



THANKS AGAIN!

TO CHAPTER MEMBERS AND FRIENDS FOR \$66,007 IN ENDOWMENT DONATIONS IN 2023

Largely due to a \$50,000 gift from a Joe Tiller Chapter member who wishes to remain anonymous and \$10,000 from Debbie Hagen in starting the Dr. Robert Hagen Scholarship Endowment, the Tiller Chapter had its greatest single year in fund-raising for scholarships and the Tiller Endowment. Total donations for scholarships this past year is \$76,582 from 30 different people or companies.

Typically, the chapter waits until December to make its scholarship awards after paying all the annual bills and deciding how much money is left in the bank for scholarships for that year.

The generosity of our chapter members and friends allowed the Tiller Chapter to award \$13,000 in scholarships to a record-high 36 scholar-athletes while transferring \$66,007 into the Tiller Endowment at the Community Foundation of Lafayette where it will be added to previous donations and the interest will be used for scholarships in the future.

The \$13,000 awarded to scholar-athletes for their second semester of college brings the chapter totals to \$283,000 in scholarships to 368 college students in 19 years while the endowment transfer is now up to \$221,185, seven years into the "2025 DRIVE" that has a goal of raising \$500,000 to assure the future of the chapter.

In addition to the scholarship and endowment commitments in 2023, the Tiller Chapter also donated \$12,000 to the Purdue Institute for Cancer Research after staging its most successful Tyler Trent Golf Outing on Sept. 1 at West Lafayette's

Coyote Crossing Golf Club. The financial success of the golf outing was a result of 87 golfers paying their registration fees and 42 sponsors providing products, food and hole or flag sponsorships. The T2 Golf Outings, sponsored by this chapter the last three years, have now generated \$30,300 (including some matching gifts) for cancer research in the name of Tyler Trent, a former Purdue student and "superfan," who lost his life to cancer in 2019.

The NFF Honors Brunch on June 25 at the Purdue Memorial Union attracted a crowd of 410 and generated \$31,089 of revenue through the sale of tickets, advertising and sponsorships, resulting in a profit of \$10,765 to offset event expenses.

Also, in 2023, online auctions and memorabilia sales netted nearly \$1,445 profit thanks to the efforts of chapter board member Young Lee.

In all, the chapter's events and sales netted \$24,449.

Meanwhile, contributions, donations, sponsorships, advertising and trade-outs for all events combined totaled \$127,335 in 2023, including \$66,007 for the endowment and \$21,720 in trade-outs and services.

The chapter is always looking for assistance in generating more funds through sales, sponsorships, advertising and donations, so if you know of anyone who might be interested in supporting these efforts, please have them contact Executive Director Jim Vrugink via email at jvrugink@purdue.edu or phone at 765-427-3303.

HEROES, SCHOLAR-ATHLETES FEATURED AT CHAPTER'S 2023 HONORS BRUNCH



NFF SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF YEAR Kyle Turanchick of Oak Hill H.S. receives his trophy from former winner, now NFF Board Member, Matt Lancaster of West Lafayette. Turanchick is now a freshman at Taylor University...photos by Chad Krockover

National heroes, Hall of Famers, All-Americans and scholar-athletes were honored and recognized at various times and places this past year as the National Football Foundation's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana celebrated a star-studded lineup in 2023.

The chapter's ongoing emphasis is to provide recognition for scholar-athletes and community members who support them and to raise funds for charities.

While fund-raising also is an ongoing project, the NFF Honors Brunch "Celebrating Our Legends XIX" on June 25 at the Purdue Memorial Union Ballrooms in West Lafayette was our feature event. The NFF Honors Reception on the afternoon of Sept. 1 followed the Tyler Trent Golf Outing that day at Coyote Crossing Golf Club in West Lafayette.

The June 25 event focused on 12 NFF scholar-athletes who were nominated by their schools throughout Northwest Indiana for the annual Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award and 33 Lafayette Journal & Courier student-athletes nominated by high school athletics directors in the J&C coverage area. Also being honored are 14 J&C sport-by-sport players of the year selected by the J&C sports staff and 61 Indiana Football Coaches Association North All-Star nominees from Regions 1 and 4. Personalized certificates

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J&C MALE & FEMALE STUDENT-ATHLETES OF THE YEAR Owen Duff of Carroll H.S. and Ava Hallberg of West Lafayette receive awards from J&C sportswriter Sam King. Brad Hallberg, background left, represented his daughter who was studying abroad and was unable to attend the brunch.

SHIRT REWARD FOR DONATION

Repeating our earlier message ... The Tiller Chapter needs help in reaching our scholarship goals for this year. We encourage all members and associates to consider a donation or finding a friend or family member to contribute to our "great cause."



And, as an incentive, we can again provide shirts from our donated inventory ... i.e. an NFF tee-shirt for a donation between \$50 and \$99; a T2 Golf Outing shirt for a contribution of between \$100 and \$499; and a T2 Golf Outing shirt plus a complimentary one-year membership in the NFF for donations of \$500 or more. ... We ask participants to provide their preferred shirt size and we'll try to accommodate the orders, as long as supplies last.

This offer will be good through the end of 2023. Please make your check payable to the NFF and mail or deliver it to Jim Vruggink, NFF Executive Director, 3672 Farnsworth Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906.

(left) T2 SHIRT FOR 2023 as modeled by NFF Board Member Austin Hoefling



REUNION IN VEGAS -- Former Purdue teammates George Karlaftis (left) and Aidan O'Connell went face-to-face literally earlier this fall in Las Vegas when George's Kansas City Chiefs met Aidan's Las Vegas Raiders. At one point near the end of the game, defensive end Karlaftis sacked quarterback O'Connell somewhat gently, gave him a pat on the back after the play and then the two traded jerseys in a post-game reunion on the field a few minutes later. Note Aidan's message on his jersey -- "George, Thanks for not hitting me too hard."

BOARD TO CONTINUE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

While refining several of the points, the Tiller Chapter's Board of Directors voted at the Fall Advisory Council Meeting in early November to continue with the sustainability plan that was originally created in 2015, then with the blessing of Joe Tiller. Some changes are under way ... and here are the important goals:

- Continue our long-term plan for chapter's leadership succession (after Bart Burrell served as president from 2004 through 2015 and Kelly Kitchel from 2015 through 2021, when Dr. Bob Hagen became our third president until he died five months later and Alan Karpick became our fourth president in 2022; also, Jeff Love served as treasurer from 2004 through 2015 when Janet Schweikher took over for six years (2015-21) leading to Paul Branham taking over in 2022; the executive director position is still held by Jim Vruggink (2004 - present) but he will retire from that position at the end of 2024, when Tom Schott will take over as executive director. Travis Baugh became deputy executive director in 2018 while Elisheba VanWinkle became secretary in 2021 and both remain in those positions. A new position of Coordinator of Fundraising will be added in 2024.
- Continue a creative emphasis on chapter's website utilizing availability, ideas and know-how of Young Lee and Baugh ... using website to generate sales of memorabilia and to provide exposure for sponsors/advertisers ... and continue to develop plans to enhance our social media.
- Develop plan to expand membership numbers (which have slipped considerably to less than half of our high-water mark. We dropped from being No. 2, down to No. 5 the last three years ... should include emphasis on use of social media, targeting younger football fans, and developing a chapter membership arrangement that could be used exclusively by us or added to national dues.
- Emphasize our "large gift" fund-raising campaign to continue working toward the goal of \$500,000 for the Tiller Endowment at the Community Foundation to support future scholarships.
- Consider additional events and projects to generate more funds for the Tiller Endowment, scholarships and charities.
- Continue awards nomination process to members via chapter newsletter and on website.
- Continue cooperation with the Trent Family and Purdue's Institute for Cancer Research in hosting the Tyler Trent Golf Outing along with exploring opportunities with Indiana Football Hall of Fame and the three other Indiana NFF chapters.
- Continue to expand High School Student-Athlete Awards with our Honors Brunch event for the high schools and continuing a totally separate event to honor college (Purdue awards) in conjunction with Tyler Trent Golf Outing or another event.

NFF ADVISORY COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2024

PRESIDENT – Alan Karpick
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Jim Vruggink
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SELECT – Tom Schott
 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and WEBMASTER – Travis Baugh
 NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION MANAGER – Jonathan Gandolf
 PHOTOGRAPHERS – Sandra Dukes and Chad Krockover

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Voting Members, * except for executive director, deputy executive director and treasurer) –
 PRESIDENT – Alan Karpick
 PAST PRESIDENTS – Bart Burrell

and Kelly Kitchel
 TREASURER – Paul Branham; assistant Janet Schweikher
 SECRETARY – Elisheba VanWinkle
 AT-LARGE – Chad Krockover, Orlando Itin and Jeff Love
 AUCTIONS & SALES CO-CHAIRS – Young Lee, Schott and Baugh (*)
 AWARDS PROGRAM CHAIR – Vruggink (*); assistants Jim Samuel, Matt Lancaster, Clayton Richard, Schott, Karpick, Steve Hoffman, Mark Peterson and Jon Speaker
 COMMUNICATIONS CO-CHAIRS – Karpick and Schott, assistants Sam King and Kelly Hallihan
 ENDOWMENT CO-CHAIRS – Karpick and Vruggink (*); assistants Max

Bales, Kitchel and Love
 EVENTS CO-CHAIRS – Baugh (*), Austin Hoefling and Vruggink (*); assistants Branham (*), Nate Barrett, Samuel and Rex Trautman
 MEMBERSHIP CHAIR – David McGaughey; assistants Eddie Keister, Matt Lancaster and Peterson
 SPECIAL PROJECTS CHAIR – Brad Smith (IFCA); assistants Samuel and Trautman
 SPONSORSHIPS & ADVERTISING CO-CHAIR – Baugh (*) and Vruggink (*); assistants Tim Bobillo, Trent Johnson, Samuel and Trautman

MEMBERS SERVING ON COMMITTEES OR IN ADVISORY ROLES:

Drew Brees, Don Collier, Patrick Crawford, Nancy Cross, Ron Diallo, Dwayne Greer, Judy Hanna, Joe Hernandez, Tim House, Adam Kuffner, Jaylyn Learnard, Mark Peterson, Ron Tipton and George Wodicka

INTERNS:
 Tate Drone, Patrick Kiefer, Ben Riggin and Tressa Senesac

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



INDIANA FOOTBALL HALL OF FAMERS – Inducted June 25 during NFF Honors Brunch were Tom Kubat (former Lafayette J&C sportswriter), Curtis Painter (former Purdue and NFL quarterback), Chris Meeks (head football coach at Rensselaer Central H.S.), Todd Clark (founder of Western Indiana Officials Association) represented by his son John, and Ryan Kerrigan (former Purdue and NFL defensive end). Photo by Krockover

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were presented to each of the prep athletes who attended the Honors Brunch.

Along with the awards and recognition for the high school athletes, the Tiller Chapter also selected recipients for 11 other awards, nominated and selected by chapter members and various entities, to recognize outstanding accomplishments in our communities. Most of these presentations took place June 25 while Tyler Trent Courage and Resilience Award was presented at the NFF's Honors Reception in conjunction with the Tyler Trent Golf Outing on Sept. 1.

The entire list of awards are as follows:

- J&C Female Student-Athletes of the Year – Eva Hallberg (West Lafayette)
- J&C Male Student-Athletes of the Year – Owen Duff (Carroll)
- NFF Chapter Scholar-Athlete of the Year – Kyle Turanchick (Oak Hill)
- Citizen/Heroes Award – Nick Bostic
- Arnette Tiller Service to Football Award – Elisheba VanWinkle
- Todd Clark Outstanding Game Official Award – James Marshall
- Bernie Flowers Contribution to Amateur Sports Award – Mike Bauer
- Leroy Keyes Legends Award – Nancy Cross
- Purdue For Life Impact Award – # Charlie Jones & Aidan O'Connell
- Patrick Mackey Courage Award – Ashlynn Brooke & Kendal Rider
- Tyler Trent Courage and Resilience Award – Andrew Kinder
- Distinguished American Award – # Drew Brees
- Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award – # Zach Edey
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – Todd Clark (June - posthumously)
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – Ryan Kerrigan (June)
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – Tom Kubat (June)
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – Chris Meeks (June)
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – Curtis Painter (June)
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – # John Scheumann - posthumously)
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – # Drew Brees (TBD)
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – # Clayton Richard (Next June)
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – # Taylor Stubblefield (Next June)
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – # Jim Vrugink (Next June)

To be presented in 2024

A total of 49 student-athletes were introduced at the Brunch and presented with certificates recognizing their accomplishments as NFF Scholar-Athletes, Lafayette J&C Male and Female Student-Athletes, J&C Players of the Year and

IFCA Region 1 and 4 Football All-Stars. (See page 4 for that entire list).

The community honorees for 2023 featured Nick Bostic who saved the lives of four Lafayette children when he happened across a house fire last July and was honored with a national award – the Carnegie Hero Medal, Mike Bauer for his generosity, Elisheba VanWinkle for her service, James Marshall for his game officiating, Nancy Cross for her loyalty to Purdue and Andrew Kinder as the Tyler Trent Scholarship winner.

Athletic-oriented awards this year went to Charlie Jones and Aidan O'Connell for their impact on Purdue football, Zach Edey for his mental toughness and excellence in Purdue basketball and high school standouts Ashlynn Brooke and Kendal Rider for overcoming huge health issues.

Ten individuals representing Region 4 have been selected for induction into the IFCA Hall of Fame for 2023 and 2024. The inductees have come to this distinction by very different paths – five as players, one each as a coach, sportswriter, game official, sports administrator and builder/donor.

Posthumous inductions include Todd Clark, who helped in the founding of the Western Indiana Officials Association in 2003 while having an on-field officiating career that spanned from 1974 through 2014, and John Scheumann, who was a very successful builder in the Lafayette area and was a major contributor to Lafayette Jefferson H.S. for the building and remodeling of its football stadium.

Two of the four players, Ryan Kerrigan and Curtis Painter of Purdue, were inducted June 25 while Clayton Richard will receive his Hall of Fame plaque at next June's NFF Honors Brunch. Kerrigan was nominated by Muncie Central H.S. and Purdue, following a great playing career as an all-state defensive player in Muncie, an All-American in West Lafayette and an All-Pro in Washington, DC. Likewise, Painter enjoyed great success on offense as a quarterback at Vincennes Lincoln and Purdue while providing backup duties with three NFL teams over six seasons. Kerrigan is now an assistant coach with the Washington Commanders and Painter is in business living in Westfield, Ind.

Drew Brees, former Purdue and NFL star, is still considering his schedule and is hoping to attend a chapter function soon. He will be inducted into the Indiana HOF and pick up the Distinguished American Award he was selected to receive in 2020 but was unable to attend due to COVID and scheduling conflicts. Brees enjoyed an impressive four-year stint as Purdue's record-setting quarterback before surviving a major shoulder injury and posting a record-setting NFL career with the New Orleans Saints, including winning a Super Bowl in 2010.

Another former Boilermaker, Taylor Stubblefield, was an All-American wide receiver who set an NCAA career record with 325 receptions when he completed

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STUDENT-ATHLETE AWARDS FINALISTS – Brad Hallberg (left, representing his daughter Ava Hallberg of West Lafayette H.S.), Jake Walters of Harrison H.S., Joshua White of Lafayette Jeff H.S., Justin Schroeder of Frontier H.S., Kyle Turanchick of Oak Hill H.S., Noah Oilar of Tri-County H.S., Evan Cooke of West Lafayette H.S., Owen Duff of Carroll H.S., and (partially visible) Luke Foxworthy of Fountain Central H.S., Janell Robson of Benton Central H.S., Evan Royal of Delphi H.S. along with emcee Kelly Hallinan of WLFI-TV appear on stage prior to presentation of the awards won by Hallberg, Duff and Turanchick. Photo by Krockover

STUDENT-ATHLETES HONORED ON JUNE 25

Addie Bowsman of Twin Lakes High School was named the 2022-23 J&C Player of the Year in basketball. She is a junior at Twin Lakes this fall.

Ashlynn Brooke of Pioneer H.S. was an outstanding basketball player who survived nine surgeries and is now at Ball State University continuing her career. She was honored as a recipient of the NFF's Patrick Mackey Courage Award.

Chloe Chicoine of McCutcheon H.S. was named the 2022-23 J&C Player of the Year in volleyball. She is continuing her education and volleyball career at Purdue University.

Evan Cooke of West Lafayette H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year Finalist and the 2022-23 J&C Player of the Year in boys soccer. He joined his brother as a student-athlete this year at Lipscomb University.

Jordan Cree of Rensselaer Central H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year Nominee and Region 4 All-Star. He continues his education and football career at Wabash College.

Lexi Cunningham of North Newton H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year Nominee. She is attending Indiana University this fall.

Luke Deno of Twin Lakes H.S. Luke was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. He is attending Ivy Tech and Purdue University.

Owen Duff of Carroll H.S. was the J&C Student-Athlete of the Year winner and was named the J&C Player of the Year in boys basketball. He is continuing his education at Purdue University this fall.

Cale Ehlinger of North Newton H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. He continues his education at IUPUI.

Halle Elliott of Crawfordsville H.S. was a J&C Student Athlete of the Year nominee. She is attending Purdue University in the fall.

Keegan Ellis of Carroll H.S. was the 2022-23 J&C Player of the Year in football. He is a senior at Carroll in the fall.

Riley Flinn of Harrison H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. She is continuing her education at Transylvania University.

Isaiah Fowler of Chesterton H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete nominee and an Indiana All-Star representing Region 1. He is attending Valparaiso University this fall.

Luke Foxworthy of Fountain Central H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award Finalist, a J&C Student Athlete of the Year Finalist and a Region 4 All-Star. He is attending Indiana State University this fall, but is transferring to Purdue University for second semester.

Gabe Freeman of Rossville H.S. was a J&C Student Athlete of the Year nominee. He continues his education at Purdue University this fall.

Gage Galloway of North Montgomery H.S. was a J&C Student Athlete of the Year nominee. He is attending Wabash College this fall.

Corryn Geheb of Rossville H.S. was a J&C Student Athlete of the Year nominee. She continues her education at Purdue University this fall.

Trey Gibson of Hobart H.S. was an Indiana All-Star representing Region 1. He is continuing his education and football career at Marian University.

Ava Hallberg of West Lafayette H.S. was a J&C Student Athlete of the Year

winner. She continues her education at Purdue University.

Alli Harness of Carroll H.S. was the J&C Player of the Year in basketball. She is a senior at Carroll this fall and is committed to Western Michigan University to play basketball in the future.

Ben Henderson of Harrison H.S. was a J&C Student Athlete of the Year nominee and the J&C Player of the Year in basketball. He is continuing his education at Marian University this fall.

Hannah Hodgen of Twin Lakes H.S. Hannah is a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. She is attending IU-Kokomo this fall.

Camden Horner of Kokomo H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete nominee. He is continuing his education at Taylor University this fall.

Andrew Johns of Lafayette Faith Christian was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. He is attending Grace College this fall.

Owen Kottkamp of Benton Central H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. He is continuing his education at the University of North Dakota.

Kameron Little of McCutcheon H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete nominee and an Indiana All-Star representing Region 4. He is attending Purdue University.

Chase Long of Delphi H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. He is attending Queens College this fall.

James Mantel of Andean H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete Finalist. He is continuing his education at Purdue University.

Ethan McCormick of Harrison H.S. was named the J&C Player of the Year in baseball last season. He is a sophomore at Indiana Tech this fall.

Brady Miller of Lafayette Central Catholic H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete nominee. He is attending Purdue University this fall.

Sydney Miller of Harrison H.S. was named the J&C Player of the Year in softball. She is continuing her education and softball career at Ball State University this year.

Max Mullis of West Lafayette H.S. was named the J&C Player of the Year in football and an Indiana All-Star representing Region 4. He is attending Purdue University this fall.

Noah Oilar of Tri-County H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year Finalist. He is continuing his education at Purdue University this fall.

Quentcy Perry of Frankfort H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee and a Region 4 All-Star. He is continuing his education at Franklin University.

Emma Pillion of Frankfort H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. She is attending Indiana Tech this fall.

Matthew Richardson of West Lafayette H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete nominee, was named the J&C Player of the Year in football and selected as a Region 4 All-Star. He is continuing his education at Purdue University.

Kendal Rider of Lafayette Central Catholic H.S. was an outstanding two-sport athlete in basketball and softball who survived a battle with cancer and is now at Manchester University continuing her career. She was honored as a recipient of the NFF's Patrick Mackey Courage Award.

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AWARDS FOR JOE TILLER CHAPTER OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

GOLD MEDALLION AWARD

This award is given on rare occasion and in special circumstances to recognize the career of a highly-successful person in this region. It recognizes an outstanding American and/or loyal Hoosier who has achieved significant career success while demonstrating integrity and honesty and bringing recognition to the local area covered by this NFF chapter.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner, Reception or Brunch..

2007 Honoree: *Dr. Martin Jischke, President of Purdue University*

2010 Honorees: *Drew Brees, Len Dawson and Bob Griese - Purdue's Super Bowl Champion QB's*

2011 Honorees: *Neil Armstrong, Eugene Cernan and Jerry Ross – Purdue Astronauts*

2013 Honoree: *David Boudia, Olympic Gold and Bronze Medalist in diving*

2017 Honoree: *Morgan Burke, Purdue's Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, 23 years*

2022 Honoree: *Dr. Robert Hagen, Orthopedic Surgeon and Community Leader*

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD

This annual award is intended to provide recognition to a graduating high school senior football player who exemplifies excellence as a student, an athlete and a citizen. Scholarship money from the National Football Foundation is provided to the winner as long as he is not receiving full athletic aid to attend the college of his choice. He is not required to continue his career as a football player.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted in early winter from high school coaches and/or administrators in the counties covered by this NFF chapter. Nominations are evaluated by the Scholar-Athlete Committee, which recommends at least one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner. Other nominees will also be recognized at the Honors Dinner, Reception or Brunch..

2003 Honoree: *%Clayton Richard of McCutcheon H.S.*

2005 Honoree: *William Bowman of Lafayette Jefferson H.S.*

2006 Honoree: *Brett Courtney of West Lafayette Harrison H.S.*

2007 Honoree: *James Wodicka of West Lafayette H.S.*

2008 Honoree: *Griffin Richeson of Lafayette Central Catholic H.S.*

2009 Honoree: **Matt Lancaster of West Lafayette H.S.*

2010 Honoree: **Daniel Wodicka of West Lafayette H.S.*

2011 Honoree: *Alex Hegg of Seeger Memorial H.S.*

2012 Honoree: *Dayton Snyder of West Lafayette H.S.*

2013 Honoree: *#Ryan Spesard of Carroll H.S.*

2014 Honoree: **Andrew Ralph of Chesterton H.S.*

2015 Honoree: *Joshua Brune of Belmont H.S.*

2015 Honoree: *Cody Colbert of Tri-Central H.S.*

2017 Honoree: *Jack DeGroot of Winamac H.S.*

2018 Honoree: *#August Schott of West Lafayette H.S.*

2019 Honoree: *#Jack Kiser of Pioneer H.S.*

2020 Honoree: *#Ayden Ayres of Carroll H.S.*

2021 Honoree: *Owen Smith of Clinton Central H.S.*

2022 Honoree: *#Brady Preston of Lafayette Jefferson H.S.*

2023 Honoree: *Kyle Turanchick of Oak Hill H.S.*

*% Chosen Retroactively in 2014; * Midwest Region S-A of Year; # State of Indiana S-A of Year*

LEROY KEYES LEGENDS AWARD

This award is sponsored by the Purdue For Life Office to provide recognition to a person closely related to the game of football who has given tirelessly and effectively throughout his or her career for the betterment of the game and its participants, without being a player or coach. The recipient will have maintained a lifetime of interest in the football while exhibiting exceptional leadership qualities in his or her profession and bringing recognition to the local area covered by this NFF chapter.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner, Reception or Brunch.

2012 Honoree: *Denny Miller, former head athletic trainer of Purdue University*

2014 Honoree: *Joe Rudolph, former executive director of Purdue Alumni Association*

2015 Honoree: *John Friend, former coach, athletics director, administrator in NW Indiana*

2016 Honoree: *Tom Spurgeon, former student manager, supporter, Trustee of Purdue U.*

2017 Honoree: *Roy Johnson, former "Voice of the Band" at Purdue for 43 years*

2018 Honoree: *Jeff Washburn, former sportswriter in Lafayette community for 40 years*

2019 Honoree: *Larry Clisby, play-by-play announcer for Purdue and local high schools*

2021 Honoree: *Leroy Keyes, "Greatest Player" in Purdue Football's First 100 Years*

2022 Honoree: *Tim Newton, play-by-play announcer for Purdue and emcee for events*

2023 Honoree: *Nancy Cross, Purdue administrator and ambassador for 46 years*

PURDUE FOR LIFE IMPACT AWARD

This award, originally named "Purdue is Proud of You" Award, has been repurposed to provide recognition to a person or persons from Purdue who has made a major impact in the community and/or sports scene and who has provided positive exposure for Purdue through his or her efforts. Each recipient will have maintained a lifetime of interest in the football while exhibiting exceptional qualities in his or her profession or activity even beyond that game.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner, Reception or Brunch.

2011 Honoree: *Drew Brees, Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year*

2012 Honoree: *Otis Armstrong, College Football Hall of Fame Selectee*

2013 Honoree: *MerrieBeth Cox, Miss Indiana and Purdue's Golden Girl*

2019 Honoree: *Rondale Moore, Purdue's first Consensus All-American as a Freshman*

2020 Honoree: *George Karlaftis, Purdue's Freshman All-American Defensive End*

2022 Honorees: *Alan Karpick, Boilers Inc., and Tom Schott, Purdue Communications*

2023 Honorees: *Charlie Jones and Aidan O'Connell, Purdue's Potent Pair*

BERNIE FLOWERS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO AMATEUR SPORTS

This annual award is intended to provide recognition to an individual whose efforts and activities support the goals of the National Football Foundation on the local level. The award identifies an individual who works tirelessly out of love for sports and a desire to help young people play the game. The award winner can be a league organizer, administrator, fundraiser, coach, doctor, athletic trainer, official or anyone who excels in representing and supporting the foundation's fundamental creed. The award is sponsored by Genre Hotels.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner, Reception or Brunch..

2005 Honoree: *Kay Hunt of West Lafayette Little Gridiron Football League*

2006 Honoree: *John Robinson of Lafayette 56ers Youth Football League*

2007 Honoree: *Dr. Bob Hagen of Lafayette Orthopaedic and Sportsmedicine Clinic*

2008 Honoree: *Brad Smith of Attica and Indiana Football Coaches Association*

2009 Honoree: *Tom Kubat of Lafayette Journal & Courier Sports Department*

2010 Honoree: *Joe McConnell of Learfield Sports and Purdue Radio Network*

2011 Honorees: *Lane Custer and Jon Speaker of West Side Flag Football*

2012 Honorees: *Clay and Chris Oppy of Dream Season*

2013 Honoree: *Mark Ebelhar of West Lafayette Little Gridiron*

2014 Honoree: *Linda Rohrman of Lafayette*

2015 Honoree: *David M. Williams of Lafayette Area Little Gridiron*

2016 Honorees: *Larry Leverenz, Eric Nauman and Tom Talavage of Purdue Neurotrauma Group*

2017 Honoree: *Darren Hicks of Lafayette Central Catholic Little Gridiron*

2018 Honorees: *Brad Cohen of Arni's and Orlando Itin of Bruno's*

2019 Honoree: *Tracy Brown of Harrison Youth Football*

2020 Honoree: *Rod Kochon of West Lafayette Little League*

2021 Honoree: *Young Lee of Merrill Lynch and Tiller Chapter of NW Indiana*

2022 Honoree: *Nate Barrett of Twin City Jeep and Tiller Chapter of NW Indiana*

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2023 Honoree: Mike Bauer of Lafayette Area Subway Shops

TODD CLARK AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING GAME OFFICIAL

This is an annual award to provide recognition to an individual game official in our region as identified by the Western Indiana Officials Association. The award recognizes an individual who works tirelessly out of love for sports and the demands for fairness. The award winner can be an official of any sport who shares the values and goals of the National Football Foundation.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from WIOA members coordinated by NFF board member Max Bales, who also officiates. The WIOA's award recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner, Reception or Brunch..

- 2018 Honoree: Dr. Todd Clark of West Lafayette, Ind.**
- 2019 Honoree: Todd Ransom of Frankfort, Ind.**
- 2020 Honoree: Darren Haas of Crawfordsville, Ind.**
- 2021 Honoree: Mark Maxwell of Crawfordsville, Ind.**
- 2022 Honoree: Trent Johnson of West Lafayette, Ind.**
- 2023 Honoree: James Marshall of Lafayette, Ind.**

ARNETTE TILLER "SERVICE TO FOOTBALL" AWARD

This award, which is sponsored and funded by the IFCA, is intended to provide recognition to a woman closely related to the game of football who has given tirelessly and effectively for the betterment of the game and its participants. The recipient will have exhibited exceptional service and dedication to a football program or programs covered by this NFF chapter.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and IFCA members and considered by the Awards Committee in conjunction with Mrs. Tiller and the NFF chapter, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. The presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner, Reception or Brunch in the appropriate IFCA Region. It is recommended that this award be rotated between Region 1 and Region 4 (whenever possible).

- 2012 Honoree: Arnette Tiller, wife of Coach Joe Tiller, Purdue U.**
- 2013 Honoree: Jamie Marsh, wife of Coach Leroy Marsh, Munster H.S.**
- 2015 Honoree: Sarah Lim, 7-year student manager, West Lafayette HS & Purdue U.**
- 2018 Honoree: Jan O'Shea, wife of coach Frank O'Shea, mother of Kevin O'Shea**

- 2021 Honoree: Marion Vruggink, 42 years of athletic training service to athletes**
- 2022 Honoree: Sandra Dukes, long-time attorney and volunteer sports photographer**
- 2023 Honoree: Elisheba VanWinkle, long-time sports events volunteer, Lafayette, Ind.**

PATRICK MACKEY COURAGE AWARD

This award is given to provide recognition to an individual in our region who has exemplified great courage by surviving extreme personal hardship or difficulty OR who has assisted someone else in doing the same. The award-winner must be a high school, college or professional athlete, coach, administrator or avid supporter. The award is sponsored by Franciscan Health Sports Medicine.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted in early winter from members of this chapter. Nominations are evaluated by the awards committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at annual Honors Dinner, Reception or Brunch.

- 2012 Honoree: Danny Anthrop of Lafayette Central Catholic H.S.**
- 2013 Honorees: Cooper Fulmer of Winamac/Patrick Mackey of Lafayette Central Catholic H.S.**
- 2014 Honoree: Jack Folkers of West Lafayette H.S.,**
- 2016 Honoree: Josh Turanchick of Oak Hill H.S.**
- 2017 Honoree: Riley Lowder of Delphi H.S.**
- 2018 Honoree: Tyler Trent of Purdue University**
- 2019 Honorees: Cody Payne/Drew DeBoer of Lafayette Jefferson H.S.**
- 2020 Honoree: Isaiah Harris of Bowman Leadership Academy**
- 2021 Honoree: Patrick Kiefer of Winamac H.S.**
- 2022 Honoree: Wade Peters of Carroll H.S.**
- 2023 Honoree: Ashlynn Brooke of Pioneer H.S./Kendal Rider of Laf. CC H.S.**

TYLER TRENT COURAGE & RESILIENCE AWARD

This award is a tribute to Tyler Trent, a former Purdue student who valiantly battled cancer while fervently supporting "his" Boilermakers until the very end. He died Jan. 1, 2019, at age 19. The recipient receives a full scholarship at Purdue, funded through a combination of gifts. It is awarded to undergraduate students at Purdue's West Lafayette campus who have encountered serious physical or similarly daunting adversity in their pursuit of higher education.

Selection process: Nominations/applications are accepted by the President's Office throughout the year from Purdue students. The decision is made by the

president and announced in the spring with possible recognition provided at the annual NFF Honors Dinner, Reception or Brunch..

- 2019 Honoree: Sean English of Northville, Mich.**
- 2020 Honoree: Kamryn Dehn of Frankfort, Ind.**
- 2021 Honoree: Kyle Albertson of Fowler, Ind.**
- 2022 Honoree: Eric Magallanes of Lafayette, Ind.**
- 2023 Honoree: Andrew Kinder of Fishers, Ind.**

CITIZEN/HERO AWARD

This award, which is sponsored by the Lafayette Journal & Courier, provides recognition to an individual who has consistently excelled in three areas paramount to the National Football Foundation - academics, athletics and service - while maintaining an exemplary record of citizenship in his/her school and/or local community OR performed a heroic act.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from members of this chapter. Nominations are evaluated by the awards committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner, Reception or Brunch.

- 2011 Honoree: Kyle Adams of Purdue University**
- 2012 Honoree: Kurt Lichtenberg of Purdue University**
- 2014 Honoree: Rob Henry of Purdue University**
- 2018 Honoree: David Blough of Purdue University**
- 2019 Honoree: Aaron Lai of Purdue University**
- 2023 Honoree: Nick Bostic of Lafayette, Ind.**

DREW BREES MENTAL TOUGHNESS AWARD

This annual award is intended to provide recognition to a college or professional athlete who exemplified exceptional mental attitude or toughness and who competed at some point in Northwest Indiana. Exceptional mental attitude includes displays of high academic achievement, superior leadership, dogged determination, tenacity, moral character, bravery, humility and concern for others, in addition to remarkable athletic accomplishments. The award is named in honor of its first recipient, who also assists in the selection process.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and Drew Brees and the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner, Reception or Brunch.

- 2005 Honoree: Drew Brees of the San Diego Chargers**
- 2006 Honoree: Rob Ninkovich of the Purdue Boilermakers**
- 2007 Honoree: Rosevelt Colvin of the New England Patriots**
- 2008 Honoree: Nick Hardwick of the San Diego Chargers**
- 2009 Honoree: Akin Ayodele of the Miami Dolphins**
- 2011 Honoree: Ryan Kerrigan of the Washington Redskins**
- 2012 Honoree: Robbie Hummel of the Purdue Boilermakers**
- 2013 Honoree: Ryan Grigson of the Indianapolis Colts**
- 2014 Honoree: Cliff Avril of the Seattle Seahawks**
- 2015 Honoree: Kyle Orton of the Buffalo Bills**
- 2016 Honoree: Danny Anthrop of the Indianapolis Colts**
- 2017 Honorees: Rosevelt Barnes & Caleb Swanigan of the Purdue Boilermakers**
- 2018 Honoree: Elijah Sindelar of the Purdue Boilermakers**
- 2019 Honoree: David Blough of the Purdue Boilermakers**
- 2020 Honoree: Raheem Mostert of the San Francisco 49ers**

- 2022 Honoree: Aidan O'Connell of the Purdue Boilermakers**
- 2023 Honoree: Zach Edey of the Purdue Boilermakers**

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NOMINATION FORM FOR 2024 AWARDS

(Submit by March 31, 2024, to Jim Vruggink via phone at 765-427-3303, email at jvruggink@purdue.edu or mail at 3672 Farnsworth Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906)

Name of nominee _____

For which award? _____

Phone/address of nominee _____

Reasons for nomination _____

Your name _____

Phone or email _____

GOLF OUTING EVOLVES INTO LARGE FUND-RAISER

The Tiller Chapter's annual support of a golf outing as a fund-raiser has taken on a different look since 2020.

After several years as the Ryan Kerrigan/12th Boiler Golf Outing as a combined effort between the NFF's Tiller Chapter and Purdue's Trademarks Licensing Office, a new partnership became necessary. In the spring of 2020, the chapter agreed to join with the Tyler Trent Family, the Elks Club of West Lafayette and Purdue's Center for Cancer Research to begin making plans for an event at the West Lafayette Golf Club in September of that year, but as COVID spiked in mid-summer, that event was postponed. Then, the following winter, the Elks Club voted to dissolve itself leaving the Tiller Chapter and the PCCR to co-host the event.

Coyote Crossing Golf Club near West Lafayette "stepped up" and negotiated a good price and became the site of the Tyler Trent Golf Outing on Sept. 3, 2021. With 18 sponsors, 64 golfers, great weather and the cooperation of former Purdue quarterback great Jim Everett, the outing experienced terrific success, raising \$6,000 (which then become \$12,000 thanks to a matching gift program) for cancer research in honor of Purdue superfan Tyler Trent who passed away on the first day of 2019 after a news-making battle with osteosarcoma cancer.

The chapter's commitment to the Trent Family included two golf events in 2022, the Tyler Trent Golf Scramble coordinated as a class project by NFF student intern Triston Myers on Apr. 23 at the Boilermaker Golf Complex and the Tyler Trent Golf Outing on Sept. 9 at Coyote Crossing Golf Club. Together those events attracted 120 golfers and 38 sponsors and netted \$6,300 for Purdue's Center for Cancer Research.

The 2023 Tyler Trent Golf Outing was the biggest ever as it returned to Coyote Crossing on Sept. 1 and attracted 87 golfers and 42 sponsors, generating \$12,000 for Purdue's Institute for Cancer Research.



T2 GOLF OUTING nets \$12,000 for the Tyler Trent Pediatric Cancer Research Center within Purdue's Institute for Cancer Research on Sept. 1 at Coyote Crossing Golf Club ... thanks to the cooperation of (left to right) Torrin & Robin Bottrell, owners of the course, and Kelly & Tony Trent, Tyler's parents.

HEROES, SCHOLAR-ATHLETES FEATURED AT CHAPTER'S 2023 HONORS BRUNCH

(Continued from page 3)

his collegiate career in 2004, when he also set a team record with 16 touchdown catches. He remains among Purdue all-time leaders in receiving yardage with 3,629 yards. Stubblefield is now coaching wide receivers on the collegiate level, currently at the Air Force Academy. He will be inducted into the IFCA HOF next June and remains on the national ballot for the College Football HOF.

Clayton Richard excelled in two sports as Mr. Football and Mr. Baseball while at McCutcheon and as a highly-recruited football and baseball player at the University of Michigan before a lengthy career in Major League Baseball. Clayton is now coaching football and baseball at Lafayette Jefferson H.S. and will be inducted into the HOF next June.

The HOF inductee who earned his honor via coaching is Chris Meeks of Rensselaer Central H.S. where he has posted a record of 186-100 in 24 years (1999 though the present) as head coach after playing football for the Bombers in the early 1980's. His best season was 2014 when Rensselaer Central won the Class

2A State Championship and posted a record of 15-0.

Tom Kubat was selected for induction on merit after a 40-year career as sportswriter for the Lafayette Journal & Courier, covering all sports for area high schools while being the primary beat reporter for Purdue sports for the majority of that time, winning many sports writing awards including induction into the Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters' Hall of Fame.

Also selected for induction on merit is Jim Vrugink, who retired from Purdue in 2019 after 37 years in athletic public relations and administration. He was president of CoSIDA (College Sports Information Directors of America) in 1996-97 and assisted with the formation of this NFF chapter, serving as its executive director since 2004. He will retire from that role at the end of 2024 and will be inducted into the IFCA HOF next June.

(For more information, call 765-427-3303)

AWARDS FOR JOE TILLER CHAPTER OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

(Continued from page 6)

"HE PLAYED FOOTBALL" AWARD

This award is intended to provide recognition to a former football player in the geographic region of Northwest Indiana who went on to become highly successful in life-after-football. Emphasis is placed on individuals who were not necessarily stars of their teams but who built their later successes on their skills instead of their "football names."

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner.

2014 Honoree: Froncie Gutman, former Purdue player and director of Cleveland Eye Clinic

2015 Honoree: Carl Buegler, former Purdue walk-on, COO of Jimmy Johns

2016 Honoree: Doug DeVos, former Purdue walk-on, President of Amway Corp.

2017 Honoree: Mike Berghoff, former Purdue walk-on, President of Lenox Steel and Chairman of Purdue's Board of Trustees

DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN AWARD

This award is intended to provide recognition to a citizen who has maintained a lifetime of interest in the game of football and who has exhibited enviable leadership qualities and patriotism while making a significant contribution to the betterment of amateur football or sports in general in the United States while bringing recognition to the local area covered by this NFF chapter.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the

(Continued on page 8)

MEMORABILIA AUCTIONS AND SALES

Memorabilia auctions and sales became a staple of the chapter's fund-raising activities during COVID and those activities will continue into 2024, thanks to the efforts of board member Young Lee, who planned and organized online sale through eBay and PayPal connecting through the chapter website. Young ran several sales in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 utilizing Purdue and Tiller memorabilia collected from several sources.

After netting more than \$12,500 (after expenses) that helped to fund the 2020 scholarship stipends for students and a sizable transfer of funds to the Tiller Endowment, the memorabilia sales netted another \$12,750 (after expenses) in 2021, \$4,250 in 2022 and \$1,445 in 2023. The proceeds are split between various charities, the Tiller Endowment and the chapter's scholarship fund. The online sales effort will continue throughout 2024 as Young accumulates more memorabilia items. A live auction/sale is also being considered, perhaps in conjunction with the Honors Reception next spring.

STUDENT-ATHLETES HONORED ON JUNE 25

(Continued from page 4)

Brinn Robbins of Lafayette Central Catholic H.S. was named the J&C Player of the Year in football. He is a senior at Central Catholic this fall.

Janell Robson of Benton Central H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year Finalist. She is attending Purdue University this fall.

Evann Royal of Delphi H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year Finalist. She is continuing her education at Purdue University in the fall.

James Schemerhorn of Tri-County H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete nominee. He is continuing his education at Wabash College this fall.

Justin Schroeder of Frontier H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete Finalist and an Indiana All-Star representing Region 4. He is attending Taylor University.

Ryan Schummer of Lafayette Central Catholic H.S. was a J&C Student Athlete of the Year nominee. He is continuing his education and baseball career at Calvin University.

Eli Swank of McCutcheon H.S. was a J&C Student Athlete of the Year nominee. He is attending Indiana University in the fall.

Sydney Swan of Clinton Prairie H.S. was a J&C Student Athlete of the Year nominee and is continuing her education at Davenport University.

Kyle Turanchick of Oak Hill H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete Finalist and is continuing his education at Taylor University.

Emma Voors of Tri-County H.S. was a J&C Student Athlete of the Year nominee and is attending Ball State University this fall.

Jacob Walters of Harrison H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete Finalist and a Region 4 All-Star. He is continuing his education and career at Bates College.

Joshua White of Lafayette Jefferson H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete Finalist and a Region 4 All-Star. He is attending Purdue University in the fall.



SUPPORTING TYLER TRENT GOLF OUTING -- Foursomes representing two of our great sponsors (WLFI-TV and Purdue Marketing & Communications) at the Tyler Trent Golf Outing on Sept. 1 at Coyote Crossing pose for chapter photographer Chad Krockover. Left to right for TV-18 and dressed in blue are Vinny Martorano, Marlee Thomas, Ron Schuessler and Tom Steiner. Left to right for PM&C are Kate Young, Bill Walker, Teresa Walker and Phillip Fiorini, posing with their sponsorship sign. Signs were provided by another great sponsor - Blumling Design, headed by Tom Blumling.

Young Lee receives national recognition

I'm pleased to share the news that Young Lee has been recognized on the **Forbes "Top Next-Generation Wealth Advisors Best-in-State" 2023 list**. Published on August 8, 2023. Rankings based on data as of March 31, 2023.

Over the years, Young has guided individuals and families through the ups and downs of the markets and has been dedicated to helping clients achieve their financial goals. I'm honored to let you know that *Forbes* has chosen to recognize him.

We hope you'll join us in congratulating Young.
Mark Ricca



Young Lee
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AWARDS FOR JOE TILLER CHAPTER OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

(Continued from page 7)

Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner, Reception or Brunch.

2005 Honoree: Gene Keady, emeritus basketball coach of Purdue University
2006 Honoree: Bob DeMoss, former football coach/administrator at Purdue University

2007 Honoree: Henry Rosenthal, former play-by-play announcer/owner of WASK Radio

2008 Honoree: Bernie Flowers, former Purdue All-American, salesman extraordinaire

2009 Honoree: Joe Tiller, emeritus football coach of Purdue University

2011 Honoree: Leroy Keyes, former Purdue All-American/administrator

2013 Honorees: Noble Kizer and Noble Kizer, Jr., former football coach and athletic director at Purdue University and his son, Lafayette businessman

2020 Honoree: Drew Brees, former Boilermaker/current Saints QB





NATIONAL FOOTBALL
FOUNDATION
COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

Steve Hatchell
President & CEO

Media Contact:
Phil Marwill | 917-579-4256
pmarwill@footballfoundation.com

Year Three of the NFF National High School Academic Excellence Awards and Hatchell Cup Kicks Off

Nationwide recognition honors high school football teams for all-around excellence; nomination forms to go out this month; one team will win the NFF Hatchell Cup and a \$10,000 donation.

IRVING, Texas (Nov. 16, 2023) – The National Football Foundation (NFF) & College Hall of Fame announced today that nomination forms have gone out for the 2023-24 NFF National High School Academic Excellence Awards Presented by the Rose Bowl Legacy Foundation. From the pool of state winners, one team will be selected as the best in the nation, winning a \$10,000 donation and being named the recipient of the NFF Hatchell Cup Presented by "The Original" Bob's Steak & Chop House.

The awards recognize the top high school football teams from each level of play in participating states for excellence in the classroom, on the field and in the community. The initiative is designed to inspire and foster a culture of academic excellence in high school football teams throughout the nation.

“Academic and athletic success go hand-in-hand,” said NFF Chairman **Archie Manning**. “We are proud to partner with the state high school coaches associations who have participated with us to recognize the top teams in their respective states. We hope by inspiring teams to compete in the classroom with the same competitive spirit that it takes to win on the field, we will better prepare high school football players for success later in life.”

The individual state high school coaches associations are sending out their nomination forms to all of their head football coaches this month, and all submissions are due by Jan. 12, 2024. The state and national winners will be announced in February.

Eligibility requirements for the awards include: a minimum cumulative team GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; superior academic application and performance; and a successful football season. The individual state high school coaches associations select their respective state’s winners from a pool of nominees submitted by each school’s head coach.

The NFF recognized 60 teams this past February as state winners of the 2022-23 awards, with Grundy Center High School (IA) selected as the winner of the NFF Hatchell Cup. Cypress Woods HS (TX) claimed the inaugural Hatchell Cup in 2021-22. A total of 122 teams have been recognized since the program’s inception.

The NFF announced the creation of the awards in February 2021, with the Nebraska and Texas state high school coaches associations leading the initial effort and engaging 33 state high school coaches associations in total. The awards represent the first nationwide recognition honoring individual high school football teams for excellence in the classroom.

“Texas is excited to continue to partner with the National Football Foundation in an effort to recognize team academic excellence,” said **Joe Martin**, the Executive Director of the THSCA. “This unique, national award recognizes High School Football teams that have excelled in academics during this football season. Not only does the game of football teach life lessons, but the teams receiving this award are proving they can compete in the classroom as well as on the gridiron.”

The Rose Bowl Legacy Foundation became the presenting sponsor of the NFF National High School Academic Excellence Awards for the 2023-24 season. The organization’s primary purpose is to preserve, protect, and enhance the Rose Bowl Stadium. “The Original” Bob’s Steak & Chop House became the presenting sponsor of the Hatchell Cup in December 2022, adding its support for the 2022-23 season. Bob’s opened its original Dallas location in 1993 and subsequently across the nation offering a best-in-class steakhouse experience.

For more information on the NFF National High School Academic Excellence Awards or to learn how your state high school coaches association can participate, please contact the NFF at news@footballfoundation.com.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION & COLLEGE HALL OF FAME
Founded in 1947 with early leadership from General Douglas MacArthur, legendary Army coach Earl "Red" Blaik and immortal journalist Grantland Rice, The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame is a non-profit educational organization that runs programs designed to use the power of amateur football in developing scholarship, citizenship, and athletic achievement in young people. With 120 chapters in 47 states, NFF programs include the criteria, selection and induction of members of the College Football Hall of Fame; the Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta; Future For Football; The William V. Campbell Trophy®; the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class Presented by Fidelity Investments; the NFF National High School Academic Excellence Awards presented by the Rose Bowl Legacy Foundation & Hatchell Cup presented by the Original Bob’s Steak & Chop House; and a series of programs and initiatives to honor the legends of the past and inspire the leaders of the future. NFF corporate partners include Catapult, Delta Air Lines, Fidelity Investments, Hanold Associates Executive Search, Jostens, the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the New York Athletic Club, the Rose Bowl Legacy Foundation and the Sports Business Journal. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter @NFFNetwork](#) and learn more at footballfoundation.org.





The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame
***Preserving the Past, Promoting the Present, Preparing the Future, and
Protecting the Game Through Programs and Initiatives that Support***
• 772 Colleges & Universities • Over 81,000 College Football Players
• 15,810 High Schools • Over 1.04 Million High School Football Players



NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP

The National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame has supported excellence in all facets of life through the great game of football. Your support empowers our work to protect the game and build leaders at every level of amateur football. We invite you to join us in advancing our mission.

Member Benefits

-  **VOTE!** Assist the NFF in selecting the newest members of the College Football Hall of Fame.
-  **NFF Digital Collectible Membership Certificate:** frame-quality with NFF Chairman Archie Manning digital signature
-  **NFF t-shirt (all memberships) and travel mug (3-Year and Lifetime memberships)**
-  **Exclusive Member News and Updates**



Sign up for your National Football Foundation membership at the url below or by scanning this code now!



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NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

433 Las Colinas Blvd. East, Ste. 1130
Irving, TX 75039-5508

Membership Application

I am a: New Member Renewing Member Date:

Chapter Name (if known): Member ID#:

Prefix & Full Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

E-Mail: Phone:

Membership Level

VARSITY CLUB

\$60 One-Year Membership (includes NFF T-shirt) T-shirt size: _____

ALL-CONFERENCE CLUB

\$150 Three-Year Membership (includes NFF T-shirt & 2 NFF coffee mugs)

T-shirt size: _____

HALL OF FAME CLUB

\$1,000 Lifetime Membership (includes NFF T-shirt & 2 NFF coffee mugs)

PAYMENT OPTIONS

T-shirt size: _____

- Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made payable to The National Football Foundation.
 Please charge my membership to my: VISA MASTERCARD AMEX DISCOVER

Credit Card Account #:

Exp. Date: Security Code:

(Please indicate cc billing address
if different from above)

Signature:

Please Mail to: Membership Department
The National Football Foundation
433 Las Colinas Blvd. East, Ste. 1130
Irving, TX 75039-5508

OR Submit via: Email: membership@footballfoundation.com Fax: 972-556-9032

OR Online: <https://www.caringcent.com/NFFchapter/>



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