



BUSY 2022 FEATURES HONORS BRUNCH JUNE 12

ALSO:

JULY 13 – NFF Night w/ Lafayette Aviators
SEPT. 8 or 9 – NFF Honors Reception
SEPT. 9 – Tyler Trent Golf Outing
OCT./NOV. – Road Trips to NFL, Purdue Games

The National Football Foundation's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana is moving full-speed ahead with a busy slate of events and projects for 2022. The emphasis is to provide recognition for scholar-athletes and community members who support them and to raise funds for charities.

While fund-raising is an ongoing project, the NFF Honors Brunch "Celebrating Our Legends XVIII" on June 12 at the Purdue Memorial Union Ballrooms in West Lafayette is our feature event. And it kicks off our busiest six-month stretch in history, including NFF Night with the Lafayette Aviators on July 13 at Loeb Stadium in Lafayette, the NFF Honors Reception on either Sept. 8 or 9 at a location yet to be determined, the Tyler Trent Golf Outing on Sept. 9 at Coyote Crossing Golf Club in West Lafayette and possible NFF-sponsored bus trips to NFL and/or Purdue games of interest.

The June 12 event will focus on 17 NFF scholar-athletes who were nominated by their schools throughout Northwest Indiana for the annual Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award and 33 Lafayette Journal & Courier student-athletes nominated by high school athletics directors in the J&C coverage area. Also be-

ing honored are 11 J&C sport-by-sport players of the year selected by the J&C sports staff and 60 Indiana Football Coaches Association North All-Star nominees from Regions 1 and 4. Personalized certificates will be presented to each of these prep athletes who attends the Honors Brunch.

Along with the awards and recognition for the high school athletes, the Tiller Chapter will also present nine other awards, nominated and selected by chapter members and various entities, to recognize outstanding accomplishments in our communities. Some of these presentations will occur June 12 while others, including one Hall of Fame recognition, will take place at the NFF's Honors Reception on Sept. 8 or 9 in conjunction with the Tyler Trent Golf Outing.

The entire list of awards are as follows:

- J&C Female & Male Student-Athletes of the Year – **To Be Announced**
- NFF Chapter Scholar-Athlete of the Year – **To Be Announced**
- Gold Medallion Award – **Dr. Robert Hagen (posthumously)**
- Arnette Tiller Service to Football Award – **Sandra Dukes**
- Todd Clark Outstanding Game Official Award – **Trent Johnson**
- Bernie Flowers Contribution to Amateur Sports Award – **Nate Barrett**
- Leroy Keyes Legends Award – **Tim Newton**
- Purdue For Life Impact Award – **Alan Karpick**

and Tom Schott

- Patrick Mackey Courage Award – **Wade Peters**
- Tyler Trent Courage and Resilience Award – **(TBD)**
- Distinguished American Award – **Drew Brees**
- Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award – **Aidan O'Connell**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **John Hendryx (June)**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Kevin O'Shea (June)**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Alex Yunevich (June - posthumously)**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Kyle Orton (September)**

The NFF scholar-athletes' names and high schools, as nominated by their schools, are: Robby Ballentine (Andean), Justin Brady (Lafayette Central Catholic), Cooper Crum (Harrison), Brendan Day (Winamac), Tate Drone (Rensselaer Central), Tanner Hampton (North Judson-San Pierre), Seth Ireland (North Miami), Calvin Jones (Delphi), Hayden Lewter (Hammond Morton), Parker Minks (Clinton Prairie), Chris Mullen (Chesterton), Austin Pickett (Fountain Central), Brady Preston (Lafayette Jefferson), Brice Rider (West Lafayette), John Schneere (McCutcheon), Samuel Smith (Caston) and Payton Stark (Tri-County).

The Journal & Courier Female Nominees for Student-Athlete of the Year goes as follows: Sydney

Continued on pg. 4



AIDAN O'CONNELL – Earned Second-Team All-Big Ten honors in 2021 and is named Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award winner.

KARPICK BECOMES 4TH NFF PRESIDENT AFTER SUDDEN PASSING OF DR. HAGEN

The sudden passing of the Tiller chapter's third president, Dr. Bob Hagen, in late March has created some shifts in responsibilities among the members of the Board of Directors.

Long-time board member Alan Karpick, the owner and publisher of Gold & Black Illustrated/Boilers.com, was unanimously approved at the April Advisory Council Meeting to be the next president, taking over immediately.

Dr. Hagen had succeeded Kelly Kitchel in the presidential role last November after the former Purdue football player stepped aside due to expanded roles with his career and family responsibilities. Hagen, who had served the Tiller Chapter as a chairman of the Scholar-Athlete of the Year selection process, had recently retired as one of the top orthopedic surgeons in Indiana and had served previously as the chairman of the United Way Campaign for Tippecanoe County. He died while attending a medical conference in Chicago on March 25.

As chapter president, Hagen was making it his priority to focus on the board's goal of expanding the Joe Tiller Scholarship Endowment to \$500,000 to provide future funding for scholarships. Karpick will continue the focus on that goal, while recently-selected board member Matt Lancaster, the chapter's scholar-athlete of the year for 2009, will assume more responsibilities with that selection process.

Also at the April Advisory Council Meeting, another long-time board member Tom Schott



ALAN KARPICK

Continued on pg. 2

TYLER TRENT GOLF SCRAMBLE NETS \$2,000 MORE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Kudos to Purdue freshman – and NFF Tiller Chapter intern – Triston Myers for his monumental efforts this spring in planning and executing a charity golf scramble in honor of the late Tyler Trent, netting approximately \$2,000 more for cancer research.

Myers, a graduate of Carroll High School, is a first-year student in the Krannert School of Management. The golf event was intended to raise funds for cancer research while honoring the legacy of Purdue “super-fan” Tyler Trent who passed away in early 2019 after a news-making battle with osteosarcoma cancer.

“Planning a charity golf event as a class project was a huge undertaking and Triston handled it beautifully,” said Jim Vrugink, the Tiller Chapter’s executive director, who provided a few ideas and some guidance. “I know how much work goes into this type of event and Triston made it look easy. He asked all the right questions and made great decisions. He had a small committee made up of other students and friends, but he did all the major work himself.”

Originally scheduled for April 2 at the Ackerman-Allen Course of the Purdue Golf Complex, the Tyler Trent Scramble was postponed due to cold and



snowy conditions that Saturday and rescheduled for three weeks later, April 23, which turned out to be a beautiful spring day and made for a very successful event with 60 golfers paying \$75 each and 13 sponsors donating a total of \$1,500 plus \$1,120 worth of

prizes and signage. After the bills are paid, Myers hopes to clear \$2,000, most of which will be donated to the Tyler Trent Foundation at the Purdue Center for Cancer Research.

“I am amazed at what Myers was able to do with this event,” added Vrugink. “I look forward to putting him to work on our chapter’s Tyler Trent Golf Outing later this summer.”

That event, which will also benefit the Purdue Center for Cancer Research, will be held for the second straight year at Coyote Crossing Golf Club near West Lafayette on Friday, Sept. 9, featuring Kyle Orton, former Purdue quarterback, who will be back on campus to be inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame that week.

While plans are still being finalized, it is fairly safe to say that the prices for the T2 Outing will remain the same as last year -- \$150 per person/\$600 for a foursome and \$200 for a hole sponsorship. Last year that event raised \$6,000, which was matched by a donor at the PCCR, meaning the chapter generated \$12,000 for cancer research. If you are a golfer, please save that date and join the effort.

Contact Jim Vrugink for more information.

CHAPTER PLANS NFF NIGHT AT LOEB STADIUM IN JULY

The Tiller Chapter is partnering with the Lafayette Aviators baseball team on the evening of Wednesday, July 13, for “NFF Night at Loeb” to honor the 2022 Scholar-Athletes and other award winners one month after the annual Honors Brunch at the PMU Ballrooms. The game versus the Burlington Bees starts at 7 p.m.

The scholar-athletes and community honorees who are part of the June 12 Honors Brunch will be recognized during the game.

The event will also serve as a fundraiser with \$4 out of every \$8 ticket sold by the NFF going to

a charity project or the chapter’s scholarship fund. Tickets may be ordered via the order form on the next page (see left column) or by going online to <https://shop.lafayettebaseball.com/burlington-bees-vs-aviators> promo code: TILLERSCHOLARS

And, speaking of games, the chapter will also try to put together a few bus trips to road games around the NFL to see former Purdue football players in action ... or to Big Ten road games to see the current Boilermakers in October or November. More details to come on that. Stay tuned.

CHAPTER MOVES FORWARD UNDER KARPICK

Continued from pg. 1

was chosen unanimously to be the next executive director when Jim Vrugink steps aside at the end of 2024, if not sooner. In the meantime, Tom will serve as executive director select.

The Advisory Council also approved the appointments of Zander Atwood, Jaylyn Jenks and Eddie Keister as committee members along with Patrick Kiefer, Triston Myers and Ben Riggins as student interns.

All other positions in the advisory council remain as selected last fall.

NFF ADVISORY BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2022

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Voting Members, * except for executive director) –
PRESIDENT – Alan Karpick
PAST PRESIDENTS – Bart Burrell and Kelly Kitchel
TREASURER – Paul Branham; assistant Janet Schweikher

SECRETARY — Elisheba VanWinkle
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR – David McGaughey; assistant Leroy Marsh
AWARDS PROGRAM CHAIR – Jim Vrugink (*); Matt Lancaster, Tom Schott and Jon Speaker
EVENTS CO-CHAIRS – Travis Baugh and Austin Hoefling; assistants Nate Barrett and Rex Trautman
ENDOWMENT Co-CHAIRS – Alan Karpick and Kelly Kitchel; assistants Max Bales, Keith Schwingendorf and David R. Williams
SPONSORSHIPS & ADVERTISING CHAIR – Travis Baugh; assistants Tim Bobillo, Trent Johnson and Rex Trautman
COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR – Jim Vrugink (*); assistant Sam King
AUCTIONS & SALES – Young Lee and Travis Baugh

SPECIAL PROJECTS CHAIR – Brad Smith (IFCA) and Jim MacDonald (DGC)
AT-LARGE – Orlando Itin and Jeff Love

MEMBERS SERVING ON COMMITTEES:
Zander Atwood, Drew Brees, Don Collier, Patrick Crawford, Dwayne Greer, Joe Hernandez, Tim House, Jaylyn Jenks, Eddie Keister, Ryan Spesard, Craig Voll and George Wodicka

INTERNS:
Patrick Kiefer, Triston Myers and Ben Riggins

CONTACT US: Via phone at 765-427-3303, via email at jvrugink@purdue.edu, or via postal at NFF, 3672 Farnsworth Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906

THIS IS

PURDUE

OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY PODCAST

PURDUE.EDU/PODCAST

CELEBRATING OUR LEGENDS XVIII

NFF Honors Brunch - June 12

NFF Night at Loeb - July 13

and Honors Reception - Sept. 8 or 9



NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

NFF HONORS EVENTS ORDER FORM CELEBRATING OUR LEGENDS XVIII

Sunday, June 12, at Purdue Memorial Union in West Lafayette with Brunch and Program at 12 noon and Wednesday, July 13 at Loeb Stadium (Aviators vs. Burlington Bees) at 7 pm. Order your tickets on this form and renew your membership or make a donation:

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Non-NFF and GBI Members: | _____ x \$65 ea. = \$ _____ |
| NFF and GBI Members* / Non-Member Students: | _____ x \$55 ea. = \$ _____ |
| NFF and GBI Member Students*#: | _____ x \$45 ea. = \$ _____ |
| Table of Eight: (or \$440 each for members or \$360 each for students) | _____ x \$520 ea. = \$ _____ |
| NFF Night at Loeb Stadium | _____ x \$8 ea. = \$ _____ |
| Honors Reception (only on Sept. 8 or 9) | _____ x \$30 ea. = \$ _____ |
| One-Year NFF Membership: | _____ x \$60 ea. = \$ _____ |
| Three-Year NFF Membership: | _____ x \$150 ea. = \$ _____ |
| Scholarship Donation: | \$ _____ |
| Total: | \$ _____ |

*NFF and GBI members get price break & priority seating, if ordered by June 1;

#Student rate applies through college age;

+Only for NFF Honors Reception for Kyle Orton's Induction into Indiana Football Hall of Fame;

TICKETS WILL NOT BE MAILED ... PICK UP AT WELCOME TABLE.

Check Here _____ if you'd like more information about Tyler Trent Golf Outing.

Name: _____ Company Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Contact Jim Vrugink by email (jvrugink@purdue.edu)
or phone (765-427-3303) with questions.

(Please make check or money order payable to **National Football Foundation** and send to: NFF Executive Director, 3672 Farnsworth Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906-8750)

IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND HONORS BRUNCH, PLEASE CONSIDER GIFT FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Knowing that many of our chapter members and usual attendees at our NFF Honors Dinner/Brunch may still have reservations about attending large gatherings in the current Covid-19 Virus situation, we want to assure you that Purdue Memorial Union has a very spacious and clean facility at which we will be able to provide proper social spacing and safe dining, if such practices are required by the Tippecanoe Health Department or Purdue University.

If you purchase tickets for the June 12 event, but the COVID situation worsens, we will have other options for you. We want everyone to feel comfortable and safe with the event.

If you know now that you will not be attending the event, we would like to ask your consideration in making a donation to our scholarship fund. As you can imagine, this will be another challenging year for our sponsorships, advertising and donations. Those areas of revenue are the primary sources for our scholarships.

In order to maintain our "normal" levels of scholarship awards, we need about \$15,000 to keep pace with our per-year average. We would appreciate your help. If you own a business or have strong connections to a business that can help, please consider arranging for a sponsorship, advertising and/or donation.

**REMEMBER:
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
WHEN DUE!**

VISIT CHAPTER
WEB SITE AT:
www.nfftillerchapter.org

Upcoming Events:

June 12, 2022 – NFF Honors Brunch, Purdue Memorial Union

July 13, 2022 – NFF Night with the Lafayette Aviators, Loeb Stadium

Sept. 1, 2022 – Purdue Home Opener vs. Penn State, Ross-Ade Stadium

Sept. 8 or 9, 2022 – NFF Honors Reception, Location TBD

Sept. 9, 2022 – Tyler Trent Golf Outing, Coyote Crossing Golf Club



National Football Foundation & College Football Hall of Fame, Inc.
 Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana
 3672 Farnsworth Dr.
 West Lafayette, IN 47906-8750

FOUR GENTLEMEN TO BE INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

Continued from pg. 1

Argo (Faith Christian), Emma Beimfohr (Harrison), Cailin and Catie Campbell (North Montgomery), Shelby Carrico (McCutcheon), Kendall Davison (Clinton Central), Caitlin Dineen (Lafayette Central Catholic), Cayci Ehlinger (North Newton), Lynzi Heimlich (North White), Jerzi Hershberger (Fountain Central), Adelle May (Carroll), Tynlie Neal (Clinton Prairie), Michelle Rodkey (Rossville), Tressa Senesac (Benton Central), Riley Shrader (Seeger), Alli Steffey (West Lafayette), Brynn Warren (Tri-County) and Shea Williamson (Crawfordsville).

The Journal & Courier Male Nominees for Student-Athlete of the Year goes as follows: Connor Barket (West Lafayette), Blake Buchanan (Benton Central), Cooper Crum (Harrison), Logan Doty (Tri-County), Will Eldridge (Carroll), Brody Fine (McCutcheon), Ian Hensley (Crawfordsville), Jakob Kirsch (North Montgomery), Carter Merryman (Fountain Central), Preston Padgett (Rossville), Kyle Pickard (Clinton Central), Brady Preston (Lafayette Jefferson), Breckon Riley (Clinton Prairie), Parker Smith (North White) and Raymond Tharp (North Newton).

The Journal & Courier Players of the Year are as follows: Clark Barrett (Central Catholic/Basketball & Football), Javan Buchanan (Lafayette Jeff/Basketball), Karsyn Cherry (Central Catholic/Soccer), Chloe Chicoine (McCutcheon/Volleyball), Jordan

Cree (Rensselaer Central/Football), Teresa Maggio (McCutcheon/Basketball), Tynlie Neal (Clinton Prairie/Basketball), Hunter Newman (Harrison/Football), Mariere Omonode (West Lafayette/Football), Austin Pacheco (West Lafayette/Soccer) and Grace Roach (Central Catholic/Volleyball).

All 60 students who were selected as all-stars for the North team – some of them invited to this event for other awards and honors – are invited to this Honors Brunch and will receive certificates, if they attend. That entire list can be found at www.ifca.net.

It is still unknown (as of our printing deadline) whether Drew Brees, former Purdue and NFL star, will be able to attend either of this year's events. He has been invited to the 2022 events to pick up the award he was selected to receive in 2020 but was unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts.

The four IFCA Hall of Fame inductees have come to this distinction by very different paths – three as coaches and one as a star quarterback.

John Hendryx graduated from Ball State University and immediately went into teaching at Carroll High School and coaching baseball for nine years before becoming head football coach in 1994. Now, 28 years later, he has the 11th most wins among active coaches with a record of 232-97 (a .705 winning percentage) including stops at Carroll, Northwestern, Knox and his alma mater Winamac, including an 8-1 record last fall while winning his sixth conference championship.

Kevin O'Shea graduated from Franklin College, where he led the nation in passing after starring as an all-state quarterback at McCutcheon H.S. in 1982 when the Mavs finished as state runner-up. O'Shea's prep coaching trail included stops at Delta, Attica, McCutcheon (where he coached Mr. Football Clayton Richard), Central Catholic (where he won five state championships and won 114 of 124 games in nine years) and now Indianapolis North Central. His 28-year record is 239-100 (.705 percentage).

Alex Yunevich graduated from Purdue University in 1932, after a stellar career as a running back at Bicknell H.S. and Purdue. He scored three touch-



KYLE ORTON – Among top three Purdue QB's in all-time statistics

downs in Purdue's first-ever win over Michigan and helped the Boilermakers to a Big Ten Championship in 1929. He went on to coach at Central State Normal College (now Central Michigan University) and Alfred University in New York, compiling a 41-year record of 187-98-13 (.649 percentage), including six undefeated seasons at Alfred. "Yunie" was selected for HOF induction in 1988, but the ceremony never happened and he died in 1992. He will be officially inducted posthumously on June 12.

Kyle Orton, who now lives in Iowa, will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in September when he returns to West Lafayette for the Tyler Trent Golf Outing during a Boilermaker football weekend. He graduated from Purdue in 2005 after compiling some of the most impressive passing statistics in Boilermaker history, including 9,337 yards passing and 63 touchdown passes in four seasons. Orton went on to spend 10 years (2005-2014) in the NFL with five different teams – Chicago Bears, Denver Broncos, Kansas City Chiefs, Dallas Cowboys and Buffalo Bills.



JOHN HENDRYX



KEVIN O'SHEA



**News, Weather, and Sports
Whenever You Need It.**

