



JUNE 9 NFF HONORS DINNER TO FEATURE PREP ATHLETES AND PURDUE STARS

The 2019 edition of the National Football Foundation's Honors Dinner blends a mix of individuals who left their mark at the high school and collegiate levels of football in Northwest Indiana.

We'll celebrate the induction of two Indiana high school football legends into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame - Dustin Keller as a player and Brian Moore as a coach - as well as several other deserving award winners from our coverage area at the "Celebrating Our Legends XV" Dinner this year back at the Purdue Memorial Union Ballrooms on Sunday, June 9. This returns the event to where the first 13 honors dinners were held.

The chapter awards slated for presentation are:

- NFF and J&C Scholar-Athletes of the Year Awards - Still to be determined and announced as surprises on June 9.
- Patrick Mackey Courage Award - Cody Payne (with Drew DeBoer)
- Citizenship Award - Aaron Lai
- Tyler Trent Courage and Resilience Award - Sean English
- Bernie Flowers Contribution to Amateur Sports Award - Tracy Brown
- Todd Clark Outstanding Game Official Award - Todd Ransom
- Legends Award - Larry Clisby
- Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award - David Blough
- Impact Award - Rondale Moore
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductees - Dustin Keller and Brian Moore
- State Championship Trophies to Pioneer and West Lafayette high schools

This is the first year of what is hoped to be an annual feature of this NFF event...honoring state championship high school football teams.



NFF scholar-athletes and Journal & Courier athletes of the year of last year pose for a group photo at the 2018 Honors Dinner at the Four Points by Sheraton Grand Ballroom.

SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

For the 15th straight year, the top football scholar-athletes of Northwest Indiana, who were nominated by their schools for the NFF's scholarships, will be featured during this marquee event.

These 17 scholar-athletes are all high school seniors who are headed to college next fall. Academically, it is an outstanding group with a collective 3.91 grade point average. Seven of them have 4.0 grade point averages or better, 12 are ranked among the top 15 percent in their senior classes, five are ranked in the top 10 of their classes and one was at the top of his class. It's one of the most athletic classes in recent memory as well with three honorees continuing their football careers at the college level.

Six of these young men have been singled out by judges as finalists for the Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award and the winner will be announced June 9 making him a candidate for the Indiana Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award. The "competition" is based 40 percent on academics, 40 percent on athletics and

20 percent on citizenship, leadership and character.

This year's scholar-athlete nominees are: Charles Bernth (Chesterton), John Bock (Whiting), Tommy Crowel (Highland), Nick DeBoy (Lafayette Central Catholic), Grant Gonzalez (Harrison), Alex Gronkiewicz (Kankakee Valley), Kyle Hazell (West Lafayette), Garrett Hetzner (Eastern), Jack Kiser (Pioneer), Trevor Maul (Munster), Logan Myers (Covington), Andrew Nelson (Lafayette Jefferson), Landry Ozmun (Oak Hill), Halen Rittel (Wheeler), Issac Salinas (Delphi), Jacob Shurboff (North Miami) and Chase Triplett (Michigan City).

Also, this year for the second time, the Honors Dinner will serve as a platform for recognition of the Lafayette Journal & Courier's Student-Athletes of the Year. A male and female winner will be selected by the J&C sports staff from a list of nominees from athletic directors of the schools in the newspaper's coverage area. Scholarship money is being raised to provide monetary support for those winners as well.

Nominees for the J&C Student-Athlete of the Year honors include: Drew Sheridan and Karissa Pluimer (Attica); Luke Cooley and Gretchen Kuckkan (Lafayette Central Catholic); Kaylea Whitcomb (Clinton Central); Caiden Maish and Tatum Neal (Clinton Prairie); Logan Myers and Madison Karrfalt (Covington); Will Kellerman (Crawfordsville); Blake Carroll (Delphi); Isaac Wiegand and Bethanne Lawson (Faith Christian); Kc Clapper (Frontier); Luke Johnson and Alison Hannon (Harrison); Cameron Wheeler and Crysta Dilley (McCutcheon); Seth Johnson and Mary Jackman (North Montgomery); Ben Vanderwall and Danielle Watkins (North Newton); Grant Buschman and Sara Rose (North White); Brayden Wright and Bianca Radtke (Rensselaer); Dawson Jacoby and Sarah Allred (Rossville); Kale Lawson and Chloe Auxier (Tri-County); Zion Cosgray and Maggie Gutwein (Twin Lakes); and Kyle Hazell and Mary Schultz (West Lafayette)

In addition, the Journal & Courier annually selects Players of the Year in several sports among both the

TILLER RV AUCTION TO BENEFIT NFF CHAPTER'S ENDOWMENT FUND



Tiller RV will be part of chapter's silent auction later this year.

Among the valuable items being donated for auction by Arnette Tiller, wife of former Purdue Head Football Coach Joe Tiller, is the recreational vehicle the Tillers purchased, following Joe's retirement from Purdue.

The vehicle is a 2013 Winnebago Vista Rally 26H, pictured on this page and the next and featuring low mileage (under 8,000 miles). It is 26 feet long, built on a Ford truck chassis and runs on regular gasoline.

The RV is among the items that will be available for public auction this summer after Chapter President Kelly Kitchel returns from a late spring trip to Buffalo, Wyo., to pick up the items assembled from Joe's illustrious career. The auction launch will be on Saturday, July 27, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Cordova

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TILLER RV PART OF AUCTION

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Recreational Sports Complex in West Lafayette. More details will be announced as plans unfold.

Proceeds from the sale will be Arnette's donation to the Tiller Chapter Endowment, which was started in December following the fund-raising auction for NFL tickets donated by former Purdue quarterback Drew Brees.

Thanks to that offer and the generous response from Boilermaker fans and supporters, the NFF's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana successfully launched an endowment to provide scholarships in the future.

The endowment started with a "deposit" of \$30,000 in late December and lives at the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette, where the annual interest will be used to help support our chapter's scholarship commitment. 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 with this summer's auction being the next opportunity.

This is just the beginning for the endowment. Tax-deductible donations may be made at any time via a check to the Joe Tiller Chapter of NFF (note: Endowment Fund) and sent to the attention of Jim Vrugink, the chapter's executive director, at 3672 Farnsworth Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

"Raising enough money through the endowment to offset our commitments each year would be a tremendous relief for the chapter's next executive director," says Vrugink, who has been in that role since the chapter started in 2004. "The fact that we've distributed nearly \$230,000 in scholarship assistance in our first 14 years as a chapter is indeed a great tribute to the generosity of our football fans in Northwest Indiana, but generating the funds to keep that pattern going is an ever-growing challenge from year to year. Having a consistent stream of funds flowing from an endowment program, would be a huge benefit."

Currently, the chapter depends on raising money through donations, sponsorships, advertising in the annual NFF Honors Dinner program and a series of fund-raising events (golf outings, concerts, dodgeball tournaments, silent auctions and raffles).

NFF FACTS

Since receiving its charter in the fall of 2004, as a non-profit organization, this chapter has awarded more than \$291,000 in grants, scholarships and honorariums to students plus another \$65,000 to other charities in the region.

In addition to seeking donations and sponsorships to support the scholarship program, the chapter also receives money (\$500 for every 50 dues-paying members in the local chapter) from the national office in Irving, Tex. In its first 14 years, this chapter has recognized 256 scholar-athletes and awarded them between \$200 and \$5,700 each.

The NFF's tax-deductible membership dues are \$40 per year or \$99 for three years, payable to the National Football Foundation. The NFF has 120 chapters and more than 12,000 members nationally, and awards more than \$1.3 million in scholarships each year.

Visit chapter website at:
www.nfftillerchapter.org

NFF ADVISORY BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2019

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INTERNS:

Mike Folta, Rachel Gerdes, Nick Schutkovske, Dylan Spesard and members of Purdue Gold Standard

CHAPTER DIRECTOR – Alan Karpick

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Jim Vrugink

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and WEB-MASTER – Travis Baugh

NEWSLETTER DESIGNER – Jonathan Gandolf

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



Inside the Tiller RV.



GOLF OUTING ALSO HELPS

The 11th annual Ryan Kerrigan/12th Boiler Golf Outing was held on Friday, May 10 at the Ackerman-Allen Course on Purdue's campus. The scramble was followed by an informal reception featuring a food and fellowship at the Voionoff Pavilion following golf.

Kerrigan assisted with hosting the event which benefitted three charities including his own Blitz for the Better Foundation which supports seriously ill, special needs and physically challenged children. The former Boilermaker All-American and Purdue Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Famer is entering his ninth season with the Washington Redskins. Kerrigan is already second all-time on the Redskins sack list with 84.5.

In addition to Blitz for the Better, proceeds from the golf outing go toward the 12th Boiler Scholarship Fund and the NFF Scholarship Fund. The first 11 years of the golf outing have netted nearly \$50,000 for the charities.

HOW TO ORDER TICKETS, BECOME NFF PARTNERS

Tickets for this year's NFF Honors Dinner on June 9 are on sale through the chapter's website at nfftillerchapter.org or by request to Jim Vrugink through:

- Mail: 3672 Farnsworth Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906
- Email: jvruggink@purdue.edu
- Phone: 765-427-3303

Sales will continue through June 4 or until it reaches a sellout. Prices for a table of eight are \$400/general public, \$320 for NFF members and honorees' families, and \$280 for students. Single tickets are \$60 for public, \$50 for members and \$40 for students. Dessert Reception tickets are included with the dinner price but Dessert Reception Only tickets are available for \$25.

The Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana is looking for support in other ways as well. For information about memberships, advertising, sponsorships, and partnerships, contact Vrugink.



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NATIONAL
FOOTBALL
FOUNDATION

Join in

**CELEBRATING OUR LEGENDS XV
At NFF Honors Dinner**

June 9 - Purdue Memorial Union



Tracy Brown



Larry Clisby



Todd Ransom

An outstanding program of "Celebrating Our Legends" features Purdue graduates Dustin Keller and Brian Moore receiving their induction plaques into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame. Also, two Boilermaker stars of 2018, David Blough and Rondale Moore, will be honored along with other distinguished students and community leaders like Tracy Brown and Todd Ransom. Plus, the high school regional Scholar Athletes-of-the-Year will be announced. Join the Northwest Indiana sports community for this spring's highlight event, hosted by the Joe Tiller Chapter of the NFF.

**NFF HONORS DINNER ORDER FORM
CELEBRATING OUR LEGENDS XV**

Sunday, June 9, at PMU Ballrooms in in West Lafayette with Silent Auction and Reception at noon EDT, Awards Program and Dinner at 1 p.m., and Dessert Reception at 3:15 p.m.

Non-NFF members:	_____	x \$60 ea. = \$ _____
NFF members*/non-member students:	_____	x \$50 ea. = \$ _____
NFF member students*#:	_____	x \$40 ea. = \$ _____
Tables of eight:	_____	x \$400 ea. = \$ _____
(or \$320 each for members or \$280 each for students)		
Dessert Reception (only):	_____	x \$25 ea. = \$ _____
One-year NFF membership:	_____	x \$40 ea. = \$ _____
Three-year NFF membership:	_____	x \$99 ea. = \$ _____
Total:		\$ _____

*NFF members get price break & priority seating, if ordered by May 31;
#Student rate applies through college age. Tickets will NOT be mailed.

Indicate here if you are interested in helping to sponsor a scholarship _____.



Dustin Keller



Brian Moore

Name _____ CompanyName: _____ Email: _____
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____ Phone: _____

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)

15

Years in
existence

358

Individuals
honored

256

Scholar-athletes
awarded scholarships

\$291K

Awarded in grants,
scholarships & donations

National Football Foundation | Joe Tiller Chapter



HONORS DINNER TO FEATURE VARIOUS AWARDS

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small schools and the large schools. Those athletes are also being invited to this year's Honors Dinner and will be introduced during the program.

J&C Players of the Year include: Emma Fisher (Benton Central - Girls Basketball); Alison Hannon (Harrison - Girls Soccer); Sage Hood (West Lafayette - Football); Brooke Humphrey (McCutcheon - Girls Soccer); Kale Lawson (Tri-County - Football); George Karlaftis (West Lafayette - Football); Issac Salinas (Delphi - Football); Lexi Thompson (Central Catholic - Girls Basketball) and Cameron Wheeler (McCutcheon - Boys Soccer).

Also, the Honors Dinner crowd will pay tribute to the high school football players and managers chosen from Regions 1 and 4 to compete on the North Squad in the annual North-South All-Star Game this summer in Indianapolis.

SPECIAL AWARDS

Other honorees at "Celebrating Our Legends XV" include Lafayette Jeff students Cody Payne and Drew DeBoer; Purdue students Aaron Lai and Sean English; community members Tracy Brown, Larry Clisby, Todd Ransom and Purdue athletes David Blough and Rondale Moore – all superstars in their own right and for several different reasons.

Payne and DeBoer will receive the Patrick Mackey Courage Award. DeBoer, an offensive lineman on the Lafayette Jeff football team, forged a bond with Payne, a classmate who battles muscular dystrophy. DeBoer befriended Payne in the cafeteria at school after seeing him sitting alone and arranged for Payne to have a sideline pass for Lafayette Jeff's



Cody Payne (left) and Drew DeBoer

Homecoming victory over Kokomo. The two became friends.

Lai is the Purdue student who walked 100 miles from West Lafayette to Bloomington for the Purdue-Indiana men's basketball game this past February to raise money for Tyler Trent's Cancer Research Endowment and will be bestowed with the Citizenship Award.

English will be honored at the event after being named the inaugural winner of Tyler Trent Courage and Resilience Award at Purdue. English was helping a stranger change a flat tire along a highway in Michigan more than two years ago when he was struck by a passing car that forced him to receive dozens of surgeries and a prosthetic right leg.

Brown, perhaps better known as the former Sheriff of Tippecanoe County and now a county commissioner, has established a superb record as a contributor to youth sports as a coach, official and administrator with the Harrison Youth Football League and runs community service programs for high school students. He is most deserving of the Flowers Awards for his contributions to amateur sports.

Ransom, who grew up in the Frankfort area, is a highly accomplished football official (high school, college and pro) who will receive the Todd Clark Outstanding Game Official Award from the Western Indiana Officials Association for his long-time contributions to officiating.

Clisby, the radio voice of Purdue basketball since 1977, will receive the Legends Award for battling stage four cancer and brain cancer to call yet another season of Boilermaker basketball on the Purdue Sports Network. His legendary "Bullseye" call of three-pointer will long be remembered by hoops fans throughout the state of Indiana.

Blough will appropriately receive the Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award for battling an ankle injury and competition at quarterback with one of the best seasons by a Big Ten quarterback in leading Purdue to its second consecutive bowl appearance. He finished his Purdue career as the school's third all-time leading passer.

Moore deservedly earned the Impact Award for becoming the NCAA's leading pass receiver in 2018 and was just the third player in the last 40 years to earn consensus First-Team All-American honors as a true freshman ... joining Herschel Walker of Georgia and Adrian Peterson of Oklahoma in that stratosphere.

Purdue's head football coach Jeff Brohm and bas-



David Blough



Rondale Moore

ketball coach Matt Painter will be part of the program as they assist with some of the awards.

All previous award winners are invited back to take part in the 15th Annual Honors Dinner. A Desert Reception will follow the program.

FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

The highlight of this event, in conjunction with the Indiana Football Coaches Association, will be the Hall of Fame inductions of Dustin Keller and Brian Moore.

Keller excelled as a wide receiver at Lafayette Jeff High School, where he set single-season state records as a senior for receptions (113), receiving yards (1,804) and receiving touchdowns (22). He went on to leave a legacy as one of the best tight ends in Purdue history. Keller was a second-team All-Big Ten selection and John Mackey Award semifinalist among the top tight ends in 2007 with 68 receptions for 991 yards. He was chosen in the first round of the 2008 NFL Draft by the New York Jets, becoming Purdue's first offensive first-round pick since quarterback Jim Everett in 1986. Keller was extremely productive during his five-year injury-shortened pro career with 241 catches for 2,876 yards and 17 touchdowns.

As for Brian Moore, success has followed him wherever his head coaching career has led him. Twenty seasons. Four schools. Zero losing records. Few coaches in Indiana high school football have left a legacy at multiple programs the way Moore has. His winning percentage of .809 (195-46) ranks him first among active coaches who have coached at multiple schools, and fourth in the state among active coaches who have coached for at least 10 seasons. Moore, a Purdue graduate, had head coaching success at every school ... with a 145-30 record at Seeger, 28-7 at Fountain Central and 8-3 in single seasons at Lafayette Jeff and Park Heritage.