



For Immediate Release:

**ELIJAH RICE NAMED A MINNESOTA FOOTBALL HONORS
SCHOLAR ATHLETE**

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – March 30, 2016 - Elijah Rice of St. Michael-Albertville High School has been selected by the Minnesota Chapter of the Football National Football Foundation as one of this year's Scholar Athletes. The eight winners, chosen for academic excellence, leadership and community involvement, will be recognized at the 9th Annual Minnesota Football Honors event April 17th at the Hilton Minneapolis.

Rice was voted the North Central District Blue Division's most valuable defensive lineman this past fall. Playing on the line and also as a tight end, he was part of a state title, two additional state tournament appearances and a 32-5 record in his three varsity seasons. Rice started for two of those years and was a captain as a senior. He was also a basketball and track and field athlete for the Knights.

Rice was named to the academic all-state football team. He has earned Highest Honors every trimester of high school. Rice, a National Honor Society member, was chosen by staff to represent STMA at Minnesota Boys State. He plans to study accounting and finance at the University of St. Thomas.

Volunteering through youth sports, Rice has assisted in many capacities ranging from coaching and officiating to grounds crew work. He has served as a Red Cross blood drive organizer, tutored other students, helped emphasize a chemical-free message at school and fundraised for causes including cystic fibrosis and St. Jude Children's Hospital. Rice has given time to Adopt-a-Highway, a local senior home and more. Elijah's parents are Steve and Carla.

The 9th Annual Minnesota Football Honors event is presented by the Minnesota Vikings. College and professional football Hall of Fame inductees are scheduled to attend, and WCCO-TV news personality Frank Vascellaro will return for his ninth year as Master of Ceremonies. The event is open to the public. To register or for additional information about this year's Minnesota Football Honors, please visit www.minnesotafotballhonors.com. For sponsorship information, please email lindsay@nffmn.org.

About the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation

The Minnesota Chapter of The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to promote and develop the power of amateur football in developing the qualities of leadership, sportsmanship, competitive spirit and academic excellence in Minnesota's young people. The MN Chapter recognizes legendary football icons, college football Hall of Famers and Minnesota's top high school and college football scholar athletes. For more information, visit www.minnesotafotballhonors.com, [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

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