



# NFF

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

### VOLUME FIVE

### ISSUE THREE

### NOVEMBER 2011

## NOV. 19 CHARITY CONCERT TO SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS, DREAM SEASON, JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT & RILEY HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

**Chapter Member Levi Riggs  
Featured at Long Center**

One of America's top rising country singers, Levi Riggs, is staging a charity concert Saturday, Nov. 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the Long Center for the Performing Arts in Downtown Lafayette to benefit students and young adults of northern Indiana.

Riggs, the 27-year-old artist who is a member of our chapter and a Purdue University honors graduate, is teaming with Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana, K-105 (WKOA-FM) of Lafayette, the Delta Delta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity and the Joe Tiller Chapter of the National Football Foundation. We are trying to raise more than \$12,000. Riggs will perform songs from his two recent CD releases, both of which are receiving radio play around the county.

The five entities receiving help from this concert are Junior Achievement (for students in Tippecanoe and surrounding counties), Dream Season (providing experiential opportunities for children and young adults with disabilities), Riley Hospital for Children, the NFF Scholarship Fund (for high school students in Northwest Indiana) and the 12th Boiler Scholarship Fund (for Purdue students).

The concert, presented by AdvoCare, will be in the main auditorium of the historic Long Center, located at 111 North Sixth Street in Lafayette, where Riggs and his band will be the featured artists during a two-hour program. Leading off the evening will be Woodstove Flapjacks, an old-time stringband from Lafayette and Karli Edging, a 16-year-old vocalist from Delphi.

Reserved seat tickets for the event are available in advance for \$15 each while general admission tickets are \$10 each. However, members of the NFF or any of the participating sponsors or charities benefitting from the concert may receive \$5.00 discounts AND priority seating by submitting the form on page 3. Checks should be made payable to National Football Foundation and sent to: NFF, 320 Dehart Street, West



Levi Riggs

Lafayette, IN 47906. The NFF is a 501 C-3 foundation. Same prices will be in effect for walk-up customers at the door on Nov. 19, if tickets remain.

Riggs, who sings annually at the NFF's Honors Dinner at the Purdue Memorial Union, has been part of three previous concerts that have helped to raise funds for the NFF and has donated a portion of the proceeds from his first CD release to the Joe Tiller Chapter's scholarship fund.

Riggs feels his music appeals to people of all ages. "Music provides a great way to deal with situations and feelings that many people face in their lives," says Riggs, who also writes lyrics for many of his songs. "I hope my message in song will encourage those who hear me sing."

Riggs' most recent CDs, entitled "Hillbilly Superstar" and "There's Still A Place for That," were produced in Nashville and have been distributed nationally earlier this fall. Levi worked in Nashville with Grammy-winning songwriters, three of the industry's top producers, and two of the best A&R reps in the business to offer the new albums stacked with hit songs to his fans.

This Danville, Ind., native is one of country music's brightest and fastest-rising new entertainers. He

proves it every show with energy and enthusiasm, creating a style of country music all his own.

"Levi is on a roll!" says Mike Shamus, Program Director of K-105 (WKOA). "The CD six packs have that 'Nashville' sound and I could see two or three hits possibly coming from these. We are very excited for Levi and look forward to hearing more songs from him on the radio."

Also echoing his praises is Chuck Aaron of Crown Artist Management.

"The next year will mark a turning point in Riggs' career," observes Aaron. "There is little doubt, equipped with the best songs, a seasoned voice, commanding stage presence, a positive attitude and a fan base that's growing exponentially around the world, that Levi Riggs will become a country music superstar."

His first country single, "F-150," reached #19 on the New Music Weekly Country Charts in 2010. Later that year, Riggs released a football-themed single, "Tailgate Time." When the song became popular, Levi was asked to record custom versions for radio stations around the country including over 30 NFL and collegiate teams. That song was recently picked up as a sponsorship theme for a well-known tailgate grill company.

To top it off, Levi was asked to perform for the 25th annual Leigh Steinberg VIP Super Bowl Party in Dallas, Texas, where more than 2,000 celebrities were entertained, including Randy Travis, Serena Williams, Earl Campbell, Bob Lilly, Reverend Run of Run DMC, and more. In a July concert in Evansville, Ind., Riggs opened for country star Justin Moore, energizing a crowd of more than 7,500.

Riggs brings a passion and excitement to the stage that sets him far apart from other artists. Levi has tireless drive and focus, a strong persevering attitude, and a passion for everything he does musically on stage and in the studio. He has also performed as the headliner at Chicago's Country Music Festival Best Buy Honky Tonk Stage, where he received rave reviews.

*(continued on pg. 3)*



Ryan Kerrigan with Nate Barrett

## 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HONORS DINNER A GREAT SUCCESS

Astronauts and athletes shared the stage in grand fashion at the Purdue Memorial Union Ballrooms in mid-June during the NFF Honors Dinner "Celebrating Our Legends VII," sponsored by the National Football Foundation's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana.

The June 16th event drew a crowd of 625 as it focused on one of America's best-known academic traditions, the "Cradle of Astronauts," along with some of Purdue's most famous football alumni.

Representing the astronauts were the first and last men on the moon, Neil Armstrong and Eugene Cernan, along with the man, Jerry Ross, who has been launched into space a record nine times. All three are Purdue alumni and are among 22 former Boilermak-

ers who have been selected to fly in space. They received the chapter's prestigious Gold Medallions from Chapter President Bart Burrell.

"Tonight we celebrate the academic side of our scholar-athlete moniker by honoring three great individuals who have achieved the highest heights and gone where few have ever tread," said Burrell in his introduction of the trio. "All three were outstanding students at Purdue University. Only one university, one region, one state can claim such a rich tradition in space."

The Gold Medallion recognizes people with close ties to the region who are outstanding Americans, having achieved significant career success while demonstrating integrity and honesty and

*(continued on pg. 4)*

# JOE TILLER CHAPTER OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

## HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD

This annual award is intended to provide recognition to a graduating high school senior football player who exemplifies excellence as a student, an athlete and a citizen. Scholarship money from the National Football Foundation is provided to the winner as long as he is not receiving full athletic aid to attend the college of his choice. He is not required to continue his career as a football player.

**Selection process:** Nominations are accepted in early winter from high school coaches and/or administrators in the counties covered by this NFF chapter. Nominations are evaluated by the Scholar-Athlete Committee, which recommends at least one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner. Other nominees will also be recognized at the Honors Dinner.

**2005 Honoree:** William Bowman of Lafayette Jefferson High School

**2006 Honoree:** Brett Courtney of West Lafayette Harrison High School

**2007 Honoree:** James Wodicka of West Lafayette High School

**2008 Honoree:** Griffin Richeson of Lafayette Central Catholic High School

**2009 Honoree:** Matt Lancaster of West Lafayette High School

**2010 Honoree:** Daniel Wodicka of West Lafayette High School

**2011 Honoree:** Alex Hegg of Seeger Memorial High School

## CITIZENSHIP AWARD

This annual award is given to provide 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 school and/or local community. The award-winner can be a high school, college or professional athlete.

**Selection process:** Nominations are accepted in early winter from members of this chapter. Nominations are evaluated by the awards committee, which recommends at no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at either Scholar-Athlete Banquet or the annual Honors Dinner.

**2011 Honoree:** Kyle Adams of Purdue University

## DREW BRES MENTAL TOUGHNESS AWARD

This annual award is intended to provide recognition to a college or professional athlete who exemplified exceptional mental attitude or toughness while competing within the counties covered by this NFF chapter. Exceptional mental attitude includes displays of high academic achievement, superior leadership, dogged determination, tenacity, moral character, bravery, humility and concern for others, in addition to remarkable athletic accomplishments. The award is named in honor of its first recipient, who also assists in the selection process.

**Selection process:** Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner.

**2005 Honoree:** Drew Brees of the San Diego Chargers

**2006 Honoree:** Rob Ninkovich of the Purdue Boilermakers

**2007 Honoree:** Roosevelt Colvin of the New England Patriots

**2008 Honoree:** Nick Hardwick of the San Diego Chargers

**2009 Honoree:** Akin Ayodele of the Miami Dolphins

**2011 Honoree:** Ryan Kerrigan of the Purdue Boilermakers

## BERNIE FLOWERS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO AMATEUR FOOTBALL

This annual award is intended to provide recognition to an individual whose efforts and activities support the goals of the National Football Foundation on the local level. The award identifies an individual who works tirelessly out of love for football and a desire to help children play the game. The award winner can be a league organizer, administrator, fundraiser, coach, doctor, athletic trainer, official or anyone who excels in representing and supporting the foundation's fundamental creed.

**Selection process:** Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner.

**2005 Honoree:** Kay Hunt of West Lafayette Little Gridiron Football League

**2006 Honoree:** John Robinson of Lafayette 56ers Youth Football League

**2007 Honoree:** Dr. Bob Hagen of Lafayette Orthopaedic and Sportsmedicine Clinic

**2008 Honoree:** Brad Smith of Attica and Indiana Football Coaches Association

**2009 Honoree:** Tom Kubat of Lafayette Journal & Courier Sports Department

**2010 Honoree:** Joe McConnell of Purdue Radio Network

**2011 Honoree:** Lane Custer and Jon Speaker of West Side Flag Football

## DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN AWARD

This annual award is intended to provide recognition to a citizen who has maintained a lifetime of interest in the game of football and who has exhibited enviable leadership qualities and patriotism while making a significant contribution to the betterment of amateur football or sports in general in the United States while bringing recognition to the local area covered by this NFF chapter.

**Selection process:** Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner.

**2005 Honoree:** Gene Keady, emeritus basketball coach of Purdue University

**2006 Honoree:** Bob DeMoss, former football coach/administrator at Purdue University

**2007 Honoree:** Henry Rosenthal, former play-by-play announcer/owner of WASK Radio

**2008 Honoree:** Bernie Flowers, former Purdue All-American, salesman extraordinaire

**2009 Honoree:** Joe Tiller, emeritus football coach of Purdue University

**2011 Honoree:** Leroy Keyes, former Purdue All-American / administrator

## GOLD MEDALLION AWARD

This award is given on rare occasion and in special circumstances to recognize the career of a highly-successful person in this region. It recognizes an outstanding American and/or loyal Hoosier who has achieved significant career success while demonstrating integrity and honesty and bringing recognition to the local area covered by this NFF chapter.

**Selection process:** Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and the presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner.

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

**2010 Honoree:** Drew Brees, Len Dawson and Bob Griese, Purdue's Super Bowl Champion Quarterbacks

**2011 Honoree:** Neil Armstrong, Eugene Cernan and Jerry Ross, Purdue's Most Famous Astronauts

# NOMINATION FORM

(Submit by January 15, 2012, to Jim Vrugink via phone at 765-427-3303, email at [jvrugink@purdue.edu](mailto:jvrugink@purdue.edu) or mail at 320 Dehart St., West Lafayette, IN 47906)

Name of nominee \_\_\_\_\_

For which award? \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/address of nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for nomination \_\_\_\_\_

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone or email \_\_\_\_\_

## 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**PRESIDENT -** Bart Burrell

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**TREASURER -** Jeff Love

**TILLER DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

- Kelly Kitchel

**LAKE MICHIGAN DISTRICT MEMBER-**

**SHIP CHAIR -** John Friend

**COLLEGIATE PROGRAM CHAIR -** Tom

Schott

**SCHOLAR-ATHLETE PROGRAM CHAIR -** Randy Truitt

**YOUTH FOOTBALL PROGRAM CHAIR -** David M. Williams

**DREAM SEASON CHAIR -** Chris Oppy

**EVENTS CHAIR -** Nate Barrett

**COMMUNICATIONS -** Alan Karpick

**AT-LARGE -** Joe Bennett, Orlando Itin, Bob Hagen, David McGaughey, Brad Smith, Jon Speaker, David R. Williams

### ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS -

Jordan Bruner, Mike Cleff, Don Collier, Aaron Cook, Brandon Cortez, Travis Dorsch, Randy Fairchild, Dwayne Greer, Marie Hernandez, David Huckleberry, Orlando Itin, Leroy Keyes, Noble Kizer, Tom Kubat, Kurt Lichtenburg, Jim MacDonald, Leroy Marsh, Clay Oppy, Vince Pegan, Allen Pinkett, Levi Riggs, Brock Rohlfing, John Sautter, Adam Scott, David Schutkovske, Janet Schweiker, Jim and Barb Siegfried, Jon Speaker, Phil Steele, Elisheba Van Winkle, David Wilson, George Wodicka

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR -** Jim Vrugink

**NEWSLETTER DESIGNER -** Jonathan Gandolf

**SALES MANAGER -** TBD

**WEBMASTER -** Jon Goldsberry

## CONTACT US

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The National Football Foundation Membership Office

433 E. Las Colinas Blvd., Suite 1130

Irving, TX 75039

Phone: 972-556-1000

E-mail: [membership@footballfoundation.com](mailto:membership@footballfoundation.com)

Web site: [www.footballfoundation.com](http://www.footballfoundation.com)

College Football Hall of Fame

111 South Saint Joseph Street

South Bend, IN 46601

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

E-mail: [hof@collegefootball.org](mailto:hof@collegefootball.org)

Web site: [aaa.collegefootball.org](http://aaa.collegefootball.org)



Bart Burrell

## Executive Director's Report:

# CHAPTER FOCUSES ON HELPING OTHER CHARITIES

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

Along with funding our own commitment of more than \$24,500 for scholarships and honorariums, the addition of our "Bowling with the Stars" event, the growth of our golf outing, and the refinement of our VIP Reception generated \$11,350 for other charities. In all, we presented \$35,928 to students and charities, in increase of nearly \$1,400 over last year's previous record. In seven years, we have now awarded \$159,874, with \$131,142 going to students.

The NFF Charity Concert, which was last held on Mar. 7 of 2010 at the West Lafayette High School Auditorium, clearing more than \$6,000, was delayed until Nov. 19 as we focused on staging our first Scholar-Athlete Banquet on Mar. 6 at Valparaiso University's Harre Union and our first "Bowling with the Stars" event on Apr. 30 at Arrowhead Lanes in Lafayette. Those two events did not prove to be big "money makers" as we netted just \$974 from the banquet, helping to off-set our scholarship commitment, and only \$550 from the bowling event, with the funds split between our scholarship fund, the 12th Boiler Fund and the PALS (Purdue Athletes Lifetime Success) Program.

The golf outing for the third year in a row was a shared event, co-hosted by the NFF

and Purdue's Trademark Licensing Office, with the intent of splitting the "profits" between our scholarship fund and the John Purdue Club's 12th Boiler Program. The May 11 event, netted \$5,577 this year thanks to the participation by 58 golfers. Last year's golf event netted \$4,000 and the year before the same outing yielded just \$750. Ryan Kerrigan is the new "face" of this event.

The seventh annual NFF Honors Dinner "Celebrating Our Legends VII" was in some regards our greatest event. With Neil Armstrong, Gene Cernan, Jerry Ross, Leroy Keyes, Drew Brees, Ryan Kerrigan and Joe Tiller on hand as part of the program, this truly was a unique experience with Purdue academics and athletics sharing the limelight. The VIP Reception raised \$8,185 for the PALS Program. Last year's VIP Reception netted \$10,000 for four charities.

The Honors Dinner attendance of 625 was our second best, behind last year's record crowd of 800. Total cash revenues for this year's Honors Dinner and surrounding activities were \$65,468 compared to last year's \$67,114. Unfortunately, our food and production costs were considerably higher. Total cost, with all bills paid, was about \$61,108 (compared to \$59,360 last year) including this year's payments for scholarships, honorariums and other charities. As of September 15, we are carrying forward a balance of \$21,892 into our eighth year of existence.

Submitted by Jim Vrugink

## ORDER CONCERT TICKETS ON FORM BELOW TO SAVE \$5.00 ON RESERVED SEAT

(continued from pg. 1)

When respected music critic, Tim Brouk of the Lafayette Journal & Courier, writes, "If Levi Riggs' voice was placed in the NFL draft, it would be selected in the first round," people take notice! When they hear Levi sing, they want more! When they see him perform, they are convinced -- Levi Riggs has tremendous star potential!

"To me, all the fun happens on stage," says Riggs. "It's a great rush and it's where I feel at home. I love to connect with my audience through my songwriting and energy. I always give my best effort at every show to perform at the highest level possible."

While in college, Levi sang lead tenor for the world-famous Purdue Varsity Glee Club for four years and, for the last four years, has been lead vocalist for The Overtones, a Gospel Quartet based in Lafayette. Since 2003, Riggs has logged more stage hours than virtually any artist in his age bracket, performing live over

## PURDUE'S JOE HOLLAND TO RECEIVE NFF POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Joe Holland, a senior linebacker and co-captain on the Purdue football team, received some great news late last month as he was announced as one of 16 football players named as recipients of the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Awards.

Holland becomes the third Boilermaker in school history to be named a NFF National Scholar-Athlete and the first since All-American quarterback Drew Brees in 2000. Defensive tackle Ken Loushin was also feted by the NFF in 1979.

Each finalist will receive an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship at the 54th NFF Annual Awards Dinner on Dec. 6 at the Waldorf=Astoria in New York City, and one of the 16 will be announced as the 22nd recipient of the William V. Campbell Trophy, which recognizes an individual as the absolute best scholar-athlete in the nation. Named in honor of Bill Campbell, the chairman of Intuit, former player and head coach at Columbia University, and the 2004 recipient of the NFF's Gold Medal, the award comes with a 25-pound bronze trophy and a \$25,000 post-graduate scholarship. A total distribution of \$300,000 in scholarships will be awarded that evening.

### NFF MEMBERS:

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

600 times across the United States and overseas. He also was an Agricultural Ambassador, a National Agri-Marketing Semi-Finalist for 2007 and a member of the Homecoming Court that year. He is a member of the Purdue President's Council and the Joe Tiller Chapter of the NFF.

USE THIS FORM AND SAVE \$5 ON EACH RESERVED SEAT ORDERED BY NOVEMBER 12

**BENEFITTING:**  
Dream Season, Junior Achievement,  
NFF & 12th Boiler Scholarship Funds  
and Riley Hospital for Children

**LEVI RIGGS**  
CHARITY CONCERT

ALSO FEATURING  
**WOODSTOVE FLAPJACKS AND KARLI EDGING**

**11.19.11**  
STARTS AT 7:30 PM

**LONG CENTER - LAFAYETTE, IN**

PRIMARY SPONSORS  
AdvocaCare  
Delta Delta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity  
Joe Tiller Chapter of National Football Foundation  
Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana  
K-105 (WKOA - FM) Radio, Lafayette

(Please make check or money order payable to National Football Foundation.)

Charity Concert Reserved Seats (\$15 value): \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Partnership (Donation, 2 tix + 2'X5' program ad): \$ 330.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NFF membership (1 yr./\$40 or 3 yr./\$99) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTALS: \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Supporters submitting this form get a price break & priority seating, but if your purchase is mainly a donation and you don't intend to use the tickets, please indicate a group or organization we should give your tickets to: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, please contact Jim Vrugink by email ([jvruggink@purdue.edu](mailto:jvruggink@purdue.edu)) or phone (765-427-3303).

RETURN TO: NFF Charity Concert  
320 Dehart Street  
West Lafayette, IN 47906

NOTE: Ticket orders received by Nov. 12 will be mailed; Orders received after Nov. 12 will be held at Will Call.





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

#### IMPORTANT DATES:

**Nov. 19, 2011** – NFF Charity Concert, Long Center, Lafayette  
**Jan. 15, 2012** – Deadline for NFF Awards (see page 2)  
**Jan. 16, 2012** – Bowling with the Stars, Arrowhead Lanes, Lafayette (tentative)  
**Mar./Apr., 2012** – Scholar-Athlete Banquet, TBD, Valparaiso-Merrillville area  
**Apr. 24, 2012** – Ryan Kerrigan 12th Boiler Golf Outing, West Lafayette  
**Apr. 29, 2012** – 12th Boiler Mud Run, Ross Hills, Tippecanoe County  
**Mid-June, 2012** – NFF Honors Dinner, Purdue Memorial Union, West Lafayette  
**Sept. 1, 2012** – Purdue Football Season Opener vs. Eastern Kentucky

## ASTRONAUTS & ATHLETES HONORED TOGETHER AT ANNUAL DINNER

(continued from pg. 1)

bringing recognition to the region covered by the NFF chapter.

The athletic awards included the announcement of Alex Hegg of Seeger Memorial High School as the chapter's Scholar-Athlete of the Year. The award is based on academics (40%) and athletics (40%) along with community service, leadership and citizenship (20%). Hegg was valedictorian of the senior class at Seeger after being a three-year starter as offensive and defensive lineman and an all-conference performer. He was one of 24 scholar-athletes nominated by their schools from among the 73 football-playing high schools in the 18-county region.

The event was co-sponsored by Beck's Hybrid Seeds and Delta Delta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity at Purdue.

Drew Brees, the All-Pro quarterback of the New Orleans Saints who was named Sports Illustrated's Sportsman of the Year for 2010, attended the Honors Dinner for the seventh consecutive year and presented the Brees Mental Toughness Award to Purdue's consensus All-America defensive end Ryan Kerrigan, the first round draft choice of the Washington Redskins.

The chapter's Distinguished American Award was given to another Purdue All-American, College Football Hall of Famer Leroy Keyes, who retired earlier this year from the Boilermaker athletic staff, where he was an assistant director in the John Purdue Club and served as assistant football coach under head coaches Jim Colletto and Joe Tiller.

Former chapter award winner and board member Bernie Flowers was remembered during the opening ceremonies in a tribute by Head Coach Emeritus Tiller during the program for his tireless efforts in building up the chapter's memberships and sponsorships. The Tiller Chapter is now the second largest chapter in the country (among 120 chapters). Flowers, an All-America receiver for the Boilermakers in 1950-52, died unexpectedly in April.

The chapter renamed it's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Amateur Football in honor of Flowers and presented it to Jon Speaker and Lane Custer for their efforts in starting a youth football program in West Lafayette called West Side Flag Football, which provides introductory level football for hundreds of young children in Tippecanoe County.



From Left to Right: Kyle Adams, Neil Armstrong, Leroy Keyes, Drew Brees, Eugene Cernan and Jerry Ross

Also for the first time, The Tiller Chapter presented its Citizenship Award to a graduating university player in the region who has exhibited exceptional community service, leadership and character while in college. Kyle Adams, a Purdue tight end, who led numerous mission trips to Haiti and was a two-time recipient of the Kiwanis Service Award, won the award. Adams is now a Chicago Bear.

The five other finalists for the prestigious Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award were Jesse Dority of Clinton Prairie High School, Sam Ficken of Valparaiso, Spencer Murphy of North Miami, Kyle Patton of West Lafayette and Dustin Rivich of Michigan City.

The six finalists were chosen from a field of 24 scholar-athletes who were nominated earlier this year by their schools from throughout the 18-county region of Northwest Indiana. The announcement was made Mar. 6 at the chapter's Scholar-Athlete Banquet at Valparaiso University's Harre Union Ballroom. Each nominee receives scholarship assistance from the NFF.

Besides the six scholar-athlete award finalists, the 18 other high school football players nominated this year were: Austin Atherton (Crown Point), Jonathan Bush (Carroll), Keisten Childers (Knox), Cody

Christopher (Lafayette Central Catholic), Arion Clanton (East Chicago Central), Austin Colby (Kokomo), Daniel Falloon (Munster), Tyler Hanson (River Forest), Brant Hartman (Caston), Tanner Hess (Logansport), Garrett Howe (Twin Lakes), Justin Hunt (Maconaquah), Derek Mumaw (Northwestern), Alex Niccum (McCutcheon), Kramer Phalen (Lake Central), Tanner Pierce (Fountain Central), Joel Ripke (Lafayette Jefferson) and Alec Stuard (Frankfort).

The cumulative grade point average of this year's 24 nominees was 3.67 (equated to a 4.0 scale) and many of the young men were named to all-conference, all-region and all-state teams.

Including this year's distribution, the Tiller Chapter has recognized 122 scholar-athletes and awarded them between \$250 and \$5,000 each for a seven-year total of \$131,000.

In addition to the scholarships, the local chapter is involved with youth football programs such as the Tippecanoe Football Camp/Dream Season (providing experiences for young people with disabilities) and the Lafayette 56ers, Attica Youth Football, Little Gridiron, and West Side Flag Football, assisting with opportunities for elementary school-aged players in the area.