | Totino-Grace           | North Suburban     |
| Chris Osborn        | WR       | Eagan                  | Lake               |
| Steve Parks         | DL       | Apple Valley           | Lake               |
| James Peterson      | QB       | Blaine                 | Northwest Suburban |
| Harry Pitera        | LB       | Cretin-Derham Hall     | Suburban East      |
| Dijon Sanders       | OL       | Eastview               | Lake               |
| Tobi Saporu         | DL       | Blaine                 | Northwest Suburban |
| Terrell Sinkfield   | RB       | Hopkins                | Classic Lake       |
| Brett Skoog         | LB       | Orono                  | Wright County      |
| Varmah Sonie        | DB       | Apple Valley           | Lake               |
| Tyler Swanson       | WR       | Lakeville North        | Lake               |
| Blair Townsend      | QB       | Coon Rapids            | Northwest Suburban |
| A.J. VanVoorhis     | DL       | Champlin Park          | Northwest Suburban |
| Chase Vogler        | DB       | Rosemount              | Lake               |
| Cooper Wahlo Jr.    | WR       | Woodbury               | Suburban East      |
| Montez Wilkerson    | WR       | Hopkins                | Classic Lake       |
| Mike Willett        | LB       | Woodbury               | Suburban East      |

### Metro Coaches

Head Coach: John DenHartog, Hopkins

Assistant Coaches: Marc Franz, Rogers; Dick Gaughran, Eden Prairie; Dave Hopkins, Holy Family Catholic, Victoria; Beau LaBore, Woodbury; Mike Zweber, Lakeville North

Honorary Coach: Stan Skjei, Bloomington Jefferson



# MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME



## 2008 OUTSTATE ALL-STARS ROSTER

| Name             | Position | School/City               | Conference                     |
|------------------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Damon Andrews    | WR       | Triton, Dodge Center      | Hiawatha Valley                |
| Todd Bestgren    | LB       | Rochester Lourdes         | Hiawatha Valley                |
| Mark Broden      | DL       | Fertile-Beltrami          | Northern Plains A              |
| Josh Champion    | OL       | Fergus Falls              | Central Lakes                  |
| Brent Cole       | OL       | Warroad                   | Heart O' Lakes                 |
| Issac Dolan      | QB       | Tracy-Milroy-Balaton      | Little Sioux                   |
| Sam Dooyema      | OL       | Luverne                   | Southwest                      |
| Mike Downing     | OL       | Duluth East               | North Country                  |
| Dakota Fiene     | DB       | Lakeview, Cottonwood      | Independent                    |
| Taylor Freetly   | TE       | Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg | Prairie                        |
| Jake Gibbons     | RB       | Becker                    | Mississippi 8                  |
| Tyler Gimmestad  | OL       | Marshall                  | Southwest                      |
| Ryan Goetzinger  | LB       | Caledonia                 | Three Rivers                   |
| Jay Hilbrands    | WR       | MACCRAY                   | Little Sioux                   |
| Cole Jirik       | DL       | Northfield                | Missota                        |
| Josh Johnson     | OL       | Blooming Prairie          | Gopher Valley A                |
| Nic Johnson      | RB       | Litchfield                | Wright County                  |
| Justin Knakmuhs  | DL       | Westbrook-Walnut Grove    | Southern Minnesota Confederacy |
| Bruce Koepf      | DL       | Belle Plaine              | Minnesota River                |
| Tyler Lang       | LB       | Glencoe-Silver Lake       | Wright County                  |
| Jake Lee         | OL       | Blue Earth Area           | South Central                  |
| Richard Lilla    | DL       | Rochester John Marshall   | Big 9                          |
| Aaron Lindahl    | DB       | Benson                    | West Central                   |
| Kevin Lindh      | RB       | Houston                   | Southeast                      |
| Kyle Melcher     | RB       | Owatonna                  | Big 9                          |
| Christian Metz   | DB       | Cambridge-Isanti          | Mississippi 8                  |
| Matt Moenkedick  | LB       | Verndale                  | Pheasant                       |
| Brandon Murphy   | OL       | New London-Spicer         | West Central                   |
| Skylar Murray    | RB       | Duluth East               | North Country                  |
| Tony Nelson      | DL       | Cambridge-Isanti          | Mississippi 8                  |
| Travis Nordhus   | DB       | Rochester Mayo            | Big 9                          |
| Kris Olson       | DL       | Foley                     | West Central                   |
| Chad Peterson    | RB       | Winona                    | Big 9                          |
| Aaron Richter    | WR       | Mankato West              | Big 9                          |
| Colby Ring       | RB       | Brainerd                  | Central Lakes                  |
| Jordan Smith     | WR       | Willmar                   | Central Lakes                  |
| Tydan Storrusten | QB       | Pelican Rapids            | Heart O' Lakes                 |
| Kevin Vaadeland  | TE       | Park Rapids               | Heart O' Lakes                 |
| Joe Vuicich      | DB       | Virginia                  | Sea-Range                      |
| Matt Wicklund    | DL       | Two Harbors               | Great Polar                    |
| Derek Wilfahrt   | DB       | New Ulm Cathedral         | Southern Minnesota             |
| Nick Zamudio     | DL       | Le Sueur-Henderson        | Minnesota River                |
| Nate Zuk         | LB       | Moose Lake/Willow River   | Great Polar                    |

### Outstate Coaches

Head Coach: Mark Esch, Mankato West

Assistant Coaches: James Cortez, Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg; Jason Freed, Houston; Todd Oye, Luverne; Vern Schnathorst, Detroit Lakes; Scott Tschimperle, Glencoe-Silver Lake

Honorary Coach: Deryl Ramey, Willmar & Brainerd