



**Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.**  
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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Plymouth's Luke Vervynckt nominated for National High School Spirit of Sport Award**

Plymouth High School student-athlete Luke Vervynckt has been nominated by the Indiana High School Athletic Association for the National High School Spirit of Sport Award, an honor sponsored annually by the Indianapolis-based National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

The award seeks to recognize those individuals who exemplify the ideals of the positive spirit of sport that represent the core mission of education-based athletics.



Born with severe scoliosis, the junior hasn't let what he lacks in size and strength to define him or keep him from being a three-year member of the Pilgrims' tennis team and following in the footsteps of older brothers who were tennis standouts.

With a desire to excel and overcome, Vervynckt has developed his own style of tennis to work to his own strengths.

"He definitely has to go about things differently than everybody else in some ways, because of his height and whatnot," says Plymouth JV coach Brad Haeck. "But he makes adjustments when he needs to, and he actually has a tough game to play against sometimes for other people who aren't used to seeing some of the shots that he can hit."

When he's not hitting winners on the tennis court, he's proven to be a winner inside the north central Indiana school, too.

The junior ranks at the very top of his class of 264 students with a 4.4 GPA (out of 4.0) and has been accepted to travel to Spain in the summer of 2015 through the Indiana University Honors Program in Foreign Language.

He is a three-year member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Varsity Club and has participated in Spell Bowl, Bridge Bust and the Speech Club. He is currently a class officer, a member of Business Professionals of America, Interact Club and a student assistant in the high school athletic office. He'll also serve as a student manager for the girls tennis team this spring for the third year.

For more on Vervynckt's story, read ["Limitless Luke"](#), an article written last fall by Kyle Newman, editor for TheFanVSN.com.

Vervynckt will be entered into regional competition with those nominees being considered for the national award by the NFHS. The overall national winner will be recognized at the NFHS Summer Meetings in New Orleans this summer.

The IHSAA is proud to join Plymouth High School in recognizing the example set by Vervynckt who was selected from the 20 nominations below received by the IHSAA for the 2014-15 Spirit of Sport Award.

Allison Smitherman  
Abby Abel

Anderson HS  
Carmel HS

Debb Stevens	Caston HS
Ken Kaufman	Indianapolis Cathedral HS
Lauren Rau	Center Grove HS
Pat Rady	Cloverdale HS
J. Allan Clark	Culver Academies
East Noble Wrestling Team	East Noble HS
Briana Linton	Elkhart Christian Academy
Jim Lambert	Fort Wayne Wayne HS
Matthew Labus	Guerin Catholic HS
Doug Keen	Guerin Catholic HS
Sue Ann Mathewson	Hammond HS
Tyler Weller	New Prairie HS
Lucas Vervynckt	Plymouth HS
Katrin Hybarger	Sheridan HS
Casey Garner	Sullivan HS
Camille Kerlin	Warsaw Community HS
Jonathan Nugent	Washington Township HS
Kaylee McCracken	Whiteland Community HS

***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 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.*

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