

Steve Mariucci will be the guest speaker at tonight's All-Star Banquet.

Steve Mariucci, known commonly by Yoopers worldwide as Mooch, grew up in Iron Mountain. He earned All-UP honors in basketball and football at Iron Mountain High School. After high school, he attended Northern Michigan University, leading the Wildcats to the Division II National Championship in 1975. A three-time All-America quarterback at NMU, he finished eighth in the Heisman Trophy balloting in 1976.

#### Coaching Career

Mooch began his coaching career at his alma mater, Northern Michigan University, then moved to Cal State Fullerton and Louisville. His first professional position was as a receivers coach for the USFL's Orlando Renegades. Later that fall, he also had a brief stint with the Los Angeles Rams. From there, he travelled to USC and Cal. At Cal, he was promoted to the Golden Bears' Offensive Coordinator. Steve then became the quarterbacks coach for the Green Bay Packers during the early years of Brett Favre's career. After four years with the Packers, he returned to Cal as Head Coach and earned a trip to the Aloha Bowl.

Following his success with the Golden Bears, Mooch was considered a leading candidate for several NFL coaching positions, and was hired to coach the San Francisco 49ers, then, one of the top teams in the league.

Mariucci's 49ers team went 13-3 during the regular season, earning home-field advantage in the NFC. After defeating the Minnesota Vikings in the Divisional playoffs, San Francisco hosted the Green Bay Packers in the NFC Championship game, but lost 23-10 in a muddy Candlestick Park. The following year, the 49ers posted a 12-4 record and returned to the playoffs as a wild card team, but lost in the divisional round to the eventual NFC Champion Atlanta Falcons. The 49ers returned to the playoffs one more time, after a 12-4 season, and were eliminated by the Packers again.

Mariucci's final season in San Francisco was 2002. The 49ers won the NFC West and beat the New York Giants in a wild card game, posting the second largest comeback playoff victory in NFL history. However, they were beaten by the eventual Super Bowl Champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the divisional round. As San Francisco's coach, Mooch compiled a record of 60-43, while his teams made the playoffs four times. He then spent three seasons as the Detroit Lions Head Coach, trying to revive the struggling franchise. Detroit was his last NFL coaching stint.

Steve Mariucci is one of only 13 NFL head coaches since the AFC-NFC merger in 1970 to lead his team to a division title in his first season. He also established an NFL mark for consecutive wins by a rookie head coach with an 11-game winning streak.

Since leaving coaching, Mooch has been working with NFL Network on Game Day, as well as an analyst. Affectionately also called "Coach" on the show, everybody respects his insight and loves Mooch's down to earth, midwest personality. Steve Mariucci is without a doubt one of the most famous people to come from the U.P. He continues to give back to his U.P. hometown community, his college alma mater, as well as the Beacon House.

Please help me welcome the U.P.'s own, Steve Mariucci.

