



PURDUE HOOPS, GENE KEADY & MATT PAINTER FEATURED AT THIS YEAR'S HONORS BRUNCH

JUNE 9 – NFF HONORS BRUNCH

SEPT. 12/13 – NFF HONORS RECEPTION

SEPT. 13 – TYLER TRENT GOLF OUTING

The most successful season in Purdue men's basketball history will be 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 will be held at the Purdue Memorial Union Ballrooms in West Lafayette.

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

Also featured at the Honors Brunch will be induction ceremonies for the Indiana Football Hall of Fame. 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 June 9 event will focus on 16 NFF scholar-athletes who were nominated by their schools throughout Northern Indiana for the annual Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award and 28 Lafayette Journal & Courier student-athletes nominated by high school athletics directors in the J&C coverage area. Also being honored are 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 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 present five 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 9 while others may

take place at the NFF's Honors Reception in conjunction with the Tyler Trent Golf Outing, Sept. 13.

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 – **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**
- Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award – **Zach Edey (selected in 2023)**
- Patrick Mackey Courage Award – **Connor Benson**
- Tyler Trent Courage and Resilience Award – **Andrew Kinder**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Dan Brandenburg (June)**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Doug Downing (June)**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Clayton Richard (June)**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Taylor Stubblefield (June)**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Drew Brees (fall or 2025)**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **David Haugh (June 2025)**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Josh Smith (June 2025)**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Jim Vrugink (June 2025)**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Josh Whitman (June 2025)**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **John Scheumann (TBD - posthumously)**

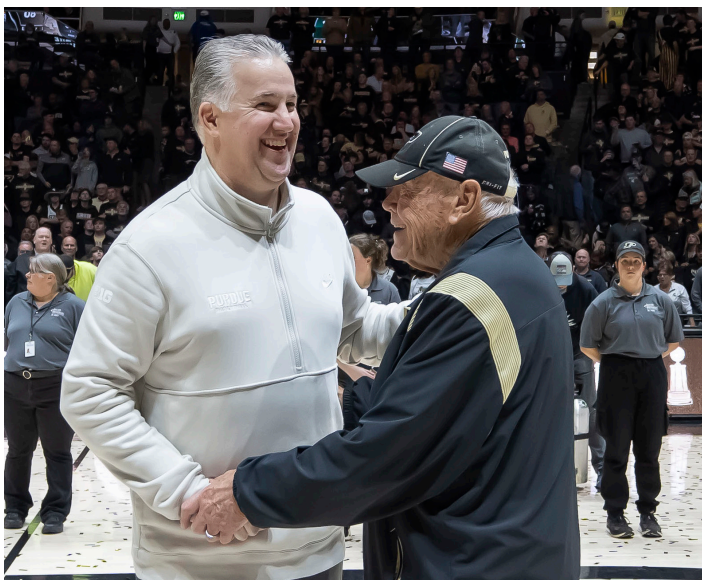
Primary goal of these events is to provide recognition for scholar-athletes and community members who support them and to raise funds for charities. And, fund-raising is an ongoing project. The NFF Honors Reception on Sept. 12 or 13 at a location yet to be determined will raise funds for scholarships while the Tyler Trent Golf Outing on Sept. 13 at Coyote Crossing Golf Club near West Lafayette raises funds for the Purdue Institute for Cancer Research. Other events are still being considered.

The NFF scholar-athletes' names and high schools, as nominated by their schools, are: 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 are: 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) and Summer Wynn (North Newton).

The Journal & Courier Male Nominees for Student-Athlete of the Year are: 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), Jamison Ousley (Twin Lakes), Ethan Popp (Harrison), Charlie Thompson (Rossville), Joe Widmer (Benton Central) and Eric Zarse (Tri-County).

The Journal & Courier Players of the Year are: 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/



MATT PAINTER (LEFT) AND GENE KEADY – Together have coached Purdue men's basketball consecutively for 44 years since 1980, creating the most successful program in the Big Ten Conference. Their accomplishments will be celebrated at the NFF Honors Brunch on June 9 at the Purdue Memorial Union Ballrooms. (Photo courtesy of Chad Krockover and Boilers Inc.)

TYLER TRENT GOLF OUTING SET FOR SEPT. 13 AT COYOTE CROSSING

The NFF Tiller Chapter's fourth annual Tyler Trent Golf Outing will take place Friday Sept. 13 at Coyote Crossing Golf Club near West Lafayette.

Chapter members will be given first opportunity to sign up as players, foursomes and sponsors when the first event flyers are distributed by email later this spring.

This event, like the first two, will benefit the Purdue Institute for Cancer Research.

The owners of Coyote Crossing, Torrin and Robin Bottrell, are committed to making this year's Tyler Trent Golf Outing the biggest and best yet.

"We've seen this outing from our backyard and in the process got to know the Tony and Kelly Trent," says Robin. "What started as a casual meeting and a few adult beverages has turned into a true friend-

ship. Getting to know these wonderful people, and learning their story first hand, gave us all we needed to join them in their fight to find a cure for the cancer that took Tyler way before his time.

"They are using their personal tragedy to help others, and we are elated to be able to help them in the process," says Torrin. "We hope to take the T2 Outing to the next level. We look for the support of the Purdue family, the Joe Tiller Chapter of the NFF and the Coyote Crossing membership to make this the best year ever!"

Prices for the Tyler Trent Golf Outing will remain the same in 2024 as the first three years -- \$150 per person/\$600 for a foursome and \$200 for a hole sponsorship. In the first two years of involvement with the Trent Family, the Tiller Chapter has gener-

ated \$30,538 for cancer research through these golf outings. If you are a golfer, please save that date and join the effort.

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



FUND-RAISING CONTINUES AS IMPORTANT CHAPTER FUNCTION

Selling advertising and sponsorships while seeking donations of any kind remain a year-round function and necessity of the Tiller Chapter.

Chapter members who own businesses or who have relatives or neighbors who do are encouraged to check out the advertising and sponsorship opportunities for the chapter's upcoming events -- the June 9 NFF Honors Brunch and the Sept. 13 Tyler Trent Golf Outing -- as we raise funds for scholarships and cancer research. Interested parties should contact Executive Director Jim Vrugink at jvruggink@purdue.edu or at 765-427-3303 for details.

Purdue fans who need assistance with a charity event or downsizing their homes are encouraged to contact Young, who will be eager to help. Also, anyone interested in buying unique items to add to their own collections or for a loved one on a special occasion should reach out to Young at tillerauction@gmail.com.

BASKETBALL WATCH PARTY

On March 5, the chapter experimented with tying in a fund-raising opportunity with a Purdue men's basketball game "watch party" at Hunter's Pub in West Lafayette for the Big Ten road game at Illinois that the Boilers won to clinch the outright championship. The game was televised on subscription-based Peacock, a channel that many Purdue fans don't have at home. So, a "watch party" at a sports bar seemed attractive.

The restaurant agreed to donate 10 percent of its

profits for five hours of that Tuesday evening to the Tiller Chapter's scholarship fund. We promoted the event, attendance was good, including many chapter members who order meals for pickup. As of May 10, the donation from Hunter's Pub has not yet arrived. However, the chapter did receive \$950 in scholarship donations that evening from chapter members and general public.

KIWANIS PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Food was used for another fund-raiser on April 20 -- the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast at Westminster Village in West Lafayette, which the NFF Tiller Chapter helped to promote and sponsor -- that generated about \$4,400 in profit. Kiwanis has committed \$2,000 annually for Ted Luce Scholarships that will be awarded to student-athlete honorees who were nominated by their school's athletics directors for the Lafayette Journal & Courier Male and Female Student-Athletes of the Year.

This event was Kiwanis's 53rd Pancake Breakfast and was deemed a success by the organization. The Tiller Chapter will continue to support it -- along with Kiwanis's first Duck Splash, scheduled for late summer at Columbian Park in Lafayette. It will also raise money for scholarships and other youth-oriented causes in Tippecanoe County.

ONLINE AUCTIONS & SALES

Another important source of funds for our scholarships have been online auctions and sales coordinated by chapter board member Young Lee, who is always

keeping an eye open for items (both donated and purchased) that he can auction and/or resell on e-Bay.

An example of that currently is a pristine copy of a Purdue Football Program from the 1924 Purdue -- Indiana Game, which was the Dedication Game of Ross-Ade Stadium. The program features pictures of the stadium construction site of the then-13,000 seat horseshoe shaped stadium. The program was donated to the chapter after being found in an antique dresser drawer with a stack of Purdue Exponents dated 1924.

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TILLER/HAGEN ENDOWMENTS

While we continue to generate donations and sales to support our scholarship commitments, we know the long-term success of the chapter centers on reaching our goal of a \$500,000 endowment, which will fund our scholarship program far into the future.

Two endowments have been started, one in the name of Joe Tiller and one named for Dr. Robert Hagen, within the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette. Together, they have accumulated about \$225,000, so we are making progress but we still have a long way to go. Please consider a gift or starting a separate endowment to help achieve our goals.

NFF ADVISORY BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2024

PRESIDENT -- Alan Karpick
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR -- Jim Vrugink
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SELECT -- Tom Schott
 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and WEB-MASTER -- Travis Baugh
 COORDINATOR OF FUND-RAISING -- To be selected
 PHOTOGRAPHERS -- Sandra Dukes and Chad Krockover
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Voting Members, * except for executive director, deputy executive director and treasurer) --
 PRESIDENT -- Alan Karpick
 PAST PRESIDENTS -- Bart Burrell and Kelly Kitchel
 TREASURER -- Paul Branham; assistant Janet Schweikher

SECRETARY -- Elisheba VanWinkle
 AT-LARGE -- Krockover, Orlando Itin, Judy Hanna and Jeff Love
 AUCTIONS & SALES CO-CHAIRS -- Young Lee, Schott and Baugh (*)
 AWARDS PROGRAM CHAIR -- Vrugink (*); assistants Jim Samuel, Matt Lancaster, Steve Hoffman and Jon Speaker
 COMMUNICATIONS CO-CHAIRS -- Karpick and Schott, assistants Sam King, Ethan Hanson, Steve Clark and Kelly Hallinan
 ENDOWMENT CO-CHAIRS -- Karpick and Vrugink (*); assistants Max Bales, Kitchel and Love
 EVENTS CO-CHAIRS -- Baugh (*), Austin Hoefling and Vrugink (*); assistants Branham (*), Nate Barrett, Samuel and Rex Trautman
 MEMBERSHIP CHAIR -- David McGaughey; assis-

tants Eddie Keister, Matt Lancaster and Peterson
 SPECIAL PROJECTS CHAIR -- Brad Smith (IFCA); assistants Samuel and Trautman
 SPONSORSHIPS & ADVERTISING CO-CHAIR -- Baugh (*) and Vrugink (*); assistants Tom Blumling, Tim Bobillo, Samuel, Smith, Rex Trautman and Ron Tipton
 MEMBERS SERVING ON COMMITTEES OR IN ADVISORY ROLES:
 Drew Brees, Don Collier, Patrick Crawford, Nancy Cross, Ron Diallo, Dwayne Greer, Judy Hanna, Joe Hernandez, Tim House, Adam Kuffner, Jaylyn Learnard, Joe Mackey, Tim Newton, Mark Peterson, Clayton Richard, Ron Tipton and George Wodicka
 INTERNS:
 Tate Drone, Patrick Kiefer, Ben Riggins and Tressa Senesac

THIS IS

PURDUE

OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY PODCAST

PURDUE.EDU/PODCAST

CELEBRATING OUR LEGENDS XX

Honors Reception (Sept. 12 or 13)
Tyler Trent Golf Outing (Sept. 13)



NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

NFF HONORS EVENTS ORDER FORM CELEBRATING OUR LEGENDS XX

Sunday, June 9, at Purdue Memorial Union in West Lafayette with Brunch and Program starting at 12 noon and ending by 3 p.m. Order your tickets here and renew your membership or make a donation:

JUNE 9 BRUNCH:

Non-NFF and GBI Members: _____ x \$70 ea. = \$ _____

NFF and GBI Members* / Non-Member Students: _____ x \$60 ea. = \$ _____

NFF and GBI Member Students*# : _____ x \$50 ea. = \$ _____

Table of Eight: _____ x \$560 ea. = \$ _____
(or \$480 each for members or \$400 each for students)

RECEPTION AND GOLF:

Honors Reception (Sept. 12 or 13) _____ x \$30 ea. = \$ _____

Tyler Trent Golf Outing (Sept. 13) _____ x \$150 ea. = \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP:

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 May 31;

#Student rate applies through college age;

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: _____

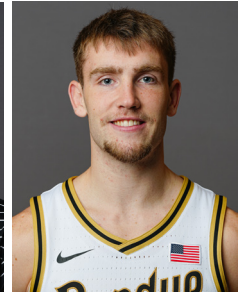
Names of Your Guests: _____

Contact Jim Vrugink 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, 3672 Farnsworth Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906-8750)



Edey



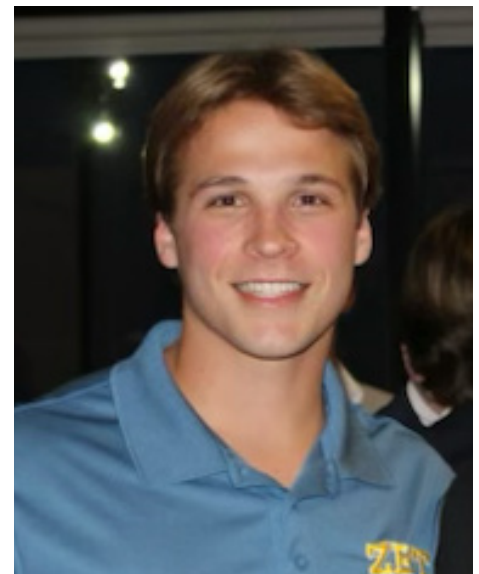
Smith

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 have conflicts with vacation plans or other events, we want to encourage you support our events in different ways.

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.



CHAPTER INTERN HONORED – Ben Riggins, a Purdue junior majoring in Chemical Engineering and a three-year intern with the Tiller Chapter, was named earlier this year as Purdue's Fraternity Man of the Year. This past year he served as Communications and Operations Director of the Alpha Alpha Chapter of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity as well as the Director of Public and Greek Relations for Interfraternity Council. Congratulations, Ben!



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

Upcoming Events:

June 9, 2024 – NFF Honors Brunch, Purdue Memorial Union
Aug. 31, 2024 – Purdue Home Opener vs. Indiana State, Ross-Ade Stadium
Sept. 12 or 13, 2024 – NFF Honors Reception, TBD
Sept. 13, 2024 – Tyler Trent Golf Outing, Coyote Crossing Golf Club

Visit Chapter Website:
nfftillerchapter.org

FOUR GENTLEMEN TO BE INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

Continued from pg. 1

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).

All 62 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 the Honors Brunch and will receive certificates, if they attend. That entire list can be found at www.ifca.net.

Also, the 23 prep stars who were selected as WLFI-TV Athletes of the Week in 2023-24 will be introduced at the Honors Brunch.

It is still unknown (as of our printing deadline) when Drew Brees, former Purdue and NFL star, will be able to attend an NFF event to receive his awards. He has been invited to the 2024 events to pick up the award he was selected to receive in 2020 but has been unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts.

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 will also honor Don Rusk for his game officiating and Gene Keady for his loyalty to Purdue.

Athlete-oriented awards this year will go to Zach Edey 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, Edey for his mental toughness and excellence in Purdue basketball and high school athlete Connor Benson of North Judson-San Pierre for overcoming ongoing health issues.

Also, Andrew Kinder will be recognized as the latest recipient of the Tyler Trent Courage & Resil-



BRANDENBURG



DOWNING



RICHARD



STUBBLEFIELD

ience 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 selectees who will be inducted on June 9 have come 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 and baseball 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 team. He currently coaches wide receivers at punt returners at the Air Force Academy and lives in Mountain View, Colo.

Posthumous induction for John Scheumann, a very successful builder in the Lafayette area and a major contributor to Lafayette Jeff for the building and remodeling of its football stadium, has been handled internally at Jefferson High School.

The four other names listed earlier in this story as IFCA Hall of Fame selectees will be inducted in 2025 or later.



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