



NFF

Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana "Building leaders through football"

VOLUME FOUR

ISSUE ONE

JANUARY 2010

CHAPTER ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP EXPANSION, CHARITY CONCERT AND NEW VENUE FOR DINNER

Drew Brees to participate for 6th straight year

An expanded scholarship program, a new event and a new venue for a traditional event characterize the changing landscape of The Northwest Indiana Chapter of the National Football Foundation.

EXPANDED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In keeping with the chapter's mission, the scholarship program is being expanded this year to include the football-playing high schools in Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties in addition to the 15 counties covered previously. Nomination forms were sent in November to 73 high schools in the region, with the idea that the area closest to Lafayette will be known as the Joe Tiller District of Northwest Indiana and the area to the north will be known as the Lake Michigan District of the chapter.

Separate judging committees will evaluate the nominees from each district in the process to select the chapter's Scholar Athlete of the Year, based on the NFF's criteria (40 percent on academic achievement, 40 percent on athletic achievement and 20 percent on citizenship and community service).

Events planned in each district in March or April will be used to raise additional scholarship funds and to introduce the nominees and their families. All nominees will be invited to attend the annual "Celebrating Our Legends" NFF Honors Dinner in West Lafayette in late June.

CHARITY CONCERT – MARCH 7

One of those events will be the NFF Charity Concert, featuring the music of chapter member Levi Riggs, on Sunday, March 7, at 3 p.m. at the West Lafayette High School Auditorium, which has a seating capacity of 660. Riggs, a rising star in country music, performed at last June's NFF Honors Dinner and has donated a portion of the proceeds from his first CD release to the chapter's scholarship fund.

Lucas Thompson, a WLHS graduate who sang at the chapter's first Honors Dinner in 2005 and is now a graduate student in the music program at Indiana



Drew Brees, Matt Lancaster and Joe Tiller pose at last year's Honors Dinner.

University, will also perform. Purdue University's Gimlet Leadership Honorary will sponsor the concert with proceeds going to the chapter's scholarship fund.

Intermission will feature the introduction of the district's scholar-athlete nominees and their parents along with an appearance by previous scholar athletes of the year. A special presentation is being planned involving Matt Lancaster, the Midwest Region's Scholar Athlete of the Year for 2009.

See June Event Pg. 3

NFF CHAPTER SWEEPS TWO AWARDS IN NEW YORK CITY

The Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana garnered some nice hardware on Dec. 8 in New York City as Matt Lancaster was named as the Midwest Scholar-Athlete of the Year and Jim Vrugink received the Outstanding Chapter Leadership Award for the Midwest Region.

Both were flown to New York and received their awards at the National Football Foundation's Chapter Awards Luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria. Emcee for the luncheon was Dick Vermeil, the former CBS broadcaster and head coach of the UCLA Bruins, Philadelphia Eagles and Kansas City Chiefs.

Lancaster, a May graduate and former football star at West Lafayette High School, was one of five regional scholar-athletes of the year. Now a freshman quarterback at Illinois State University, he was chosen by a nation-wide panel of NFF administrators for the successes he enjoyed during his senior year at WLHS.

He was honored along with Brenton Caprio (East Region – Mainland Regional H.S. in Linwood, NJ, now attending College of William & Mary), John Gilboy (Northeast Region – Thornton Academy in Saco, Maine, now at Colby College), Gavin Mills (West Region – Powell Senior H.S. in Powell, Wyo., now at U.S. Air Force Academy), and Jamal-Rashad Patterson (South Region – Henry County H.S. in

McDonough, Ga., now at Stanford University).

Lancaster was selected from 400,000 high school football players covered by the NFF Chapter Network, which solicits nominations from 4,800 high schools in 47 states each year. Matt was chosen as this chapter's Scholar Athlete of the Year last spring from a field of 17 area nominees. Criteria is based 40 percent on athletic achievements, 40 percent on academic accomplishments and 20 percent on community service. Matt is the first player from the Joe Tiller Chapter to earn this prestigious national honor.

Lancaster was the captain, most valuable player and all-state QB his senior season at West Side as he led the Red Devils to a No. 1 ranking in Class 3A, heading into the playoffs, and an 11-1 overall record. He passed for a school record 2,349 yards and 30 touchdowns while rushing for 1,129 yards and 17 touchdowns. He also played on the other side of the ball as a defensive back and on special teams as the punter for head coach Marshall Overley.

"In my 35 years of teaching and 30 years of coaching, I have been associated with some very special players," said Overley. "As an athlete, Matt is one of the best we have had at West Side. He excels as a leader and is a man of integrity."

In addition, Lancaster was captain and MVP of two other teams, basketball as the squad's leading

scorer and baseball as the Red Devils' top hitter, and was very active in community service and church activities while graduating with a grade point average of 3.92 (on as 4.0 scale).

Lancaster was a backup quarterback for the ISU

See Awards Pg. 4

NFF MEMBERS:

As always, we appreciate your past and current support of this chapter and want to ask you to please continue to renew your memberships (\$40 per year or \$99 for three years) when they become due. Unfortunately, 138 of you have allowed your memberships to lapse during the last two years as we are seeing a falling-off of our numbers. As you know, only dues-paying members receive ballots in the selection process each March for the College Football Hall of Fame. Also, a portion of your dues comes back to our chapter to award scholarships to deserving high school scholar-athletes from this area for use in their first year of college. If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact Jim Vrugink (via email: jvrugink@purdue.edu; phone: 765-427-3303; or postal: 320 Dehart St., West Lafayette, IN 47906) to check your renewal date. Also, please provide him with any changes in your address, email or phone numbers. Thanks.



NFF

Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana "Building leaders through football"

2010 HONORS DINNER AWARDS

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.

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

2008 Honoree: None

2009 Honoree: None

2010 Honoree: Nominations are open

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO AMATEUR FOOTBALL AWARD

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: Nominations are open

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.

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: Nominations are open

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 the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner.

2005 Honoree: Drew Brees of the San Diego Chargers

2006 Honoree: Rob Ninkovich of the Purdue Boilermakers

2007 Honoree: Roosevelt Colvin of the New England Patriots

2008 Honoree: Nick Hardwick of the San Diego Chargers

2009 Honoree: Akin Ayodele of the Miami Dolphins

2010 Honoree: To be selected by Drew Brees

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 the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner.

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

2010 Honoree: Nominations are open

NOMINATION FORM

(Submit by January 31, 2010, to Jim Vrugink via phone at 765-427-3303, email at jvruggink@purdue.edu or mail at 320 Dehart St., West Lafayette, IN 47906)

Name of nominee _____

For which award? _____

Phone/address of nominee _____

Reasons for nomination _____

Your name _____

Phone or email _____

2009-10 CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT - Bart Burrell

VICE PRESIDENTS -

Finance - Jeff Love

Sales - Dave McGaughey

Tiller District Membership - Bernie Flowers

Lake Michigan Membership - John Friend

Collegiate Program - Tom Schott

Scholar-Athlete Program - Randy Truitt

Youth Football Program - David M. Williams

Events - Nate Barrett

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ADDITIONAL BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS -

Aaron Cooke, Travis Dorsch, Randy Fairchild,

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Jim MacDonald, Leroy Marsh, Levi Riggs, Henry Rosenthal, David

Schutovske, Jim and Barb Siegfried, Brad Smith, Chris Smith, Jon

Speaker, David R. Williams, and Gimlet Leadership Honorary

NEWSLETTER EDITOR/WEBMASTER - Jonathan Gandolf

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Jim Vrugink



Bart Burrell



Jim Vrugink

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Irving, TX 75039

Phone: 972-556-1000

E-mail: membership@footballfoundation.com

Web site: www.footballfoundation.com

College Football Hall of Fame

111 South Saint Joseph Street

South Bend, IN 46601

Phone: 574-235-5720 or 800-440-FAME (3263)

E-mail: hof@collegefootball.org

Web site: aaa.collegefootball.org

CHAPTER ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP EXPANSION, CHARITY CONCERT AND NEW DINNER VENUE

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

NEW LOCATION FOR HONORS DINNER

The sixth annual "Celebrating Our Legends" NFF Honors Dinner will be held Tuesday, June 22, at a new location – the University Plaza Hotel in West Lafayette – but will again feature New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees and a star-studded lineup of honorees.

The Honors Dinner, again co-sponsored by Gimlet Leadership Honorary, will begin with the Silent Auction Reception at 5:00 p.m. in the hotel's Atrium. This reception is open to the public, featuring a wide array of silent auction items and autograph opportunities. It will include a cash bar, free punch and dry snacks. The Dinner Buffet and Program portion of the night will begin at 6:45 in the Grand Ballroom. Advance payment is required for that and seating will be limited to 420.

The evening will include several college and professional sports figures along with the introduction of the high school football players who were nominated as candidates for the Scholar Athlete of the Year Award. During the dinner the field will be narrowed to three finalists from each district, one of whom will be named Northwest Indiana's Scholar Athlete of the Year. Approximately \$82,000 in scholarships and honorariums has been awarded at the first five NFF Honors Dinners sponsored by this chapter.

Additional awards, including the chapter's Distinguished American Award, the Outstanding Contribution to Amateur Football Award, and the Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award, will be presented. Deadline for nominations for those awards is January 31. (See page 2 for details.)

ORDER TICKETS NOW FOR BEST SEATING

Price for the Charity Concert is same for all - \$10 per seat:

- NFF members, scholar athlete nominees and their families receive priority seating
- Advanced ticket sales and priority seating commitments conclude March 1

Prices for the Honors Dinner vary:

- NFF member's dinner will cost \$40 per adult and \$35 per student of a member
- General public dinner will cost \$50 per adult and \$40 per student
- Also tables of eight, featuring priority seating, will be sold for use by special groups - students for \$280 per table and NFF members for \$320 per table
- Advanced ticket sales and priority seating commitments conclude June 15

Tickets for these events will not be mailed. Seating assignments will be available at alphabetized Will Call tables in the lobbies for both events.

For additional details, please contact executive director Jim Vruggink by phone at 765-427-3303 or email at jvruggink@purdue.edu.

NFF ORDER FORM

NFF Charity Concert

Sunday, March 7 at West Lafayette High School Auditorium, starting at 3 p.m. (All orders received by March 1 will have priority /reserved seating. Tickets will not be sent.)

Charity concert tickets: _____ X \$10 ea. = \$ _____

Annual Honors Dinner

"Celebrating Our Legends VI"

Tuesday, June 22, at University Plaza Hotel in West Lafayette with Silent Auction and Reception beginning at 5 p.m., Buffet Dinner at 6:45 p.m., and Awards Program at 7:45 p.m.

Non-NFF members: _____ X \$50 ea. = \$ _____

NFF members*/non-member student: _____ X \$40 ea. = \$ _____

NFF member students*#: _____ X \$35 ea. = \$ _____

Tables of eight*#: _____ X \$400 ea. = \$ _____
(or \$320 each for members or \$280 each for students)

Autograph football: _____ X \$50 ea. = \$ _____

One-year NFF membership: _____ X \$40 = \$ _____

Three-year NFF membership: _____ X \$99 = \$ _____

TOTAL = \$ _____

*NFF members get price break & priority seating, if ordered by June 15; #Student rate applies thru college age.

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

Yes, I'm interested _____

GRAND TOTAL FROM BOTH LISTS (Pay with one check)\$ _____

Name: _____ Company Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Contact Jim Vruggink by email (jvruggink@purdue.edu) or phone (765-427-3303) with questions. (Please make check or money order payable to **National Football Foundation** and send to: NFF Executive Director, 320 Dehart St., West Lafayette, IN 47906-2730. Tickets will NOT be mailed.)

"Joe Tiller Roast & Toast" - DVD

DVD copy of all the comments, jokes and sentiments expressed during the January 2009 event attended by former and current players, coaches, and supporters in honor of Joe Tiller. Roasters and toasters include Joe Paterno, Barry Alvarez, Gene Keady, Danny Hope, Bill Doba, Roosevelt Colvin, Drew Brees, Matt Light, Brock Spack, Jim Chaney and others.

"Chicago Reunion" - Photo

An 8X10 photo of Joe Tiller with his two most famous quarterbacks, Drew Brees and Kyle Orton, at Soldier Field moments after Orton's former team defeated Brees' Saints in December 2008.

"Levi Riggs" - CD

Chapter member Levi Riggs is donating a portion of the proceeds from his first compact disk release (entitled "Levi Riggs"). He is a former prep football standout, former soloist with the Purdue Glee Club and now a country singer, who will perform during the NFF Charity Concert.

Support the chapter by purchasing any of these items, please complete this form and return it to the address below. For tax purposes, the NFF local chapter's ID# is 20-2151811 and the National Football Foundation's ID# is 221-50-8812.

All proceeds go to scholarships.

"Tiller Roast & Toast" DVD: _____ X \$20 each = \$ _____

Tiller/Brees/Orton color photo: _____ X \$15 each = \$ _____

Levi Riggs CD: _____ X \$15 each = \$ _____

Prices include shipping and handling TOTAL = \$ _____



NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION & COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME, INC.
JOE TILLER CHAPTER OF NORTHWEST INDIANA
320 DEHART STREET
WEST LAFAYETTE, IN 47906 -2730

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS CHAPTER ON
OUR WEB SITE:
WWW.NFFTILLERCHAPTER.ORG

NFF CHAPTER SWEEPS TWO AWARDS IN NEW YORK CITY



Executive director Jim Vrugink and scholar-athlete Matt Lancaster pose with their awards at the NFF Awards Luncheon in New York City.

(continued from pg. 1)

Redbirds under first-year head coach Brock Spack, a former Purdue assistant coach, but ended his season on a high note by leading ISU to a 22-20 upset victory over No. 9 rated Northern Iowa. Matt scored the game-winning TD in the closing seconds.

Vrugink, who helped Joe Tiller start the local chapter in 2003, is now its executive director. A long-time Purdue administrator, Vrugink also serves as director of special projects for Intercollegiate Athletics, advertising manager and assistant manager of trademark licensing for Brand and Advertising in Purdue's Office of Marketing and Media.

He received one of five Chapter Leadership Awards given in 2009 by the NFF.

"The National Football Foundation is a wonderful organization that does important work in promoting the sport and helping young scholar-athletes continue their education," Vrugink said. "Working with the NFF has been one of the most satisfying experiences of my career.

It is a tremendous bonus to receive this honor for doing something I love."

Bart Burrell, president of the board of the Joe Tiller Chapter, said, "Without Jim's leadership, our chapter would not exist. Because of his energy, dedication and talent, it has become one of the strongest chapters in the country. He deserves to be honored with one of the NFF's highest awards."

Under Vrugink's leadership the Joe Tiller Chapter quickly grew to become the fifth largest among the NFF's 119 chapters. It has awarded more than \$82,000 in scholarships and honorariums during its first six years of existence.

Vrugink came to Purdue as sports information director in 1982 from Northwestern where he had served in the same role. Four years later, he was promoted to director of athletic public relations, a job he held for 15 years.

He is a former president of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA), having led the national organization in 1996-97. He served from 1993 through 2000 on its board of directors. While on the board, he assisted in the development of a new mission statement for CoSIDA and led other initiatives that helped the organization adapt for the 21st century.

Vrugink received the NIT-CoSIDA Presidential Citation in 1997 and the Scoop Hudgens Lifetime SID Award from the All-American Football Foundation in 2002 prior to being inducted into the CoSIDA Hall of Fame in 2004. He was just the second Boilermaker and eighth Big Ten person so honored. A Life-Loyal Member of Sigma Chi Fraternity and an elder in his church, he is also a member of the John Purdue Club and the Purdue President's Council. He is on the Executive Board of the Gale Sayers Center in Chicago. At Purdue, he serves as co-advisor for the Gimlet Leadership Honorary and is faculty advisor for Delta Delta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 7: Charity Concert, West Lafayette High School, 3 p.m.

April 1: Deadline for submitting your College Football Hall of Fame Ballot

April 17: Purdue Football Spring Game, Ross-Ade Stadium

June 22: NFF Reception and Honors Dinner, University Plaza Hotel, West Lafayette

He coordinated Heisman Trophy campaigns for quarterback Jim Everett (6th in 1985), fullback Mike Alstott (11th in 1995) and quarterback Drew Brees (4th in 1999 and 3rd in 2000).

Several of Vrugink's former student assistants in athletic public relations have continued in the sports information, athletics administration, journalism and publications fields.

Vrugink's international-event experience includes serving as the press chief for baseball at the 1987 Pan American Games in Indianapolis and as press information manager for baseball at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

A native of Hudsonville, Mich., Vrugink is a 1970 graduate of Central Michigan University with a degree in journalism. He and his wife Marion have two daughters, Jaime and Kim.

Other NFF Chapter Leadership Award recipients this year are Thomas Bara (East Region from the Central Jersey Chapter), Brian Fogarty (West Region from the San Diego Chapter), Trey Johnston (South Region from the Auburn Chapter), and Alex Rotsko (Northeast Region from the Western Massachusetts Chapter).