



## REMEMBERING TYLER TRENT THROUGH GOLF OUTING AND RAISING FUNDS FOR CANCER RESEARCH – SEPT. 5

Seven years ago, the NFF Tiller Chapter helped introduce Tyler Trent to the world through its annual Honors Brunch. The chapter continues to help carry on Tyler's legacy next month at the fifth annual Tyler Trent Golf Outing on Friday, Sept. 5, at Coyote Crossing Golf Club near West Lafayette.

Diagnosed at 15 with osteosarcoma, a rare and aggressive bone cancer, Tyler underwent multiple surgeries, tumor removal, chemotherapy, and bone-replacement procedures.

Despite his illness, he entered Purdue University in 2017 as a full-time student—even camping out for football game tickets hours after chemo session. Tyler became an honorary captain for the Purdue football team in 2018. His enthusiasm and spirit during the Boilermakers' memorable upset over No. 2 Ohio State that October captivated the nation.

Tyler raised more than \$1 million for pediatric cancer research, collaborating with the V Foundation and Purdue's Institute for Cancer Research. He founded Teens with a Cause, support groups for young cancer patients and their families and was deeply involved in the Purdue University Dance Marathon. Along the way, during his final months of life, Tyler wrote a book "The Upset" and planned his own funeral.

After Tyler's passing on Jan. 1, 2019, Purdue established The Tyler Trent Cancer Research Endowment, fueling ongoing osteosarcoma studies along with The Tyler Trent Courage & Resilience Award, celebrating students who overcome adversity and a memorial at Ross-Ade Stadium's student gate bearing his name—the Tyler Trent Student Gate.

Proceeds from the Tyler Trent Golf Outing will benefit Purdue's Institute for Cancer Research. Tyler Trent has been a constant source of inspiration and motivation for cancer research happening at The Institute. From the start of his

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*BACK AGAIN TO HONOR TYLER – This foursome of Purdue fans, headed by Chris Pate (second from left), is back again for the second straight year to help raise funds for the Purdue Institute for Cancer Research in the name of Tyler Trent. Also registered with this foursome are Dana Gerth, Roger Goetz and Keith Lannan. Photo by Chad Krockover.*

## ASSURING TILLER'S LEGACY, PROMISING CHAPTER'S FUTURE

### GOAL IS TO RAISE ANOTHER \$250,000 TO ENDOW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM & HONOR PLAYERS & COACHES

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 the chapter's Board of Directors, we launched "2025 Drive" in 2017 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 us financially or by making phone calls? Would you be interested in serving on a fundraising 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 be-

coming Purdue's winningest football coach ever) has become the largest chapter in the state and, at one point, the second largest in the nation. It now ranks fourth among the NFF's 120 chapters.

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 21 years, this chapter has recognized 581 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. Also, this chapter has successfully inducted 21 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 \$398,000 in scholarships, honorariums, grants and donations. Fundraising 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. We are confident you will help us do the same for the Tiller Chapter. 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 us permanently stamp the name of Joe Tiller in the Lafayette community and throughout Northwest Indiana by contributing your time or

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### WE NEED YOUR HELP ... HERE'S HOW:

- DONATE TO SCHOLARSHIP FUND (see page 2) or
- ADD TO AN ENDOWMENT (see page 2) or
- TRANSFER YOUR RMD AND SAVE ON TAXES
- ACCEPTING BITCOIN DONATIONS? (see page 2)
- JOIN THE CHAPTER (see page 10) and
- SERVE ON A COMMITTEE (see page 6) or
- ASK ABOUT BECOMING A SPONSOR (call 765-427-3303)
- (see details in following pages and consider joining our efforts)

## CHAPTER PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS AND RECOGNITION IN NW INDIANA

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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 us make some phone calls? We can even discuss an endowment that could fund an annual scholarship named for the donor.

If you have questions or wish to discuss by phone/email, please contact Jim Vrugink at 765-427-3303 or [jvrugink@purdue.edu](mailto:jvrugink@purdue.edu)

### MY DONATION TO HELP MEET SCHOLARSHIP AND 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

(Check is enclosed \_\_\_\_; Send me an invoice \_\_\_\_; Call me to discuss \_\_\_\_)

(You can also contribute electronically through ZEFFY ([click here](#)), a free processing service for 501 c-3 foundations.) Please make donations payable to **National Football Foundation**

Indicate here \_\_\_\_ if you wish your to donate via Bitcoin.

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 Coord.  
 Joe Tiller Chapter of NFF  
 3672 Farnsworth Drive  
 West Lafayette, IN 47906  
 PHONE: 765-427-3303



TONY TRENT, (right) Father of Tyler Trent, -- assists with distribution of prizes during last year's Tyler Trent Golf Outing at Coyote Crossing. Photo by Chad Krockover.

## T2 GOLF OUTING — SEPT. 5

*Continued from pg. 1*

journey, Tyler was determined to make his fight against cancer impactful.

From becoming their first student board member to his selfless act of donating his tissues to cancer researchers, Tyler's mission to make an impact in cancer research is truly motivating. The Tyler Trent Cancer Research Endowment continues to be a significant source of support moving cancer research forward.

Prices for the Tyler Trent Golf Outing will remain the same this year as the first four years -- \$150 per person/\$600 for a foursome and \$200 for a hole sponsorship. However, the Tiller Chapter is offering a "special deal" for this year's honorees (student-athletes, community award winners and Hall of Fame inductees) who were recognized at the 2025 NFF Honors Brunch ... half price for them and their guests.

In the NFF's first four years of involvement, and thanks to the cooperation of Tyler's parents, Tony and Kelly Trent, 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.

Sign up a team or secure a sponsorship at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2025-tyler-trent-golf-outing-for-cancer-research>. Contact: Jim Vrugink via email at [jvrugink@purdue.edu](mailto:jvrugink@purdue.edu) or call 765-427-3303 with questions.

Together, with Tyler's fighting spirit fueling us, we can defeat cancer!

## BITCOIN—A MODERN TREASURY FOR CHAPTER'S FUTURE?

**Op-Ed By Paul Branham, Treasurer**

As we build our endowment, we face a fundamental question: How do we ensure our capital grows meaningfully for future generations? In a world of persistent inflation, traditional strategies often struggle to deliver the real returns we need. It's time we consider a modern approach for our idle cash, one that major corporations and nations are now embracing: incorporating Bitcoin.

While Bitcoin can seem volatile, it is rapidly maturing into a global, institutional-grade asset. Consider the facts:

**Wall Street Has Arrived:** The launch of spot Bitcoin ETFs in the US in January 2024 was a watershed moment. Today, giants like BlackRock and Fidelity manage over \$170 billion in these products, making Bitcoin a mainstream financial asset.

**Corporate America is Onboard:** Over 160 public companies now hold Bitcoin on their balance sheets, including S&P 500 firms like Block and Coinbase. This is no longer a niche experiment, but a recognized corporate treasury strategy.

**National Adoption is Here:** The U.S. government itself has begun building a strategic Bitcoin reserve, and landmark bipartisan legislation is creating a clear regulatory framework, signaling a new era of American leadership in digital assets.

#### What This Means For Us

An analysis of our idle cash shows that a conservative strategy, simply receiving interest in Bitcoin without risking our principal, would have outperformed our mutual fund by over 9% in the last two and a half years. A more active strategy of converting just 2.5% at a time of our starting principal into Bitcoin at a constant monthly rate would have more than doubled our initial investment value over the same period. Furthermore, accepting donations via platforms like PayPal and Stripe is now seamless and easier than ever before.

#### We Need to Hear From You

This is about strategic foresight, not speculation. We know Bitcoin has cycles, but for a long-term endowment, downturns are opportunities. That is why we must establish a plan now. A formal, board-approved strategy will allow us to start conservatively and act decisively during market dips to maximize growth. For our endowment's long-term success, we need to "get off of zero."

As we prepare to vote on this at our next board meeting, your input is crucial. Please email me at [nfftreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:nfftreasurer@gmail.com) with your thoughts. Are you in favor? Would you consider donating Bitcoin or other assets? Knowing what our donors think is invaluable as we make this decision together.

To see a visual breakdown of how our idle cash performance over the past 2-1/2 years compared to Bitcoin, scan this QR code:

Scan to learn more





A GLITTERING ARRAY of trophies awarded at 2025 NFF Honors Brunch. Photo by Chad Krockover.

## CROWD OF 350 WITNESSES NFF HONORS BRUNCH

### *Student-Athletes, Hall of Famers Featured*

Northwest Indiana’s past, present and future athletic/academic stars gathered on June 22 as part of the NFF Honors Brunch “Celebrating Our Legends XXI,” this year drawing a crowd of 350 at the Purdue Memorial Union Ballrooms.

The event was sponsored by the National Football Foundation’s Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana with help from the Lafayette Journal & Courier, Indiana Football Coaches Association and WLFI-TV.

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

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

#### H.S. STUDENT-ATHLETES HIGHLIGHTED

But, the June 22 event focused on the 45 scholar-athletes, most of whom attended after being nominated by their schools throughout Northern Indiana for the annual NFF Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award and the Lafayette Journal & Courier student-athletes nominated by high school athletics directors in the J&C coverage area. Also honored were J&C sport-by-sport players of the year selected by the J&C sports staff and WLFI-TV Athletes of the Week selected by TV-18’s sports staff along with several Indiana Football Coaches Association North All-Star nominees from Northern Indiana. Personalized certificates were presented on stage to each of the prep athletes who attended the Honors Brunch.

Along with the awards and recognition for the high school athletes, the Tiller Chapter presented seven other awards, nominated and selected by chapter members and various entities, to recognize outstanding accomplishments in our

communities. Two similar presentations will occur later this year, perhaps at the NFF’s Honors Reception in conjunction with the Tyler Trent Golf Outing, Sept. 5, for honorees who were unable to attend the June event.

Here’s the entire list of award winners for 2025:

- Citizenship Award – **Devin Mockobee**
- 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**
- NFF Chapter Scholar-Athlete of the Year – **Leo Dellinger**
- J&C Female Student-Athlete of the Year – **Avery Hardebeck**
- J&C Male Student-Athlete of the Year -- **Noah Weaver**
- Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award – **Braden Smith** (Sept. 5)
- Leroy Keyes Legends Award – **Robbie Hummel** (Sept. 5)
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **David Haugh**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Josh Smith**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Jim Vruggin**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Josh Whitman**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **John Scheumann** (posthumously)
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Drew Brees** (TBD)
- State Championship Team Awards – **Rossville Softball, Harrison Boys Soccer and Lafayette Faith Christian Girls Soccer**

#### PURDUE’S HEAD COACH AND AD

*Continued on pg. 5*



SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARDS this year were (left to right) Leo Dellinger of Twin Lakes H.S., posing above with his NFF Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award along side previous winner and former Major League Baseball star Clayton Richard; Avery Hardebeck of Benton Central H.S. with her J&C Female Athlete of the Year award while being interviewed by emcee Nate Barrett; and Noah Weaver of Rossville with his J&C Scholar-Athlete of the Year award on stage at the Purdue Memorial Union Ballroom in West Lafayette. Photo by Chad Krockover.



*STUDENT-ATHLETE AWARDS FINALISTS – Left to right are: Dakota Whann of North Miami H.S.), Sara Zarse of Tri-County H.S., Klayton Stevens of Clinton Central H.S., David Curl III of West Lafayette H.S., Noah Weaver of Rossville H.S., Kyle Harshbarger of Clinton Prairie H.S., Guinevere Schmitzer-Torbert of Crawfordsville H.S., Drew Elzinga of Oak Hill H.S., Leo Dellinger of Twin Lakes H.S. and Avery Hardebeck of Benton Central H.S. Awards were won by Dellinger, Hardebeck and Weaver, but each finalist received a copy of Tyler Trent’s book, “The Upset.” Photo by Chad Krockover.*

## STUDENT-ATHLETES HONORED AT JUNE 22 BRUNCH

Joslyn Barnett of Attica High School was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. She continues her education at Manchester University this fall.

Ephriam Boles of Tri-County H.S. was a Region 4 All-Star, who is continuing his education at Purdue University this fall.

Alonzo Clawson-Smith of Lafayette Jeff H.S. was the J&C Player of the Year for basketball and a WLFI-TV Athlete of the Week. He is continuing his education at IU-Kokomo this fall.

Taylor Cripe of South Newton H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. She is continuing her education at Central Michigan University this fall.

Keyen Crowder of Lafayette Jefferson H.S. was a NFF-Scholar Athlete of the Year nominee, a J&C Player of the Year for football, a WLFI-TV Athlete of the Week and a Region 4-All Star, who participated in the North-South All Star Game. He continues his education at Wabash College this fall.

David Curl III of West Lafayette H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete of the Year finalist, J&C Student Athlete of the Year finalist, and a J&C Player of the Year for football. He is attending the University of Dayton this fall.

Patrick Cusick of Andean H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete nominee, Region 1 All-Star, and participant in the North-South All Star Game. He is attending Purdue this fall.

Ryan Delgatto of Lafayette Central Catholic H.S. was the J&C Player of the Year for football, a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee, a Region 4 All-Star and a North-South All-Star game participant. He is continuing his education at Aquinas College this fall.

Leo Dellinger of Twin Lakes H.S. was selected as the NFF Scholar-Athlete of the Year, a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year finalist and a Region 4 All-Star. He continues his education at Wabash College this fall.

Sawyer DeWitt of Harrison H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. She is continuing her education at Butler University this fall.

Drew Elzinga of Oak Hill H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete of the Year finalist and Region 5 All-Star. He is attending Taylor University in the fall.

Calista Foster of Benton Central H.S. was the J&C Player of the Year for volleyball. She continues her education at Western Kentucky University this fall.

Avery Hardebeck of Benton Central H.S. was selected as the J&C Female Student-Athlete of the Year. She continues her education at Purdue this fall.

Kyle Harshbarger of Clinton Prairie H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete of the Year nominee and a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year finalist. He is continuing his education at Purdue this fall.

Senniah Henderson of Lafayette Jefferson H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. She is continuing her education at Manchester University this fall.

Thomas Henry of Central Catholic H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete of the Year nominee. He continues his education at Purdue this fall.

Jordan Kantz of North White H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete of the Year finalist. He has enlisted in the US Navy.

Tyler Klemme of Benton Central H.S. was the J&C Player of the Year for baseball in 2024 before going to Taylor University, where he is now a sophomore.

Avery Layton of Rossville H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee and the J&C Player of the Year for softball. She continues her education at Virginia Tech this fall.

Jake McGraw of Clinton Prairie H.S. was the J&C Player of the Year for basketball. He continues his education at IU-Kokomo this fall.

Bobby Metzger of Central Catholic H. S. was a WLFI-TV Athlete of the Week and Region 4 All-Star. He continues his education at DePauw University this fall.

Ian Metzinger of Benton Central H.S. was an NFF Scholar-Athlete of the Year nominee. He is continuing his education at Purdue this fall.

Addison Miller of Clinton Prairie H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. She continues her education at Ball State University this fall.

Ruth Moser of Harrison H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee and the J&C Player of the Year for soccer. She is continuing her education at Purdue this fall.

Jason Newton of Frontier H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee and a Region 4 All-Star. He continues his education at Purdue this fall.

Nery Pachero of McCutcheon H.S. was a WLFI-TV Athlete of the Week. He is now a junior at McCutcheon.

Chelsea Parker of Harrison H.S. was the J&C Player of the Year for softball in 2024 before completing her freshman year at DePaul University.

Aldo Robles of Harrison H.S. was named the Patrick Mackey Courage Award winner for this year. He continues his education at Ivy Tech this fall.

Sophie Royer of Central Catholic H.S. was a J&C

Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. She is continuing her education at DePauw this fall.

Alec Saidian of Crawfordsville H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. He continues his education at Wabash College this fall.

Guinevere Schmitzer-Torbert of Crawfordsville H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. She is continuing her education at Butler University this fall.

Grayson Schneider of Tri-County H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. He continues his education at Indiana Wesleyan University this fall.

Lexi Shondell of McCutcheon H.S. was the J&C Player of the Year for volleyball. She continues her education at Appalachian State University this fall.

Hunter Sisson of Benton Central H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. He is continuing his education at Purdue this fall.

Benny Speaker of West Lafayette H.S. was a Region 4 All-Star and participant in the North-South All-Star game. He is continuing his education at Purdue this fall.

Connor Standifer of Benton Central H.S. was an NFF Scholar-Athlete of the Year nominee. He is attending Quincy College this fall.

Klayton Stevens of Clinton Central H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. He continues his education at North Park University this fall.

Malavika Sujith of West Lafayette H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. She continues her education at Purdue this fall.

Noah Weaver of Rossville H.S. was selected as the J&C Male Student-Athlete of the Year and the J&C Wrestler of the Year. He is a two-time state champion and is continuing his education while wrestling at Purdue.

Danielle Welborn of Lafayette Faith Christian H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee, who is continuing her education at Ball State this fall.

Dakoda Whann of North Miami H.S. was a NFF Scholar-Athlete of the Year nominee. He is attending IU-Kokomo in the fall.

Sara Zarse of Tri-County H.S. was a J&C Student-Athlete of the Year nominee, who is continuing her education at Purdue this fall.

**VISIT CHAPTER WEBSITE AT:**

[www.nfftillerchapter.org](http://www.nfftillerchapter.org)



INDIANA FOOTBALL HALL OF FAMERS – Inducted June 22 during the NFF Honors Brunch were (left to right) former Harrison & Illinois star Josh Whitman (with his former head coach A.J. Richard), former Attica & Navy standout Josh Smith (with his brother Jeremy), former North Judson & Ball State ace David Haugh, former Purdue & NFF sports publicist Jim Vruggink (with interviewer Nate Barrett) and deceased Lafayette & Ball State supporter John Scheumann (represented by current Lafayette Jeff head coach Pat Shanley). Photos by Chad Krockover.

## IFCA HALL OF FAME ADDS FIVE NEW MEMBERS

Continued from pg. 3

Purdue’s new head football coach Barry Odom attended the brunch to be interviewed by Purdue football play-by-play announcer Tim Newton while Purdue’s athletics director Mike Bobinski attended to assist with the presentation to Devin Mockobee of the Boilermaker football team.

This year’s community honorees included Mockobee for his generosity with his hometown youth football program, Rob Lear of Red Hawk Wrestling, being recognized for 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 and Mike Carmin for excellence in sports journalism.

Aldo Robles received the Patrick Mackey Courage Award for his recovery battle from brain cancer. Anneliese Williams was 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.

Also, former Purdue basketball star Robbie Hummel and current Boilermaker standout Braden Smith were unable to attend the Honors Brunch but will be honored later this year.

### HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS

The four IFCA Hall of Fame selectees who were inducted on June 22 came to their distinctions 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 popular show on ESPN radio. He lives in Schererville, Ind.

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 449 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 remained in the Navy, primarily as a pilot, but will retire from the later this year and become a pilot with Delta Airlines. He resides in Virginia Beach, Va.

Jim Vruggink 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 remains involved with the Tiller Chapter as its awards coordinator and primary fundraiser. He resides in West Lafayette.

### ILLINOIS ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

Josh Whitman was nominated by Harrison H.S. and former head coach Terry Peebles in recognition of his outstanding high school, collegiate and professional careers. 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 and a major contributor to Lafayette Jeff for the building and remodeling of its football stadium, was handled as a presentation to Jeff’s head football coach Patrick Shanley.



WEST LAFAYETTE H.S. students, who form a String Quartet, provide “walk-in” music and entertainment during the brunch. The Tiller Chapter appreciates their contribution to the success of the Honors Brunch. Photo by Chad Krockover.



BARRY ODOM, Purdue’s new head football coach, addresses the crowd at the NFF Honors Brunch. He was introduced and interviewed by Tim Newton, the Boilermakers’ Radio Play-by-play Announcer. Photo by Chad Krockover.



HALL OF FAME KIOSK

## HOF KIOSK ON DISPLAY AT HONORS BRUNCH

The Indiana Football Hall of Fame has embraced innovation to keep the legacy of Indiana's football greats alive.

Following the building's closure in Richmond, Ind., in 2021, the Hall of Fame sought new ways to preserve and promote its rich history. Thanks to a generous donor, the Hall took a significant step forward in 2025 with the purchase of a state-of-the-art mobile kiosk.

This interactive display offers fans, coaches and players a dynamic digital experience, showcasing Hall of Fame inductees, historic moments and treasured memorabilia in an engaging format.

Now traveling across the state, the kiosk serves as a bridge between tradition and modern technology. It

makes appearances at Hall of Fame inductions, all-star banquets and games, state finals and the annual IFCA clinic in Indianapolis each March.

By bringing the Hall of Fame directly to the community, as the IFCA did on June 22, bringing it to the Purdue Memorial Union Ballrooms for the NFF Honors Brunch, this initiative ensures that the stories of Indiana football's most influential figures continue to inspire and educate future generations.

Hopefully, the kiosk will become a permanent feature at the Honors Brunch as the NFF continues to cooperate with the IFCA in providing a classy venue and an annual event for the induction of future Hall of Famers.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR NFF MEMBERSHIP WHEN IT COMES DUE**



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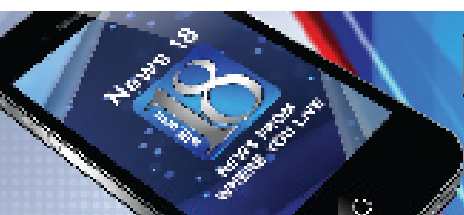
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ENDOWMENT: Karpick, Branham & Vrugink  
HONORS BRUNCH: Baugh, Schott & Vrugink  
MEMBERSHIP: McGaughey & Keister  
NEWSLETTERS/PUBLICATIONS: Gandolf & Vrugink  
SPECIAL PROJECTS: Smith & Vrugink  
SPONSORSHIPS/ADVERTISING: Baugh & Vrugink

CO-CHAIRS: UPCOMING EVENTS  
SEPTEMBER 5 – TYLER TRENT GOLF OUTING: Baugh, Hoefling & Vrugink  
SEPTEMBER 17 (Tentative) – GLC BUSINESS EXPO: Samuel & Hanna  
OCTOBER/SEPTEMBER (Tentative) -- FOOTBALL ROAD TRIPS: Trautman & Hanna

CHAPTER CONTACT: Baugh email: travisjamesbaugh@gmail.com; ph: 765-404-9257



**News, Weather, and Sports  
Whenever You Need It.**





*\* Starting at the top left, right and center are the presentations by State Senator Ron Alting, State Representative Sheila Klinker and Purdue Federal Credit Union's Jeff Love as they honor some coaches and players from our three state championship teams - Rossville softball, Harrison boys soccer and Faith Christian girls soccer. \* Down the left column is Mike Carmin holding his Purdue For Life Impact Award with Chapter President Alan Karpick; Mark Beck wearing glasses and receiving the Todd Clark Officials Award from Max Bales; and Rob Lear displaying the Bernie Flowers Award for Outstanding Contribution to Amateur Sports. \* Directly below is Devin Mockobee holding his Citizenship Award after receiving it from Purdue Athletics Director Mike Bobinski and Journal & Courier Editor Virginia Black; and Adella Flowers (second from left) receiving a hug and the Arnette Tiller Service to Football Award from Arnette Tiller while Sheila Klinker shows a certificate and Marion Vrugink presents flowers from the Indiana Football Coaches Association. \* Down the right column is Aldo Robles receiving his Patrick Mackey Courage Award; and Annelisse Williams receiving the Tyler Trent Courage & Resilience Award from Kelly and Tony Trent, Tyler's parents. All photos by Chad Krockover.*




 Sport Photography  
 Senior/Graduate Photos  
 Graphic Design  
 Family Portraits  
 Wedding Photography  
 Special Event Photos  
 Chad Krockover    [thekrockphotography@gmail.com](mailto:thekrockphotography@gmail.com)  
 765-404-0736    [krockphotography.com](http://krockphotography.com)





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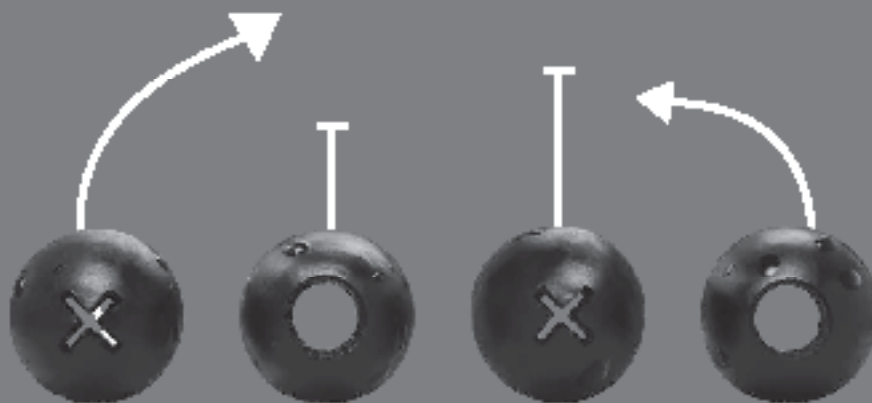
OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY PODCAST

[purdue.edu/podcast](http://purdue.edu/podcast)



# BLITZING BIG APPETITES

**Subway® restaurants of  
Greater Lafayette is a  
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# 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

#### Varsity Club

\$60  One-Year Membership

#### All-Conference Club

\$150  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: Security Code:

Signature: (Please indicate cc billing address if different from above)

**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](mailto:membership@footballfoundation.com)  
Fax: 972-556-9032

## COMPLETE & SUBMIT BY August 29

Please fill out completely:

1. Name	_____
Address	_____
Email	_____
Phone	_____
2. Name	_____
Address	_____
Email	_____
Phone	_____
3. Name	_____
Address	_____
Email	_____
Phone	_____
4. Name	_____
Address	_____
Email	_____
Phone	_____

## RETURN WITH CHECK TO:

NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION  
c/o AUSTIN HOEFLING  
18 PINE MEADOW DRIVE, BROWNSBURG, IN 46112

# #TylerStrong

Tyler Trent has been a constant source of inspiration and motivation for cancer research happening here at Purdue University's Institute for Cancer Research. From the start of his journey, Tyler was determined to make his fight against cancer impactful. From becoming our first student board member to his selfless act of donating his tissues to cancer researchers, Tyler's mission to make an impact in cancer research is truly motivating.

The Tyler Trent Cancer Research Endowment continues to be a significant source of support moving cancer research forward. Together, with Tyler's fighting spirit fueling us, we can defeat cancer!



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

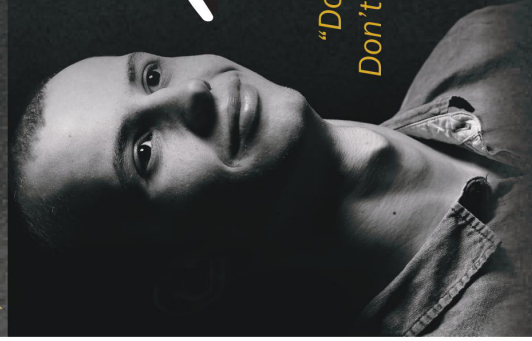
Contact: Jim Vrugink  
@ 765-427-3303  
jvruggink@purdue.edu  
or nfftilerchapter.org



NATIONAL FOOTBALL  
FOUNDATION

# 2025

## Tyler Trent Golf Outing for Cancer Research



*"Don't give up.  
Don't ever give up."*

**Most proceeds will benefit the  
Tyler Trent Cancer Research  
Endowment at the**



Institute for Cancer Research

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

~ 12:30pm ~  
REGISTRATION & LUNCH

~ 1:30pm ~  
SHOTGUN START, SCRAMBLE FORMAT  
PRIZES, RECEPTION AT CLUBHOUSE



## NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

### TYLER TRENT GOLF OUTING & NFF HONORS RECEPTION

#### SPONSORSHIPS

##### BASIC GOLF OUTING PARTNER..... \$200

- Your logo on hole flag or sign, ad in program and newsletter
- Includes comp ticket for Honors Reception

##### PARTICIPATING GOLF PARTNER ..... \$350

- Your logo on hole flag or sign, ad in program and newsletter
- Includes 1 golfer in scramble (\*), 1 ticket for Honors Reception

##### PARTICIPATING TEAM GOLF PARTNER . \$800

- Your logo on hole flag or sign, ad in program and newsletter
- Includes 4 golfers in scramble (\*), 4 tickets for Honors Reception

#### PRIZE SPONSORS

- Prize or cash donations are greatly appreciated and add to the fun of the day!

(\* ) Each scramble participant receives shirt, golf balls, cart, greens fees, lunch and reception with the opportunity to meet Legendary Purdue Basketball Coach Gene Keady and TV Basketball Commentator Robbie Hummel.

#### NON-SPONSORSHIPS

##### Individual Players ..... \$150

We can place you on a team! Fee includes all items listed below.

##### Team (4) ..... \$600

Fee includes all items listed below.

#### FEE INCLUDES:

- Lunch, Reception, T2 Shirt, Range Balls, Golf Cart and Greens Fee



Coyote Crossing Golf & Country Club  
5801 Augusta Blvd.  
West Lafayette, IN 47906

### Make Plans for a Great Day of Golf to Benefit Cancer Research! Friday, September 5, 2025

#### PRIZES INCLUDE:

Team Prizes 1st, 2nd and 3rd

Closest to the Pin

Longest Putt

Longest Drive

### MEET GENE KEADY AND/OR ROBBIE HUMMEL!

Celebrity guests at this year's T2 Golf Outing include a couple of Purdue Legends – Former Basketball Coach Gene Keady and All-American Player Robbie Hummel have been invited to attend the event and both have indicated their desire to participate.

Joe Tiller

Chapter of Northwest Indiana is coordinating this event with some proceeds going to the Tiller Endowment. Promotional assistance by Gold & Black Illustrated, WLFI-TV and Purdue Institute for Cancer Research.

## REGISTRATION/ENTRY FORM

(Field limited to first 120 golfers)

#### DEADLINES:

August 22 - Sponsorships  
August 29 - Golfers

HOLE SPONSORSHIP - INCLUDING 4 GOLFERS - \$800

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

HOLE SPONSORSHIP INCLUDING 1 GOLFER - \$350

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

HOLE SPONSORSHIP (FLAG OR SIGN ONLY) - \$200

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT RATES AVAILABLE (UPON REQUEST)

INDIVIDUAL GOLFER - \$150 (List Name on Back)

TEAM OF FOUR GOLFERS - \$600 (List Names on Back)

PRIZE SPONSOR

CHECK ENCLOSED ... TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Make checks payable to National Football Foundation)

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE

