



## HONORS BRUNCH CUTS A WIDE PATH OF SUCCESS

**JUNE 22 -- NFF HONORS BRUNCH**  
**SEPT. 4 or 5 – NFF HONORS RECEPTION**  
**SEPT. 5 – TYLER TRENT GOLF OUTING**

Northwest Indiana's past, present and future athletic/academic stars will be celebrated on June 22 as part of the NFF Honors Brunch "Celebrating Our Legends XXI," 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.

This year's Honors Brunch will feature state champions, All-Americans, dedicated community servants, talented media members, a college athletics director, a Navy helicopter pilot and a multitude of high school standouts.

The Honors Brunch will serve as induction ceremonies for the Indiana Football Hall of Fame. This year's inductees are David Haugh (North Judson H.S./Chicago Sports Media); Josh Smith (Attica H.S./US Naval Academy); Jim Vruggink (Purdue University/NFF Tiller Chapter); and Josh Whitman (Harrison H.S./U. of Illinois).

But, the June 22 event will focus on 15 NFF scholar-athletes who were nominated by their schools throughout Northern Indiana for the annual Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award and at least 19 Lafayette Journal & Courier student-athletes nominated by high school athletics directors in the J&C coverage area. Also being honored are 18 J&C sport-by-sport players of the year selected by the J&C sports staff and 19 WLFI-TV Athletes of the Week along with some Indiana Football Coaches Association North All-Star nominees from Regions 1, 3, 4 and 5. 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 eight other awards, nominated and selected by chapter members and various entities, to recognize outstanding accomplishments in our



*HALL OF FAMERS - Left to right, David Haugh (North Judson-San Pierre), Josh Smith (Attica) and Josh Whitman (Harrison) starred on the prep gridirons of Northwest Indiana and in college football before establishing highly-successful careers leading toward their inductions into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame on June 22.*

communities. Some of these presentations will occur June 22 while others may take place at the NFF's Honors Reception in conjunction with the Tyler Trent Golf Outing, Sept. 5.

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**
- Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award – **Braden Smith**
- Leroy Keyes Legends Award – **Robbie Hummel**
- Purdue For Life Impact Award – **Mike Carmin**
- Todd Clark Outstanding Game Official Award – **Mark Beck**
- Bernie Flowers Contribution to Amateur Sports Award – **Rob Lear**
- Arnette Tiller "Service to Football" Award – **Adella Flowers**
- Patrick Mackey Courage Award – **Aldo Robles**
- Tyler Trent Courage and Resilience Award – **Anneliese Williams**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Drew Brees (TBD)**
- 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 Vruggink (June 2025)**

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## ENDOWMENT FUND NEARS HALFWAY POINT; GOAL IS TO SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AND PROMOTE PLAYERS & COACHES FOR TOP HONORS

The NFF's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana asks you to help make Joe's legacy meaningful and everlasting by endowing scholarships into perpetuity and honoring Joe's dedication to recognizing the accomplishments of young scholar athletes.

On behalf of its Board of Directors, this chapter launched "2025 Drive" nearly nine years ago hoping to raise at least \$500,000 for the endowment in order to use the annual interest to cover the chapter's scholarship commitments far into the future. Can you help financially or by making phone calls? Or, serving on a fund-raising committee?

Since receiving its charter in 2004, this 501 c-3 foundation (which was renamed the Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana in 2007 in honor of Joe becoming Purdue's winningest football coach ever) has become the largest chapter in the state and, at one point, was the second largest in the nation.

In partnership with local media outlets, this chapter offers recognition for male and female scholar-athletes (nominated by their schools) after graduation from 70+ high schools in Northwest Indiana. In its first 20 years, this chapter has recognized 539 student athletes, awarding scholarships to many of them following high school for use during their second semester of college.

Also, each dues-paying NFF member receives a ballot in the selection process for the College Football Hall of Fame, a feature that helped elect five former Purdue All-Americans and two coaches to the HOF in the last 20 years. On top of that, this chapter has successfully inducted 20 former Boilermakers and several area high school coaches and players into the Indiana FB Hall of Fame since 2012.

Since receiving its charter, the chapter has awarded more than \$295,000 in

### CHAPTER NEEDS YOUR HELP ... HERE'S HOW:

- DONATE TO SCHOLARSHIP FUND (see page 2) or
- ADD TO AN ENDOWMENT (see page 2) or
- JOIN THE CHAPTER and
- SERVE ON A COMMITTEE (see page 2) or
- ASK ABOUT BECOMING A SPONSOR (call 765-427-3303)

scholarships and honorariums and \$102,000 in grants and donations. Fund-raising to support these efforts is generated through sales of tickets, memorabilia, advertising, sponsorship and donations. Unfortunately, those dollars have diminished dramatically due to changes in our economy and in IRS rules.

Other NFF chapters (like the Moose Krause Chapter near Notre Dame) have successfully established endowments to support future commitments. The Tiller Chapter can do the same. Thanks to the generosity of Arnette Tiller, two former Purdue quarterbacks and the wife of our past-president Bob Hagen, we are nearly halfway to reaching our goal of \$500,000.

Will you help to permanently stamp the name of Joe Tiller in the Lafayette community and throughout Northwest Indiana by contributing your time or resources during the next few years? - Either providing a major gift in one lump sum or spreading it out over three years OR by helping to make some phone calls? We can even discuss an endowment that could fund an annual scholarship

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## CHAPTER PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS AND RECOGNITION IN NW INDIANA

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named for the donor. If you have questions or wish to discuss by phone/email, please contact Jim Vrugink at 765-427-3303 or jvruggink@purdue.edu

### DONATE TO HELP MEET ENDOWMENT GOAL

I want to participate in the effort to reach the scholarship endowment goal for the National Football Foundation's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana (a 501 c-3 foundation) as part of its "Drive 2025" Campaign. My commitment is as follows:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in 2025; \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in 2026; \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in 2027

(My check is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_; Send me an invoice \_\_\_\_\_; Call to discuss \_\_\_\_\_)  
(You can also contribute electronically through ZEFFY, a free processing service for 501 c-3 foundations, using the QR code on page 3.) Please make donations payable to **National Football Foundation**

Indicate here \_\_\_\_\_ if you wish your donation to be listed as anonymous.

ALL DONATIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED WITH A RECEIPT.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO: Jim Vrugink, Fundraising Coordinator  
Joe Tiller Chapter of NFF  
3672 Farnsworth Drive  
West Lafayette, IN 47906  
PHONE: 765-427-3303



## TYLER TRENT GOLF OUTING SET FOR SEPT. 5 AT COYOTE CROSSING

The NFF Tiller Chapter's fifth annual Tyler Trent Golf Outing will take place Friday, Sept. 5, 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 four, 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 Tony and Kelly Trent," says Robin. "What started as a casual meeting and a few adult beverages has turned into a true friendship. Getting to know these wonderful people, and learning their story firsthand, 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 2025 as the first four years -- \$150 per person/\$600 for a foursome and \$200 for a hole sponsorship. In the first four years of involvement with the Trent Family, the Tiller Chapter has generated \$48,000 for cancer research through these golf outings.

The Tiller Chapter has invited Robbie Hummel and Gene Keady to be this year's celebrity golfers, joining the likes of Jim Everett, Curtis Painter, Kyle Orton and who have participated in the past events.

If you are a golfer, please save that date and join the effort. Contact Jim Vrugink (765-427-3303) or Austin Hoefling (812-746-2554) for more information.

## HONORS BRUNCH CUTS A WIDE PATH OF SUCCESS

Continued from pg. 1

- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Josh Whitman (June 2025)**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **John Scheumann (TBD - post-humously)**
- State Championship Team Awards – **Rossville Softball, Harrison Boys Soccer and Lafayette Faith Christian Girls Soccer**

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. 5 at a location yet to be determined will raise funds for scholarships while the Tyler Trent Golf Outing on Sept. 5 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: Clayton Blackburn (Lafayette Faith Christian), Caden Carmichael (Wabash), Keyen Crowder (Lafayette Jefferson), David Curl (West Lafayette), Patrick Cusick (Andrean), Leo Dellinger (Twin Lakes), Drew Elzinga (Oak Hill), Kyle Harshburger (Clinton Prairie), Thomas Henry (Lafayette Central Catholic), Jordan Kantz (North White), William King (Lafayette Faith Christian), Ian Metzinger (Benton Central), Jackson Mills (Harrison), Conner Standifer (Benton

Central) and Dakota Whann (North Miami).

The Journal & Courier Female Nominees for Student-Athlete of the Year are: Joslyn Barnett (Attica), Addie Bowsman (Twin Lakes), Taylor Cripe (South Newton), Avery Hardebeck (Benton Central), Brailey Hoagland (Fountain Central), Avery Layton (Rossville), Addison Miller (Clinton Prairie), Ruth Moser (Harrison), Guinevere Schmitzer-Torbert (Crawfordsville), Danielle Welborn (Lafayette Faith Christian) and Sara Zarse (Tri-County).

The Journal & Courier Male Nominees for Student-Athlete of the Year are: Leo Dellinger (Twin Lakes), Kyle Harshburger (Clinton Prairie), Jason Newton (Frontier), Alec Saidian (Crawfordsville), Grayson Schneider (Tri-County), Hunter Sisson (Benton Central), Klayton Stevens (Clinton Central) and Noah Weaver (Rossville).

The Journal & Courier Players of the Year are: Carley Barrett (basketball, Central Catholic), Alonzo Clawson-Smith (basketball, Jefferson), Keyen Crowder (football offense, Jefferson), David Curl (football defense, West Lafayette), Ryan Delgatto (football defense, Central Catholic), Cali Foster (volleyball, Benton Central), Lillie Graves (basketball, McCutcheon), Isaac Gutierrez (soccer, Harrison), Diego Hernandez-Reyes (football offense, Rensselaer), Tyler Klemme (baseball '24, Benton Central), Avery Layton (softball '24, Rossville), Jake

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## NFF ADVISORY BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2025

PRESIDENT: Alan Karpick  
PAST PRESIDENTS: Bart Burrell and Kelly Kitchel  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Travis Baugh  
DUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Tom Schott  
FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR: Jim Vrugink  
TREASURER: Paul Branham  
SECRETARY: Elisheba VanWinkle  
WEBMASTER: Travis Baugh  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR & HISTORIAN: Jim Vrugink  
NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION DIRECTOR: Jonathan Gandolf  
PHOTOGRAPHER: Chad Krockover

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (28 Voting Members):  
Max Bales, Nate Barrett, Tim Bobillo, Bart Burrell, Steve Clark, Don Coller, Nancy Cross, Judy Hanna, Ethan Hanson, Austin Hoefling, Steve Hoffman, Orlando Itin, Alan Karpick, Eddie Keister, Kelly Kitchel, Chad Krockover, Matt Lancaster, Young Lee, Jeff Love, David McGaughey, Clayton Richard, Jim Samuel, Janet Schweikher, Brad Smith, Jon Speaker, Ron Tipton, Rex Trautman and Elisheba VanWinkle

ADVISORY COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEMBERS (18): Terry Acree, Tom Blumling, Drew Brees, Patrick Crawford, Dwayne Greer, Joe Hernandez, Tim House, Sam King, Adam Kuffner, Jaylyn Learnard, Leroy Marsh, Tim Newton, Chris Pate, Mark Peterson, Andrew Ralph, Chris Westgate and George Wodicka  
INTERNS (5): Connor Benson, Tate Drone, Patrick Kiefer, James Lathrop, Ethan Popp and Ben Riggins

PHOTOS IN THIS ISSUE PROVIDED BY: US Navy, ESPN, University of Illinois, Purdue University, and Chad Krockover

# CELEBRATING OUR LEGENDS XXI

Honors Reception (Sept. 4 or 5)  
Tyler Trent Golf Outing (Sept. 5)



## NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

### NFF HONORS EVENTS ORDER FORM CELEBRATING OUR LEGENDS XXI

Sunday, June 22, 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 22 BRUNCH:

Non-NFF and GBI Members: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$75 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Table of Eight: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$600 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(or \$480 each for members or \$400 each for students)

#### RECEPTION AND GOLF:

Honors Reception (Sept. 4 or 5) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tyler Trent Golf Outing (Sept. 5) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 June 7;

#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 Travis Baugh by email ([travisjamesbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:travisjamesbaugh@gmail.com))  
or phone (765-404-9257) with questions.

(Please make check or money order payable to **National Football Foundation** and  
send to: NFF Awards Coordinator, 3672 Farnsworth Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906



PURDUE FOOTBALL COACH BARRY ODOM

### 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 Brunch may have conflicts with vacation plans or other events, we want to encourage you to 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.

#### QR CODE FOR ENDOWMENT



#### QR CODE FOR BRUNCH





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 in West Lafayette Area:**

**June 22, 2025** – NFF Honors Brunch, Purdue Memorial Union  
**Aug. 30, 2025** – Purdue Home Opener vs. Ball State, Ross-Ade Stadium  
**Sept. 4 or 5, 2025** – NFF Honors Reception, TBD  
**Sept. 5, 2025** – Tyler Trent Golf Outing, Coyote Crossing Golf Club

## FOUR GENTLEMEN TO BE INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

*Continued from pg. 2*

McGraw (basketball, Clinton Prairie), Ruth Moser (soccer, Harrison), Chelsea Parker (softball '24, Harrison), Kamri Rowland (basketball, Rensselaer), Lexi Shondell (volleyball, McCutcheon) and Sammy Swank (baseball, McCutcheon).

The WLFI-TV Athletes of the Week are: Carley Barrett (basketball, Central Catholic), Della Bossung (volleyball, Harrison), Zo Clawson-Smith (basketball, Jefferson), Keyen Crowder (football, Jefferson), Nick Curtain (basketball, Clinton Prairie), Andre Fancher (football, Jefferson), Ray Gibson (basketball, Harrison), Lillie Graves (basketball, McCutcheon), Malachi King (basketball, Harrison), Keara Lipscomb-Allen (basketball, McCutcheon), Bobby Metzger (football, Jefferson), Gabe Miller (basketball, Faith Christian), Nery Pacheco (soccer, McCutcheon), Jenna Roth (basketball, Delphi), Ethan Seubring (wrestling, Faith Christian), Reid Smith (basketball, Harrison), Rylinn Spradling (basketball, Logansport), Eva Stokes (volleyball, Harrison) and Ben Werth (basketball, West Lafayette).

All 92 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](http://www.ifca.net).

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 2025 events to pick up the awards he was selected to receive in recent years but has been unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts.

Purdue's new head football coach Barry Odom will attend the brunch and will be interviewed by football play-by-play announcer Tim Newton.

For the second straight year, Braden Smith of the Purdue men's basketball team will receive one of this organization's top awards, the Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award after sharing the Leroy Keyes Impact Award last year with Zach Edey.

This year's community honorees include Rob Lear of Red Hawk Wrestling, being recognized for



*FORMER HOOP STAR ROBBIE HUMMEL is this year's recipient of the Leroy Keyes Legends Award, as he continues to build on his reputation as one of America's top commentators. Hummel was an All-American player at Purdue the Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award winner in 2012.*

his superb work with area high school wrestlers; Adella Flowers for her support of all sports and the Tiller Chapter, Mark Beck for football and track officiating; former Purdue athlete Robbie Hummel for his broadcast prowess and Mike Carmin for excellence in sports journalism.

Also, Aldo Robles will receive the Patrick Mackey Courage Award for his recovery battle from brain cancer, Anneliese Williams will be recognized as the latest recipient of the Tyler Trent Courage & Resilience Award, an honor for which she was selected last summer but was unable to attend the Honors Reception due to health issues.

The four IFCA Hall of Fame selectees who will be inducted on June 22 have come to this distinction in different ways.

David Haugh was nominated by his high school, North Judson-San Pierre, and Coach Brett Lambert. Haugh finished his prep career as the state's all-time leading receiver while also grabbing 26 interceptions. He went on to earn all-conference honors as a safety at Ball State and then earned his master's degree from Northwestern before launching a successful career as a sportswriter and broadcaster in the Chicago area, including a show on ESPN radio. He lives in Schererville.

Josh Smith was nominated by his high school, Attica, and administrator Robert Campbell. Smith was one of the most dominant football players in Indiana history, rushing for 3004 yards and scoring



*BRADEN SMITH received the Leroy Keyes Impact Award at the NFF Honors Brunch last June and this year will receive the Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award to add to his collection that includes Big Ten Player of the Year and the Bob Cousy Award as top point guard in the nation.*

449 points in his senior season in 2000 when he was named USA Today's Indiana Player of the Year. He advanced to the US Naval Academy and was a multiple year starter as a defensive back. He remains in the Navy to this day where he serves as a helicopter pilot. He resides in Virginia Beach, Va.

Jim Vrugink was nominated by Brad Smith of the IFCA for his efforts to advance amateur sports in Indiana through his profession in collegiate athletic communications for 37 years at Purdue and as executive director of the Joe Tiller Chapter of the NFF for 20 years. A Central Michigan graduate, Jim was previously honored by his induction into the CoSIDA Hall of Fame and the CMU Journalism Hall of Fame. He resides in West Lafayette.

Josh Whitman was nominated by Harrison H.S. and former head coach Terry Peebles in recognition of his outstanding high school, collegiate and professional career. Josh was an all-state tight end for the Raiders and an Academic All-American at Illinois before spending parts of four seasons with four different NFL teams. He is now in his 10th year as the athletics director at Illinois, leading the Fighting Illini to excellence in many competitive areas and in the classroom. He lives in Champaign, Ill.

Posthumous induction for John Scheumann, a very successful builder in the Lafayette area, has been handled internally at Jefferson High School but will be presented at the June 22 event.



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Whenever You Need It.**

