

# 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 next month with the 2018 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 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 Thursday, April 19, 2018 at the Indiana Roof Ballroom in downtown Indianapolis as part of the Thomas A. Brady Sports Achievement Awards established by Methodist Sports Medicine.

This year's recipients are:

### 2018 IHSAA / C. Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarship Award Recipients

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Indira Brown      | Yorktown           |
| Braxton Cerqueira | Floyd Central      |
| Aryn Eash         | LaVille            |
| Tori Harker       | Lebanon            |
| Andrew Kline      | Covington          |
| Karmen Koch       | Huntington North   |
| Kaitlin Kost      | Tecumseh           |
| Logan Lawrence    | Lawrenceburg       |
| Erin Ludwig       | Penn               |
| Eli Mock          | Martinsville       |
| Thomas Perez      | Griffith           |
| Kyle Wade         | Kokomo             |
| Alex Wolfe        | White River Valley |



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.

Seventy completed applications were received from across the state and a blue ribbon panel of five individuals decided upon the final recipients. They are: Bill Benner, Senior Vice President, Pacers Sports & Entertainment; Joe Fonderoli, Director of Special Events, Indianapolis Colts; Bob Gardner, Executive Director, National Federation of State High School Associations; Doug Thornton, Executive Director of Research and Education Foundation, Methodist Sports Medicine; and; Bobby Cox, Commissioner, Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

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 178 outstanding student-athletes with scholarships totaling \$445,000.

The honored guest for the 2018 Brady Sports Achievement Awards is Rocky Bleier, who will receive the Brady Lifetime Achievement Award and also serve as keynote speaker for the evening. Bleier a Vietnam Veteran who was awarded a Purple Heart and Bronze Star, was also a member of the 1966 National Champion Notre Dame football team and also went on to win four Super Bowls with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

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 inaugural 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](#).

- Yorktown High School senior **Indira Brown** sits at number three in her class of 196 students. Brown holds a 4.093 GPA on a 4.0 scale, all while being a dual sport athlete in the fall and participating in spring sports. She has earned 10 varsity letters throughout her time at Yorktown, as well as many honors and awards because of her athletic achievements. Outside of athletics, she is part of Key Club, and is currently the treasurer. Key Club is what most of Brown's community service is done through, and it has allowed her to visit local nursing homes, volunteer at numerous soup kitchens and volunteer at the Muncie Ironman annually.
- **Braxton Cerqueira** of Floyd Central High School has been a three-sport athlete all four years as a Highlander; he has lettered in football (3), basketball (2) and baseball (2). He was also elected as captain of the football team. Cerqueira has a hand in many activities outside of athletics, like student council, peer tutoring, senior executive committee, National Honor Society, Student Athlete Advisory Committee and donates his time to various volunteering activities. He is president of Floyd Central's Student Athlete Advisory Committee. In his class of 419, Cerqueira is number seven and holds a 3.98 GPA.

- **Aryn Eash** has dedicated all four years at LaVille High School to participating in six different clubs and three different sports (soccer, basketball, tennis). In addition to six clubs, she joined DECA and the National Honor Society her sophomore year, was part of the Academic Bowl Team her junior year and partook in Fellowship of Christian Athletes her senior year. Her volunteer work has taken her many places, the farthest being Costa Rica on a mission trip. Eash was deemed captain of the track and basketball team beginning her sophomore year, and soccer captain her senior year. She earned the position of Student Council Vice President and Junior Class President, and followed it up with National Honor Society and Class President her senior year. Eash is number one in her class of 75.
- Three-sport athlete, and 11 letter winner **Tori Harker** of Lebanon High School is ranked number seven in her class of 245. She holds a 4.338 GPA. Harker was part of the volleyball, basketball and softball team. Her junior year, she was captain of the basketball team, and then captain of the basketball and softball team her senior year. Throughout her high school sports career, Harker earned many athletics awards. Academically, she is part of the National Honor Society, National Society of Leadership and Success, and is part of a mentor and tutoring program. For the past four years, Harker has also served as a youth sports camp counselor for elementary aged children in volleyball, basketball, and softball.
- Number one in his class with a 4.0 GPA, **Andrew Kline** of Covington High School holds his academics at the top of his list, all while being a three-sport athlete who has earned 10 varsity letters. Kline is part of Covington's student council, National Honor Society, Spanish club and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. In addition, he has been the captain of the soccer team for three years, and the basketball and baseball team captain his senior year. Kline has completed at least 12 hours of community service each year, and some of it is done through community clean ups and youth soccer. During this service work, he has also traveled to Mexico on a mission trip to assist with a local orphanage.
- **Karmen Koch** of Huntington North High School has earned the third spot in a class of 354 students, and holds a 4.2 GPA. Koch partakes in soccer, basketball and track, and has been a team captain for each team. She has earned three varsity letters all four years at Huntington North. While participating in athletics, she has earned many awards to recognize her success and achievements on the court, such as All-Conference and District distinctions. She was also named most valuable athlete from 2015-17 on the track team and made the 2017 Academic All-State soccer team. Koch is a chairman for the Student Athletic Board, treasurer for the National Honor Society and part of class council. She has volunteered in her community, as well as traveling to Ohio and Honduras for various volunteer opportunities.
- Tecumseh High School student **Kaitlin Kost** is a two-year member of the National Honor Society and a four-year Student Council member, where she has been Vice President for three years. For three years, Kost was an active member of Future Farmers of America. Much of her community service includes volunteering at food banks, being an instructor at volleyball and softball camps, and helping at various events in her community. Kost has earned letters in basketball (4), softball (3) and volleyball (2). She's earned many awards for her participation in athletics based on both her achievements and mental attitude. Kost has a 4.0 GPA and is number one in her class of 85.
- **Logan Lawrence** of Lawrenceburg High School has competed in basketball, baseball and academic team throughout high school. In addition, Lawrence is Senior Class President, takes part in Key Club and is actively involved with Big Brothers, Big Sisters and Champions Together. The groups he is a part of have allowed him to volunteer at many different functions. Lawrence helps at local festivals, tutors middle school students, and engages in many other service oriented activities. He is also the host of Cruisin' to a Cure for ALS, which is hosted in memory of his grandfather. In its inaugural event, over one thousand people came together and helped Lawrence raise over \$15,000 that was given to the ALS Association Indiana Chapter. He is captain of the Academic Team and holds a 4.3 GPA, while being ranked third in a class of 149.

- Penn High School student **Erin Ludwig** holds a 4.3556 GPA and is ranked eighth among a class of 839 students. She has participated in soccer for three years and tennis for two. Since kindergarten she has been a member of Girls Scouts and has received her bronze, silver and gold awards. Her love of service work and tennis crossed paths when she received her gold award. Ludwig raised over \$40,000 through various fundraising events and grant writings to resurface tennis courts at Prairie Vista Elementary. After the courts were resurfaced, she even hosted free camps to teach kids how to play tennis and live a healthy lifestyle. Ludwig is also the president of Handwritten Hearts, which writes hand-written cards to patients in the hospital, and then she personally delivers them. As a Freshman Mentor and Kingsmen Tutor, along with a member of Key Club, Ludwig has donated much of her time to helping others.
- Number three in a class of 355 students at Martinsville High School is **Eli Mock**, who participates in basketball and tennis. He lettered all four years in tennis, and two in basketball. Mock has also been a part of the Spell Bowl Team and Academic Super Bowl Team, earning multiple awards in each. In addition to his academic and athletic pursuits, Mock has taken to Key Club, Spanish Club and Student Council during his time at Martinsville. He is very active with Habitat for Humanity, and has served as a Habitat ambassador, which involved organizing a team build. Outside of school, he is active in his church and has donated his time to many volunteer events through it. Mock holds a 4.588 GPA at Martinsville.
- **Thomas Perez** has garnered nine letters during his four years at Griffith High School, participating in cross country, soccer, wrestling and track. A cross country team captain, he has earned awards such as most improved and most valuable player during his career. Along with athletics, Perez has participated in student council, class council and FCCLA since freshman year. Currently, Perez holds the position as Vice President of Griffith's National Honor Society. In a class of 192 students, Perez is number one with a GPA of 4.45. He volunteers at the local food pantry monthly, and helps with youth sports camps.
- Kokomo High School's **Kyle Wade** is a three-sport athlete who has earned 11 varsity letters through football, basketball and baseball. Wade has been the captain of the varsity football team for three years, and is part of the KHS Student Athletic Leadership Team cabinet. He also earned the Phil N. Eskew Mental Attitude Award for 5A football, along with multiple other athletic acknowledgments for football and baseball. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Students Against Destructive Decisions and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Wade has volunteered with the Special Olympics, various sports camps, mentor programs and community tornado cleanup. Out of 325 students, Wade is number 11 in his class and holds a 4.2 GPA.
- Golf and tennis student athlete **Alex Wolfe** of White River Valley High School is number one in his class of 65 students. Wolfe holds a 4.266 GPA, all while being active on the Academic Super Bowl team, Anti-Modern Slavery Leadership team, and a member of concert and pep band. His Anti-Slavery Leadership team was recognized at a United Nations meeting. The group educates and raises awareness on the topic, as well as speaking out against bullying. Wolfe has earned a gold medal at State Solo and Ensemble contest, and was inducted into the National Honor Society his sophomore year. Wolfe does a lot of his community service through Local Missions at Linton First Christian Church, and has aided annually with Toys for Tots.

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**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 21 sports, 10 for girls, 10 for boys and one co-ed (unified track and field). A 19-person board of directors, elected by member school principals, governs the organization.*