



NEW LOCATION, NEW APPROACH FOR HONORS DINNER & RECEPTION

JULY 26 -- NFF HONORS DINNER "CELEBRATING OUR LEGENDS XVI"
SEPT. 18 -- TYLER TRENT GOLF OUTING and SILENT AUCTION
SEPT. 17, 18 or 19 -- NFF HONORS RECEPTION

Part of the mission for the National Football Foundation is to provide recognition for scholar-athletes and community members who support them.

In this year of the Covid-19 Virus, much of our world has been turned up-side-down. For high school seniors, many of their games, contests, events, traditions and rights of passage have been cancelled, postponed or dramatically changed.

The Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana is dedicated to trying to keep at least a couple of those events alive this summer in order to provide recognition for the athletes and community members who have earned the highest level of achievement.

So, even though Purdue University has cancelled all on-campus events through the end of July, conditions in Indiana have advanced to the point where we have now rescheduled our NFF Honors Dinner for 2020 (originally scheduled for June 14) to Sunday, July 26, and into a new facility in Lafayette called the Northend Community Center. It is a fairly new, very spacious and clean facility, allowing us to hold our dinner in a safe environment, assuming there are no surprises between now and then.

The July 26 event will focus on 15 NFF scholar-athletes who were nominated by their schools throughout Northwest Indiana for the annual Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award and 35 Lafayette Journal & Courier student-athletes nominated by high school athletics directors in the J&C coverage area. Also being honored are 16 J&C sport-by-sport players of the year selected by the J&C sports staff and 63 Indiana Football Coaches Association North All-Star nominees from Regions 1 and 4. Personalized certificates will be presented to each of these prep athletes who attends the Honors Dinner.

In addition, representatives of the Lafayette Central Catholic football team will receive its State Championship Trophy from the NFF for its Class 1A title of last November, in keeping with a tradition started by the Tiller Chapter last year.

Also, the State of Indiana NFF Scholar-Athlete of the Year will be announced at the event. Normally, that announcement is made at the North-South All-Star

Game Banquet in Indianapolis on the evening before the game in mid-July, but this year's game and banquet are cancelled.

Along with the awards and recognition for the high school athletes, the Tiller Chapter will also present eight other awards, nominated and selected by chapter members and various entities, to recognize outstanding accomplishments in our communities. Some of these presentations will occur July 26 while others, including two Hall of Fame recognitions, will likely take place at the NFF's Honors Reception on Sept. 17, 18 or 19 in conjunction with the Tyler Trent Golf Outing.

The entire list of awards for this year are as follows:

- State Championship Trophy – **Lafayette Central Catholic**
- J&C Female & Male Student-Athletes of the Year – **To Be Announced**
- NFF Chapter Scholar-Athlete of the Year – **Ayden Ayres**
- NFF State Scholar-Athlete of the Year – **To Be Announced**
- Patrick Mackey Courage Award – **Isaiah Harris**
- Citizenship Award - **Aaron Lai**
- Tyler Trent Courage and Resilience Award – **Kamryn Dehn**
- Bernie Flowers Contribution to Amateur Sports Award – **Rob Kochon**
- Todd Clark Outstanding Game Official Award – **Darren Haas**
- Impact Award – **George Karlaftis**
- Distinguished American Award – **Drew Brees**
- Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award – **Raheem Mostert**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Jim Everett**
- College Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Anthony Poindexter**

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Northend Community Center in Lafayette will be the home of this year's NFF Honors Dinner on July 26. The multi-purpose area is huge and provides plenty of space for social distancing and safe dining.



NFF TO SUPPORT TYLER TRENT GOLF OUTING SEPT. 18

Golfers! Please add Sept. 18 to your calendar and plan to help make our first year of involvement with the Tyler Trent Golf Outing a great success.

After several years of the Ryan Kerrigan/12th Boiler Golf Outing as a combined effort between the NFF Tiller Chapter and Purdue's Trademarks Licensing Office, a new partnership became necessary when Jim Vruggink retired from Purdue. The chapter has come to an agreement with the Tyler Trent Family, the Elks Club of West Lafayette and Purdue's Center for Cancer Research. The outing will be an 18-hole scramble at the West Lafayette Golf and Country Club (formerly known as the Elks Club) and lunch will be part of the event.

Since Ryan Kerrigan will be unable to attend, assuming he is preparing for an NFL game that weekend with the Washington Redskins, the golf tournament organizers are hoping to have former Purdue and NFL quarterback Jim Everett involved as a "celebrity" player or caddy. If virus conditions allow, Everett will be in West Lafayette that weekend to be inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame.

Primarily, the revised golf event will raise funds for cancer research and will honor the legacy of Purdue "super-fan" Tyler Trent who passed away last Jan. 1st after a news-making battle with osteosarcoma cancer.

Cost is \$400 per foursome for chapter members or \$100 per player (\$75 for students), covering lunch, cart and 18 holes of golf. (More details to come.)

Contact Jim Vruggink (765-427-3303) for more information.

CARROLL STAR CHOSEN S-A OF YEAR

Carroll High School's Ayden Ayres has been selected by this chapter's panel of judges as the 2020 Scholar-Athlete of the Year for the Joe Tiller Chapter.

He was selected from a "field" of 15 Northwest Indiana scholar-athletes who were nominated by their schools. The judges picked six finalists for the award, including Noah Bierma of Rensselaer Central, Jascob Cain of Harrison, Clay Campbell of Jimtown, Aidan Sturgeon of West Lafayette and JJ Wadas of Andean along with Ayres.

Ayden, the son of Liz Ayres, plans to study engineering at Rose-Hulman. He earned a 4.2 GPA and a 1480 on the SAT. Ayden is the valedictorian at Carroll and was named the school's top scholar all four years of high school. He was named IFCA academic all-state in both football and track and was an Indianapolis Colts academic all-state selection.

Ayden was Carroll's offensive player of the year and an all-Hoosier Heartland Conference performer in 2019 as he played both running back and safety for the Cougars. His athletic prowess was also on display at Carroll on the baseball and track teams.

Ayden's extracurricular activities also included 10 years of 4-H, church youth group, National Honor Society, and Carroll's mentor program. He served as the treasurer of both 4-H and National Honor Society.

"Ayden Ayres is the most deserving student I have ever recommended for scholarship," Carroll High School English teacher Debra Duff said. "He is an excellent student, a fierce competitor in athletics, an avid volunteer in community service projects, and someone who has accomplished all of this despite coming from a primarily single-parent home that was



Ayden Ayres

sometimes chaotic because of his father's absence from the family."

Ayres will now be one of four scholar-athletes from Indiana's four NFF chapters to be considered for the State of Indiana Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award. The winner will be announced at the Tiller Chapter's Honors Dinner on July 26 in Lafayette.

The other three candidates are Sam Carson of John Glenn High School in Walkerton, Dawson Hurley of Reitz Memorial High School in Evansville and Brett Wethington of Western Boone High School in Thornton.

BREES BACK IN MIDWEST FOR TWO GAMES?

As Drew Brees puts the finishing touches on his record-shattering NFL career, many of his Purdue fans may want to help "salute" the former Boilermaker as his New Orleans Saints team appears this fall in the Midwest – Oct. 4 at Detroit against the Lions and Nov. 1 at Chicago against the Bears. All that, with a bunch of "IFs" ...

*If Drew can help get tickets for a group of fans from Boilermaker land, as he has done the last two seasons ...

*If the Covid-19 Virus is under control ...

*If fans are allowed in stadiums for games this fall ...

*And, if you want to be a part of witnessing history ...

*Would you be interested in being part of a "road trip" to one of those cities to watch Drew?

*If so, please contact Jim Vruggink (765-427-3303 or jvruggink@purdue.edu) to express your

interest in being part of a fund-raising effort for the Tiller Endowment Fund.

Thanks to last fall's ticket offer from Drew and the donation of hundreds of memorabilia items from Arnette Tiller, along with the wonderful generosity of many Purdue fans and local businesses, the NFF's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana netted more than \$31,000 in 2019 for the Tiller Endowment.

Started in December of 2018 with an initial "deposit" of \$30,000, the endowment now stands at more than \$65,000 and lives at the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette, where the annual interest will be used to help keep the chapter alive long into the future. The goal of raising \$500,000 to honor the legacy of Joe Tiller remains a lofty target, but we will continue to work toward that.

Brees, who shattered every Purdue and Big Ten passing record during his years (1997-2000) as Boilermaker quarterback under Coach Tiller and now has

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NFF ADVISORY BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2020

PRESIDENT – Kelly Kitchel
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 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SELECT – TBD
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MEMBERS SERVING ON COMMITTEES:
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 INTERNS: Sean English, Nick Schutkovske and Dylan Spesard
 CONTACT US: Via phone at 765-427-3303, via email at jvruggink@purdue.edu, or via postal at NFF, 3672 Farnsworth Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906

CELEBRATING OUR LEGENDS XVI

NFF Honors Dinner - July 26 and Honors Reception - Sept. 17, 18 or 19



NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

NFF HONORS DINNER ORDER FORM CELEBRATING OUR LEGENDS XVI

Sunday, July 26, at Northend Community Center in Lafayette with Dinner and Program at 2 p.m. Order your tickets on this form and renew your membership or make a donation:

Non-NFF Members:	_____ x \$60 ea. = \$ _____
NFF Members* / Non-Member Students:	_____ x \$50 ea. = \$ _____
NFF Member Students*#:	_____ x \$40 ea. = \$ _____
Table of Eight: (or \$320 each for members or \$280 each for students)	_____ x \$400 ea. = \$ _____
Dessert Reception (only in Sept.+)	_____ x \$25 ea. = \$ _____
One-Year NFF Membership:	_____ x \$40 ea. = \$ _____
Three-Year NFF Membership:	_____ x \$99 ea. = \$ _____
Scholarship Donation:	\$ _____
Total:	\$ _____

*NFF members get price break & priority seating, if ordered by July 10;

#Student rate applies through college age;

+Only for NFF Honors Reception in conjunction with Tyler Trent Golf Outing;

TICKETS WILL NOT BE MAILED ... PICK UP AT WELCOME TABLE.

Name: _____ Company Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Contact Jim Vrugink by email (jvruggink@purdue.edu)
or phone (765-427-3303) with questions.

(Please make check or money order payable to **National Football Foundation** and send to: NFF Executive Director, 3672 Farnsworth Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906-8750)

IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND HONORS DINNER, PLEASE CONSIDER GIFT FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Knowing that many of our chapter members and usual attendees at our NFF Honors Dinner may have reservations about attending large gatherings in our current Covid-19 Virus situation, we want to assure you that the Northend Community Center has a very spacious and clean facility at which we will be able to provide proper social spacing and safe dining.

If you purchase tickets for the July 26 event, but change your mind about eating at the event, we will have other options for you, including individual spectator seating and possible refunds, even on short notice. We want everyone to feel comfortable with the event.

If you know now that you will not be attending the event, we would like to ask you to support our efforts with a donation to our scholarship fund. As you can imagine, this will be a very challenging year for getting commitment for sponsorships, advertising and donations. Those areas of revenue are the primary sources for our scholarships.

In order to maintain our "normal" levels of scholarship awards, we need about \$15,000 to keep pace with previous years. We would appreciate your help. If you own a business or have strong connections to a business that can help, please consider assisting by arranging for a sponsorship, advertising and/or donation. Contact Jim Vrugink (jvruggink@purdue.edu) for more information.

**REMEMBER:
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
WHEN DUE!**

VISIT CHAPTER
WEB SITE AT:
www.nfftillerchapter.org

Upcoming Events:

July 26, 2020 – NFF Honors Dinner,
Northend Community Center

Sept. 12, 2020 – Purdue Home Opener vs.
Memphis, Ross-Ade Stadium

Sept. 18, 2020 – Tyler Trent Golf Outing,
West Lafayette Country Club

Sept. 17, 18 or 19, 2020 – NFF Honors
Reception, Location TBD



National Football Foundation & College Football Hall of Fame, Inc.
Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana
3672 Farnsworth Dr.
West Lafayette, IN 47906-8750

MORE THAN 125 PREP STARS INVITED TO HONORS DINNER

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The NFF scholar-athletes' names and high schools, as nominated by their schools, are: Ayden Ayres (Carroll), Noah Bierma (Rensselaer Central), Colton Brown (Covington), Jacob Cain (Harrison), Clay Campbell (Jintown), Nicholas Eng (Munster), Bishop Johnson (Lafayette Jefferson), George Johnson (Bowman Leadership Academy), Jayden McClain (Delphi), Kyle Onken (Lafayette Central Catholic), Blake Richardson (Clinton Prairie), Brooks Sailors (Frontier), Ben Slatcoff (Chesterton), Aidan Sturgeon (West Lafayette) and JJ Wadas (Andean).

The Journal & Courier sport-by-sport Players of the Year, selected by J&C sports staff, are: Connor Ayers (McCutcheon, baseball), Kyle Adams (West Lafayette, football), Carson Barrett (Central Catholic, boys basketball), Carson Cooke (West Lafayette, soccer), Karsyn Cherry (Central Catholic, girls basketball), KC Clapper (Frontier, softball), Payton Dennison (Rossville, baseball), Jozee Evans (Central Catholic, volleyball), Lexi Fraley (Harrison, softball), Brooke Humphrey (McCutcheon, volleyball), Sydney Jacobsen (Harrison, girls basketball), Evan Munn (Central Catholic, football), Daniel Roach (Central Catholic, football), Jordan Walters (Harrison, boys basketball), and Quinton Wood (Harrison, football).

The Journal & Courier Male and Female Student-Athletes of the Year nominated by athletics directors are: Ayden Ayres (Carroll), Tyler Boyle (West Lafayette), Bailey Burton (McCutcheon), Grace Buswell (North White), Ashley Churchill (North Newton), Chase Connell (North White), Tanner Dreher (Covington), Brock Gasvoda (Faith Christian), Bailey Good (Clinton Prairie), Kelsey Hammond (Carroll), Jillian Hauptli (West Central), Elijah Hickman (Rensselaer), Sydney Jacobson (Harrison), Lauren Kellerman (Crawfordsville), Eli Kirkpatrick (Attica), Paityn Krout (Fountain Central), Hope Linville (Covington), Rebekah Lloyd (Clinton Prairie), Eric Medley (Fountain Central), Emma Michal (Tri-

County), Marquis Munoz (Lafayette Jeff), Alaina Omonode (West Lafayette), Kyle Onken (Central Catholic), Abby Pattengale (Attica), Hannah Redlin (Rensselaer), Emily Sennett (North Montgomery), Emily Shrader (Seeger), Kyle Smith (West Central), Maria Smith (Faith Christian), Julie-Ann Stephany (Lafayette Jeff), Colin Wagner (North Newton), Miriam Walker (Central Catholic), Drew Webster (North Montgomery), Caleb Williams (Harrison) and Keahi Zussman (Tri-County).

All 63 students who were selected as all-stars for the North team – some of them coming to this event for other awards and honors – are invited to this Honors Dinner and will receive certificates, if they attend. The entire all-star list can be found at www.ifca.net.

The individual awards, beside the team trophy for Central Catholic and the scholar-athlete of the year trophies, that will be presented July 26 include:

Patrick Mackey Courage Award to Isaiah Harris, for his courage and hard work in developing into a standout football player at Bowman Academy; Bernie Flowers Contribution to Amateur Sports Award to Rob Kochon, the long-time West Lafayette Little League President who survived the Covid-19 Virus after 50 days in a Florida hospital, 26 days on a ventilator; Todd Clark Outstanding Game Official Award to Darren Haas, a veteran high school and college football and baseball official with 21 years of experience; and the Impact Award to George Karlaftis, Purdue's defensive end from West Lafayette who earned first-team freshman All-American status last fall.

Other awards that will be recognized either by video on July 26 or in person at a yet-to-be planned Honors Reception in September include:

Distinguished American Award to New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees, for his great generosity to the City of New Orleans to combat hunger during the current health crisis; Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award to San Francisco 49ers running back Raheem Mostert, for his record-setting performance in the NFC Championship Game in

January; Citizenship Award to Aaron Lai, Purdue student who walked 100 miles from West Lafayette to Bloomington in his fund-raising effort for the Tyler Trent Endowment at the Center for Cancer Research; and Tyler Trent Courage and Resilience Award to Kamryn Dehn, a Purdue student who was diagnosed with hip dysplasia as an infant and endured multiple surgeries and health issues through her entire life and persevered to become a student leader on campus.

Two other individuals will be honored at some point by the Tiller Chapter ... former Purdue and NFL quarterback Jim Everett will be inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame and Purdue assistant football coach Anthony Poindexter will be recognized for his induction into the College Football Hall of Fame.

BREES BACK IN MIDWEST?

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shattered virtually every NFL passing record (mostly as QB of the Saints), has been a major factor in getting the Tiller Endowment off the ground.

In the fall of 2018, he purchased and donated 28 tickets for the Saints' game in Cincinnati for our first fund-raising bus trip and last fall he donated 35 tickets for the Saints-Bears game at Soldier Field for the same purpose. Even though Drew couldn't play in the Oct. 20 game due to injury, he still made the trip and held a "Meet & Greet" photo session after the game for our bus-load of fans.

Drew's generous offer, which helped to "kick-start" the endowment project by netting more than \$49,000 in the two years, is matched by the wonderful donation of Tiller Memorabilia from Arnette Tiller, Joe's wife. The chapter's intentions of conducting a raffle to sell the Tiller recreational vehicle ended with the arrival of the Covid-19 Virus. The RV was instead sold through an RV dealer in Indianapolis with all proceeds going to Arnette.



**News, Weather, and Sports
Whenever You Need It.**

