



## JUNE 10 NFF HONORS DINNER TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT QUARTERBACK FLARE

*PREP AWARDS TO INCLUDE J&C HONOREES FOR FIRST TIME*

The 2018 edition of the National Football Foundation's Honors Dinner will have a very distinctive Purdue quarterback flavor plus a new location.

Celebrating the inductions of two former Boilermaker QBs into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame and the recognition of two current Purdue QBs as award winners will be a primary focus of the NFF's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana at its "Celebrating Our Legends XIV" Dinner. This event is on Sunday afternoon, June 10, and, for the first time ever, will be at the Grand Ballroom of the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in West Lafayette.

The new Indiana Football Hall of Fame members are a pair of former Purdue quarterbacks from the 1950's, **Dale Samuels** and **Len Dawson**, while current Boilermaker QBs **David Blough** and **Elijah Sindelar** will receive two of the chapter's top annual awards, the Citizenship Award and the Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award, respectively.

The chapter awards slated for presentation are:

- Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award – **Roosevelt Barnes & Caleb Swanigan** (2017 winners) and **Elijah Sindelar** (2018 winner)
- Bernie Flowers Award for Outstanding Contribution to Football – **tba**
- Citizenship Award – **David Blough**
- Legends Award – **Jeff Washburn**
- Patrick Mackey Courage Award – **Tyler Trent**
- Outstanding Game Official Award – **Dr. Todd Clark**
- Arnette Tiller "Service to Football" Award – **Jan O'Shea**
- NFF and J&C Scholar-Athletes of the Year Awards – Still to be determined and announced as surprises on June 10

### SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

For the 14th straight year, the top football scholar-athletes of Northwest Indiana, who were nominated by their schools for the NFF's scholarships, will be featured during this marquee event.

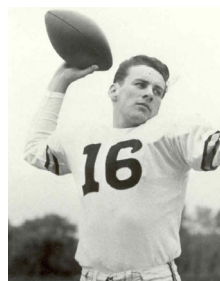
Those 14 scholar-athletes are all high school seniors who are headed to college next fall. Academically, it is an outstanding group. Seven of them have 4.0 grade point averages or better, eight are ranked among the top 10 percent in their senior classes, six are in the top five percent and three are on course to be valedictorians at their schools. Their collective grade point average is 3.94.

Six of those young men have been singled out by judges as finalists for the Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award and the winner will be announced June 10 making him a candidate for the Indiana Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award. The "competition" is based 40 percent on academics, 40 percent on athletics and 20 percent on citizenship, leadership and character.

The scholar-athletes' names and high schools



*Blough*



*Dawson*



*Samuels*



*Sindelar*

are: Kyle Colbert (Tri-Central), Jimmy Cravens (Portage), Keon Dillon (Harrison), Vince Ivetch (Munster), Ethan Jones (North White), Ben Korniak (Rensselaer Central), Ethan Larason (Maconaquah), Drew Moseley (Tri-County), Andrew Page (Lafayette Central Catholic), August Schott (West Lafayette), Nicholas Schutkovske (Andrean), Jadrid Segal (Lafayette Jefferson), Kyle Wade (Kokomo) and Colton Wagner (North Newton).

Also, this year for the first time, the Honors Dinner will serve as a platform for recognition of the Lafayette Journal & Courier's Scholar-Athletes of the Year. A male and female winners will be selected by the J&C sports staff from a list of nominees from athletic directors of the schools in the newspaper's coverage area. Scholarship money is being raised to provide monetary support for these winners as well. Nominees for the J&C honors have not yet been announced.

In addition, the Journal & Courier annually select Players of the Year in several sports among both the small schools and the large schools. Those

athletes are also being invited to this year's Honors Dinner and will be introduced during the program. Nominees for the J&C Student-Athlete of the Year honors include: Nicole Brindle and Mason Hartman of Attica, Andrew Page and Sami Royer of Central Catholic, Anna Albaugh and Mitch Coapstick of Clinton Prairie, Spencer Pettit of Covington, Colton Crum and Elizabeth Rhoda of Frankfort, Kate Cunningham and Pete Newton of Harrison, Jay Segal of Lafayette Jeff, Will Persin and Bear Wood of McCutcheon, Justin Clary and Caroline McClaskey of North Montgomery, Leevin Ball and Maci Heimlich of North White, Parker Jordan and Hailey Henry of Rensselaer Central, Drew Moseley of Tri-County, Mallory Gardiner of Twin Lakes and Kylie Martin and August Schott of West Lafayette.

Also, the Honors Dinner crowd will pay 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 this summer in Indianapolis.

*Continued on pg. 4*

### GOLF OUTING FEATURED HALL OF FAMER KERRIGAN

This chapter's 10th annual golf outing, now known as the Ryan Kerrigan/12th Boiler Golf Outing, featured Kerrigan, the former Boilermaker All-American, first round draft pick of the Washington Redskins, and now Purdue Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Famer.

Kerrigan was inducted into the Purdue Hall of Fame on May 10 at the Indiana Roof in Indianapolis and managed to arrive at the golf course in West Lafayette by 9 a.m. the next morning to greet participants for the golf scramble, bearing his name.

Several former Purdue athletes were invited to attend along with NFF chapter members, students and the general public. The scramble was held at the recently-renovated Ackerman-Allen Course with an informal reception featuring a few presentations at the Voinoff Pavilion following golf. Proceeds from the event go toward the 12th Boiler Scholarship Fund, the NFF Scholarship Fund and the Ryan Kerrigan "Blitz for the Better" Foundation.



*Kerrigan and Brohm*

# CHAPTER RECOMMITS TO HALF MILLION 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 \$213,000 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 \$213,000 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."

Contact Chapter President Kelly Kitchel

## 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 includes action photos and authentic



*Elijah Sindelar hoists trophy after Purdue's 37-34 win over Arizona in the Foster Farms Bowl in December.*

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 Vrugink at [jvrugink@purdue.edu](mailto:jvrugink@purdue.edu) or 765-427-3303.

## HOW TO ORDER TICKETS, BECOME NFF PARTNERS

Tickets for this year's NFF Honors Dinner on June 10 are on sale through the chapter's website at [www.nfftillerchapter.org](http://www.nfftillerchapter.org) or by request to Jim Vrugink via mail, email or phone (see below). Sales will continue through June 5 ... or until it reaches a

sellout at 424.

Prices are the same as last year for a table of eight (\$400 for general public, \$320 for NFF chapter members and honorees' families, and \$280 for students). Single tickets are \$60 for public, \$50 for members and \$40 for students. VIP Reception tickets are \$50 each for general public and \$25 for NFF members.

The Joe Tiller Chapter of the Northwest Indiana is looking for support in other ways as well. For information about memberships, advertising, sponsorships and partnerships, contact Vrugink at 3672 Farnsworth Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906; (email: [jvrugink@purdue.edu](mailto:jvrugink@purdue.edu); phone: 765-427-3303).

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:  
[www.nfftillerchapter.org](http://www.nfftillerchapter.org)

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Gandolf

CONTACT US: Via phone at 765-427-3303,

via email at [jvrugink@purdue.edu](mailto:jvrugink@purdue.edu), or via

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NATIONAL  
FOOTBALL  
FOUNDATION

Join in

**CELEBRATING OUR LEGENDS XIV  
At NFF Honors Dinner**

June 10

Four Points by Sheraton in West Lafayette



Dawson



Samuels



Washburn

An outstanding program of "Celebrating Our Legends" features former Purdue quarterbacks Len Dawson and Dale Samuels receiving their induction plaques into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame. Also, two current quarterbacks, two former basketball stars and a pair of sportswriters will be among the honorees. Plus, the high school regional Scholar Athletes-of-the-Year will be announced. Join the Northwest Indiana sports community for this spring's highlight event, hosted by the Joe Tiller Chapter of the NFF.

**NFF ORDER FORM  
NFF Honors Dinner  
CELEBRATING OUR LEGENDS XIV**

Sunday, June 10, at Four Points by Sheraton in West Lafayette with Silent Auction and Reception at noon EDT, Awards Program and Dinner at 1 p.m., and VIP Reception at 3:30 p.m.

Non-NFF members:	_____ x \$60 ea. = \$ _____
NFF members*/non-member students:	_____ x \$50 ea. = \$ _____
NFF member students*#:	_____ x \$40 ea. = \$ _____
Tables of eight:	_____ x \$400 ea. = \$ _____
(or \$320 each for members or \$280 each for students)	
VIP Reception:	_____ x \$50 ea. = \$ _____
VIP Reception (members*):	_____ x \$25 ea. = \$ _____
One-year NFF membership:	_____ x \$40 ea. = \$ _____
Three-year NFF membership:	_____ x \$99 ea. = \$ _____

\*NFF members get price break & priority seating, if ordered by May 30;  
#Student rate applies through college age. Tickets will NOT be mailed.

Indicate here if you are interested in helping to sponsor a scholarship \_\_\_\_\_.



Roosevelt Barnes (left) and Caleb Swanigan

Name \_\_\_\_\_ CompanyName: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Jim Vrugink by email (jvruggink@purdue.edu) or phone (765-427-3303) with questions. (Please make check or money order payable to National Football Foundation and send to: NFF Executive Director, 3672 Farnsworth Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906-8750)



National Football Foundation & College Football Hall of Fame, Inc.  
 Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana  
 3672 Farnsworth Dr.  
 West Lafayette, IN 47906 -8750

## HONORS DINNER TO FEATURE VARIOUS AWARDS

*Continued from pg. 1*

Purdue's Head Football Coach Jeff Brohm will be part of the program.

All previous award winners are being invited back to take part in the 14th Annual Honors Dinner. A VIP Reception will follow the program in a separate room.

### HALL OF FAME

The highlight of the event, in conjunction with the Indiana Football Coaches Association, will be the Hall of Fame Inductions.

Dawson, a 1957 Purdue grad, will be inducted as one of the all-time great Boilermaker quarterbacks, having set records for passing yards (3,325) and touchdown passes (29) in an era when passing the ball was not nearly as common as it is today. Len led Purdue to an upset win over No. 1 rated Notre Dame and had a record of 7-1-1 against rivals Illinois, Indiana and ND. He was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers but most of his career with the Kansas City Chiefs, where he was Super Bowl champion in 1970. He was named the NFL Man of the Year in 1973 but spent all of his post-playing days as a sports anchor and reporter for KNBC-TV. Len was inducted into the Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame in 1996.

Samuels, also a Purdue grad in 1953, is a member of the Boilermakers' famed Cradle of Quarterbacks, as is Dawson. Dale led Purdue to its first-ever win over a top-ranked team, beating Notre Dame in 1950, snapping the Irish's 39-game unbeaten streak. Dale threw for 3,161 yards and 27 TDs in his career and led Purdue to a Big Ten co-championship in 1952. He was drafted by the Chicago Cardinals but spent most of his career as an assistant football coach (17 years) and Purdue administrator (20 years), taking a break in between to work in private business and serve as color commentator for Purdue on the radio. He retired as Associate Athletics Director in 1995 and was inducted into the Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame in 2001.

### MORE HONOREES

Other honorees at "Celebrating Our Legends XIV" will include Blough as the recipient of the Citizenship Award for his endless involvement with community projects involving programs for kids and Sindelar as the recipient of this year's Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award for his end-of-season heroics leading Purdue to three consecutive wins

(over Iowa, Indiana and Arizona) while playing on a torn ACL in his right knee.

Since the NBA Playoffs are now over for the Portland Trailblazers, it is also possible that Barnes and Swanigan will be able to attend this year's dinner to pick up their Brees Awards from last year. Barnes, a former Boilermaker football and basketball player, adopted Swanigan and helped him overcome a difficult personal situation seven years ago to become Big Ten Player of the Year in basketball in 2017, leading Purdue to an outright conference championship, before being drafted in the first round of the NBA Draft last June.

Trent, a Carmel grad and Purdue student, will be honored for exhibited outstanding courage in battling cancer while covering the Boilermakers as a sports writer for the Purdue Exponent. Washburn, a graduate of Lafayette Jeff and Purdue, will be recognized posthumously with the Legends Award after his lifetime of sports coverage in the region and for his legendary battle with cancer while continuing to work right up until the night before his untimely passing last fall.

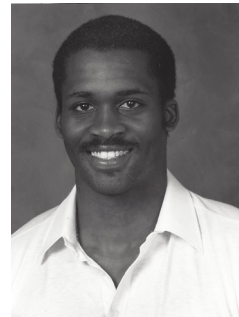
Dr. Clark and Mrs. O'Shea are receiving their respective awards from the Western Indiana Officials Association and the Indiana Football Coaches Association for their long-time contributions to officiating and family support.

The name of the winner of the award that was created to recognize outstanding contributions to amateur football and appropriately named in honor of Bernie Flowers will be kept as a surprise until June 10.

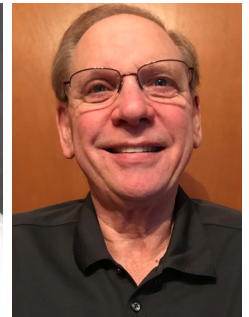
Since receiving its charter in the fall of 2004, as a non-profit organization, this chapter has awarded more than \$213,000 in grants, scholarships and honorariums to students plus another \$65,000 to other charities in the region.

In addition to seeking donations and sponsorships to support the scholarship program, the chapter also receives money (\$500 for every 50 dues-paying members in the local chapter) from the national office in Irving, Tex. In its first 13 years, this chapter has recognized 242 scholar athletes and awarded them between \$200 and \$5,000 each.

The NFF's tax-deductible membership dues are \$40 per year or \$99 for three years, payable to the National Football Foundation. The NFF has 120 chapters and more than 12,000 members, nationally, and awards more than \$1.3 million in scholarships



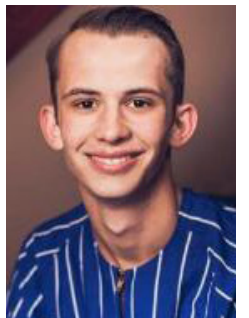
Roosevelt Barnes



Dr. Todd Clark



Jan O'Shea



Tyler Trent



Caleb Swanigan



Jeff Washburn

each year.

For more information, contact Vruggink at 3672 Farnsworth Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906; (email: [jvruggink@purdue.edu](mailto:jvruggink@purdue.edu); phone: 765-427-3303).