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Barnesville's Michael Strand to receive Scholar-Athlete Award

MINNEAPOLIS, March 25, 2014 - The Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation unveiled Tuesday its 2014 scholar-athlete award winners. The eight scholar-athletes reside in communities across the state of Minnesota and will be recognized at the seventh annual Minnesota Football Honors Awards Event, to be held May 4 at the Hilton Minneapolis. This year's winners were chosen for their academic excellence, displays of outstanding leadership, and commitment to their communities. This year's scholar athletes represent a cumulative grade point average of 3.9.

Michael Strand, a multiposition player for Barnesville High School, has had stellar results on the football field and in the classroom. A Minnesota Mr. Football finalist and member of the Vikings All-State team, he has been voted to the All-Section team twice and the All-Conference team three times. He was also voted Most Valuable Offensive Player and team MVP in 2012 and 2013. Playing running back, defensive back, and punt returner, it is clear that Strand embodied the team player mentality.

Strand also shone brightly academically, and he will graduate as the valedictorian of his class this spring. He participated in several academic extracurricular activities, including a state champion Economics Challenge team as well as Knowledge Bowl. He will attend Minnesota State University Moorhead, studying business administration and marketing this coming fall.

Additionally, Strand has devoted significant time to his community, volunteering in a wide range of capacities, including cleaning ditches, delivering valentines to the elderly, working at a homeless shelter, and collecting food for the local food shelf. Michael's parents are Bryan and Meg.

About the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation:

The mission of the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation is to serve Minnesota and the nation by developing leadership, sportsmanship, competitive spirit, and academic excellence in America's youth through promoting amateur football. The annual Minnesota Football Honors Awards Event, presented by the Minnesota Vikings, will be held on May 4, 2014, at the Hilton Minneapolis. The event is open to the public; tickets may be purchased online by visiting www.nffmn.org. The Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation may be contacted through www.nffmn.org or on Twitter via @nffmn.