



## RETURN TO 'NORMAL' IS GOAL FOR HONORS BRUNCH IN JUNE

**JUNE 27 – NFF HONORS BRUNCH**  
**SEPT. 2 – NFF HONORS RECEPTION**  
**SEPT. 3 – TYLER TRENT GOLF OUTING**

The excitement of returning to "normal" and staging first class events is gripping the National Football Foundation's Joe Tiller Chapter of Northwest Indiana. Part of the mission for the NFF is to provide recognition for scholar-athletes and community members who support them and to raise funds for charities.

Coming off 15 months of having much of our world turned up-side-down due to Covid-19, including high school seniors who had many of their games, contests, events, traditions and rights of passage dramatically altered, the Tiller Chapter wants to help lead the charge back to normality.

And that means planning and executing events, starting with the NFF Honors Brunch "Celebrating Our Legends XVII" on June 27 at the Purdue Memorial Union Ballrooms in West Lafayette, followed by the NFF Honors Reception on Sept. 2 and the Tyler Trent Golf Outing on Sept. 3, both at Coyote Crossing Golf Club in West Lafayette. Other events may be planned for the fall, if health conditions don't interfere.

The June 27 event will focus on 19 NFF scholar-athletes who were nominated by their schools throughout Northwest Indiana for the annual Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award and 32 Lafayette Journal & Courier student-athletes nominated by high school athletics directors in the J&C coverage area. Also being honored are 12 J&C sport-by-sport players of the year selected by the J&C sports staff and 63 Indiana Football Coaches Association North All-Star nominees from Regions 1 and 4. Personalized certificates will be presented to each of these prep athletes who attends the Honors Dinner.

Along with the awards and recognition for the high school athletes, the Tiller Chapter will present

12 other awards, nominated and selected by chapter members and various entities, to recognize outstanding accomplishments in our communities. Some of these presentations will occur June 27 while others, including one Hall of Fame recognition, will take place at the NFF's Honors Reception on Sept. 2 in conjunction with the Tyler Trent Golf Outing.

The entire list of awards are as follows:

- J&C Female & Male Student-Athletes of the Year – **To Be Announced**
- NFF Chapter Scholar-Athlete of the Year – **To Be Announced**
- Patrick Mackey Courage Award – **Patrick Kiefer**
- Service to Football Award – **Marion Vrugink**
- Tyler Trent Courage and Resilience Award – **Kyle Albertson**
- Bernie Flowers Contribution to Amateur Sports Award – **Young Lee**
- Todd Clark Outstanding Game Official Award – **Mark Maxwell**
- Legends Award – **Leroy Keyes (posthumously)**
- Distinguished American Award – **Drew Brees (Fall)**
- Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award – **Raheem Mostert**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Marshall Overley (June)**
- Indiana Football Hall of Fame Inductee – **Jim Everett (September)**

The NFF scholar-athletes' names and high schools, as nominated by their schools, are: Vincent Allegretti (Andean), Gabe Anderson (Oak Hill), Jacob Bunton (Lafayette Central Catholic), Elijah Carden (Kankakee Valley), Cody David (Heritage), Lewis Dellinger (Twin Lakes), Ben DeLong (Elwood), Zane Downing (Eastern), Jackson Fleming

(Chesterton), Andrew Forszt (Munster), Evan Fritz (Delphi), Trey Hampton (North Judson-San Pierre), Patrick Kiefer (Winamac), Zion King (Harrison), Colton Lehnen (Lafayette Jefferson), Jacob Martin (Northwestern), Sam Schott (West Lafayette), Bronson Smith (Kokomo) and Owen Smith (Clinton Central).

The Journal & Courier Nominees for Student-Athlete of the Year goes as follows: Sydney Argo (Faith Christian), Jade Ayres (Frankfort), Katie Buckles (McCutcheon), Sidney Campbell (North Montgomery), Kyle Carter (Rensselaer Central), Mark Cramer (Central Catholic), Lewis Dellinger (Twin Lakes), Reid Douglas (Rossville), Mackenzie Dresbaugh (North Newton), Carson Eberly (Fountain Central), Cade Ehlinger (North Newton), Kylie Foster (Tri-County), Lexi Fraley (Harrison), Brandte Gayler (Attica), Alyson Haehl (West Lafayette), Jaden Harness (Carroll), Taylor Hodgen (Twin Lakes), Zion King (Harrison), Caleb Koeppen (Lafayette Jeff), Emma Lawson (Rossville), Lauren Moore (Rensselaer Central), Braden Nuest (West Central), Ella Peterson (Attica), Spencer Phillips (McCutcheon), Emily Pilarski (West Central), Sam Schott (West Lafayette), Zack Searle (North Montgomery), Addison Sheets (Clinton Central), Owen Smith (Clinton Central), Khal Stephen (Seeger), Megan Wagner (Carroll) and Sam Warren (South Newton).

The Journal & Courier Players of the Year goes as follows: Brooks Barnhizer (Lafayette Jeff, Basketball), Karsyn Cherry (Central Catholic, Soccer), Chloe Chicoine (McCutcheon, Volleyball), Carson Cooke (West Lafayette, Soccer), Omarion Dixon (Harrison, Football), Evan Fritz (Delphi, Football), Teresa Maggio (McCutcheon, Basketball), Tynlie Neal (Clinton Prairie, Basketball), Peyton Price (Lafayette Jeff, Football), Damon Shaw (Rossville, Basketball), Khai Stephen (Seeger, Football) and Sam Warren (South Newton, Volleyball).

All 63 students who were selected as all-stars for the North team – some of them invited to this event for other awards and honors – are invited to this Honors Brunch and will receive certificates, if they attend. That entire list can be found at [www.ifca.net](http://www.ifca.net).

It is still unknown (as of our printing deadline) whether Drew Brees and/or Raheem Mostert, both former Purdue and NFL stars, will be able to attend either of this year's events. They have been invited to the 2021 events to pick up the awards they were selected to receive in 2020, but were unable to attend due to rescheduling of last year's Honors Dinner.

Likewise, Jim Everett and Marshall Overley were selected for induction into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame in 2020, but their inductions were postponed to this year. Overley will be featured at the June event and Everett will be honored in September.

The two men have come to this distinction by very different paths.

Overley is an Indiana native and a graduate of Twin Lakes High School and Hanover College, followed by a career in teaching and coaching. He had



Jim Everett



Marshall Overley

*Continued on backpage*



## GOLF OUTING SET FOR SEPT. 3

Golfers! Please add Sept. 3 to your calendar and plan to help make our first year of involvement with the Tyler Trent Golf Outing a great success.

After several years of the Ryan Kerrigan/12th Boiler Golf Outing as a combined effort between the NFF Tiller Chapter and Purdue's Trademarks Licensing Office, a new partnership became necessary when Jim Vruggink retired from Purdue. The chapter has come to an agreement with the Tyler Trent Family and Purdue's Center for Cancer Research with help from Gold & Black Illustrated and Purdue Sports Properties. The outing will be an 18-hole scramble at Coyote Crossing Golf Club near West Lafayette. Lunch will be provided on the course and a reception will follow.

Since Ryan Kerrigan will be unable to attend, assuming he is preparing for an NFL game that week-end with the Philadelphia Eagles, the golf tournament organizers have invited former Purdue and NFL quarterback Jim Everett to serve as a host "celebrity." Everett will be in West Lafayette that week to be inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame.

Primarily, the revised golf event will raise funds for cancer research and will honor the legacy of Purdue "super-fan" Tyler Trent who passed away in early 2019 after a news-making battle with osteosarcoma cancer.

Cost is \$600 per foursome for chapter members or \$150 per player (\$75 for students), covering s shirt, cap, box lunch, golf cart, balls and 18 holes of golf. (More details to come.)

Contact Jim Vruggink (765-427-3303) for more.

## NFF ADVISORY BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2021

**PRESIDENT** – Kelly Kitchel  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** – Jim Vruggink  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SELECT** – TBD  
**DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and WEB-MASTER** – Travis Baugh  
**NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION MANAGER** – Jonathan Gandolf  
**PHOTOGRAPHERS** – Sandra Dukes and Chad Krockover

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Voting Members, \* except for executive director)** –  
**PRESIDENT** – Kelly Kitchel  
**PAST PRESIDENT** – Bart Burrell  
**TREASURER** – Janet Schweikher; assistant Elisheba VanWinkle  
**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR** – David McGaughey;

## TRIPLE XXX FUND-RAISER HONORS BERNIE FLOWERS

The life and legacy of Bernie Flowers was honored April 14 at Triple XXX Restaurant in West Lafayette with a fund-raiser that benefited his favorite charity, the Joe Tiller Chapter of the National Football Foundation.

Owners Carrie and Greg Ehresman commemorated the 10th anniversary of the passing of Flowers, a Purdue football All-American in 1952 and a successful Lafayette businessman, by donating \$500 plus all the proceeds that day from the sales of the Bernie Flowers All-Pro Burger and a frosty mug of root beer. Additional donations were accepted.

"The fund-raiser was 100% about honoring Bernie's legacy in our community and his contribution to Purdue," said Carrie Ehresman. The proceeds totaled \$1,813.50 and were donated in his name to the NFF.

"Bernie was the biggest fan and supporter of Purdue, West Lafayette, Lafayette and the Triple XXX," added Carrie. "He always had a big smile on his face and had a unique way of engaging and endearing his listeners, which made him a great salesman and ambassador. We loved Bernie and truly miss him."

West Lafayette Mayor John Dennis declared April 14 as "Bernie Flowers Day" during his personal appearance at Triple XXX.

Flowers came to Purdue from Erie, PA, in 1949 on

a football scholarship, earned first-team All-America honors as an end before a stint in the military during the Korean War. He had a brief experience in the NFL with the Baltimore Colts and then moved back to Lafayette with his wife Adella. They had five children – Dayna, Cathy, Kerry, Jody and Paige, all of whom became Purdue graduates, while Bernie enjoyed a successful career selling insurance.

One of Bernie's greatest passions, besides his family and Purdue University, was the National Football Foundation and helping to establish the chapter in the early 2000's. He served as membership chairman while the chapter became the second largest among 120 chapters in America, mainly because of the Flowers' sales approach.

"Bernie, indeed, was one of a kind," says Jim Vruggink, the executive director of the Tiller Chapter since it started in 2004. "He was a terrific friend and his efforts were greatly appreciated, both in fund-raising and in member recruitment."

The chapter's annual Award for Outstanding Contributions to Amateur Sports is named in his honor. Flowers received the chapter's Distinguished American Award in 2008.



*Members of the Tiller Chapter Advisory Council gather at Triple XXX for a Bernie Flowers Sandwich and a mug of root beer on Bernie Flowers Day in West Lafayette, commemorating the passing of Flowers 10 years prior. From left to right, Jim Vruggink, Tim Bobillo, Jeff Love, Alan Karpick, Tom Schott and Kelly Kitchel.*

assistant Leroy Marsh

**AWARDS PROGRAM CHAIR** – Jim Vruggink (\*); college assistant Tom Schott; high school assistant Jon Speaker  
**EVENTS CHAIR** – Brooke Kitchel; assistants Nate Barrett and Austin Hoeffling  
**ENDOWMENT CHAIR** – Kelly Kitchel; assistants Max Bales, Bob Hagen and David R. Williams

**SPONSORSHIPS & ADVERTISING CHAIR** – Tim Bobillo; assistant Trent Johnson  
**COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR** – Alan Karpick; assistant Andrew Pogar  
**ONLINE SALES & AUCTIONS CHAIR** – Young Lee  
**SPECIAL PROJECTS CHAIR** – Brad Smith

(IFCA) and Jim MacDonald (DGC)  
**AT-LARGE** – Orlando Itin, Matt Lancaster, Jeff Love, Keith Schwingendorf and Rex Trautman

**MEMBERS SERVING ON COMMITTEES:**  
 Erika Austin, Paul Branham, Drew Brees, Don Coller, Dwayne Greer, Tim House, Ryan Isaac, Sam King, John Langenkamp, Dakota Simon, Ryan Spesard, Craig Voll and George Wodicka

**INTERNS:**  
 Corey Adams, Nick Schutkovske and Dylan Spesard

**CONTACT US:** Via phone at 765-427-3303, via email at [jvruggink@purdue.edu](mailto:jvruggink@purdue.edu), or via postal at NFF, 3672 Farnsworth Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906

# CELEBRATING OUR LEGENDS XVII

NFF Honors Brunch - June 27  
and Honors Reception - Sept. 3



## NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

### NFF HONORS BRUNCH ORDER FORM CELEBRATING OUR LEGENDS XVII

Sunday, June 27, at Purdue Memorial Union in West Lafayette with Brunch and Program at 12 noon. Order your tickets on this form and renew your membership or make a donation:

Non-NFF and GBI Members:	_____ x \$60 ea. = \$ _____
NFF and GBI Members* / Non-Member Students:	_____ x \$50 ea. = \$ _____
NFF and GBI Member Students*#:	_____ x \$40 ea. = \$ _____
Table of Eight: (or \$320 each for members or \$280 each for students)	_____ x \$400 ea. = \$ _____
Dessert Reception (only on Sept. 2+)	_____ x \$25 ea. = \$ _____
One-Year NFF Membership:	_____ x \$40 ea. = \$ _____
Three-Year NFF Membership:	_____ x \$99 ea. = \$ _____
Scholarship Donation:	\$ _____
Total:	\$ _____

\*NFF and GBI members get price break & priority seating, if ordered by June 10;

#Student rate applies through college age;

+Only for NFF Honors Reception for Jim Everett's Induction into Indiana Football Hall of Fame;

TICKETS WILL NOT BE MAILED ... PICK UP AT WELCOME TABLE.

Check Here \_\_\_\_\_ if you'd like more information about Tyler Trent Golf Outing.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Jim Vrugink by email ([jvrugink@purdue.edu](mailto:jvrugink@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)

## IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND HONORS DINNER, PLEASE CONSIDER GIFT FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Knowing that many of our chapter members and usual attendees at our NFF Honors Dinner may have reservations about attending large gatherings in our current Covid-19 Virus situation, we want to assure you that Purdue Memorial Union has a very spacious and clean facility at which we will be able to provide proper social spacing and safe dining.

If you purchase tickets for the June 27 event, but the COVID situation worsens change, we will have other options for you. We want everyone to feel comfortable and safe with the event.

If you know now that you will not be attending the event, we would like to ask your consideration in making a donation to our scholarship fund. As you can imagine, this will be a very challenging year for our sponsorship, advertising and donations. Those areas of revenue are the primary sources for our scholarships.

In order to maintain our "normal" levels of scholarship awards, we need about \$15,000 to keep pace with our per-year average. We would appreciate your help. If you own a business or have strong connections to a business that can help, please consider helping by arranging for a sponsorship, advertising and/or donation.

**REMEMBER:  
RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP  
WHEN DUE!**

VISIT CHAPTER  
WEB SITE AT:  
[www.nfftillerchapter.org](http://www.nfftillerchapter.org)

### Upcoming Events:

**June 27, 2021** – NFF Honors Brunch,  
Purdue Memorial Union

**Sept. 2, 2021** – NFF Honors Reception,  
Coyote Crossing Golf Club

**Sept. 3, 2021** – Tyler Trent Golf Outing,  
Coyote Crossing Golf Club

**Sept. 4, 2021** – Purdue Home Opener vs.  
Oregon State, Ross-Ade Stadium



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

## FOLLOW THE KITCHELS TO COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME ...

If you are passing through Atlanta, Ga., this spring or summer, stop and see the College Football Hall of Fame on the edge of Centennial Park in the downtown area. The Hall has reopened after several months of closure due to COVID and damage from riots last summer.

Chapter President Kelly Kitchel and his wife Brooke took twin sons Carson and Cooper to the Hall of Fame in April. They were there just a few days after Purdue's all-time greatest football player, Leroy Keyes, passed away and the Hall had a nice tribute to Keyes, who was inducted into the prestigious Hall in 1990. The Kitchels were impressed.

"The College Football Hall of Fame was excellent," Kelly said. "We were all thoroughly impressed by the attention to detail and feel of the Hall. When you go in you register as a fan of your favorite school. The technology made it so it seemed everywhere we went showed Purdue players and highlights. I loved being able to talk with and show my boys some Boilermaker history. They loved being able to get up and close with the National Championship and Heisman Trophies.

"We spent some time reading and talking about Leroy Keyes and what he has meant to me, Purdue and College Football. I think Brooke's favorite part was seeing and learning about the progression of



*Kitchel family at College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta*

football and how far we have come from leather helmets to the technology today. I'm not sure she would be much of a fan of her boys playing back in the day!

"We ended the time with a field goal kick and passing challenge. If you see my boys around, you



can feel free to remind them that the old man kicked their butt going 3 for 3 in field goals and dropped every pass in the basket. It was a thing of beauty!

"All in all, they did it right in Atlanta and worth the trip to see!"

## OVERLEY, EVERETT TO BE INDUCTED INTO IFCA HALL OF FAME

*Continued from pg. 1*

a combined record of 237-137 in 34 total years as an assistant and head coach, mostly at West Lafayette High School where he was part of two state championship teams (1993 as defensive coordinator and 2009 as head coach).

Overley spent six years as an assistant at Frontier High School and 16 years as an assistant at WLHS. In his 12 years as the head coach, Overley led the Red Devils to a record of 81-55 with one state title, a semi-state title, two regional championships and

three sectional championships. He also won a pair of Hoosier Conference titles. Overley retired in 2012 and now lives in Indianapolis.

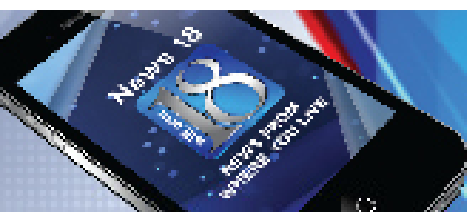
Everett arrived at this point as a native of Kansas and a graduate of Albuquerque Eldorado High School in New Mexico, but came to Indiana as a highly-recruited quarterback.

He put up brilliant numbers (7,411 yards and 43 touchdowns) as a two-year starter at Purdue University. He was second-team All-Big Ten and third-team

All-American, finishing sixth in balloting for the Heisman Trophy and was the third player chosen in the NFL Draft of 1986, picked by the Houston Oilers. He played eight of his 11 NFL seasons with the Los Angeles Rams, where he led the league in passing twice and was named All-Pro in 1991.

Everett was inducted into the Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame in 1999 and now lives in Dana Point, Calif.

The Indiana Football Hall of Fame is located in Richmond, Indiana.



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