



PLANS SET FOR SPRING EVENTS

APRIL 29 -- TIPPY MUD RUN

MAY 6 -- SCHOLAR-ATHLETE BANQUET

JUNE 21 -- RYAN KERRIGAN GOLF OUTING

JUNE 21-- NFF HONORS DINNER

Honoring athletes and raising scholarship funds are the focus of the National Football Foundation's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana this spring and early summer.

In an attempt to find new fund-raising sources for scholarship money, the Tiller Chapter has partnered with Junior Achievement of Greater Lafayette and the Lafayette Family YMCA to plan the inaugural Tippy Mud Run on Sunday, April 29, at Ross Hills Park, not far from the Purdue University campus in Tippecanoe County. In addition, the chapter will join forces with Purdue's Trademark Licensing Office for the third straight year to host a golf event, renamed this year as the Ryan Kerrigan 12th Boiler Golf Outing in recognition of the former Boilermaker great who is now a starter on the defensive line with the Washington Redskins. That event is scheduled for the Thursday, June 21, at the Ackerman Hills Course of the Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex in West Lafayette.

Sandwiched between those events will be the chapter's primary functions, the Scholar-Athlete Banquet on Sunday, May 6, at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville and the NFF Honors Dinner "Celebrating Our Legends VIII" also on June 21 at the Purdue Memorial Union Ballrooms in West Lafayette.

MUD RUN

The Get Your Mud On: Tippy Mud Run 2012 has a goal of attacking 1,000 or more runners while raising \$35,000 that would be divided among four charities, all directed at helping youth in the area.

This non-traditional 5K race, beginning at 9 a.m. with the first wave of runners, will be filled with natural obstacles already located in the park (hills, valleys, streams, waterfalls, even the Wabash River) as well as man-made challenges meant to get participants dirty, including a pool of mud near the end.

According to event organizer and NFF board member Kelly Kitchel, mud runs have become increasingly popular nationally, drawing several thousand runners,



Ryan Grigson, New Colts GM

and are a great way to bring visitors into the area. The committee has created a list of opportunity packages for potential sponsors to help "raise the bar" in fund-raising while staging a fun event that could become a regular highlight in the community.

Registration is \$50 for adults and \$45 for students. Groups may register as teams by signing up all in the same time slot. Proceeds will support Junior Achievement, Lafayette Family YMCA and the NFF and 12th Boiler Scholarship funds.

BANQUET

Our chapter's second annual Scholar-Athlete Banquet, slated for May 6 in Merrillville, will recognize our 22 nominees from Northwest Indiana for the Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award along with paying special tribute to the 33 players chosen as Region 1 all-stars.

New Indianapolis Colts General Manager Ryan Grigson, himself a former all-star at Highland High School and a three-year starter on the offensive line and 1994 team captain at Purdue, has been invited to serve as the guest speaker for one of the upcoming dinners. He has said that he very much wants to get involved with our chapter, since he played both his high school and college ball in the area, and will attempt to clear a spot in his busy schedule.

Also part of the program at the Avalon Manor on May 6 will be former Notre Dame and NFL star Allen Pinkett as the emcee and former Hobart High School, Indiana University and Chicago Bears standout John Johnson as a motivational speaker.

The theme of the evening will center on football as a "way of life," spanning high school, college and the professional opportunities as exemplified by our speakers.

Pinkett came to Notre Dame from Sterling, Va., and became a two-time All-American in 1984 and '85, setting the Fighting Irish's all-time touchdown record with 53 (a mark that still stands) and was ND's career rushing leader with 4,131 yards, a mark that stood until 1998. He played seven years in the National Football League with two different teams (Houston and New Orleans) and now lives in Valparaiso, working as a national account manager for a reconstruction company and serving as color commentator for Notre Dame football radio broadcasts.

Johnson played for six years (1963-69) for the legendary George Hallas, including the Bears' World Championship season of 1963. He also played a season with the New York Giants and was inducted into the Chicago Sports Hall of Fame and the Indiana Football Hall of Fame. He went on to have a highly successful career in human resource consulting, serving eventually as Chairman and President of the John Joseph Group and John H. Johnson and Associates. He now specializes in motivational speaking.

Grigson joined the Colts organization earlier this year following a nine-year stint with the Philadelphia Eagles, most recently as the director of player personnel from 2010-11. He began his NFL scouting career as the national combine scout and area scout for the St. Louis Rams (1999-2003) and joined the Eagles as a regional scout prior to being elevated as the team's director of college scouting in 2006. During Grigson's 13 years in the NFL, he has been part of teams that have made the playoffs

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Levi Riggs, Country Singer

AUXILIARY ACTIVITIES ALLOW CHAPTER TO HELP CHARITIES

The Joe Tiller Chapter wrapped up a very successful year of 2011 by hosting a Charity Concert, featuring chapter member and rising country star Levi Riggs, on Nov. 19 at the Long Center in Lafayette.

The event cleared \$1,345 for the charities – not as much as had been hoped for, but still successful.

While fund-raising for scholarships remains a considerable challenge for the chapter in today's economic climate, the Tiller chapter took advantage of a few new opportunities in 2011 and actually had its best year in terms of helping people.

Along with funding its commitment of more than \$24,500 for scholarships and honorariums, the addition of the "Bowling with the Stars" event, the growth of the 12th Boiler Golf Outing, the refinement of the VIP Reception and the return of the NFF Charity Concert resulted in \$12,773 being raised for other charities. In all, the chapter generated \$37,273 for students and charities, an increase of nearly \$2,750 over last year's previous record. In seven years, through the end of 2011, it has now raised \$161,219, with \$131,402 designated for students.

Plans for 2012 are well under way and, in fact, the first event is already in the books. "Bowling with the Bowl Team" on Jan. 16 at Arrowhead Bowl in Lafayette was a modest success with 54 bowlers and a "net" profit of \$946 for the charities (slight improvements over last year's bowling event), but still not as good as hoped for.

In addition to the other events planned for this year (as described elsewhere in this newsletter), the chapter's fund-raising goals include the selling of sponsorships and advertising for a "Cradle of Quarterbacks" Calendar for 2013 with profits helping to support PALS (Purdue Athletes Life Success), Dream Season, Junior Achievement, 12th Boiler Scholarship Fund, and NFF Scholarship Fund.



Some of the nearly 200 people who took part in the Dream Bowl activities in the Mollenkopf Center on Jan. 14 were (left to right): Purdue player Nick Mondek, John Floyd, Jimmy Haffner (seated), Purdue player Joe Holland, Miami Dolphins player Ryan Baker, Purdue Golden Girl MaryBeth Cox, Amy Herzog, Washington Redskins player Ryan Kerrigan and Drew Irwin.

DREAM BOWL TOUCHES MANY LIVES

By Travis Baugh

Forty-two Purdue football players volunteered at the Dream Bowl on Jan. 14, a two-hour football camp for those older than 12 with intellectual disabilities.

The stations gave 70 camp participants a full football experience, from passing to tackling and kicking, concluding with a group end zone celebration complete with streamers.

"The outreach we received from Purdue reflects the quality of the university and the people associated with it," Dream Season's executive director and NFF board member Chris Oppy said. "Everything I asked for, they just exceeded my expectations."

The Dream Season, which is now part of the NFF's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana, started with the concept of the Tippecanoe Football Camp, which was started by Oppy's son, Clay. Clay, now a sophomore at Purdue, started the camp in the fall of 2009 during his senior year at McCutcheon High School as a one-day event to give back to the community. The camp was held in a local middle school gym and had only 12 participants. A similar camp was held in 2010 before Chris decided to expand the camp into the Dream Season in 2011 to include three more area high schools and Purdue. Each camp is considered one "game" of the Dream Season.

Clay's roommate, Melvin Harris, assisted with all six of the Dream Season day camps this year and said the camp is a very humbling experience for all of the volunteers.

"It makes me realize how beneficial the small things are," Harris said. "Something as small as a high five that will make their entire day. When they smile, I smile."

McCutcheon High School special education teacher Karen Yates, many of whose students participate in the camp, said Dream Season seems to boost the participants' self-image and confidence tremendously. She added that the kids remember the football players and go talk to them if they see them out in the community.

"They have a lot of fun, but they have also made a good friend," Yates said. "I think it's very important for a lot of these kids that they know someone out in the community that's important."

While Saturday was the biggest event ever for the organization, Clay said even bigger things are coming in the future for the Dream Season.

Graduated football player Kurt Lichtenberg, who serves as program director, said that the Dream Season camp is an important experience for the Purdue

football team.

"The smiles on their faces, the laughs, the good times we have, this is what football is all about," Lichtenberg said. "This is what Purdue and Coach Hope encourage, and I'm glad I can be a part of it."

Clay said the camp serves as more than just another community service event for which the athletes volunteer.

"The football players see the look on these kids' faces, and it actually influences their lives and they become better people from these camps," Clay said. "The best feeling is knowing that every person involved with the camp has an amazing time."

The camp included far more than just football. Campers received a wide range of entertainment with the Purdue Dance team, Purdue Goldusters and the Purdue pep band all performing. Carson Tucker, the voice of Purdue athletics, provided commentary for the event. NFL standouts and former Boilermakers Ryan Baker and Ryan Kerrigan made appearances as well.

"These football players, the band, the dancers have touched many lives here and they'll always be remembered by these kids," Yates said.

VOTE BY MARCH 31

By now, all dues-paying members of this chapter should have received their ballots for the College Football Hall of Fame selection process. Please note the deadline is March 31.

If you need help locating your membership number, contact Jim Vrugink, chapter director, at 765-427-3303 by phone or at jvrugink@purdue.edu via email.

The Board of Directors also encourages members to cast votes for some special candidates from our region, including three great Purdue All-Americans from the 1970's OTIS ARMSTRONG (Candidate #4), LARRY BURTON (Candidate #12) and DAVE BUTZ (Candidate #13) Michigan City product and IU All-American of the early 1960's TOM NOWATZKE (Candidate #50) on the FBS list, along with Division II All-Americans Ball State's TERRY SCHMIDT (Candidate #28), U. of Indianapolis' TOM COLLINS (Candidate #44) and Valparaiso's GARY PUETZ (Candidate #57). On the coaches' ballot, please consider former Purdue head coach of 1921 "LONE STAR" DIETZ (Candidate #4) and Purdue graduate/former player of the 1930's and long-time coach at Alfred (N.Y.) University coach ALEX YUNEVICH (Candidate #28) both on the FCS Divisional Coach list). And, by way of cooperating with other chapters, we also encourage our members to vote for coach BILL RAMSEYER (Candidate #23) of Wilmington College (Ohio) and U. of Virginia-Wise.

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Web site: aaa.collegefootball.org

NFF ORDER FORM

“Honors Dinner” on DVD - 2010/2011

DVD copies of the program of the 2010 and 2011 Honors Dinner events, feature the presentations, comments and “celebrity” appearances of some of Purdue’s most famous athletes and personalities who were part of June events the last two years. The programs of both dinners will be long remembered and difficult to top. You’ll especially enjoy the interviews of honorees Len Dawson, Bob Griese, Drew Brees, Mark Herrmann, Joe McConnell and Daniel Wodicka on the 2010 DVD and Neil Armstrong, Eugene Cernan, Jerry Ross, Leroy Keyes, Ryan Kerrigan, Joe Tiller and Brees on the 2011 DVD.

“Ross-Ade Stadium Panorama” - Autographed Photo

A panoramic night view of Ross-Ade Stadium captured from the top of the east stands during kickoff of the 2009 Purdue-Notre Dame game facing the press box and a beautiful sunset, make this 13” X 40” picture a keepsake. Already autographed by Purdue Head Football Coach Danny Hope makes it suitable for framing.

“Mackey Arena Panorama” - Autographed Photo

A panoramic view of Keady Court captured from the west camera deck of Mackey Arena during the 2010 Purdue-Indiana game creates a 13” X 40” piece of Boilermaker history. Already autographed by Purdue Head Basketball Coach Matt Painter, this picture is a “must-have” for fans commemorating Purdue’s 22nd Big Ten basketball championship.

“Joe Tiller Roast & Toast” - DVD

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

“NFF Lapel Pin” - New Logo

This new item, featuring the NFF’s new logo, will look sharp on your coat lapel, jacket or shirt and will support our scholarship fund.

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

All proceeds go to scholarships.

“Honors Dinner 2010” DVD _____ X \$25 ea. = \$ _____
 “Honors Dinner 2011” DVD _____ X \$25 ea. = \$ _____
 “Ross-Ade Panorama” photo: _____ X \$50 ea. = \$ _____
 “Mackey Arena Panorama” photo: _____ X \$50 ea. = \$ _____
 “Tiller Roast & Toast” DVD: _____ X \$20 ea. = \$ _____
 NFF Lapel Pin (with new logo): _____ X \$15 ea. = \$ _____
 One-year NFF membership _____ X \$40 ea. = \$ _____
 Three-year NFF membership _____ X \$99 ea. = \$ _____

Prices include shipping and handling TOTAL = \$ _____

Scholar Athlete Banquet

Sunday, May 6, at Avalon Manor in Merrillville with Silent Auction and Reception at 4 p.m. CDT, Dinner and Program at 5:00 p.m.

Non-NFF members: _____ X \$40 ea. = \$ _____
 NFF members*: _____ X \$35 ea. = \$ _____
 Banquet tickets for coaches who are NFF members: _____ X \$0 ea. = \$COMP
 Students and families of honorees#: _____ X \$30 ea. = \$ _____
 Tables of 10*: _____ X \$350 ea. = \$ _____
 (or \$325 each for members or \$300 each for students)
 TOTAL: = \$ _____

*NFF members get price break & priority seating; #Student rate applies thru college age.
 NOTE: Seating assignments and name badges distributed at Avalon Manor beginning at 4 p.m. CDT May 6; tickets will NOT be mailed.

Honors Dinner

“Celebrating Our Legends VIII”

Thursday, June 21, at Purdue Memorial Union in West Lafayette with Silent Auction and Reception at 5 p.m. EDT, VIP Reception at 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6:45 p.m., and Awards Program at 8 p.m.

Non-NFF members: _____ X \$55 ea. = \$ _____
 NFF members*/non-member student: _____ X \$45 ea. = \$ _____
 NFF member students*#: _____ X \$35 ea. = \$ _____
 Tables of eight*#: _____ X \$400 ea. = \$ _____
 (or \$320 each for members or \$280 each for students)
 VIP Reception _____ X \$200 ea. + \$ _____
 Raffle Tickets +: _____ X \$5 ea. = \$ _____
 Autograph football: _____ X \$50 ea. = \$ _____
 One-year NFF membership: _____ X \$40 ea. = \$ _____
 Three-year NFF membership: _____ X \$99 ea. = \$ _____
 TOTAL = \$ _____

*NFF members get price break & priority seating, if ordered by June 1;
 #Student rate applies thru college age.
 Tickets will NOT be mailed.

+ Featuring valuable autographed items

Indicate here if you are interested in participating in “Tippy Mud Run” event on April 29 _____ or the Ryan Kerrigan 12th Boiler Fund golf outing on June 21 _____.

Indicate here if you are interested in helping to sponsor a scholarship.
 Yes, I’m interested _____

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

Name: _____ Company Name: _____ Email Address: _____

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

Contact Jim 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, 320 Dehart St., West Lafayette, IN 47906-2730.)



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 31, 2012** – Voting Deadline for College Football Hall of Fame
- Apr. 29, 2012** – Tippy Mud Run, Ross Hills, Tippecanoe County
- May 6, 2012** – Scholar-Athlete Banquet, Avalon Manor, Merrillville
- Jun. 21, 2012** – Ryan Kerrigan 12th Boiler Golf Outing, West Lafayette
- Jun. 21, 2012** – NFF Honors Dinner, Purdue Memorial Union, West Lafayette
- Sept. 1, 2012** – Purdue Football Season Opener vs. Eastern Kentucky

TILLER AMONG INDIANA FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

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on eight occasions, including three trips to the Super Bowl.

The 22 scholar-athletes who are being honored are all high school seniors who are headed to college next fall. Academically, at least two of them are ranked No. 1 in their graduating classes and 14 are ranked in the top 10 percent at their schools. One will be chosen later this spring as the Scholar-Athlete of the Year for Northwest Indiana. The award is based 40 percent on academics, 40 percent on athletics and 20 percent on citizenship, leadership and character.

The high school football players, nominated by their coaches and principals for the Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award, are: Trent Bauters (Tippecanoe Valley), Cameron Colby (Kokomo), Jordan Culp (West Central), Ramon Diaz (River Forest), Brian Dick (Maconaquah), Ty Fischbach (Benton Central), A.J. Gaeta (McCutcheon), Reggie Henderson (Lafayette Jefferson), Roderick Jones II (Gary West Side), Vaughn Lubarski (Calumet New Tech), Austin Magley (Lowell), Tanner Martin (Northwestern), Silas Maxwell (Frontier), Logan McRae (Crown Point), Eil Moore (Fountain Central), Dylan Morang (Lake Central), Alex Reinsma (Munster), Travis Smith (Lafayette Central Catholic), Dayton Snyder (West Lafayette), Gregory Thome II (Valparaiso), Brandon Wines (Clinton Prairie) and Mason Zurek (Andreas)

Six of these young men will be singled out by judges and announced May 6 as finalists for the Scholar Athlete of the Year Award. The winner will be announced at the NFF Honors Dinner in West Lafayette.

Banquet tickets are available through the NFF's NW Indiana Chapter for \$40 each to the general public, \$35 each to NFF members and their families and \$30 each to the families of the high school honorees. Contact John Friend (phone: 219-923-8397) or Jim Vruggin (765-427-3303) for more information, or return the order form on page 3 to the address provided.

GOLF OUTING

Our third annual golf outing, scheduled for June 21 at Purdue's Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex and planned jointly by the Tiller Chapter and Purdue's Trademark Licensing Office, has taken on a name change with the addition of Boilermaker All-American and Washington Redskins standout Ryan Kerrigan's involvement. Most of the proceeds from the Ryan Kerrigan 12th Boiler Golf Outing go toward scholarships.



Arnette Tiller



Joe Tiller



Frank O'Shea



Tom Ransom

Many of the participants will be vendors, retailers and licensees of the University, but there will be plenty of spaces available for NFF chapter members and the general public to take part. Cost is \$165 per player, covering box lunch, golf cart, 18 holes of golf on the Ackerman Hills course and a reception and dinner at the NFF Honors Dinner that evening (details below) at Purdue. For those who already have tickets for the dinner or who cannot attend the dinner, cost for the day of golf is \$150.

HONORS DINNER

Capping off our busy spring again this year is our marquee event, the Honors Dinner "Celebrating Our Legends VIII" on June 21 at the Purdue Memorial Union.

Highlighting that dinner, in addition to the announcement of the Scholar-Athlete of the Year, will be the induction into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame for Joe Tiller, Frank O'Shea and Tom Ransom. Officials from the Hall of Fame (which is located in Richmond) will be on hand to assist with the ceremony.

Tiller, the founder of this chapter and now a resident of Buffalo, Wyo., is being inducted as the all-time victory leader in the history of Purdue football (86 wins). Tiller guided the Boilermakers to 10 bowl games in his 12 years in West Lafayette, including the 2001 Rose Bowl following the team's last Big Ten championship season. Joe had previously served as Purdue's defensive coordinator for three years in the mid-1980s.

O'Shea has spent 50 years as a high school coach and administrator. His 41 years of coaching experience included 20 as a head coach at five schools in NW Indiana including, McCutcheon where he posted a 13-1 in 1982 and finished as state runners-up. He had a 66-19 record during his final eight season as a head coach. Frank is currently serving as an assistant to his son Kevin O'Shea, the head coach of the three-time defending

state champion Knights of Lafayette Central Catholic.

Ransom, who is chairman of the board of Kramer Lumber Company in Frankfort, has been a football official since 1965, including 30 years with the Big Ten Conference (21 years on the field, seven in the replay booth and two years as an observer). Prior to his work in the Big Ten, Tom officiated high school games throughout Western Indiana. His son Todd is now a respected Big Ten official.

Also at this dinner, the Indiana Football Coaches Association will recognize Arnette Tiller, Joe's wife, for her special service to football.

Each year the Tiller Chapter honors individuals from the region with its Distinguished American Award, the Bernie Flowers Outstanding Contribution to Amateur Football Award, the Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award, and the Citizenship Award. The chapter also awards its Gold Medallion on special occasions. All previous award winners are being invited back this year to take part in the VIP Reception and Honors Dinner.

Table prices are the same as last year for a table of eight (\$400 for general public, \$320 for NFF chapter members and honorees' families, and \$280 for students). Single tickets are \$55 for public, \$45 for members and \$35 for students. VIP Reception tickets are \$200 each (see pg. 3 to order tickets).

In addition to seeking donations and sponsorships to support the scholarship program, the chapter also receives money (\$500 for every 50 dues-paying members in the local chapter) from the national office in Irving, Tex. In its first seven years, this chapter has recognized 122 scholar athletes and awarded them between \$250 and \$5,000 each.

The tax-deductible membership dues are \$40 per year or \$99 for three years, payable to the National Football Foundation. The NFF has 121 chapters and more than 12,000 members, nationally, and awards more than \$1 million in scholarships each year.