



FOUR EVENTS SET FOR 5-MONTH SPAN

FEB. 23 – PURDUE FOOTBALL PERFORMANCE CENTER TOUR

APR. 1 – PURDUE COLOR DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

MAY 11 – RYAN KERRIGAN 12TH BOILER GOLF OUTING

JUNE 17 OR JULY 1 – NFF HONORS DINNER "CELEBRATING OUR LEGENDS"

Putting on first class events and honoring individuals for their accomplishments are the main focal points of the National Football Foundation's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana. And 2018 will be no exception.

Many details are now in place for four important events involving our chapter this winter and spring as we roll into our 14th year of existence.

First on the schedule is a special reception and tour opportunity at Purdue's still-to-be-completed Football Performance Center. This will tentatively take place on Friday, Feb. 23, afternoon, starting in the new building's lobby.

Activities continue on Sunday afternoon, Apr. 1, as Purdue Gold Standard, our partner student organization, puts on its sixth annual Color Dodgeball for a Cause on Purdue's Intramural Fields working in cooperation with Purdue's Trademarks & Licensing Office.

Then, on Friday, May 11, the chapter joins forces again with the Trademarks & Licensing Office to host an event, the Ryan Kerrigan/12th Boiler Golf Outing at Purdue's Birk Boilermaker Golf Complex in West Lafayette.

Following that is the chapter's primary function, highlighting our scholar-athletes and award winners at the NFF Honors Dinner "Celebrating Our Legends XIV" on Sunday, June 17 or July 1, at the Purdue Memorial Union Ballrooms in West Lafayette.

Prior to that event, however, are two key deadlines for the awards process. Nominations are due Feb. 3 from the high schools in the 17-county area of Northwest Indiana for the judging of the Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award. Also, Mar. 31 is the deadline for nominations for the other chapter awards (see awards and nomination form on adjoining pages).

TOUR OF CENTER – FEB. 23

The Joe Tiller Chapter will join with the John Purdue Club in hosting the reception and tours between 2 and 6 p.m. Feb. 23, starting in the lobby at the intersection of Wooden and Tiller drives, off the northeast corner of Ross-Ade Stadium. We will be joined by members of three other organizations in the community – Greater Lafayette Commerce, Kiwanis Club and Downtown Gridiron Club, all of whom support Boilermaker football through event sponsorships, honors and awards.

Dues-paying members of these organizations will be invited to attend for free and may bring along guests for \$25 each (payable at the door) to help cover the cost of beverages and snacks. Any "profits" from the event will be donated to the JPC's 12th Boiler Scholarship Fund and the NFF's Scholarship Fund. Check-in and snacks will be available in the main lobby and guided tours will depart every 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the crowds.

According to Jim Vrugink, the NFF's executive director who will serve as one of the tour guides, "This will be a rare opportunity for members of our various organizations to view this magnificent, \$65 million start-of-the-art facility that is normally not open to the public."

COLOR DODGEBALL – APR. 2

The Purdue Gold Standard, which promotes philanthropy and leadership, is looking to expand on the successes of the previous five Color Dodgeball events that were held in the fall of 2012 and the springs of 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

The student-oriented contest primarily serves as a fund-raiser that benefits Purdue's Center for Cancer Research and the NFF Scholarship Fund. Other student organizations will join the event with part of the proceeds going toward their charities of choice. It is a student-oriented, fun-filled afternoon that includes the dodgeball tournament loaded with powdered paint and featuring a trophy and medals for the winners. The event also features free food and giveaways.

Those interested in signing up can do so at www.nfftillerchapter.org/pgs. The cost is \$10/person or \$50 for a team of six players. For more information, contact PGS President Brandon Zammit at bzammit@purdue.edu.

GOLF OUTING – MAY 11

The ninth annual golf outing features Kerrigan, the former Boilermaker All-American and first round draft pick who helped lead the Washington Redskins to the NFL playoffs in 2015. Many other former Purdue athletes and coaches are invited to attend.

Several of the participants in the golf outing will be vendors, retailers and licensees of Purdue, but there will be plenty of spaces available for NFF chapter members, students and the general public to take part. Cost is \$165 per player (\$75 for students), covering sack lunch, golf cart, 18 holes of golf on the Kampen and Ackerman Hills courses and an informal reception featuring a few presentations at the Voinoff Pavilion following golf. The cost is \$15 less for those who cannot stay for the reception. Most of the proceeds from the event go toward the 12th Boiler Scholarship Fund and our NFF Scholarship Fund.

Contact Vrugink (765-427-3303) for info.

Continued on pg. 7



JOE TILLER - 1942-2017

PASSING OF CHAPTER NAMESAKE LEAVES VOID

Joe Tiller, the namesake of the NFF's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana and the winningest head football coach in Purdue history, passed away Sept. 30 in Buffalo, Wyo., leaving a void that may never be replaced. He would have turned 75 in December.

While the Joe Tiller Chapter (and the Purdue football community in general) will miss him greatly, his impact on the entire game of football and the National Football Foundation, in particular, cannot be understated.

"Joe Tiller holds a special place in NFF annals, having helped form two NFF chapters," said NFF President & CEO Steve Hatchell. "The demands of being a head coach are endless, but the great ones realize the importance of doing everything they can to showcase football's unique ability to instill leadership, teamwork and academic excellence. Joe Tiller understood that, and he recognized the NFF as a powerful vehicle for delivering on that promise. We are sincerely grateful for his commitment to our organization, and our hearts and prayers go out to his family and friends at this time of loss."

Throughout his career, Coach Tiller remained committed to strengthening the game for future generations, and he joined the National Football Foundation (NFF) in 1978. He played a seminal role in the launch of the NFF Wyoming Chapter in 1993 while the head coach at the University of Wyoming and then again with the Northwest Indiana Chapter in 2004 while leading the Purdue program. In 2007, the NW Indiana Chapter decided to recognize his commitment to the NFF by renaming itself in his honor. Those two chapters rank as the third largest (Wyoming) and fifth largest (NW Indiana) among the NFF's 120 chapters.

"Coach Tiller and his staff are the reason I fell in love with the game and have stayed involved in as

Continued on pg. 5

REMINDER:
Please nominate by March
31st for Chapter Awards
(see next two pages)

Awards for 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.

- 2003 Honorary S-A: Clayton Richard of McCutcheon High School**
- 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**
- 2012 Honoree: Dayton Snyder of West Lafayette High School**
- 2013 Honoree: #Ryan Spesard of Carroll High School**
- 2014 Honoree: *Andrew Ralph of Chesterton High School**
- 2015 Honoree: Joshua Brune of Belmont High School**
- 2016 Honoree: Cody Colbert of Tri-Central High School**
- 2017 Honoree: Jack DeGroot of Winamac High School**

** Also won Midwest S-A of Year Award; # Also won State S-A of Year Award*

“PURDUE IS PROUD OF YOU” AWARD

This award is intended to provide recognition to a person from Purdue who is closely involved with the game of football and who has provided positive exposure for Purdue through his or her efforts, in a role other than being a player or coach. The recipient will have maintained a lifetime of interest in the football while exhibiting exceptional qualities in his or her profession or activity.

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 presentation made at the annual Honors Dinner.

- 2011 Honoree: Drew Brees, Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year**
- 2012 Honoree: Otis Armstrong, College Football Hall of Fame Selectee**
- 2013 Honoree: MerrieBeth Cox, Miss Indiana and Purdue's Golden Girl**

ARNETTE TILLER “SERVICE TO FOOTBALL” AWARD

This award, which is sponsored and funded by the IFCA, is intended to provide recognition to a woman closely related to the game of football who has given tirelessly and effectively for the betterment of the game and its participants. The recipient will have exhibited exceptional service and dedication to a football program covered by this NFF chapter.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and IFCA members and considered by the IFCA Awards Committee in conjunction with Mrs. Tiller and the NFF chapter, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. The presentation should be made at the annual Honors Dinner in the appropriate IFCA Region. It is recommended that this award be rotated between Region 1 (odd numbered years) and Region 4 (even numbered years).

- 2012 Honoree: Arnette Tiller, wife of Coach Joe Tiller, Purdue University**

NOMINATION FORM FOR 2018 AWARDS

(Submit by March 31, 2018, to Jim Vrugink via phone at 765-427-3303, email at jvrugink@purdue.edu or mail at 3672 Farnsworth Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906)

Name of nominee _____

For which award? _____

Phone/address of nominee _____

Reasons for nomination _____

Your name _____

Phone or email _____

- 2013 Honoree: Jamie Marsh, wife of Coach Leroy Marsh, Munster HS**
- 2015 Honoree: Sarah Lim, 7-year student mgr, WLHS & Purdue University**

PATRICK MACKEY COURAGE AWARD

This award is given to provide recognition to an individual in our region who has exemplified great courage by surviving extreme personal hardship or difficulty OR who has assisted someone else in doing the same. The award-winner must be a high school, college or professional athlete, coach or administrator.

Selection process: Nominations are accepted in early winter from members of this chapter. Nominations are evaluated 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 either Scholar-Athlete Banquet or the annual Honors Dinner.

- 2012 Honoree: Danny Anthrop of Lafayette Central Catholic High School**
- 2013 Honorees: Cooper Fulmer of Winamac/Patrick Mackey of Lafayette Central Catholic High School**
- 2014 Honoree: Jack Folkers of West Lafayette High School**
- 2016 Honoree: Josh Turanchick of Oak Hill High School**
- 2017 Honoree: Riley Lowder of Delphi High School**

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 Learfield Sports and Purdue Radio Network**
- 2011 Honorees: Lane Custer and Jon Speaker of West Side Flag Football**
- 2012 Honorees: Clay and Chris Oppy of Dream Season**
- 2013 Honoree: Mark Ebelhar of West Lafayette Little Gridiron**
- 2014 Honoree: Linda Rohrman of Lafayette**
- 2015 Honoree: David M. Williams of Lafayette Area Little Gridiron**
- 2016 Honoree: Larry Leverenz, Eric Nauman and Tom Talavage of Purdue Neurotrauma Group**
- 2017 Honoree: Darren Hicks of Lafayette Central Catholic Little Gridiron**

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 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**
- 2012 Honoree: Kurt Lichtenberg of Purdue University**
- 2014 Honoree: Rob Henry of Purdue University**

LEGENDS AWARD

This award is intended to provide recognition to a person closely related to the game of football who has given tirelessly and effectively throughout his or her career for the betterment of the game and its participants, without being a player or coach. The recipient will have maintained a lifetime of interest in the football while exhibiting exceptional leadership qualities in his or her profession and bringing

Continued on pg. 3

Continued from pg. 2

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.

2012 Honoree: Denny Miller, head athletic trainer of Purdue University

2014 Honoree: Joe Rudolph, executive director of Purdue Alumni Association

2015 Honoree: John Friend, coach, athletics director, administrator in NW Indiana

2016 Honoree: Tom Spurgeon, student manager, supporter and Trustee of Purdue

2017 Honoree: Roy Johnson, "Voice of the Band" at Purdue for 43 years

DREW BREES 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 Drew Brees and presentation made at the Honors Dinner.

2005 Honoree: Drew Brees of the San Diego Chargers

2006 Honoree: Rob Ninkovich of the Purdue Boilermakers

2007 Honoree: Rosevelt 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 Washington Redskins

2012 Honoree: Robbie Hummel of the Purdue Boilermakers

2013 Honoree: Ryan Grigson of the Indianapolis Colts

2014 Honoree: Cliff Avril of the Seattle Seahawks

2015 Honoree: Kyle Orton of the Buffalo Bills

2016 Honoree: Danny Anthrop of the Indianapolis Colts

2017 Honoree: Roosevelt Barnes & Caleb Swanigan of Purdue Boilermakers

"HE PLAYED FOOTBALL" AWARD

This annual award is intended to provide recognition to a former football player in the geographic region of Northwest Indiana who went on to become highly successful in life-after-football. Emphasis is placed on individuals who were not necessarily stars of their teams but who built their later successes on their skills instead of their "football name."

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 presentation made at the annual Honors Dinner.

2014 Honoree: Francie Gutman, Purdue quarterback and Director of Cleveland Eye Clinic

2015 Honoree: Carl Buegler, Purdue walk-on quarterback, now COO of Jimmy Johns

2016 Honoree: Doug DeVos, Purdue walk-on quarterback, now President of Amway Corp.

2017 Honoree: Mike Berghoff, Purdue walk-on, now President of Lenex Steel and Chairman of Purdue's Board of Trustees

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.

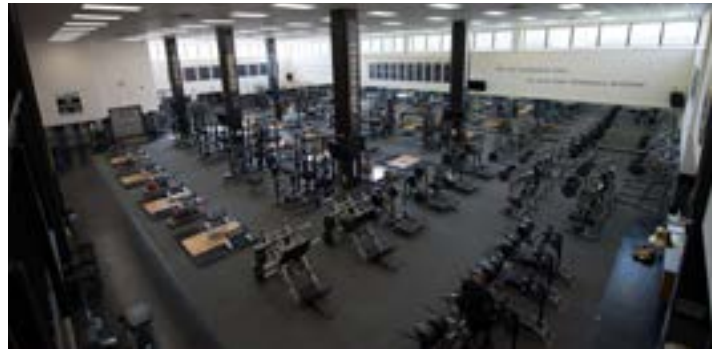
Selection process: Nominations are accepted throughout the year from NFF chapter members and considered by the Awards Committee, which recommends no more than one recipient per year. This recommendation must be ratified by the Board of Directors and presentation made at the annual Honors Dinner.

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

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

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

Continued on pg. 4



PURDUE'S NEW FOOTBALL PERFORMANCE CENTER will be available for tours in late February for members of the Tiller Chapter, Downtown Gridiron Club, Kiwanis Club and Greater Lafayette Commerce.

Executive Director's Report 2017:

CHAPTER CONTINUES FOCUS ON STABILITY FOR GOOD OF ATHLETES, COACHES, CHARITIES IN OUR REGION

As we conclude our 13th year of existence as a chapter of the National Football Foundation, the attention of our Board of Advisors remains on the future.

With president Kelly Kitchel at the reins, the focus is to continue developing our long-range plan for chapter stability, both in terms of financial support and leadership. Secondly, it is important to the board to continue honoring and recognizing scholar-athletes, former athletes and coaches. And, thirdly, the chapter will continue to support charitable causes (including our own leadership scholarship programs) in this region, especially within Tippecanoe County, where most of the fund-raising takes place.

While our chapter's financial status remains healthy (see paragraph below), we saw a mild increase in donations, contributions and advertising sales in 2017 offset by a continuing decline in ticket sales for our events. As a result, our scholarship commitment for this year was slightly reduced. The board wants to place an emphasis this next year (and for several years to come) on fund-raising with the goal of growing our endowment fund to help assure long-term stability.

Also, the board voted at our fall meeting in early November to accept two proposals from board member Max Bales to allow representation on our board and in our awards presentations for the Western Indiana Officials Association. It is believed that this is an important group for our chapter to align with and the decision could lead to additional memberships, sponsorships and ticket sales for our events.

Our membership is still fairly strong (155 at last count in November) which ranks us largest in Indiana among the four chapters and fifth in the country among 120. We have a terrific board and many effective committee members, so there are probably other chapter members ready to step forward. Please contact me (via email jvruggink@purdue.edu or phone 765-427-3303), if you would like to help.

Our 13th annual NFF Honors Dinner "Celebrating Our Legends" on June 11 was a success, but it drew one of our smallest crowds (300), down considerably from our previous years. Also, last spring, May 12 to be exact, we had 76 golfers participating in the Ryan Kerrigan/12th Boiler Golf Outing, sponsored jointly by the NFF and Purdue's Trademarks & Licensing Office at the Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex.

Total chapter income this year (not including some donations for our scholarship endowment), through the end of December, is \$50,527.33, an increase of about \$3,000 over last year's total but still about \$39,000 less than our high-water mark of seven years ago. After paying all expenses, our total distribution to charity and scholarship recipients for this year will be nearly \$14,000, raising our 13-year total to more than \$275,000.

Through our first 13 years as a chapter, we have honored 334 individuals for their accomplishments, including 242 scholar-athletes who have been awarded a total of more than \$210,000 in scholarships and honorariums for college.

Special thanks again this year goes to 2017 Purdue graduate Travis Baugh, who was one of our NFF interns for four years, a member of the Purdue Gold Standard and a member of our board, for his exceptional work. Armed with his MBA from Krannert, he is working full-time for the Carrier Corporation in Plainfield, Ind., but has accepted the role of Deputy Director of our chapter and we are pleased to keep him involved. Check out some of his efforts and the updated information on our website at www.nfftillerchapter.org.

We greatly appreciate the continued support of ALL our members.

SUBMITTED BY: Jim Vruggink, Executive Director

LOOKING FOR UNIQUE GIFT IDEAS FOR A FOOTBALL FAN? TRY THESE!

ROSS-ADE PANORAMA CAN BE DELIVERED BY CHRISTMAS

The new panorama photo showcasing Ross-Ade Stadium packed with more than 60,000 people for the Purdue-Michigan game of Sept. 23 is now available for holiday sales!

Blakeway Worldwide Panoramas, Inc., offers a special promotion, Black Friday Starts Now, that features:

1. An opportunity to get the new panorama delivered before Christmas
2. A revenue share program rewarding Purdue's marketing efforts (20% to Purdue after \$10,000 break-even).
3. A 10% discount on panorama orders & FREE shipping on orders over \$89 for Boilermaker fans

The actual size of the print shown above is 40 inches long and 14 inches high and is available framed or unframed. Please use this URL to promote the panorama in order to allow the company to track sales for revenue sharing: <http://pano.ly/puru5>

RARE AUTOGRAPHED "CRADLE OF QB" POSTER AVAILABLE FOR SALE

A 24 X 34-inch unframed poster featuring Purdue's famed "Cradle of Quarterback," autographed by all 12 of the signal callers, is now available for chapter members at a special price of \$300 each. The same poster is available framed for \$500 and we currently have two of those available.

The poster, shown above, includes action photos and authentic signatures of the men who make up one of college football's most famous traditions. Members of Purdue's elite "Cradle of Quarterbacks" are Bob DeMoss, Dale Samuels, Len Dawson, Bob Griese, Mike Phipps, Gary Danielson, Mark Herrmann, Scott Campbell, Jim Everett, Drew Brees, Kyle Orton and Curtis Painter.

All proceeds from the sale of these posters will go toward the chapter's scholarship fund. To order, please contact Jim Vruggink at jvruggink@purdue.edu or 765-427-3303.



VIDEOS OF PAST GAMES MAKE PERFECT GIFTS

Boilermaker game films and videos dating back as far as 1931 are still available for public sale ... and can still be delivered in time for Christmas!

Purdue's Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, in conjunction with SPARX Enterprises, is marketing Boilermaker games to fans who are interested in preserving a little piece of Purdue sports history.

"We are very pleased that we have a reliable means of delivering copies of some of our most valuable sports artifacts – game films or videos – to our fans and former players," says Tom Schott, Senior Associate Athletics Director for Communications. "We have a large collection of materials in our archives that have been digitized, preserved and protected for the future. Selling copies of games will help to defray the expense of this project and will certainly help us achieve some goals. A percentage of each sale comes back to Purdue."

Fans may explore the inventory of games available by going online on the Purdue Video Channel on SPARX Video Network at www.footballvideos.com and may place orders directly there or via phone at 717-732-5643 or email at wdr@footballvideos.com. The inventory now features thousands of Purdue athletic events including football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, soccer, wrestling, track, tennis, swimming, diving and golf dating as far back as 1912. Also available are select Purdue coaches shows.

"SPARX Enterprises and I are very excited to

have Purdue onboard as one of our many clients," says Bill Roman, founder and owner of the company that now services nearly 100 schools. "I have been collecting, organizing, preserving, and marketing college football's history for more than 25 years. I am sure Purdue fans and alumni will be very pleased with our inventory of games."

Roman has more than 50,000 college football and basketball games listed at footballvideos.com and is hopeful of soon welcoming several other Big Ten schools as clients. His goal is to eventually have 600 schools on board with the service.

Pricing varies, but in general the costs are something like this:

- Games played before 1960 cost \$120 per game
- Games played 1961 to 1999 cost \$110 per game
- Games played 2000 and after cost \$80 per game
- See this link for volume discount

<http://www.footballvideos.com/content/volume-discount-0>

The agreement with SPARX is in place for five years as Purdue attempts to organize, preserve and update its athletics archives, which are currently housed in the basement of Lambert Fieldhouse. The scope of the film/video project will include Boilermaker football, men's basketball, women's basketball and other Intercollegiate Athletics footage as located through Purdue and other sources.

CHAPTER AWARDS CONTINUED...

Continued from pg. 3

2008 Honoree: Bernie Flowers, Purdue All-American, sales extraordinaire

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

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

2013 Honorees: Noble Kizer and Noble Kizer, Jr., football coach and athletic director at Purdue University and his son, Lafayette businessman

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 presentation made at the annual Honors Dinner.

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

2010 Honorees: Drew Brees, Len Dawson, Bob Griese - Purdue's Super Bowl Champion QB's

2011 Honorees: Neil Armstrong, Eugene Cernan, Jerry Ross - Purdue Astronauts

2013 Honoree: David Boudia, Olympic Gold and Bronze Medalist in diving

2017 Honoree: Morgan Burke, Purdue's Director of Intercollegiate Athletics for 23 years

TILLER MEANT SO MUCH TO SO MANY

Continued from pg. 1

a coach,” said Kelly Kitchel, the current president of the Northwest Indiana chapter and a former offensive lineman from 1998-2001 under coach Tiller at Purdue. “He taught us all many lessons, some we understood right away and some we understand now as grown men and fathers.”

Both the Wyoming and the Northwest Indiana chapters annually host multiple events in support of the NFF’s efforts, including scholar-athlete banquets, and both chapters rank among the largest in the nation. The Wyoming chapter has distributed more than \$310,000 in scholarships and the Northwest Indiana chapter has awarded more than \$275,000 since their inceptions.

“Joe Tiller is the reason we have an NFF chapter in Northwest Indiana,” said Jim Vrugink, the executive director of the Northwest Indiana Chapter and the former public relations director at Purdue. “It was his idea. He asked me to get it started in 2004, and he promoted it enthusiastically until his death with his time and verbal support while he was coaching and with his donations and financial support of scholarships after he retired.”

Tom Schott, who has served on the chapter’s board of directors since it started and is Purdue’s senior associate athletics director for communications, credited the chapter’s meteoric success to Tiller’s support from the Purdue community.

“Joe has been a long-time proponent of the NFF, having helped to start a chapter in Wyoming before coming to Purdue,” said Schott when the chapter’s name was changed in 2007. “This chapter will be one of the many legacies Joe Tiller leaves for area football fans. Our board wants to ensure that future generations of scholarship recipients, award winners and members know who got all of this started.”

His impact with the Wyoming Chapter was also significant, and Tiller contributed his own money for scholarships at the Wyoming Chapter, even when he was at Purdue, and he would return to the banquet many times as a speaker.

“The Wyoming Chapter was started in 1993 when Joe was Wyoming’s head coach, and he immediately jumped on board with support and encouragement,” said Mike Schutte, the former president of the Wyoming Chapter. “I believe he was a big influence in having others join the Wyoming Chapter in the early years... He inspired others to give scholarships when they knew he was at Purdue but still giving to Wyoming... Joe was a big man with a big heart and will be greatly missed.”

Tiller served as the Boilermakers’ head football coach from 1997 to 2008, posting an 87-62 record,

including a 53-43 tally in Big Ten Conference games. Tiller’s 18-year head coaching record also included six seasons at Wyoming from 1991 to 1996, and he boasted an overall record of 126-92-1 for a .578 winning percentage.

Tiller played offensive tackle at Montana State from 1961-63, followed by one year in the Canadian Football League for the Calgary Stampeders. He entered the coaching profession in 1965 as an assistant at his alma mater, and his path to the Wyoming head job included additional stops as an assistant with Washington State, the Calgary Stampeders, Purdue and Wyoming.

Prior to Tiller’s hiring in November of 1996, Purdue had played in only five bowl games, and the team had managed a dismal 54-107-5 record during the preceding 15 years. Tiller quickly made changes, introducing a spread offense that featured three, four, even five wide receivers, forcing defenses to cover the field from sideline to sideline. The style created a radical change from the smash-mouth Big Ten style, and, in the basketball-crazed state of Indiana, people affectionately dubbed it “basketball on grass.”

The result was 10 bowl games, including the 2001 Rose Bowl, an average of more than seven wins per season and a Big Ten championship in 2000, which is Purdue’s lone conference title and Rose Bowl appearance since 1967. Tiller coached 53 Purdue players who went on to the National Football League, six All-Americans and two Academic All-Americans. Tiller was recognized as the 1997 Big Ten and national Coach of the Year.

In addition to the Rose Bowl, the Boilermakers played in the 1997 Alamo, 1998 Alamo, 2000 Out-

back, 2001 Sun, 2002 Sun, 2004 Capital One, 2004 Sun, 2006 Champs Sports and 2007 Motor City bowls. Purdue was nationally ranked in the Associated Press poll for 80 weeks -- tied for the most under any coach in school history -- including a high of No. 5 during the 2004 season. Tiller topped Jack Mollenkopf for the most wins by a Purdue coach with his 85th victory - a 32-25 verdict over Central Michigan at Ross-Ade Stadium on Sept. 20, 2008.

“Today is a very sad day for me and the entire Purdue family,” said Drew Brees, an NFF National Scholar-Athlete who played quarterback for Tiller from 1997 to 2000. “Coach Tiller was an important person in my life and to so many other guys who played for him. He did so much more than teach us how to win. He taught us life lessons and how to be great leaders and men. My thoughts and prayers are with Arnette, Julie, Renee and Mike.”

In January of 2008, Tiller was awarded the Order of the Griffin, one of Purdue’s highest honors, given to individuals whose commitment to the university goes well beyond the call of duty, and whose strength and vision have greatly benefited the institution. He was appointed head coach emeritus by the board of trustees Nov. 21, 2008. He was honored as a “Distinguished American” by three chapters (Chicago Metro, Central Indiana and Northwest Indiana) in 2009. Tiller was inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame in 2012 and the Purdue Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame in 2013. Joe Tiller Drive, located immediately north of Ross-Ade Stadium, was named in his honor in 2015.

CHAPTER RECOMMITS TO GOALS FOR SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

The NFF’s Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana established a goal last year of trying to raise \$500,000 to initiate a scholarship endowment that will support the scholarship commitments for this chapter for many years to come.

Scholarships would be awarded (or at least supplemented) through the annual interest earned from the endowment. Depending on interest rates, it is hoped the fund could generate approximately \$25,000 per year.

In its first 13 years of existence, the chapter has awarded more than \$210,000 in scholarship assistance and honorariums for students. That money has been raised through donations, sponsorships, advertising in the annual NFF Honors Dinner program and

a series of fund-raising events (golf outings, concerts, dodgeball tournaments, silent auctions and raffles).

“Raising enough money through the endowment to offset our scholarship commitments each year would be a tremendous relief for the chapter’s next executive director,” says Jim Vrugink, the executive director since the chapter started in 2004. “The fact that we’ve distributed more than \$210,000 in our first 13 years as a chapter is indeed a great tribute to the generosity of our football fans in Northwest Indiana, but generating the funds to keep that pattern going is an ever-growing challenge from year to year. Having a consistent stream of funds flowing from an endowment program, would be a huge benefit.”

NFF ADVISORY BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2018

PRESIDENT – Kelly Kitchel

BOARD OF DIRECTORS –

PAST PRESIDENT – Bart Burrell

TREASURER – Janet Schweikher

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRS – David McGaughey and John Friend

COLLEGIATE PROGRAM CHAIR – Tom Schott
SCHOLAR-ATHLETE PROGRAM CHAIR – Randy Truitt

YOUTH FOOTBALL PROGRAM CHAIR – Max Bales

SPONSORSHIP & ADVERTISING CHAIRS – Travis Baugh and Corey Davis

EVENTS CHAIRS – Nate Barrett and Brooke Kitchel

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR – Alan Karpick and Chris Fleming

AT-LARGE – Joe Bennett, Orlando Itin, Bob Hagen, Jeff Love, Chris Oppy, Brad Smith, Jon Speaker, David R. Williams

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Erika Austin, Drew Brees, Don Coller, Sandra Dukes, Dwayne Greer, Paul Griggs, Andy Hosier, Leroy Keyes, Noble Kizer, Tom Kubat, John Langenkamp, Young Lee, Logan Link, Jim MacDonald, Leroy Marsh, Noah Mattern, Marshall Overley, Andrew Pogar, Cindy Robertson, Tim Roth, John Sautter, Calvin Williams and George Wodicka

INTERNS:
Cody Colbert, Brady Decker, Rachel Gerdes, Austin

Hoefling, Austin Lawrence, Ross Pearson, Dylan Spesard, Taylor Zima and members of Purdue Gold Standard

CHAPTER DIRECTOR – Alan Karpick
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Jim Vrugink
DUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and WEBMASTER – Travis Baugh
WEBMASTER – Travis Baugh
NEWSLETTER DESIGNER – Jonathan Gandolf

CONTACT US: Via phone at 765-427-3303, via email at jvrugink@purdue.edu, or via postal at NFF, 3672 Farnsworth Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906

PURDUE ATHLETICS AND THE NFF NORTHWEST INDIANA CHAPTER REMEMBER

JOE TILLER



PURDUE'S ALL-TIME WINNINGEST COACH
2000 BIG TEN CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS / 2001 ROSE BOWL
10 BOWL GAMES IN 12 SEASONS
1997 BIG TEN AND NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR
INTRODUCED THE SPREAD OFFENSE THAT BECAME KNOWN AS
"BASKETBALL ON GRASS" AND CHANGED THE STYLE OF PLAY IN THE BIG TEN

Instrumental in the creation and success of two NFF chapters
– one in Wyoming and one in Northwest Indiana (which now carries his name) –
that rank No. 3 and No. 5 nationally in membership

Received Distinguished American Award from three NFF chapters

LEADER / INNOVATOR / MENTOR / WINNER / FRIEND TO ALL

BOILER UP™



DINNER FEATURES SEVERAL PRESENTATIONS

Continued from pg. 1

HONORS DINNER – JUNE 17 OR JULY 1

Highlighting the awards process for this chapter is our marquee event, the Honors Dinner “Celebrating Our Legends XIV” on June 17 or July 1 at the Purdue Memorial Union.

Top scholar-athletes from throughout northern Indiana, who are nominated by their schools for our Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award, will be the high school guests of honor along with approximately eight or nine specialty award winners. Highlights of the event will be the induction of at least two former football players or coaches into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame. That selection process is still under way.

The special attraction for this year’s Honors Dinner will be the attendance of several of Purdue’s former players who have been inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame and the Indiana Football Hall of Fame.

Additional details will be announced in March.

LAST YEAR’S HONORS DINNER

At last June’s Honors Dinner, Jack DeGroot of Winamac High School was honored as the chapter’s Scholar-Athletes of the Year before a crowd of 300 football enthusiasts.

DeGroot, who is now a Butler student, was chosen from an initial group of 14 high school football standouts, that was narrowed down to six finalists by our panel of judges. The scholar-athletes had been nominated by their coaches. Judging was based 40 percent on academics, 40 percent on athletics and 20 percent on citizenship, leadership and character.

Besides DeGroot, the 2017 scholar-athletes’ names and high schools were: Jonathan Cieslak (Munster), Jacob Clouser (Delphi Community), Patrick Davis (North Newton), Trenton Howard (Caston), Austin Lawrence (Winchester Community), Matt Marley (West Lafayette), Jacob Page (Lafayette Central Catholic), Ross Pearson (Rochester), Jake Quasebarth (North White), John Ragan (Eastbrook), Dylan Spesard (Carroll), Adam Sturgeon (Harrison) and Kellen Woods (Tipton).

Those 14 scholar-athletes were all high school seniors who are in college now. Academically, it was an outstanding group. Eight of the 14 had 4.0 grade point averages or better, 11 were ranked among the top 10 percent in their senior classes and four were valedictorians at their schools. Their collective grade point average was 3.94.

JACK’S CREDENTIALS

DeGroot’s credentials were impressive. He graduated first in his class with a GPA of 11.271 on a 12.0 scale and is now studying pre-med at Butler. Jack excelled as a three-sport standout and captain for Winamac in baseball, basketball and football. He received 12 varsity letters and multiple Academic All-Conference and Athletic All-Conference honors in all three sports, in addition to team MVP awards in all three sports.

The Honors Dinner crowd also paid tribute to the high school players and managers chosen from Regions 1 and 4 to compete on the North Squad in the annual North-South All-Star Game last summer in Indianapolis. Six were present and introduced on stage.

Jeff Brohm, Purdue’s new head football coach, and Mary Tremaine, the reigning Miss Purdue, were also part of the event as was vocal standout Karli Spesard, a recent Purdue graduate from nearby

Delphi, who performed for the fifth straight NFF Honors Dinner.

INDIANA FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

But, the highlight of the event, in conjunction with the Indiana Football Coaches Association, was the Indiana Hall of Fame Inductions of high schools coaching legends Vince Burpo and Jim Davis, along with former Purdue stars Bernie Flowers and Rod Woodson. Former Purdue All-America running back Otis Armstrong was scheduled to receive the plaque for his 2015 induction at the same event, but was unable to attend due to illness.

Burpo coached three different high schools in our area (Frontier, Frankfort and Delphi) between 1985 and 2008, posting a combined record of 112-83 in 18 seasons as head coach. He was also an assistant coach for seven years. Burpo graduated in 1977 from Martinsville High School and 1982 from Franklin College before earning a master’s degree from Indiana University in 1989. During his career, his teams won six conference championships, five sectional titles and two regionals. Vince coached six Indiana All-Stars and served on the coaching staff of the Indiana North-South Shrine Bowl in 1989. He held several positions in the IFCA, including four years as regional director. He has retired from coaching but still teaches at Delphi.

Davis compiled a 43-year coaching record of 212-198, mostly at North White High School since 1979 after getting his start at Northern Wells. Highlights of his career were winning the state championship in 1994 and finishing runner-up in 1998. Davis graduated from Payne High School in 1971 and played at Manchester College where he graduated in 1975, before earning a master degree at St. Francis College prior to his move to North White. Jim was named Midwest Conference Coach of the Year six times and has been active in the IFCA as a class coordinator for many years. He is retired from coaching and teaching but remains a loyal Viking supporter.

FLOWERS AND WOODSON

Flowers, a 1953 Purdue grad, will be inducted posthumously, with his son Kerry Flowers receiving the award. Bernie is one of the all-time great Boilermaker receivers, having caught 82 passes for 1,015 yards and eight touchdowns in an era when passing the ball was not nearly as common as it is today. Bernie was a Consensus All-American in 1952 and was drafted by the Baltimore Colts. He returned to the Lafayette area in the early 1960’s and had a very successful career in insurance while raising four children with his wife Adella. Bernie was inducted into the Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame in 2003. He was a long-time member of the John Purdue Club and an integral part of the formation and development of the NFF’s Joe Tiller Chapter.

Following a stellar high school career at Fort Wayne Snider where he was a two-time USA Today Prep All-American, two-time Indiana All-State choice and the 1982 Indiana Mr. Football, Woodson became a four-year starter, three-year first-team All-Big Ten star and Consensus All-American at Purdue, playing 1983-86. He went on to become one of the greatest defensive backs in NFL history, playing 17 years with Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Baltimore and Oakland. He played in the Super Bowl with three different teams, was named to 11 Pro Bowls and was picked for the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2009, followed by the College Football Hall of Fame in 2016. Like Flowers, he went into Purdue’s Hall of Fame in 2003. He is now an assistant coach for the



LEROY KEYES (left) and ROD WOODSON share a rare moment on stage during the NFF Honors Dinner last June as Woodson was inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame. Keyes, who was inducted in 2012, and Woodson are two of Purdue’s all-time greatest football players.

Oakland Raiders.

The Tiller Chapter will try to recognize Armstrong at a future event. The record-setting back for Purdue in the early 1970’s now lives in Centennial, Colo., near Denver where he played professionally for the Broncos. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2012.

CHAPTER AWARDS

Prior to the Hall of Fame presentations, the Honors Dinner program recognized several other awards, including:

- Gold Medallion Award – Morgan Burke
- Bernie Flowers Award for Outstanding Contribution to Football – Darren Hicks
- “He Played Football” Award – Mike Berghoff
- Legends Award – Roy Johnson
- Mackey Courage Award – Riley Lowder
- Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award (chosen but not presented) – Roosevelt Barnes & Caleb Swanigan

Burke, who retired in June after 24 years as Purdue’s Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Vice President, received the chapter’s Gold Medallion Award. Hicks, a 25-year coach and director in the Lafayette Central Catholic Little Gridiron Program received the award that was created to recognize outstanding contributions to amateur football and appropriately named in honor of Bernie Flowers. Berghoff, a former walk-on player at Purdue, is now Chairman of Purdue Board of Trustees, who received the “He Played Football” Award. Johnson was recognized with the Legends Award after his 43 years as the “Voice of the Band” at Purdue. Lowder was honored for exhibited outstanding courage in overcoming his physical difficulties as a child and teenager to become a football player at Delphi High School.

Another award that was determined but not presented last spring was the Drew Brees Award for Mental Toughness. Barnes, a former Boilermaker football and basketball player, adopted Swanigan and helped him overcome a difficult personal situation six years ago to become Big Ten Player of the Year in basketball last season, leading Purdue to an outright conference championship. They were unable to attend last June’s event due to NBA tryout for Caleb, but our intentions are to present the award at the 2018 Honors Dinner.



NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

433 Las Colinas Blvd. East, Ste. 1130
Irving, TX 75039-5508

Membership Application

I am a: New Member Renewing Member Date:

Chapter Name (if known): Member ID#:

Prefix & Full Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

E-Mail: Phone:

Membership Level

VARSAITY CLUB

\$40 One-Year Membership

ALL-CONFERENCE CLUB

\$99 Three-Year Membership

HALL OF FAME CLUB

\$1,000 Lifetime Membership

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Enclosed is my check for \$_____made payable to The National Football Foundation.
 Please charge my membership to my: VISA MASTERCARD AMEX DISCOVER

Credit Card Account #:

Exp. Date:

Signature:

(Please indicate cc billing address
if different than above)

BENEFITS WAIVER (for Hall of Fame Club members only)

- I prefer to waive all benefits offered at my gift level, rendering my entire contribution tax deductible.

Please Mail to: Membership Department
The National Football Foundation
433 Las Colinas Blvd. East, Ste. 1130
Irving, TX 75039-5508

OR Submit via: Email: membership@footballfoundation.com Fax: 972-556-9032