

IHSAA News Release



Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.
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May 5, 2022

Cato Memorial Scholarships to be presented to 12 seniors

The Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. is pleased to announce this year's group of 12 senior student-athletes who will be honored with the 2022 IHSAA/C. Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarships.

To reward the efforts of Indiana's complete student-athletes, Forté Sports Medicine, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, Indianapolis Colts, Indiana Fever, Indiana Pacers, Sport Graphics, Inc., and Franciscan Health Systems have all 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.

Two females and two males from the three IHSAA districts will each receive a \$2,500 scholarship for their prep accomplishments and be recognized at this year's Thomas A. Brady Sports Achievement Awards Dinner established by Forté Sports Medicine, on June 2, 2022.

This year's recipients of the 2022 IHSAA/C. Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarships are:

District 1 Female – Jaiden Eastom (Fort Wayne Snider)
District 1 Male – John Kuka (Valparaiso)

District 1 Female – Molly Nord (Maconaquah)
District 1 Male – Samuel Tullis (Culver Academies)

District 2 Female – Jordan Davis (Speedway)
District 2 Male – TJ Weeks (Eastern (Greentown))

District 2 Female – Chloe Pistelli (South Putnam)
District 2 Male – Riley Newman (Lebanon)

District 3 Female – Maci Easton (West Vigo)
District 3 Male – Mason Phillips (Boonville)

District 3 Female – Stefanie Howard (Shelbyville)
District 3 Male – Mekhi Moore (Terre Haute South Vigo)



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

22 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 and; 6) have no violations of the school's athletic code of conduct.

Nearly 100 completed applications were received from across the state and a blue-ribbon panel of seven individuals decided upon the final recipients. They are: **Wayne Barker**, Superintendent, School City of Mishawaka and member of the IHSAA Foundation Board of Directors; **Mo Barkley**, Director of Philanthropy, Forté Orthopedic Research Institute; **Tina Bennett**, Superintendent, Clarksville Community Schools and member of the IHSAA Foundation Board of Directors; **Bobby Cox**, retired Commissioner, Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. and member of the IHSAA Foundation Board of Directors; **Joe Fonderoli**, Senior Director of Events & Operations, Indianapolis Colts; **Bob Gardner**, retired Executive Director, National Federation of State High School Associations; **Lee Ann Logan**, System Marketing Director, Orthopedics, Franciscan Health; **Paul Neidig**, Commissioner, Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. and member of the IHSAA Foundation Board of Directors; **Jen Wilfong**, CEO, JW Land Management LLC and member of the IHSAA Foundation Board of Directors; **Corey Wilson**, Vice-President of Community Engagement, Pacers Sports and Entertainment and Executive Director of Pacers Foundation; **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 216 outstanding student-athletes with scholarships totaling \$540,000.

In addition to a Lifetime Achievement Award and a Tactical Athlete Comeback Award, the Forté 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.

Biographies for this year's recipients are listed below:

Jordan Davis (Speedway)

Speedway High School Senior **Jordan Davis** is a four-sport athlete and has been a varsity letter winner in soccer and track & field for four years. She is a three-time captain of her soccer team and has worked as team manager for Speedway's basketball team. She has earned all-conference honors in soccer multiple years. In the classroom, Jordan has earned a 4.24 weighted GPA, which ranks 10th in her class of 122. She is a member of Speedway's Student Council, Student Leadership Team, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor Society, and helps with the Special Olympics/Unified athletes at Speedway. She has volunteered her time with Relay for Life, the Indiana Donor Association, and local youth soccer leagues in her community. Jordan also holds a job as a server at a local restaurant. Jordan is currently undecided on her college choice.

Jaiden Eastom (Fort Wayne Snider)

Snider High School student-athlete **Jaiden Eastom** is a 12-time varsity letter winner, earning a letter in cross country, basketball, and track & field in each of her four years as a Panther. She has received all-conference honors for her performance in track and served as co-captain of her basketball team this past season. Jaiden ranks first in her class of 426 students, posting a 5.02 weighted GPA in the classroom. She is a member of Snider's Student Council, National Honor Society, and Biomedical Charity Council. She takes time to volunteer through various avenues in her community and has worked as a media assistant at her church for the past two years. Jaiden plans to attend the University of Michigan.

Maci Easton (West Vigo)

Sitting at the top of her class of 122 students with an unweighted 4.0 GPA, three-sport athlete **Maci Easton** of West Vigo High School earned a varsity letter in basketball, cross country, and track & field in each year of her high school career.

She was named as team captain in all three sports for the past two seasons. Maci was named All-Conference and Academic All-Conference for track & field her junior year. She currently serves as National Honor Society President, Student Council Treasurer, Class Vice President, and Vice President of Health Occupation Students of America. Her volunteer work includes shopping for underprivileged children around Christmas time, assisting with volleyball and basketball camps for younger athletes, participating in charity food drives, and community cleanups. Maci will attend Ball State University in the Fall.

Stefanie Howard (Shelbyville)

Shelbyville student-athlete **Stefanie Howard** currently holds a 4.59 weighted GPA which ranks first in her class of 256 students. Stefanie has earned four varsity letters in track & field and three in cross country. She has served as team captain for both sports the past two seasons. Stefanie has also earned Academic All-Conference and Academic All-State honors. She currently serves as Vice President of the National Honor Society and President of the Latin Club at Shelbyville. Stefanie also participates in the Student Athletic Advisory Council, the Environmental Club, and the Shelbyville High School Drumline. Stefanie is currently organizing a community 5K race named the "Tree Trot" where all proceeds will be put toward purchasing and planting trees at a local park. She also works with Shelby County Soil and Water to help monitor the aquatic ecosystems in the area. Stefanie has also held a part-time job throughout high school and currently serves as a Head Trainer at a local fast-food restaurant. She plans to attend Ohio's Denison University in the Fall.

John Kuka (Valparaiso)

Valparaiso Viking **John Kuka** is a two-sport athlete and has earned a 4.49 weighted GPA, which ranks 18th in his senior class of 480 students. John earned three varsity letters in football and two letters in basketball, where he served as team captain during his senior season. He has received numerous accolades for his athletic and academic performance. John serves as President of both the National Honor Society and Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Valparaiso. He is also a member of Team LEAD, where he and other high schoolers visit local middle schools to mentor students about mental health and social skills. John helps mentor his peers who are struggling with science and math and volunteers in numerous roles at his local church. He has also worked at Valparaiso Country Club for the past year. John will be attending Notre Dame in the Fall.

Mekhi Moore (Terre Haute South Vigo)

Mekhi Moore of Terre Haute South Vigo High School is a five-time varsity letter winner, earning three letters in football and two in wrestling. He served as team captain for both during his senior year and has earned Academic All-Conference, Academic All-State, All-Conference, and All-State honors. He was named Terre Haute South's Defensive Player of the Year in football his junior and senior year. Mekhi also participated in track & field. In the classroom, Mekhi has earned a 3.96 unweighted GPA, which ranks 21st in his class 327 students. He is a member of the Student Leadership Committee, Advanced Chorus, and the Student Advisory Board. His volunteer work includes aiding in the reconstruction of his church, leading a voter participation initiative for those in Vigo County, painting over graffiti on local buildings, and cleaning up sidewalks and streets. Mekhi plans to attend Harvard University.

Riley Newman (Lebanon)

Lebanon Tiger **Riley Newman** is a 12-time varsity letter winner, competing in soccer, swimming & diving, and track & field each year of his high school career. He was team captain of both his soccer and swim & dive team during his senior year and earned All-Conference honors for both swimming and soccer during his career. Riley ranks first in his class of 218 students with a weighted GPA of 4.68. He currently serves as Lebanon's Senior Class President. Riley is also a member of the Math Academic Team, Student Council, Marching Band, Class Council, Boone County Youth Leadership Association, National Honor Society, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. In his community, he's volunteered with the Ransburg Scout Reservation and St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry. He also helps out in various ways at his local church. Riley is currently choosing between attending Purdue University or Rose Hulman University in the Fall.

Molly Nord (Maconaquah)

Two-sport athlete **Molly Nord** of Maconaquah High School ranks first in her class of 121 students, posting an unweighted 4.0 GPA. She is a three-time varsity letter winner in both basketball and soccer and served as team captain

for both during her senior year. Molly has earned numerous accolades for her performance on the playing field and for her effort in the classroom. Molly currently serves as president of Maconaquah's National Honor Society. She is also a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Spanish Club, and Sunshine Society. Molly strives to become a Physical Therapist and currently works as an intern for a local physical therapy clinic. Molly is also a trainer and performer for the Peru Amateur Circus. She volunteers her time at her church, teaching Sunday school and helping with babysitting. Molly will be attending Trine University in the Fall.

Mason Phillips (Boonville)

Senior **Mason Phillips** of Boonville High School ranks first in his class of 207 students, posting an unweighted 4.0 GPA throughout high school. He is a three-time varsity letter winner in football, two-time letter winner in golf, and received one varsity letter in basketball and track & field. He served as co-captain of his football team this past season and was also awarded Academic All-State. Mason currently serves as President of the National Honor Society and President of the Student Athletic Council. He also participates in Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Student Council. Mason has worked as a Student Athletic Trainer for the past two years and has also volunteered his time with Boonville's youth football and baseball leagues. Mason also owns and operates two businesses, MRP Landscaping and MRP Vending. He will attend Indiana University in the Fall.

Chloe Pistelli (South Putnam)

Chloe Pistelli of South Putnam High School is an eight-time varsity letter winner, competing in softball and volleyball in each of her four years as an eagle. She was team captain for both teams during her senior year. She currently holds a 4.0 unweighted GPA and ranks first in her class. She has been named Academic All-Conference for volleyball and softball multiple times. Chloe has been Student Council President each year of her high school tenure and is currently President of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She also participates in National Honor Society, Spanish Club, Sign Language Club, and has participated in South Putnam's Math Team and Science Team. Chloe is her community's Student Representative for the Prevention Intervention Education Coalition, which promotes education on drug awareness and abuse. She also helps with the youth volleyball and softball camps in her community. At her church, Chloe serves as a worship leader, singing and playing the guitar and keyboard. She also assists with the church's vacation bible school and other various events. Chloe will be attending Taylor University in the Fall.

Samuel Tullis (Culver Academies)

Culver Military Academy Senior **Samuel Tullis** is a three-sport varsity athlete, competing in cross country, swimming & diving, and track & field in each of his four years. He served as team captain in both cross country and track during his senior year. Samuel has participated in multiple triathlons representing Team USA and was 2021 USA Triathlon National Champion. In the classroom, he has earned a 3.91 unweighted GPA. Unlike the average high school student, Samuel spends extra time completing the various duties that come along with attending a military school. Those range from cleaning and inspecting rooms to participating in parade and drill formation numerous times a month. There may also be other various meetings, training events, and tasks given to each Culver Cadet throughout their time at the academy. Samuel is a member of the Culver Robotics Club, Culver Leadership Committee, Honor Council, and Honor Guard. He created and implemented the New Cadet Feedback System, which works to provide weekly feedback to new cadets, helping them identify strengths and weaknesses and how they can improve moving forward. He holds numerous leadership positions throughout the academy and is currently Regimental Commander, the highest-ranking position in the school. Samuel will be attending the University of Chicago to study neuroscience and run cross country and track & field.

TJ Weeks (Eastern (Greentown))

Three-sport athlete **TJ Weeks** of Eastern High School ranks second in his class of 106 students, posting a weighted GPA of 12.48 on a 12.0 scale. TJ has been a four-time varsity letter winner in track & field and a three-time letter winner in both football and cross country. He was named team captain in both football and track & field during his senior year. TJ has earned numerous Academic All-Conference and Academic All-State honors. He currently serves as Eastern's Class Vice President, Drama Club President, and President of the IHSAA Student Advisory Committee. TJ also serves his community through Serve Together, iCanBike, Operation Christmas, and the Crossroads Parents and Children Outreach

Program. TJ has narrowed down his college of choice to two schools, Taylor University or Trevecca Nazarene Christian University in Tennessee.

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 407 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.

About the IHSAA Foundation, Inc.

The IHSAA Foundation was created in 2016 as the philanthropic arm of the IHSAA. Its mission is to help protect, sustain, and nurture high school sports in Indiana for the 407 high schools it serves. The 16-member Foundation Board is made up of member-school superintendents from each of the three IHSAA districts, a member-school athletic director, the Chair of the IHSAA Executive Committee, the current IHSAA Commissioner, and 10 at-large members from all corners of the state. Members of the Board are appointed by IHSAA Commissioner, Paul Neidig.