

IHSAA News Release



Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.
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Cato Memorial Scholarships to be presented to 13 Seniors

The Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. is pleased to announce this year's group of 13 senior student-athletes who will be honored in May with the 2019 C. Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarship Awards.

To reward the efforts of Indiana's complete student-athletes, Methodist Sports Medicine, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, Indianapolis Colts, Indiana Fever, Indiana Pacers, Sport Graphics, Inc., and WTHR-13 have partnered with the IHSAA and the IHSAA Foundation to sponsor the program. These well-rounded, positive role models have demonstrated excellence in academics, school and community involvement, character, sportsmanship and citizenship.

Each individual will receive a \$2,500 scholarship for their prep accomplishments and be recognized on Friday, May 10, 2019 at the Crane Bay Event Center in downtown Indianapolis as part of the Thomas A. Brady Sports Achievement Awards established by Methodist Sports Medicine.

This year's recipients are:

2019 IHSAA / C. Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarship Award Recipients

Alyssa Brinkman	Milan
Josh Clemons	Hebron
Sierra Ford	Eastern Greene
Nicholas Grieser	New Castle
Elijah Hales	Westview
Faye Jessup	Brownsburg
Emmah Keller	Martinsville
Emily Leak	Beech Grove
Tavehon McGarry	Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger
Elise Miller	Franklin Central
Eliza Mount	Scottsburg
Jaxon Plant	North Montgomery
Celia Robinson	Plymouth



Each student completed and submitted a formal application and had to meet certain criteria to qualify including: 1) be enrolled and participating in interscholastic athletics at an IHSAA member school during this school year; 2) be a senior at an IHSAA member school who will graduate this school year; 3) win a varsity letter as an athlete in at least one of the 21 IHSAA-sanctioned athletic programs; 4) be nominated by the school's principal; 5) carry a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale or the equivalent; 6) have no violations of the school's athletic code of conduct; 7) The student must not have been ejected from any IHSAA contest due to unsportsmanlike behavior; 8) The student must verify that he/she has made a commitment to remain substance-free throughout high school.

Nearly 100 completed applications were received from across the state and a blue ribbon panel of six individuals decided upon the final recipients. They are: Bill Benner, Senior Vice President, Pacers Sports & Entertainment; Rob Craig, Director of Outreach Services and Marketing, Methodist Sports Medicine; Joe Fonderoli, Director of Special Events, Indianapolis Colts; Karissa Niehoff, Executive Director, National Federation of State High School Associations; Bobby Cox, Commissioner, Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. and; Matt Wolfert, President, IHSAA Foundation.

The scholarship program is named in tribute to the late Commissioner C. Eugene Cato who led the IHSAA from 1983 to 1995 and served as assistant commissioner from 1976 to 1983. "Gene's" passion for athletics and his belief in the intrinsic value of athletic competition on the formation of a child's character enabled Gene to positively impact generations of young men and women with his well-known "Firm, Fair, and Friendly" approach to caring for others. He passed away in 2008.

Since 2003-04, the IHSAA has recognized 191 outstanding student-athletes with scholarships totaling \$477,500.

The honored guest for the 2019 Brady Sports Achievement Awards is Steve Alford, who will receive the Brady Lifetime Achievement Award and also serve as keynote speaker for the evening. Originally from New Castle, Indiana, Alford is a former two-time consensus first-team All-American. He was a key player in the 1987 Indiana University NCAA National Basketball Championship Team and was also a member of the 1984 Olympic Gold Medalist Basketball Team.

The Methodist Sports Medicine Research and Education Foundation also will honor Indiana high school and college student-athletes that have overcome injury or hardship with Brady Comeback Awards. And the Brady Indiana Wounded Warrior Comeback Award will be presented to recognize an Indiana veteran who incurred a physical or mental injury, illness or wound while serving our country in the military and has successfully come back from this adversity.

For additional information on the awards dinner, visit the [Methodist Sports Medicine website](#).

Senior **Alyssa Brinkman** from Milan sits at the top of her class with a 4.258 GPA, all while receiving 12 varsity letters as an Indian. Brinkman is a four-year swimming and track & field letter winner, while also receiving a letter in soccer her sophomore year and a varsity letter in cross country her final three years. Outside of athletics and her schooling, Alyssa has been Class President for her grade every year and is largely involved in Future Farmers of America (FFA) and has earned multiple distinctions within the organization, such as FFA President the past two years. Most notably, Alyssa helped raise money for a classmate that was diagnosed with Leukemia, and they were fortunate enough to raise over \$200 for her classmate.

Josh Clemens of Hebron High School is a great example of a student-athlete, lettering in three different varsity sports while also leading his class with a 4.442 GPA. Clemens has received letters in basketball (2), track & field (3), and volleyball (3), and was also named captain of his basketball team this year. Josh participates in a wide array of school activities including, but not limited to, National Honors Society, Student Council, Academic Super Bowl, and Business Professionals of America. Finally, he serves his community by raising money to go out

and buy Christmas presents for families who can't afford them and he helps run the "store" where they can shop free of charge.

Eastern Greene High School's **Sierra Ford** has displayed an excellent example of leadership during her tenure as a Thunderbird. She has participated in cross country, track & field, and cheerleading, receiving four varsity letters in cross country and track, and three in cheerleading. Sierra has held a captain position in each of her sports. In addition to sports, Ford has been involved in Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), Eastern Greene Community Leaders of America (EGCLA), Student Leadership, as well as leading her school's Pep Club. Sierra has volunteered with Project Lifesaver in Monroe County and her local fire department's Fire Corp, where she has helped train emergency personnel and provide water, towels, snacks, and meals to crews out on a scene. With a 4.272 GPA, Sierra sits third in her class.

A three-sport athlete and 10 varsity letter recipient **Nicholas Grieser** of New Castle High School is ranked second in his class of 226 students holding a 4.213 GPA. Awarded team captain for his football and basketball teams, Grieser also participated on the Trojan's Unified Track & Field Team. Nicholas was an active member of his school's Renaissance Team, National Honor Society, Athletic Council, and Peer Mentoring. For his community, Nicholas has served for the Day of Caring, Special Olympics Indiana and the Polar Plunge, Riley Children's Hospital's Dance Marathon, Ronald McDonald House, Christian Love Help Center, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS), and his local YMCA officiating youth basketball leagues.

Westview High School senior **Elijah Hales** is no stranger to the spotlight. As four-year captain of the Warrior's basketball team, he has led Westview to great team success including a final four appearance in the state tournament last year and a #1 preseason ranking before the 2019 season. Hales now holds Westview High School's single game, single season, and career assists record and is a member of the 1,000 career scoring club. Academically Elijah holds a 4.009 GPA and ranks fifth in his class. He is a member of his school's yearbook staff, and he participates in the Random Acts of Kindness Club and the School Chess Club.

In her class of 637 students, **Faye Jessup** of Brownsburg High School has accumulated an impressive GPA of 4.421, ranking her second among her peers. She is a three-year letter winner in both cross country and track & field and was awarded team captain for her cross country team. Arguably more notable than her athletics is Faye's position of leadership in her school activities. She serves as the student body president of Brownsburg's CHAINLink student government, secretary of the National Honors Society, and director of Rotary Relations for her school's Interact Club. Through these groups, she has served the community in many ways, such as fundraising for Riley Children's Hospital and Shop with a Bulldog, where they sponsor children and give them money to spend on their family members.

Emmah Keller sits alone at the top of her class of 358 students at Martinsville High School with a 4.459 GPA. As a three-year Mid-State All-Conference golfer, Keller received a varsity letter in each of her four years in golf while also participating in track & field for a year and leading the cheerleading squad. Emmah serves as the current Student Council President at Martinsville. Outside of school and athletics, Keller has served for the Martinsville Community Table, Relay for Life, Peer Tutoring, and also serving overseas in the Dominican Republic on mission trips helping run sports camps teaching kids the importance of a relationship with God in their life.

Through her positions as president of Beech Grove High School's senior class, Student Leadership Team, National Honors Society, and Spanish Honor Society, **Emily Leak** is an excellent leader for her school. While holding a 3.987 GPA, Emily has received 10 varsity letters in volleyball (2), swimming (4), and track & field (4) as a Hornet. Through the Student Leadership Team, Emily has been actively involved in Beech Grove's Riley Children's Hospital Dance Marathon, Special Olympics through Champions Together, and she has also helped organize a blood drive at her school.

As a recent recipient of Phil N. Eskew Mental Attitude Award in Football Class 4A this past fall, **Tavehon McGarry** of Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger showcases excellence in mental attitude, scholarship leadership, and

athletic ability. TJ has lettered three times in both football and track & field. Besides athletics, McGarry thrives in the classroom ranking second in his class with a 4.614 cumulated GPA. After serving as vice-president in his junior year, he now serves as President of Dwenger's Student Council. He is a member of the National Honors Society, Spanish Club, as well as a BD Ambassador, where he serves and promotes Bishop Dwenger to their feeder schools, parents, and community. Tavehon has volunteered for many organizations serving a variety of tasks and was the recipient of the Mother Teresa Service Award in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

Franklin Central High School's Senior Class Treasurer **Elise Miller** has been a member of the Key Club all four years of school, serving as the secretary her junior year and currently working as president in her senior year. She has also been the active president in her school's Thirst Project for the past two years and is a member of the National Honors Society. Athletically Miller has received varsity letters in swimming (4), cross country (2), and unified track & field (1). On top of athletics, Elise has also played trumpet in her school's most advanced concert band. Elise ranks 15th in her class of 604 students with a 4.315 GPA.

Eliza Mount of Scottsburg High School is the definition of a multi-sport athlete, receiving 12 varsity letters across five sports during her time as a Warriorette. She has competed in cross country, golf, soccer, swimming, and tennis. Eliza is also a member of her school's math, science, and fine arts teams, serving as the captain of each. President of Student Council, and a member of the National Honors Society, she is actively involved in many school activities. Mount has also completed more than 100 hours of community service in the last year. Academically, Eliza ranks first in her class with a perfect 4.0 unweighted GPA.

Jaxon Plant of North Montgomery High School stands at the top of his class with a GPA of 4.368. A four-year varsity tennis player and two-year varsity baseball player, Jaxon was the co-captain for his tennis team the past two years and will lead the baseball team this upcoming season. His position as vice-president of the senior class, as well as his membership in National Honors Society has led him to serve for his community such as entertaining nursing home residents, packing food boxes, making blankets for Riley Hospital patients, and many more. Jaxon was selected by North Montgomery to represent them last year as a Richard G. Lugar Young Leader.

Celia Robinson of Plymouth High School is ranked fourth out of 315 students with a 4.099 GPA. Cece has participated in soccer, basketball, and track & field all four years and has received 11 varsity letters. Robinson is actively involved in numerous school activities; such as the vice president of Leaders Eliminate Alcohol & Drugs (LEAD), secretary of National Honors Society, treasurer of Key Club, officer of Pep Club, and an executive member of the Mini Dance Marathon Committee. Most notably, Celia has served on the IHSAA Student Advisory Committee as well as president of Special Olympics, where she implemented the program and earned Plymouth the "Champions Together Unified School" banner, the first for the school.

About the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. (IHSAA)

The IHSAA is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization that is self-supporting without the use of tax monies. Since its founding in 1903, the Association's mission has been to provide wholesome, educational athletics for the secondary schools of Indiana. Its 410 member high schools - public, institutional, parochial and private - pay no annual membership fee or incur entry fees to play in the Association's tournaments. A state tournament series is conducted annually in 22 sports, 10 for girls, 10 for boys and two co-ed (unified flag football and unified track and field). A 19-person board of directors, elected by member school principals, governs the organization.