

North Uses Efficient Offense, Opportunistic Defense, and an All-Star Game Record Tying Field Goal to Defeat the South 17-6 in the 52nd Annual Minnesota High School Football All-Star Football Game

(Game story by Dave Giles, Minnesota All-Star Football Game Historian)

The North scored a touchdown on the game's opening possession and never looked back. The North led from start to finish, in an efficient offensive and defensive performance to win the 52nd Annual Minnesota High School All-Star Football Game 17-6 at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. The paid attendance was 1,739.

With the North win, the South leads the overall North-South series (dating back to 1945) 19-12-1. The South leads the current North-South series (dating back to 2011) 11-4. The South leads in All-Star games played at U.S. Bank Stadium (December 2016 to 2025) 7-2. The North has won two of the last three games.

It was a record-tying day for North place kicker Sawyer Riffle (Brainerd), who tied the All-Star Game record for the longest field goal, kicking a 57-yard field goal with 1:12 remaining in the second quarter. The record was set in 2024 by Luke Ryerse of East Ridge. Earlier in the second quarter, Riffle attempted a 61-yard field goal, but the attempt was short. Congratulations to Sawyer Riffle for his memorable performance in this All-Star game.

In the first quarter, the North started the game's first possession at their 19-yard line. With Kaden Harney (Maple Grove) at quarterback, the North drove 81 yards in 10 plays in 4:49 to score. The touchdown was a 3-yard pass from Harney to Kevin Ndirangu (Forest Lake), Sawyer Riffle (Brainerd) added the extra point for 7-0 North lead. On the South's first and only possession of the first quarter, QB Roman Voss (Jackson County Central, 2025 Mr. Football) led a drive from the South 20 to the North 39. The drive stalled with a holding penalty and then a 7-yard loss on third down and 13. The South drive was a net of 24 yards in 5:14, but no points. After one quarter, it was North 7, South 0.

In the second quarter, Oliver Spahn (LB Grand Rapids) intercepted a pass from South QB Nathan Ramler (QB Chanhassen) at the North 38 to end a South drive. On the ensuing North possession, Sawyer Riffle attempted a game record 61-yard field goal, but it was short. After a three and out drive for the South, and a short 21-yard punt, the North took over at the South 39 with 3:53 remaining in quarter 2. On fourth and 11 from the South 40, Sawyer Riffle came in to attempt a 57-yard field. The 57-yard field goal was good with 1:12 remaining, tying the All-Star Game record for the longest field goal. Congratulations to Sawyer Riffle for tying the All-Star Game longest field goal record.

After the North field goal, the South, led by quarterback Nathan Ramler (Chanhassen) moved the ball from their 20 to the North 28 in seven plays. With seconds remaining in the first half, Ramler's pass down the left side into the end zone was intercepted by Easton Riddlehoover (DB, CB Rogers). At halftime, the score was North 10, South 0.

In the third quarter, the South took the kickoff and started from their 24-yard line. The South moved the ball to the North 32 in eight plays. On fourth and 10 from the North 32, a 9-yard pass completion was one-yard short of a first down and the North took over on downs. With 9:00 remaining in the third quarter, and Kaden Harney (Maple Grove) at quarterback, the North put together their second long scoring drive of the game. The North went 77 yards in 13 plays (6:04 time of the drive) to score their second touchdown. The touchdown was a 9-yard pass from Kaden Harney to Calvin Coppersmith (RB Centennial). Sawyer Riffle added the extra point to extend the North lead to 17-0 with 2:56 remaining in the third quarter. The South started their next possession on their 20, moving the ball to their 37 as the third quarter ended. After three quarters, the score was North 17, South 0.

In the fourth quarter, the South continued their drive from their 37 with Nathan Ramler at quarterback. The South finished a 15-play, 80-yard drive with their only score of the game. The touchdown was scored by Caleb Francois (RB Minnetonka) on a 2-yard run. The extra point (kicked by Arsene Lukong, Rochester John Marshall) was missed. With 8:26 remaining in the game, the South was on the scoreboard. It was now North 17, South 6.

At this point in the fourth quarter, the South elected to use an All-Star game rule that allows a team that is trailing by 10 or more points to receive ensuing kickoff after their own score. The next South drive started at their 20-yard line. The South moved the ball 44 yards in 11 plays to the North 36-yard line. On fourth and four from the North 36, an incomplete pass ended the drive. The North took over on downs at their 36, with 3:41 remaining. The North moved the ball 17 yards in five plays to the South 47 to end the game.

Final score: North 17, South 6

Interceptions in the game: North: Oliver Spahn (Grand Rapids), Easton Riddlehoover (Rogers).

Final Score: North 17, South 6

Team	1	2	3	4	Total
2025 North All Stars	7	3	7	0	17
2025 South All Stars	0	0	0	6	6

SCORING SUMMARY:

1st Quarter

North: Kevin Ndirangu (Forest Lake, 6A) 3 yd Pass from Kaden Harney (Maple Grove 6A) (CNV) 6-0 (6:57)

North: Sawyer Riffle (Brainerd, 5A) (PAT) 7-0

2nd Quarter

North: Sawyer Riffle (Brainerd, 5A) 57 yd (FG) 10-0 (1:12)

3rd Quarter

North: Calvin Coppersmith (Centennial, 6A) 9 yd Pass from Kaden Harney (Maple Grove 6A) (CNV) 16-0 (2:56)

North: Sawyer Riffle (Brainerd, 5A) (PAT) 17-0

4th Quarter

South: Caleb Francois (Minnetonka 6A) 2 yd Rush (TD) 17-6; PAT kick failed (8:26)

Head Coaches: North – Justin Voss, North Branch; South – Garrett Mueller, Stewartville.

North Captains: Kaden Harney (Maple Grove QB), Howie Johnson (Forest Lake DL, DT), Ryder Skanson (Maple Grove LB, MLB), Andrew Trout (Rocori OL, OT, OLT)

South Captains: Max Jones (Rosemount LB), Jeremiah Peterson-Gordon (Kasson-Mantorville DB, CB, PR), Nathan Ramler (Chanhassen QB), Roman Voss (Jackson County Central QB)

2025 MVPs:

MVP Offense, North	Kaden Harney	Maple Grove	QB
MVP Offense, South	Nathan Ramler	Chanhassen	QB
MVP Defense, North	Easton Riddlehoover	Rogers	DB, CB
MVP Defense, South	Chris Rehak	Farmington	LB

Notes:

- Players and coaches representing 81 schools and 38 Sub-Districts participated in this year's game.
- Fifth time in All-Star game history: both head coaches were from schools in greater Minnesota.
- Uniforms: North – White on white, purple trim; South – purple on purple, white trim.