



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CALEDONIA HEAD COACH CARL FRUECHTE TO RECEIVE JOHN GAGLIARDI LEGACY AWARD**

**MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. – April 13, 2026 –** Caledonia head coach Carl Fruechte has been named this year’s recipient of the John Gagliardi Legacy Award by the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation. Fruechte will be honored on April 19 during a private awards event at Huntington Bank Stadium on the University of Minnesota campus. The April event will be recorded for the Minnesota Football Honors show, airing later this summer on YouTube and social media, with full broadcast details coming soon.

“Carl Fruechte has so much respect and admiration across the entire Minnesota High School football community. He develops athletes into not just great players, but excellent future citizens and community leaders,” said Todd Fultz, President of the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation. “We can’t wait to honor Carl during the upcoming Minnesota Football Honors broadcast.”

Carl Fruechte has cemented his legacy as one of the top high school coaches in Minnesota. Fruechte, a 1984 graduate of Caledonia High School, has coached football at the school since 1988. He currently holds a career coaching record of 206-46. Fruechte was Caledonia’s head coach from 1997 to 2009 and resumed the role in 2016 (to present). From 2010-2015, he served as the Warriors’ offensive coordinator while his children were playing college athletics.

Fruechte has won eight conference titles, 10 section championships and six state championships during his career. Collectively, he has been part of 10 total football championships as a head coach or assistant. Fruechte was named Conference and Section Coach of the Year eight times each. He also earned Minnesota Football Coaches Association Class Coach of the Year honors three times and was named State Coach of the Year in 2008. Fruechte was inducted into the Minnesota Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2024.

Cal has coached many high school sports, including basketball since 1987. During his coaching career, he has also been a part of state championships in boys track (2011 and 2024), boys basketball (1997) and girls basketball (2009).

Carl has been married to his wife, Becky, for 38 years, and they have three children - Alecia, Isaac and Maria - as well as 11 grandchildren. Fruechte enjoyed watching his three children play high school and college athletics. Carl also enjoys biking and hiking with his wife and visits many Minnesota state parks. His favorite moments include winning some important games, but the most pride comes from watching young boys become productive members of our society.

*The John Gagliardi Legacy Award* honors the late John Gagliardi, one of the greatest college football coaches of all time. The former Saint John’s head coach made a difference in the lives of many former players, coaches and fans. This annual award carries on his legacy by honoring the top coaches in Minnesota football history.

Minnesota Football Honors is hosting a show to honor this year’s high school, college and Minnesota Vikings award winners. Full YouTube and social media broadcast dates will be announced at a later date on [www.minnesotafotballhonors.com](http://www.minnesotafotballhonors.com).

To view a statewide map of past and present Minnesota Football Honors Award Winners, [visit this site](#).

**Previous John Gagliardi Legacy Award winners:**

- 2012: George Thole: Stillwater High School
  - 2013: Ron Stolski: Brainerd High School
  - 2014: George Wemeier: Washburn High School
  - 2015: Dick Hanson: Burnsville High School
  - 2016: Grady Rostberg: Hutchinson High School
  - 2017: Dave Nigon: Totino-Grace High School
  - 2018: George Larson: Cambridge-Isanti High School
  - 2019: Mike Grant: Eden Prairie High School
  - 2021: Ross Fortier: Minnesota State University Moorhead
  - 2022: Gerry Brown: St. Thomas Academy
  - 2023: Mike Mahlen: Verndale High School
  - 2024: Dwight Lundeen: Becker High School
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### **About the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation:**

The Minnesota Chapter of The National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame is a local nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote amateur football's ability to develop leadership, sportsmanship, competitive spirit and academic excellence in Minnesota's young people. The Minnesota Chapter recognizes legendary football icons, college football Hall of Famers and Minnesota's top high school and college football scholar-athletes. For more information, visit [www.nffmn.org](http://www.nffmn.org), or Facebook ([@MNFootballHonors](https://www.facebook.com/MNFootballHonors)) and Twitter ([@NFFMN](https://twitter.com/NFFMN)).

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