



LET'S ASSURE JOE TILLER'S LEGACY!

ENDOWMENT GOAL IS TO RAISE \$250,000 MORE IN NEAR FUTURE; SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN WILL SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOREVER & PROMOTE PAST PLAYERS & COACHES FOR TOP HONORS

The NFF's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana asks you to help make Joe's legacy meaningful and everlasting by endowing scholarships that will honor Joe perpetually by recognizing the accomplishments of young scholar athletes.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, we launched "2025 Drive" seven years ago, hoping to raise at least \$500,000 for the endowment in order to use the annual interest to cover the chapter's scholarship commitments far into the future. Can you help us financially or by making phone calls? Would you be interested in a paid fundraising position? Or, serving on a fundraising committee?

Since receiving its charter in 2004, this 501 c-3 foundation (which was renamed the Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana in 2007 in honor of Joe becoming Purdue's winningest football coach ever) has become the largest chapter in the state and, at one point, the second largest in the nation.

In partnership with local media outlets, this chapter offers recognition for male and female scholar-athletes (nominated by their schools) after graduation from 70+ high schools in Northwest Indiana. In its first 20 years, this chapter has recognized 539 student athletes, awarding scholarships to many of them following high school for use during their second semester of college.

Also, each dues-paying NFF member receives a ballot in the selection process for the College Football Hall of Fame, a feature that helped elect five former Purdue All-Americans and two coaches to the HOF in the last 19 years. Also, this chapter has successfully inducted 20 former Boilermakers and several area high school coaches and players into the Indiana FB Hall of Fame since 2012.

Since receiving its charter, the chapter has awarded more than \$295,000 in

WE NEED YOUR HELP ... HERE'S HOW:

- DONATE TO SCHOLARSHIP FUND (see page 2) or
- ADD TO AN ENDOWMENT (see page 2) or
- TRANSFER YOUR RMD AND SAVE ON TAXES or
- APPLY FOR POSITION AS FUNDRAISER (see page 2) or
- JOIN THE CHAPTER (see pages 10-11) and
- SERVE ON A COMMITTEE (see page 5) or
- ASK ABOUT BECOMING A SPONSOR (call 765-427-3303)

(see details in following pages and consider joining our efforts)

scholarships and honorariums and \$102,000 in grants and donations. Fundraising to support these efforts is generated through sales of tickets, memorabilia, advertising, sponsorships and donations. Unfortunately, those dollars have diminished dramatically due to COVID changes in our economy and in IRS rules.

Other NFF chapters (like the Moose Krause Chapter near Notre Dame) have successfully established endowments to support future commitments. We are confident you will help us do the same for the Tiller Chapter. Thanks to the generosity of Arnette Tiller, two former Purdue quarterbacks, the wife of our past-president Bob Hagen and several of you, we are nearly halfway to reaching our goal of \$500,000.

Will you help us permanently stamp the name of Joe Tiller in the Lafayette community and throughout Northwest Indiana by contributing your time or

Continued on pg. 2



NFF AND J&C SCHOLAR-ATHLETES OF YEAR – Awarded in June at the NFF Honors Brunch were (left to right): NFF Scholar-Athlete of the Year Owen Smith of McCutcheon High School with past honoree/current NFF Board Member Matt Lancaster... Lafayette Journal & Courier Male Student-Athlete of the Year Joe Widmer of Benton Central H.S. with J&C sports writer Sam King ... and NFF Emcee and Board Member Nate Barrett with J&C Female Student-Athlete of the Year Sierra Foster of Benton Central H.S. Photos by Chad Krockover.

CHAPTER PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS AND RECOGNITION IN NW INDIANA

Continued from pg. 1

resources during the next few years? - Either providing a major gift in one lump sum or spreading it out over three years OR by helping us make some phone calls? We can even discuss an endowment that could fund an annual scholarship named for the donor.

If you have questions or wish to discuss by phone/email, please contact Jim Vruggink at 765-427-3303 or jvruggink@purdue.edu.

MY DONATION TO HELP MEET SCHOLARSHIP AND ENDOWMENT GOAL

____ I want to participate in the effort to reach the scholarship endowment goal for the National Football Foundation's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana (a 501 c-3 foundation) as part of its "Drive 2025" Campaign. My commitment is as follows:

\$ _____ total = \$ _____ in 2024; \$ _____ in 2025; \$ _____ in 2026

(Check is enclosed ____; Send me an invoice ____; Call me to discuss ____)

(You can also contribute electronically through ZEFFY ([click here](#)), a free processing service for 501 c-3 foundations.) Please make donations payable to **National Football Foundation**

Indicate here ____ if you wish your donation to be listed as anonymous.

ALL DONATIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED WITH A RECEIPT.

Your Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO: Jim Vruggink, Executive Director
Joe Tiller Chapter of NFF
3672 Farnsworth Drive
West Lafayette, IN 47906
PHONE: 765-427-3303

SHIRT REWARD FOR DONATION

Repeating our message/offer of last fall, 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 a donation 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. Also, indicate whether you want the donation to go directly to scholarships or to the endowment.

This offer will be good through the end of 2024. 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.

TILLER CHAPTER BOARD APPROVES CONTINUING SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The Sustainability Plan was initiated in 2015 to provide continuity as a 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, Dr. Bob Hagen served as our third president for five months (in 2021-22) and Alan Karpick became our fourth president in 2022.

ALSO, Jeff Love served as treasurer (2004-15) until Janet Schweikher took over (2015-21) followed by Paul Branham (since 2022). The executive director position was held by Jim Vruggink (2004 - present) but he will retire from that position at the end of 2024, when Travis Baugh will take over as executive director. Travis became deputy director in 2018 and Tom Schott will move into that role this January. Elishaba VanWinkle became secretary in 2021 and remains in that position. New position of Coordinator of Fundraising likely will be added in early

Continued on pg. 6

PART-TIME FUNDRAISING POSITION AVAILABLE AT JOE TILLER CHAPTER

The National Football Foundation's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana is one of the five largest chapters (among 120 nationwide) and the largest among the four chapters in Indiana. The chapter received its charter in Fall of 2004 and since then has enlisted more than 925 members (but less than 150 currently active) and donated nearly \$400,000 toward scholarships and charities.

The mission of the National Football Foundation is to promote and develop the power of amateur sports in developing the qualities of leadership, sportsmanship, competitive zeal and the drive for academic excellence in America's young people.

POSITION AVAILABLE:

Coordinator of Fundraising will focus on soliciting money for the Joe Tiller Endowment, which has a goal of raising at least \$500,000 by the end of 2025. Nearly \$250,000 is already committed. This is a part-time position (average 2-3 hours per week with spring/summer being the busiest) for at least two years (with possible extension) and the coordinator is responsible for developing his/her own home office. Compensation to be negotiable but comparable to other officer positions within the chapter. He/she will:

- Aggressively pursue donations, sponsorships and three-year commitments primarily from Purdue supporters and former athletes, coaches and friends,
- Collaborate with Chapter President and Executive Director in refining chapter's list of potential donors and developing an effective strategy to raise funds,
- Provide a high level of customer service while supporting chapter sponsors and stakeholders,
- Assist the Coordinator of Sales in identifying potential advertisers or sponsors who might not be "ready" to donate to the endowment fund but might be interested in assisting in smaller ways,
- Assist, if time allows, with planning and execution of chapter activities,
- Attend semi-annual meetings of the Chapter's Advisory Council as a non-voting member,
- Utilize the availability of at least one student intern (Purdue student who is a former high school student-athlete) to assist him/her in meeting the objectives listed above and
- Other duties as assigned.

SKILLS:

- Excellent communication skills,
- Ability to manage multiple priorities,
- Self-motivation.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience required,
- Fundraising experience required,
- Knowledge and/or experience in intercollegiate athletics preferred.

PLEASE MAIL OR EMAIL COVER LETTER WITH RESUME TO:

Jim Vruggink/NFF Tiller Chapter
3672 Farnsworth Drive
West Lafayette, IN 47906
Email: jvruggink@purdue.edu

Cell: 765-427-3303



WINNING TEAM AT THE TYLER TRENT GOLF OUTING this year was S2 Promotions, headed by Steve Ramon (left to right) and his buddies, Kim Hawkins, Mike Deese and Paul Mieling. The event at Coyote Crossing Golf Club drew 71 golfers and 36 sponsors, netting a total donation of \$9,000 to the Purdue Institute for Cancer Research in honor of Tyler Trent. Photo by Chad Krockover.



INDIANA FOOTBALL HALL OF FAMERS – Inducted June 9 during the NFF Honors Brunch were (left to right) former Purdue standout Taylor Stubblefield, former Purdue/Lafayette Jeff star Doug Downing, former Michigan/McCutcheon ace Clayton Richard and former Rensselaer Central/Indiana State phenom Dan Brandenburg. Photo by Chad Krockover.

NFF HONORS BRUNCH HIGHLIGHTS PURDUE HOOPS STUDENT-ATHLETES FEATURED; FOUR HALL OF FAMERS INDUCTED

The most successful season in Purdue men’s basketball history was celebrated on June 9 as part of the NFF Honors Brunch “Celebrating Our Legends XX,” sponsored by the National Football Foundation’s Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana. It drew a sellout crowd of 450 at the Purdue Memorial Union Ballrooms in West Lafayette.

Four of the men most prominent in the success of Boilermaker basketball received awards – Head Coach Matt Painter and former Coach Gene Keady received the organization’s highest honor, the Gold Medallion Award, while point guard Braden Smith and center Zach Edey received the Purdue For Life Impact Award, although Edey was unable to attend. Coach Keady also received the Leroy Keyes Legends Award.

Also, four former standout athletes who played football in Northwest Indiana were inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame during the afternoon program. This year’s inductees are Dan Brandenburg (Rensselaer H.S./ Indiana State University); Doug Downing (Lafayette Jefferson H.S./Purdue University); Clayton Richard (McCutcheon H.S./U. of Michigan) and Taylor Stubblefield (Tacoma, Wash., H.S./Purdue).

But, the event, as usual, focused on student-athletes – lots of them. That included 16 NFF scholar-athletes who were nominated by their schools throughout Northern Indiana for the annual Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award and 30 Lafayette Journal & Courier student-athletes nominated by high school athletics directors in the J&C coverage area. Also honored were 19 J&C sport-by-sport players of the year selected by the J&C sports staff, 23 WLFI-TV Athletes of the Week and several Indiana Football Coaches Association All-Star nominees from Regions 1, 3, 4 and 6. Personalized certificates were given to 61 of these prep athletes who committed to attending the Honors Brunch. Scholarships will be distributed to 27 of these qualified honorees for use during their second semester of college.

Along with the awards and recognition for the high school athletes, the Tiller Chapter presented five other awards, nominated and selected by chapter members and various entities, to recognize outstanding accomplishments in our communities.

The entire list of awards follows:

- NFF Chapter Scholar-Athlete of the Year – Owen Smith
- J&C Female Student-Athlete of the Year – Sienna Foster
- J&C Male Student-Athlete of the Year – Joe Widmer
- Gold Medallion Award – Matt Painter & Gene Keady
- Leroy Keyes Legends Award – Gene Keady
- Purdue For Life Impact Award – Zach Edey & Braden Smith
- Todd Clark Outstanding Game Official Award – Don Rusk
- Bernie Flowers Contribution to Amateur Sports Award – Sheila Klinker
- Patrick Mackey Courage Award – Connor Benson
- Tyler Trent Courage and Resilience Award – Andrew Kinder
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – Dan Brandenburg
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – Doug Downing
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – Clayton Richard
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – Taylor Stubblefield

Primary goal of this event is to provide recognition for scholar-athletes and community members who support them.

The NFF scholar-athletes’ names and high schools, as nominated by their schools, were: Koby Bahler (Tri-County), Scott Ballentine (Andrean), Connor Benson (North Judson-San Pierre), Gabriel Brandenburg (Lafayette Jefferson), Eli Deardorff (Kankakee Valley), Pete DuVall (Caston), Graham Drone (Rensselaer Central), Ty Fagan (Oak Hill), Isaac Gayler (Fountain Central), H.J. Hillis (Lewis Cass), Isaac Ireland (North Miami), Cooper Kitchel (West Lafayette), Nick Page (Lafayette Central Catholic), Ethan Popp (Harrison), Owen Smith (McCutcheon) and Jake Tippmann (Fort Wayne Snider).

The Journal & Courier Female Nominees for Student-Athlete of the Year were: Ava Adriano (Lafayette Jeff), Annabel Anderson (North Montgomery), Hadessah Austin (Seeger), Jasmine Durando (Tri-County), Sienna Foster (Benton Central), Adyson Goodwin (Attica), Alli Harness (Carroll), Cortney Huffman (Rossville), Kacey Kirkpatrick (Fountain Central), Lexi Miller (Delphi), Olivia Nickerson (Twin Lakes), Mary Rice (Fountain Central), Allie Shondell (McCutcheon), Adrienne Tolen (West Lafayette), Riley Whitlock (Harrison), Haven Wilson (Clinton Prairie) and Summer Wynn (North Newton).

The Journal & Courier Male Nominees for Student-Athlete of the Year were: Gavin Boutelle (Lafayette Central Catholic), Cole Chicoine (McCutcheon), Tyson Fuller (Crawfordsville), Evan Gagnon (North Newton), Cooper Kitchel (West Lafayette), James Lathrop (Attica), Spencer Leman (West Central), Levi Ostler (Clinton Prairie), Jamison Ousley (Twin Lakes), Ethan Popp (Harrison), Charlie Thompson (Rossville), Joe Widmer (Benton Central) and Eric Zarse (Tri-County).

Continued on pg. 5



GENE KEADY (Left) and MATT PAINTER share a laugh on stage during the presentation of the NFF Tiller Chapter’s Gold Medallion Award for what they’ve accomplished with the Purdue men’s basketball program since 1980.



STUDENT-ATHLETE AWARDS FINALISTS – Left to right are: Owen Smith of McCutcheon H.S.), Joe Widmer of Benton Central H.S., Eric Zarse of Tri-County H.S., Nick Page of Lafayette Central Catholic H.S., Sienna Foster of Benton Central H.S., Jake Tippmann of Fort Wayne Snider H.S., LJ Hillis of Lewis Cass H.S., H.S., Ethan Popp of Harrison H.S., and Jasmine Durando of Tri-County H.S. Awards won by Foster, Smith and Widmer, but each finalist received a copy of Tyler Trent’s book, “The Upset.” Photo by Chad Krockover.

STUDENT-ATHLETES HONORED AT JUNE 9 BRUNCH

Ava Adriano of Lafayette Jefferson High School was a Lafayette J&C Student Athlete of the Year nominee. She is continuing her education at Ivy Tech this fall.

Adam Ahler of Rensselaer Central H.S. was a Region 4 All-Star and is continuing his education at Purdue University this fall.

Annabel Anderson of North Montgomery H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee and is continuing her education at Augustana College this fall.

Christopher Angeles of Frankfort H.S. was a TV-18 Athlete of the Week honoree in cross country. He is still a student at Frankfort and is undecided about his college choice.

Connor Benson of North Judson H.S., was an NFF Scholar-Athlete nominee, the Patrick Mackey Courage Award Winner and is attending Purdue this fall.

Gavin Boutelle of Lafayette Central Catholic H.S. was a Lafayette J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. He is continuing his education at Purdue this fall.

Gabriel Brandenburg of Lafayette Jefferson H.S. was an NFF Scholar-Athlete nominee. He is continuing his education and sports career at Wabash College this fall.

Jalin Brown of Rossville H.S. was a TV-18 Athlete of the Week in soccer and is continuing her education at Ivy Tech this fall.

Cole Chicoine of McCutcheon H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year Nominee and is continuing his education at Indiana University this fall.

Eli Deardorff of Kankakee Valley H.S. was an NFF Scholar-Athlete nominee and a Region 1 All-Star. He is attending Purdue this fall.

Carly Drone of Rensselaer Central H.S. was a TV-18 Athlete of the Week in basketball. She is a senior at Rensselaer this fall.

Graham Drone of Rensselaer Central H.S. was an NFF Scholar-Athlete nomi-

nee and is continuing his education at Purdue this fall.

Jasmine Durando of Tri-County H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year finalist as a four-sport athlete. She is continuing her education at Butler University this fall.

Pete DuVall of Caston H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete nominee and is continuing his education at Purdue this fall.

Keegan Ellis of Carroll H.S. was a TV-18 Athlete of the Week in football.

Brock Finney of McCutcheon H.S. was a Region 4 All-Star in football and is continuing his education at Purdue this fall.

Sienna Foster of Benton Central H.S. was named the J&C’s Female Student-Athlete of the Year for 2023-24 and the J&C Player of the Year in volleyball. She is continuing her education at Purdue this fall.

Isaac Gayler of Fountain Central H.S. was an NFF Scholar-Athlete nominee and is attending Wabash College in the fall.

Adyson Goodwin of Attica H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee and is continuing her education at Indiana University this fall.

Lillie Graves of McCutcheon H.S. was the J&C Player of the Year in basketball. She is now a sophomore at McCutcheon.

Gavin Halsema of Harrison H.S. was the J&C Player of the Year in football on defense and is a Region 4 All Star. He is attending Purdue this fall.

Alli Harness of Carroll H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee and the J&C Player of the Year for basketball. She is continuing her education at Western Michigan University this fall.

LJ Hillis of Lewis Cass H.S. was an NFF Scholar-Athlete finalist and is continuing his education at DePauw University in the fall.

Continued on pg. 6

CHAPTER’S GOLF OUTINGS PRODUCE \$48,000 FOR CANCER RESEARCH

The Joe Tiller Chapter’s annual support of a golf outing as a fundraiser has now provided \$48,000 for cancer research.

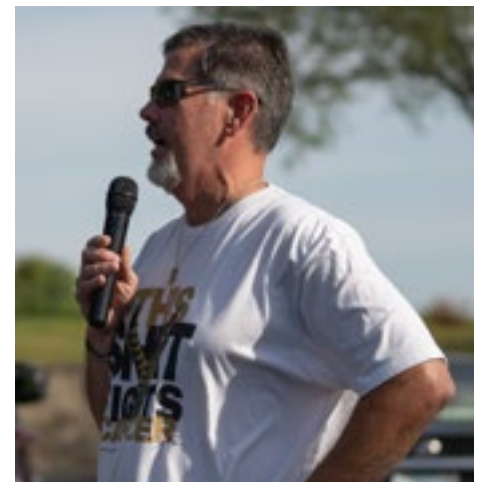
After several years as the Ryan Kerrigan/12th Boiler Golf Outing at the Purdue Golf Complex as a combined effort between the NFF’s Tiller Chapter and Purdue’s Trademarks Licensing Office, a new partnership became necessary. In the spring of 2020, the chapter agreed to join forces with the Tyler Trent Family, the Elks Club of West Lafayette and Purdue’s Institute 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 the legacy of Purdue “super-fan” 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 and 2024 Tyler Trent Golf Outings were again at Coyote Crossing (on Sept. 1 last year and Sept. 12 this year) with former Boilermaker QB Curtis Painter as “celebrity guest” and combined to attract 158 golfers and 78 sponsors, while generating \$21,000 for Purdue’s Institute for Cancer Research, lifting our total contribution to cancer research to more than \$48,000, including the early year efforts prior to involvement with the Trent Family.



TONY TRENT, father of Tyler Trent, addresses golfers prior to the start of this year’s Tyler Trent Golf Outing that produced \$9,000 for the Purdue Institute of Cancer Research.

HONORS BRUNCH CONTINUES TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Continued from pg. 3

The Journal & Courier Players of the Year were: Kylie Dugan (Harrison/softball '23), Sienna Foster (Benton Central/volleyball), Evan Gagnon (North Newton/basketball), Lillie Graves (McCutcheon/basketball), Gavin Halsema (Harrison/football defense), Alli Harness (Carroll/basketball), Rose Kaplan (West Lafayette/wrestling state champ), Malachi King (Harrison/basketball), Matthew Klinge (Harrison/swimming state champ), Carter Knoy (Harrison/football offense), Anna Lasater (West Lafayette/soccer), Chase Long (Delphi/baseball '23), Logan Marsell (McCutcheon, baseball '23), Lexi Miller (Delphi/softball '23), Nick Page (Lafayette Central Catholic/football defense), Joey Scheumann (Harrison/soccer), Emma Segal (Frontier/volleyball), Noah Weaver (Rossville/wrestling state champ) and Wyatt Woodall (Southmont/football offense).

The WLFV-TV Athletes of the Week for 2023-24 were: Christopher Angeles (Frankfort), Jalin Brown (Rossville), Carly Drone (Rensselaer), Keegan Ellis (Carroll), Javon Frost (Delphi), Sarah Gick (Benton Central), Lillie Graves (McCutcheon), Jaiden Goins (Harrison), Alli Harness (Carroll), Presley Hilleboe (West Lafayette), Andrew Hostetler (Harrison), Chris Huerta (Carroll), Maya Layton (Lafayette Faith Christian), Dawson Martin (West Lafayette), Alex Michel (Harrison), Kayden Minnich (Lafayette Central Catholic), Olivia Nickerson (Twin Lakes), Ethan Popp (Harrison), Albert Schwartz (Lafayette Central Catholic), Emma Segal (Frontier), Ian Strachan (West Lafayette), Noah Weaver (Rossville) and Riley Whitlock (Harrison).

The 62 players from Regions 1 and 4 who were nominated for the North All-Star team – some of them invited to this event for other awards and honors – were invited to the Honors Brunch and received certificates, if they attended. That entire list can be found at www.ifca.net.

This year's community honorees include Sheila Klinker, long-time member of the State of Indiana House of Representatives, being recognized for her ever-present support of athletic and community events in the Lafayette area. The chapter also honored Don Rusk for his game officiating and Gene Keedy for his loyalty to Purdue.

Athlete-oriented awards this year went to Zach Edey (represented by assistant basketball coach Brandon Brantley) and Braden Smith for their lethal impact in the "two-man" game that propelled Purdue

basketball to a 34-5 record (best in school history) and to the NCAA Championship Game and high school athlete Connor Benson of North Judson-San Pierre for overcoming numerous health issues.

Also, Andrew Kinder was recognized as the 2023-24 recipient of the Tyler Trent Courage & Resilience Award, an honor he was given last year but was unable to attend either the Honors Brunch or the Honors Reception due to health issues.

The four IFCA Hall of Fame inductees came to this distinction in different ways.

Dan Brandenburg was nominated by his high school, Rensselaer Central, and Coach Chris Meeks to recognize his outstanding all-state prep career followed by All-American performances as a defensive end at Indiana State University and a four-year stint with the NFL Buffalo Bills, appearing in 42 games. After a brief stint of high school coaching in California, he now lives in Melbourne, Fla., and trains college football players for the NFL Combine and Draft.

Doug Downing was nominated by his high school, Lafayette Jeff, and Coach Pat Shanley in recognition of Doug's outstanding career in Tippecanoe County as a Parade All-American quarterback at Jeff and a starting QB at Purdue. He went on to have a 24-year career as an assistant coach at multiple division I collegiate programs, coaching many future NFL players. More recently, he has settled into coaching high school football and track while living in Sylvania, Ohio.

Clayton Richard was nominated by his former head coach at McCutcheon, Kevin O'Shea. Richard excelled in two sports as Mr. Football and Mr. Baseball while at McCutcheon, maintained a 4.0 grade point average and was a highly-recruited football and baseball player at the University of Michigan before a lengthy career in Major League Baseball. Clayton returned to his hometown and is now coaching football at Lafayette Jefferson H.S.

Taylor Stubblefield was nominated by the Tiller Chapter of NFF in recognition of his All-American career as an NCAA record-setting wide receiver at Purdue as part of Coach Joe Tiller's "Basketball on Grass" offense. He held the NCAA record for career receptions for seven years, played briefly in the NFL and CFL and has coached at nine different universities and at two professional teams. He currently coaches wide receivers and punt returners at the Air Force Academy and lives in Mountain View, Colo.



BOARD REMEMBERS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER SANDRA DUKES

If you attended a Purdue athletic event in the last 25-plus years, chances are you've seen Sandra Dukes near the field of play. Dukes has shot photography at nearly every intercollegiate sport at Purdue since the 1990s, becoming a mainstay in the local sports community.

Unfortunately, Dukes, a Lafayette attorney for more than 50 years and a member of the Tiller Chapter Advisory Council for 10 years, passed away suddenly in late October following a stroke.

For her countless hours providing her photography services to the chapter and to Greater Lafayette, Dukes was honored as the recipient of the Arnette Tiller Service to Football Award at the NFF Honors Brunch in 2022.

Dukes got her start in photography when she attended Purdue University – she has two degrees from Purdue and a law degree from Indiana University – before she caught her big break with WireImage, which was later bought out by Getty Images.

She was standing in the parking lot at Ross-Ade Stadium when WireImage approached her and "We need someone to shoot photos today. Can you do that?" Since then, Dukes has shot photos for dozens of news outlets, including the Associated Press and USA Today, and has had her work featured in Sports Illustrated and many prominent news publications.

Some of the most noteworthy events she shot

Continued on pg. 9

NFF ADVISORY BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2025

PRESIDENT: Alan Karpick

PAST PRESIDENTS: Bart Burrell and Kelly Kitchel

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Travis Baugh

DEPUTY DIRECTOR: Tom Schott

COORDINATOR OF FUNDRAISING: To Be Determined

TREASURER: Paul Branham

SECRETARY: Elisheba VanWinkle

WEBMASTER: Travis Baugh

NEWSLETTER EDITOR & HISTORIAN: Jim Vrugink

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION DIRECTOR: Jonathan Gandolf

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Chad Krockover

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (29 Voting Members): Max Bales, Nate Barrett, Tim Bobillo, Bart Burrell, Steve Clark, Don Coller, Nancy Cross, Judy Hanna, Ethan Hanson, Austin Hoefling, Steve Hoffman, Orlando Itin, Alan Karpick, Eddie Keister, Kelly Kitchel, Chad Krockover, Matt Lancaster, Young Lee, Jeff Love, Joe Mackey, David McGaughey, Jim Samuel, Tom Schott, Janet Schweikher, Brad Smith, Jon Speaker, Ron Tipton, Rex Trautman and Elisheba VanWinkle
ADVISORY COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEMBERS (19): Terry Acree, Tom Blumling, Drew Brees, Patrick Crawford, Ron Diallo, Dwayne Greer, Joe Her-

nandez, Tim House, Sam King, Adam Kuffner, Jaylyn Learnard, Leroy Marsh, Tim Newton, Chris Pate, Mark Peterson, Andrew Ralph, Clayton Richard, Chris Westgate and George Wodicka
INTERNS (5): Tate Drone, Patrick Kiefer, Matthew Meyer, Ben Riggins and Tressa Senesac

ASSIGNMENTS, DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

AUCTIONS & MEMORABILIA SALES: Lee & Schott (co-chairs)

AWARDS NOMINATIONS/SELECTIONS: Vrugink & Schott (co-chairs)

BY-LAWS: Karpick, Love & Vrugink

COMMUNICATIONS: Karpick & Schott (co-chairs)

ENDOWMENT: New fundraiser & Vrugink (co-chairs)

EVENTS: Baugh & Schott (Honors Brunch co-chairs)

Hoefling & Samuel (Golf Outing co-chairs)

Samuel & Hanna (Business Expo co-chairs)

Hanna & Trautman (Road Trip co-chairs)

MEMBERSHIP: McGaughey & Keister (co-chairs)

NEWSLETTERS/PUBLICATIONS: Gandolf & Vrugink (co-chairs)

SPECIAL PROJECTS: Smith & Vrugink (co-chairs)

SPONSORSHIPS/ADVERTISING: Baugh & Vrugink (co-chairs)

CONTINUED LIST OF 2024 STUDENT HONOREES

Continued from pg. 4

Andrew Hostetler of Harrison H.S. was a TV-18 Athlete of the Week in volleyball and is continuing his education at Wabash this fall.

Cortney Huffman of Rossville H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee and helped lead her softball team to a State Championship in June. She is continuing her education at Purdue this fall.

Isaac Ireland of North Miami H.S. was an NFF Scholar-Athlete nominee and is continuing his education at IU-Kokomo this fall.

Rose Kaplan of West Lafayette H.S. was the J&C Player of the Year in wrestling and a state champion. She is attending Indiana Institute of Technology this fall.

Kacey Kirkpatrick of Fountain Central H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee and is continuing her education at Indiana Tech this fall.

Carson Kitchel of West Lafayette H.S. was an NFF Scholar-Athlete of the Year nominee, a Region 4 All-Star and represented the North in the North-South All-Star game. He is continuing his education as a preferred football walk-on at Purdue.

Cooper Kitchel of West Lafayette H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee, a Region 4 All-Star, and is continuing his education as a preferred football walk-on at Purdue.

Matthew Klinge of Harrison H.S. was the J&C Player of the Year in swimming and a state champion. He is attending Ohio State University this fall.

Carter Knoy of Harrison H.S. was the J&C Player of the Year in football on offense and was a Region 4 All-Star and participated in the North-South All-Star game. He is attending Purdue this fall.

Anna Lasater of West Lafayette H.S. was the J&C Player of the Year in soccer and is attending Ohio State this fall.

James Lathrop of Attica H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee and is continuing his education at Purdue this fall.

Maya Layton of Lafayette Faith Christian H.S. was a TV-18 Athlete of the Week in basketball and is a junior at Lafayette Jefferson H.S. this fall.

Spencer Leman of West Central H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee and is continuing his education at Purdue this fall.

Dawson Martin of West Lafayette H.S. was a TV-18 Athlete of the Week in football and is a senior at West Lafayette this fall.

Lexi Miller of Delphi H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee and is continuing her education at Purdue this fall.

Kayden Minnich of Lafayette Central Catholic H.S. was a TV-18 Athlete of the Week in baseball and is continuing his education at Purdue this fall.

Olivia Nickerson of Twin Lakes H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee and TV-18 Athlete of the Week in basketball. She is continuing her education at Bethel College this fall.

Levi Ostler of Clinton Prairie H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee, a Region 4 All-Star and a participant in the North-South All-Star Game. He is continuing his education at DePauw this fall.

Jamison Ousley of Twin Lakes H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee and is continuing his education at the University of Evansville this fall.

Nick Page of Lafayette Central Catholic H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete of

the Year nominee, a Region 4 All-Star and a J&C Player of the Year in football on defense. He is attending Wabash College this fall and playing football.

Ethan Popp of Harrison H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete nominee, J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee and TV-18 Athlete of the Week for wrestling. He is attending Purdue this fall has joined the wrestling team.

Mary Rice of Fountain Central H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee and is continuing her education at Purdue this fall.

Brinn Robbins of Lafayette Central Catholic H.S. was a Region 4 All-Star and North-South All-Star game participant. He is continuing his education at Keiser University in Florida this fall.

Joey Scheumann of Harrison H.S. was the J&C Player of the Year in soccer and is attending Indiana University this fall.

Albert Schwartz of Lafayette Central Catholic H.S. was a TV-18 Athlete of the Week in football and a Region 4 All-Star. He is continuing his education at Purdue this fall.

Emma Segal of Frontier H.S. was the J&C Player of the Year for volleyball and a TV-18 Athlete of the Week in volleyball. She is attending Indiana this fall.

Allie Shondell of McCutcheon H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee and is continuing her education at Purdue and playing volleyball this fall.

Owen Smith of McCutcheon H.S. was chosen as the NFF Scholar-Athlete of the Year and Region 4 All-Star. He is continuing his education at Purdue this fall and will join the football team as a preferred walk-on in the spring.

Charlie Thompson of Rossville H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee and is a senior at Rossville H.S. this fall.

Jake Tippmann of Fort Wayne Snider H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete finalist and is continuing his education at Purdue.

Adrienne Tolen of West Lafayette H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee who is continuing her education at Missouri State this fall.

Noah Weaver of Rossville H.S. was the J&C Player of the Year in football for defense and a TV-18 Athlete of the Week in wrestling on his way to winning a state championship and posting a 50-0 record. He is a senior at Rossville this fall.

Riley Whitlock of Harrison H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee and TV-18 Athlete of the Week in volleyball. She is continuing her education at Ball State University this fall.

Joe Widmer of Benton Central H.S. was selected as the J&C Male Student-Athlete of the Year for 2023-24 playing both football and basketball. He is continuing his education at Iowa State University this fall.

Haven Wilson of Clinton Prairie H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. She is continuing her education at Purdue this fall.

Wyatt Woodall of Southmont H.S. was the J&C Player of the Year in football for offense. He was chosen as an IFCA All-Star and played for the South Team before attending Marian University this fall.

Summer Wynn of North Newton H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee who is continuing her education at Millikin University this fall.

Eric Zarse of Tri-County H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year finalist who is continuing his education at Purdue this fall.

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN APPROVED BY TILLER BOARD

Continued from pg. 2

2025. The sustainability plan also calls for this ...

- 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 four 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" fundraising 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, projects or methods 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.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Tiller Chapter continues to move forward with creative ideas to boost memberships and sales, we are offering a complimentary chapter membership to individuals in three major groups associated with the chapter.

The chapter is also partnering with Gold & Black.com to offer a complimentary membership in the local chapter to all subscribers. New members will be given all the same local benefits as regular dues-paying members, including access to newsletters and notifications, invitations to events and special pricing or seating accommodations at chapter-sponsored events.

We hope to continue to sell donated items on eBay, thanks to the considerable efforts of Young Lee. Proceeds from these sales go toward scholarships. We will probably solicit items and opportunities from multiple sources as we consider other potential event-oriented sales ... our Silent Auction Honors Reception, perhaps featuring a live auctioneer.

Another idea that might have merit to explore is to host a dinner of champions (to honor the championship teams and individuals from our area).

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*

2024 Honorees: *Gene Keady and Matt Painter, leaders of Purdue basketball excellence for last 44 years*

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.*

2024 Honoree: *Owen Smith of McCutcheon 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 As-*

sociation

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*

2024 Honoree: *Gene Keady, Purdue's winningest basketball coach, Hall of Fame, 25 years at Purdue*

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*

2024 Honorees: *Zach Edey and Braden Smith of Purdue's Lethal Two-Man Game*

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
2023 Honoree: Mike Bauer of Lafayette Area Subway Shops
2024 Honoree: Sheila Klinker of Indiana House of Representatives

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.
2024 Honoree: Don Rusk of Indianapolis, 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.
2024 Honoree: Connor Benson of North Judson San Pierre 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.
2024 Honoree: Annliese Hope Williams of West Lafayette, 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 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 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

"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, now COO of Jimmy Johns
- 2016 Honoree:** Doug DeVos, former Purdue walk-on, now President of Amway Corp.
- 2017 Honoree:** Mike Berghoff, former Purdue walk-on, now President of Lenon 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 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

BOARD REMEMBERS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER SANDRA DUKES

Continued from pg. 5

at were the Kentucky Derby, Westminster Dog Show, the Indianapolis 500 and Brickyard 400. Her personal favorites were the 2006 AFC Championship Game where the Indianapolis Colts defeated the New England Patriots to clinch their first Super Bowl berth since the team moved to Indianapolis from Baltimore and seeing Queen Elizabeth at a Kentucky Derby.

"I do it for the fun of it," Dukes said. "I love the artistry of sports. You get in a rhythm with the movement of every sport. I can see things others don't see. That's what writers and photographers do – they have the opportunity to see things others can't."

A self-described sports junkie, Dukes loved the special access being close to the action provides. She had countless stories of players saying things that a fan can't hear from the stands.

"It's so fun to do," Dukes said. "You're pretty much on the field or court. You're right there. The players land right in your lap. You see how the players react to situations. You hear what they say and see what they do. A lot of times, it's like you're invisible and the athletes don't even realize you're there. Sometimes, magic happens and you'll get magic shots."

The photographer's position at games is not without its dangerous moments, however. Dukes was knocked down or rolled over several times at games over the years.

"I've caught many balls off of the end line," Dukes said. "I've gotten pretty good at spinning the ball and flipping it back to the officials. Football is scary along the sideline. You have to be aware and awake."



TRAVIS BAUGH will take over as the Executive Director of the Joe Tiller Chapter on Jan. 1, 2025, replacing Jim Vruggink, who served in that capacity since the start of the chapter in 2004. Baugh's efforts started as an intern in 2012 when he was a student at Purdue prior to assisting with sponsorship sales. For the last seven years, he has served as our Deputy Director. Travis works for Carrier Corporation in Indianapolis and lives with his wife Shelby and two young children in Plainfield, Ind.

Upcoming Events in West Lafayette:

- June 22, 2025** – NFF Honors Brunch, Purdue Memorial Union
- Summer, 2025** – Possible NFF Champions Dinner/Auction & Sales Event
- Aug. 30, 2025** – Purdue Home Opener vs. Ball State, Ross-Ade Stadium
- Sept. 5, 2025** – Tyler Trent Golf Outing, Coyote Crossing Golf Club

VISIT CHAPTER WEBSITE AT:

www.nfftillerchapter.org

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR NFF MEMBERSHIP WHEN IT COMES DUE

(See pages 10 & 11 of this packet.)



News, Weather, and Sports Whenever You Need It.





NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP PROTECTING THE GAME FOR 76 YEARS

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 1 color T-shirt (1 Year membership) or 4 color T-shirt (3 Year and Lifetime memberships)
- ✦ Exclusive Member News and Updates

THE SPIRIT OF 76 YEARS

2023 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP: PROTECTING THE GAME SINCE 1947



3 YEAR MEMBERSHIP: \$150
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP: \$1000
Includes 4-color shirt

1 YEAR MEMBERSHIP: \$60
Includes 2-color shirt

BOTH LEVELS INCLUDE A VOTE IN THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME SELECTION PROCESS

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



[HTTPS://CARINGCENT.ORG/NFF/CHAPTER2023](https://caringcent.org/nff/chapter2023)



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:

Signature:

(Please indicate cc billing address
if different from above)

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

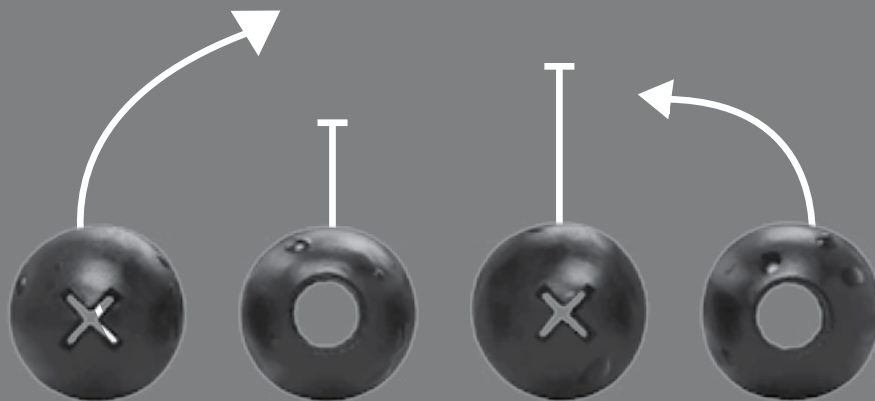
OR Submit via: Email: membership@footballfoundation.com Fax: 972-556-9032

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



BLITZING BIG APPETITES

Subway® restaurants of Greater Lafayette is a proud supporter of the National Football Foundation.



Subway® is a Registered Trademark of Subway IP LLC. ©2019 Subway IP LLC.