



THREE EVENTS SET FOR SPRING & SUMMER

MAY 10 -- RYAN KERRIGAN/12TH BOILER GOLF OUTING

JUNE 9 -- NFF HONORS DINNER "CELEBRATING OUR LEGENDS XV"

JULY/AUGUST -- JOE TILLER MEMORABILIA AUCTION

Putting on first class events and honoring individuals for their accomplishments are the main focal points of the National Football Foundation's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana. And 2019 will be no exception.

Details are now taking shape for three important events involving our chapter this spring and summer as we roll into our 15th year of existence.

Prior to the events, however, are two key deadlines for the awards process. Nominations are due Feb. 1 from the high schools in the 17-county area of Northwest Indiana for the judging of the Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award. Also, Mar. 31 is the deadline for nominations for the other chapter awards (see awards and nomination form on adjoining pages).

GOLF OUTING – MAY 10

First on the slate is the Ryan Kerrigan/12th Boiler Golf Outing on Friday, May

10, as the chapter joins forces again with Purdue's Trademarks & Licensing Office to host the event at Purdue's Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex in West Lafayette.

The 10th annual golf outing features Kerrigan, the former Boilermaker All-American and first round draft pick who helped lead the Washington Redskins to the NFL playoffs in 2015. Many other former Purdue athletes and coaches are always invited to attend.

Cost is \$600 per foursome for chapter members or \$150 per player (\$75 for students), covering sack lunch, golf cart, 18 holes of golf on the Kampen or Ackerman Hills courses and an informal reception at the Voinoff Pavilion following golf. Most of the proceeds from the event go toward the 12th Boiler Scholarship Fund and our NFF Scholarship Fund.

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

HONORS DINNER – JUNE 9

The chapter's primary function this year will be to highlight our scholar-athletes and award winners at the NFF Honors Dinner "Celebrating Our Legends

continued on pg. 5

CHAPTER NETS \$27,800 FROM DREW BREES OFFER, STARTS SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT, NEEDS MORE DONORS

Thanks to the offer from former Purdue quarterback Drew Brees and the wonderful response from Boilermaker fans and supporters, the NFF's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana has successfully launched an endowment to provide scholarships in the future.

The endowment started with a "deposit" of \$30,000 in late December and will live 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. (See page 9 for more details.)

Drew's incredible offer helped "kick-start" the project by providing sideline passes and tickets in the stands for the New Orleans Saints football game at Cincinnati on Nov. 11. That offer netted \$27,800 for the endowment and spurred a bus trip to Cincinnati to "celebrate" with Brees at Paul Brown Stadium, where the Saints pummeled the Bengals, 51-14, as Brees completed 22 of 25 passes for 265 yards and three touchdowns. He also rushed (or dove) for one TD. The Saints finished the regular season with a 13-3 record and gained the top seed in the NFC.

Needless to say, Brees was a happy man as he socialized with our group

and posed for pictures during a "Meet and Greet" following the game.

But, 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 scholarship 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 more than \$229,000 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).



Drew Brees (No. 9) was ever-present in pre-game warm-ups (left), calling his own number just before scoring a TD (center) and socializing at the "Meet and Greet" (right) after the game.

Awards for Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana

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.

2003 Honorary S-A: Clayton Richard of McCutcheon High School
2005 Honoree: William Bowman of Lafayette Jefferson High School
2006 Honoree: Brett Courtney of West Lafayette Harrison High School
2007 Honoree: James Wodicka of West Lafayette High School
2008 Honoree: Griffin Richeson of Lafayette Central Catholic High School
2009 Honoree: *Matt Lancaster of West Lafayette High School
2010 Honoree: *Daniel Wodicka of West Lafayette High School
2011 Honoree: Alex Hegg of Seeger Memorial High School
2012 Honoree: Dayton Snyder of West Lafayette High School
2013 Honoree: #Ryan Spesard of Carroll High School
2014 Honoree: *Andrew Ralph of Chesterton High School
2015 Honoree: Joshua Brune of Belmont High School
2016 Honoree: Cody Colbert of Tri-Central High School
2017 Honoree: Jack DeGroot of Winamac High School
2018 Honoree: #August Schott of West Lafayette H.S.
** Midwest Region S-A of Year; # State of Indiana S-A of Year*

“PURDUE IS PROUD OF YOU” AWARD

This award is intended to provide recognition to a person from Purdue who is closely involved with the game of football and who has provided positive exposure for Purdue through his or her efforts, in a role other than being a player or coach. The recipient will have maintained a lifetime of interest in the football while exhibiting exceptional qualities in his or her profession or activity.

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 presentation made at the annual Honors Dinner.

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

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 covered by this NFF chapter.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and IFCA members and considered by the IFCA 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 in the appropriate IFCA Region. It is recommended that this award be rotated between Region 1 (odd numbered years) and Region 4 (even numbered years).

2012 Honoree: Arnette Tiller, wife of Coach Joe Tiller, Purdue University
2013 Honoree: Jamie Marsh, wife of Coach Leroy Marsh, Munster HS
2015 Honoree: Sarah Lim, 7-year student mgr, WLHS & Purdue University
2018 Honoree: Jan O'Shea, wife of Frank O'Shea, mother of Kevin O'Shea

PATRICK MACKKEY 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 or administrator.

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 either Scholar-Athlete Banquet or the annual Honors Dinner.

2012 Honoree: Danny Anthrop of Lafayette Central Catholic High School
2013 Honorees: Cooper Fulmer of Winamac/Patrick Mackey of Lafayette Central Catholic High School
2014 Honoree: Jack Folkers of West Lafayette High School
2016 Honoree: Josh Turanchick of Oak Hill High School
2017 Honoree: Ryley Lowder of Delphi High School
2018 Honoree: Tyler Trent of Purdue University

BERNIE FLOWERS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO AMATEUR FOOTBALL

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 football and a desire to help children 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.

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.

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 Honoree: 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

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, which is named for its first recipient, 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 coordinator 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.

2018 Honoree: Dr. Todd Clark of West Lafayette, Ind.

CITIZENSHIP AWARD

This annual award is given to provide 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 school and/or local community. The award-winner can be a high school, college or professional athlete.

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 either Scholar-Athlete Banquet or the annual Honors Dinner.

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

LEGENDS AWARD

This award is intended to provide recognition to a person closely related to the game of football who has given tirelessly and effectively throughout his or her ca-

continued from pg. 2

reer 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.

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

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

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

2016 Honoree: Tom Spurgeon, student manager, supporter and Trustee of Purdue

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

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

DREW BRES MENTAL TOUGHNESS AWARD

This annual award is intended to provide recognition to a college or professional athlete who exemplified exceptional mental attitude or toughness while competing within the counties covered by this NFF chapter. 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 presentation made at the Honors Dinner.

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 Honoree: Roosevelt Barnes & Caleb Swanigan of Purdue Boilermakers

2018 Honoree: Elijah Sindelar of the Purdue Boilermakers

"HE PLAYED FOOTBALL" AWARD

This annual 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 name."

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 presentation made at the annual Honors Dinner.

2014 Honoree: Francie Gutman, Purdue quarterback and Director of Cleveland Eye Clinic

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

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

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

NOMINATION FORM FOR 2019 AWARDS

(Submit by March 31, 2019, to Jim Vrugink via phone at 765-427-3303, email at jvruggink@purdue.edu or mail at 3672 Farnsworth Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906)

Name of nominee _____

For which award? _____

Phone/address of nominee _____

Reasons for nomination _____

Your name _____

Phone or email _____

DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN AWARD

This annual 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 Board of Directors and presentation made at the annual Honors Dinner.

2005 Honoree: Gene Keady, emeritus basketball coach of Purdue University

2006 Honoree: Bob DeMoss, football coach/administrator at Purdue University

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

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2006 Honoree: Bob DeMoss, football coach/administrator at Purdue University

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

2008 Honoree: Bernie Flowers, Purdue All-American, sales extraordinaire

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

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

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

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 presentation made at the annual Honors Dinner.

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

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

2011 Honorees: Neil Armstrong, Eugene Cernan, 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 for 23 years



News, Weather, and Sports Whenever You Need It.



Executive Director's Report:

CHAPTER HAS SOLID YEAR OF GROWTH & SUCCESS

The calendar year of 2018 was certainly a step in the right direction for our Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana. As we roll into our 15th year of existence as an NFF chapter, the attention of our Board of Advisors remains on the future.

With president Kelly Kitchel still at the reins, the focus is to continue developing our long-range plan for chapter stability, both in terms of financial support and leadership. Secondly, it is important to the board to continue honoring and recognizing scholar-athletes, former athletes and coaches. And, thirdly, the chapter will continue to support charitable causes (including our own leadership scholarship programs) in this region, especially within Tippecanoe County, where most of the fund-raising takes place.

Our chapter's financial status remains healthy (see paragraph below). Mainly due to donations to our endowment launch, we saw an overall increase in donations, contributions, advertising/sponsorship sales and attendance in 2018. As a result, our scholarship commitment for last year was slightly increased. The board wants to place an emphasis this next year (and for several years to come) on fund-raising with the goal of growing our endowment fund to help assure long-term stability.

Our membership numbers increased nicely (now 174 - up nearly 20 since a year ago - which ranks us fourth largest in the country among 120 chapters and largest in Indiana among the four chapters. We have a terrific board and many effective committee members, so there are probably other chapter members ready to step forward. Please contact me (via email jvruggink@purdue.edu or phone 765-427-3303), if you would like to help.

Our 14th annual NFF Honors Dinner "Celebrating Our Legends" on June 10 was a success, with a crowd of 368 (up nearly 70 from the previous year). Also, last spring, May 11 to be exact, we had 60 golfers (down 16 from the previous year) participating in the Ryan Kerrigan/12th Boiler Golf Outing, sponsored jointly by the NFF and Purdue's Trademarks & Licensing Office at the Birk Boilermaker Golf Complex.

Total chapter income for 2018 (including donations of \$36,592 for our scholarship endowment) is \$84,842. However, the net for the chapter's use was \$48,250 which is a decrease of about \$4,000 from last year's total and about \$43,000 less than our high-water mark of eight years ago. After paying all expenses, our total distribution to charity and scholarship recipients for this year was nearly \$18,000, raising our 14-year total to more than \$293,000.

Through our first 14 years as a chapter, we have honored 386 individuals for their accomplishments, including 282 scholar-athletes who have been awarded a total of more than \$229,000 in scholarships and honorariums for college.

Special thanks to our chapter members and non-members who participated in the Drew Brees Ticket Auction (see details on page 1 and all the donors on pages 6-8). Together they helped us net more than \$27,800 toward the launch of our endowment, which will support scholarships awarded by our chapter forever.

A list of all our donors, sponsors, advertisers and partners is available for public viewing on our website: www.nfftillerchapter.org.

We greatly appreciate the continued support of ALL our members and friends.

SUBMITTED BY: Jim Vrugink, Executive Director



Tyler Trent was recipient of the NFF's Patrick Mackey Courage Award for 2018, sponsored by Franciscan Health Sports Medicine. Presenting the award were Travis Baugh, NFF Deputy Director, and Marion Vrugink, of Franciscan Health.

NFF COURAGE AWARD WINNER TYLER TRENT INSPIRED MILLIONS

(Deputy Director Travis Baugh assembled this story from accounts in the Lafayette Journal & Courier and Indianapolis Star)

Tyler Trent, the Purdue student who sparked hope amid tears from a nation that followed his journey with terminal cancer, died on New Year's Day. He was 20 years old. Trent was battling a third round with the rare bone cancer osteosarcoma.

Trent was honored with the Patrick Mackey Courage Award at the Joe Tiller Chapter's 2018 Honors Dinner in June, given to an individual in our region who has exemplified great courage by surviving extreme personal hardship or difficulty.

The unlikely sports hero — a scrawny kid with a shy grin, near perfect SAT score and dreams of becoming a national sportswriter — broke through the cluttered world of social media, inspiring a flood of support nationwide.

Trent's story, bolstered by his extraordinary maturity and positivity, inspired millions and, in turn, generated awareness and donations for cancer research. The Purdue super fan was the subject of ESPN features, named an honorary team captain for the Old Oaken Bucket game and received the Sagamore of the Wabash, the highest honor for Indiana civilians.

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Visit chapter web site at www.nfftillerchapter.org

NFF ADVISORY BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2019

PRESIDENT – Kelly Kitchel

BOARD OF DIRECTORS –

PAST PRESIDENT – Bart Burrell

TREASURER – Janet Schweikher

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRS – David McGaughey and Leroy Marsh

AWARDS PROGRAM CHAIRS – Jim Vrugink and Tom Schott

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM CHAIRS – Sam King and Jon Speaker

EVENTS CHAIRS – Jim Vrugink and Nate Barrett

SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT CHAIRS – Max Bales and Bob Hagen

SPONSORSHIPS & ADVERTISING CHAIRS –

Travis Baugh and Corey Davis

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIRS – Alan Karpick and Chris Fleming

SPECIAL PROJECTS CHAIRS – Brad Smith and Jim MacDonald

AT-LARGE – Lee DeLeon, Orlando Itin, Jeff Love, Chris Oppy, David R. Williams

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Erika Austin, Ethan Braden, Drew Brees, Don Collier, Sandra Dukes, Jake Franklin, Dwayne Greer, Paul Griggs, Andy Hosier, Trent Johnson, Leroy Keyes, Brooke Kitchel, John Langenkamp, Young Lee, Noah Mattern, Andrew Pogar, Stu Schweigert, Dakota Simon, Ken Thompson, Rex Trautman, George Wodicka

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

WEBMASTER – 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

TILLER MEMORABILIA AUCTION COMING THIS SUMMER

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XV” on Sunday, June 9, afternoon at the Purdue Memorial Union Ballrooms in West Lafayette.

Top scholar-athletes from throughout northern Indiana, who are nominated by their schools for the scholar-athlete of the year awards given by this chapter and by the *Lafayette Journal & Courier*, will be the guests of honor along with eight or nine specialty award winners. Highlight of the event will be the induction of at least two former football players or coaches into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame. Additional details will be announced in early spring.

TILLER MEMORABILIA AUCTION

Lots of valuable items donated by Arnette Tiller, wife of former Purdue Head Football Coach Joe Tiller, and others will be available for public auction this summer after Chapter President Kelly Kitchel returns from a summer trip to Buffalo, Wyo., to pick up the items assembled from Joe’s illustrious career. More details will be announced as plans unfold.

Proceeds from the sale will be Arnette’s donation to the Tiller Chapter Scholarship Endowment, which was started in December following the fund-raising auction for NFL tickets donated by Drew Brees (see details on pg. 1).

NFF COURAGE AWARD WINNER TYLER TRENT INSPIRED MILLIONS

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In December, he won Disney’s Wide World of Sports Spirit Award, given annually to college football’s most inspirational individual or team.

In the summer of 2014 he was playing ultimate Frisbee, despite an awful pain in his right arm. He grimaced, threw a long pass and his upper arm bone snapped in two. That was the osteosarcoma eating away at his bone, making it weak. Doctors removed Trent’s tumor. He went through chemotherapy and nausea, never letting go of his dream to attend Purdue University. He beat the cancer and was declared free of the disease.

But in the spring of 2017, just four months before he was set to head off to Purdue on a Presidential Scholarship (Trent scored in the 1500s on his SATs, with 1600 being the perfect mark) the cancer came back. This time in his pelvis. Surgeons removed the pelvis and put in a temporary fixture (it would later be replaced with a permanent pelvis) so Trent could start school in the fall. Trent would drive home from Purdue on weekends for chemotherapy, 7½ hours of treatment.

“Tyler did so much for so many entities and people and a cause that was very personal to him, we’ve all sort of been swept up in this in lots of ways,” said Mike Bobinski, director of athletics at Purdue. “That is a selfless position not easy for people to take. For a young man like Tyler to do that, it’s remarkable.”

It was March when the cancer came back again, on his lower spine, near the L-4 vertebrae. Over the next nine months, Trent would become a household name. One of Trent’s most inspiring moments came when Purdue beat Ohio State in football, 49-20 in October. Purdue wasn’t supposed to win, but Trent had predicted they would. Trent wasn’t supposed to be at the game, but he pledged to be there and was.

In his wheelchair after the game, Trent was weary, but elated. The nation saw a young man determined to keep marching forward.

In the last months of his life, Trent’s Carmel home was always full of visitors — sports figures, coaches, journalists, friends and family.

Tyler is survived by his parents, Tony and Kelly, and brothers, Ethan and Blake.

Upcoming Events:

May 10, 2019 – Ryan Kerrigan 12th Boiler Golf Outing, Purdue Golf Complex, West Lafayette

June 9, 2019 – NFF Honors Dinner, Purdue Memorial Union, West Lafayette

July/August – Joe Tiller Memorabilia Auction, on-line

Sept. 7, 2019 – Purdue home opener vs. Vanderbilt, West Lafayette

HE SET AN AMAZING EXAMPLE FOR ALL

“I watched Tyler Trent’s 2 1/2 -hour funeral online and attended Purdue’s candlelight vigil for him. I was totally blown away by the passing of this young life. His funeral was the most amazing and wonderfully uplifting funerals I have ever observed in person or otherwise. What a testimony! I met Tyler only once (at our NFF Honors Dinner in West Lafayette last June where he was presented with our chapter’s Courage Award) but I have been watching closely as he dealt with his condition and accomplished more “good” in a few months than most of us will accomplish in our entire lifetimes. In his love for Christ, family, Purdue and mankind, Tyler radiated greatness and humility, setting an amazing example for all. Praise God for the life of Tyler Trent! May he rest in peace.”

JIM VRUGGINK, Executive Director

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR
NFF MEMBERSHIP WHEN IT COMES DUE**

(see final page for application)

DESTINATION: CINCINNATI (WITH A BIT OF A DELAY)

The "Celebration" Journey to Cincinnati started with a happy bunch on a sunny Sunday morning (see photo to the left) on the Reindeer Shuttle (below), provided by Paul Branham, but a blown tire on the interstate between Indianapolis and Cincinnati slowed down the trip. The 28 travelers from Indiana arrived an hour and 45 minutes later than expected and missed the pre-game on field opportunities. Fortunately, two members of the group, Bill Steins and his son Mason, (lower right) of Columbus, Ohio, traveled separately and "represented" the group on the field, taking pictures (like the one on the lower left) that they sent back to the rest to observe during the tire-repair delay. The next two pages feature photos of the travelers as they pose with Drew Brees during the post-game "Meet and Greet."



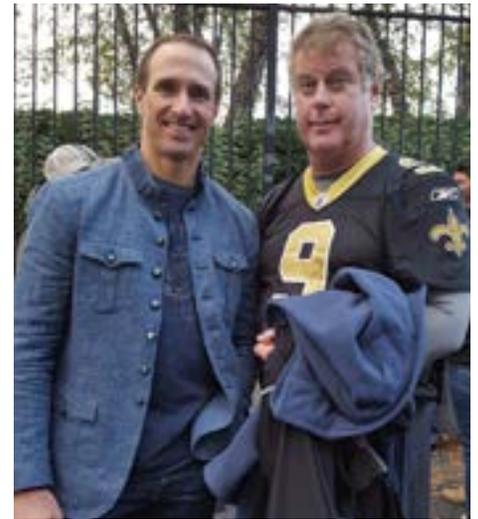


SAINTS WON GAME, 51-14, BUT TILLER CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP
ENDOWMENT FUND WAS BIG WINNER THANKS TO THESE FINE PEOPLE:



ABOVE: Jerry Brand (center) gathered a group of five of his friends including his brother Jeff Brand, Mark and Steve Downham, John Hatter and Bob Smeltz. BELOW: Drew is flanked by six of his undergraduate Sigma Chi Fraternity brothers – (left to right) Drew Green, Dominic Theodosatos, Austin Foote, Tyler Skiles, Eli Hedrick and Sam Coffey – who were on the trip due to the amazing generosity of alumni brother Joel Hammond of Kirkwood, Mo.





ABOVE LEFT: Becky Mellon poses with Drew, but her husband Denny must have been camera-shy ... couldn't find him in any "Meet and Greet" photos. CENTER: Drew meets Lee DeLeon and his son Landon for the first time. RIGHT: Drew reconnects with Rex Trautman, former TV-18 sports anchor, who interviewed Drew many times in college. BELOW: Brees visits with long-time supporter Randy Truitt and his son Harrison (left photo) and with Purdue P.R. man Tom Schott and his son Sam (right photo). Less than two weeks after these photos were taken, Harrison and Sam helped West Lafayette High School finish an undefeated football season with a 15-0 record, winning the Class 3-A State Championship.



ABOVE LEFT: Drew greets Bill Steins and son Mason; CENTER: He meets Chris Meyer and Ryan O'Connor, who were on the trip due to the generosity of Drew's former Purdue teammate Stu Schweigert; BOTTOM LEFT: Brees says hello to Paul Branham, our bus provider; CENTER: He greets Jim and Marion Vrugink, who hosted the trip --- too bad no one told Jim to smile, because he WAS REALLY HAPPY with the success of the trip; FAR RIGHT: Drew is interviewed by TV-18 sports anchor, Andrew Pogar, behind the camera.





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Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana

October 2018

Greetings! ... Members, Sponsors and Friends of the Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana:

Success stories fill our chapter's history. Among them: the scholar-athletes supported by our chapter who have become doctors, dentists, CIA agents, engineers, businessmen, coaches, graduate students and outstanding members of their communities.

They have made their families, their schools and our chapter members and supporters proud.

Our Scholar-Athletes of the Year are chosen using this criteria:

- Academic achievement: 40%
- Football performance and attitude: 40%
- Leadership and citizenship: 20%

A few highlights of our scholarship program:

- We offer money for college scholarships to students at **70 Indiana high schools**.
- These schools are in 17 Northwest Indiana counties, from Tippecanoe to Lake.
- In the 14 years since our chapter's founding, **we have honored 256 scholar-athletes** at our annual NFF Honors Dinners
- Scholarship **awards have surpassed \$229,000** total.

That's what we call a touchdown! The money has come from chapter revenues, member contributions and sponsorships. Now, we'd like that score to reach even higher, and we'd like to ensure the permanence of our scholarship program and, at the same time, honor the legacy of Joe Tiller.

To do that, our chapter has launched a campaign to raise funds for a scholarship endowment. We need your help. Money raised will be placed in the endowment and held forever, making your gift a lasting one, indeed. The money will be wisely invested by our national organization, and proceeds earned will help fund chapter scholarships. This way, we create an ongoing source for scholarship assistance.

Please consider making a lasting investment in our student-athletes. You believe in them, and helping them achieve their potential is a big win—for them, for our communities, for you as a donor and for our chapter.

Questions? Email or call one of us; our contact information is at the top of the page.

Please send your most generous contribution today. Make your check payable to the **National Football Foundation**, noting in the memo line: NFF Tiller/NW Indiana Chapter Endowment. Mail it to:

Jim Vrugink
NFF Joe Tiller/NW Indiana Chapter
3672 Farnsworth Drive
West Lafayette, IN 47906

With great gratitude,
Kelly Kitchel, President
Jim Vrugink, Executive Director



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

\$40 One-Year Membership

ALL-CONFERENCE CLUB

\$99 Three-Year Membership

HALL OF FAME CLUB

\$1,000 Lifetime Membership

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- 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:
(Please indicate cc billing address
if different than above)

Signature:

BENEFITS WAIVER (for Hall of Fame Club members only)

- I prefer to waive all benefits offered at my gift level, rendering my entire contribution tax deductible.

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*