



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

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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 two weeks with the 2016 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 14, 2016 at the Indiana Roof Ballroom in downtown Indianapolis as part of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Thomas A. Brady Sports Achievement Awards established by Methodist Sports Medicine.

This year's recipients are:

### 2016 IHSAA / C. Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarship Award Recipients

Nicholas Bantz	Delta HS
Christopher Bessler	Indianapolis Cathedral HS
Keegan Biddle	Eastside HS
Aaron Cox	Southmont HS
Alex Galle	Columbus East HS
Andrew Griffin	Avon HS
Chelsea Huppert	Bremen HS
Jeb King	Franklin Central HS
Maria McCoy	Westview HS
Hannah Stoffel	Huntington North HS
Halie Szilagyi	Fishers HS
Jessica VandenBoom	Norwell HS
Kate White	Fort Wayne Canterbury HS



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 or athletic director; 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.

More than 100 applications were received from across the state and a blue ribbon panel of six individuals decided upon the final recipients. They are: Joe Fonderoli, Director of Special Events, Indianapolis Colts; Bob Gardner, Executive Director, National Federation of State High School Associations; Eric Hall, Director of Support Services, Methodist Sports Medicine; Rich Nye, Eyewitness Sports Reporter, WTHR Channel 13; 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 also 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 152 outstanding student-athletes with scholarships totaling \$380,000.

Honored guests for the 2016 Brady Sports Achievement Awards are Bill Polian, recent inductee in the NFL Hall of Fame, and the 2006 Super Bowl Champion Indianapolis Colts team with the Brady Lifetime Achievement Award. Polian will serve as keynote speaker for the evening.

The Methodist Sports Medicine Research and Education Foundation also will honor four Indiana high school and college student-athletes that have overcome injury or hardship with Comeback Awards.

For additional information on the awards dinner, Methodist Sports Medicine issued this [news release](#).

Delta High School's **Nicholas Bantz** ranks first in his class of 189, while carrying a 4.3 GPA. Upon graduation, he will have already earned 43 college credit hours through the Delta dual credit program. He has earned a total of four varsity letters, two in baseball and two in tennis, while being named academic all-conference in both sports. Nicholas has been very involved at Delta, serving as the president of National Honor Society, vice president of the Chick-Fil-A Leadership Academy, and the treasurer of Student Council. Away from school, he has interned for two semesters at Family Vision Care optometry, while volunteering at The Gathering Church Children's Ministry. Nicholas is the son of Rick and Carol Bantz.

**Christopher Bessler** of Indianapolis Cathedral has proven to be a leader both athletically and academically during his time in high school. A three year varsity letter winner and team captain in both Cross Country and Track, Chris is also the captain of Cathedral's Brain Game team, is a National Honor Society Officer, and is a member of the Cathedral newspaper team. In addition to participating in many other clubs and organizations at school, he is also an Eagle Scout in Troop 397, a camp counselor at Happy Hollow Children's Camp, and spends time volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. The son of Jerome Bessler and Astra Liepa, Chris will be attending Notre Dame next fall.

A two-sport athlete, **Keegan Biddle** ranks first in his class of 94 at Eastside High School. While working exceedingly hard for his 4.0 GPA, Keegan has earned varsity letters in cross country and track and field, serving as captain in both sports. He has served as the president of both the National Honor Society and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He is also the leader of the "Bread of Life: Project Korah." Through Grabill Missionary Church, Keegan has been on multiple mission trips, completed service projects, and served as a youth intern. He is the son of Matt and Angela Biddle.

Southmont's **Aaron Cox** will graduate at the top of his class of 99 with a 4.218 GPA. Outside of the classroom, Aaron was a two-sport varsity athlete, compiling varsity letters in baseball and tennis. He is the captain of his baseball team, and has earned multiple awards for his work in tennis. Aaron has served as the class president and president of the National Honor Society, while also being a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Student Council. Aaron's eye-opening service work includes the creation of an event called "Strike-Out Skin Cancer" which he chaired during his junior year, where he was able to get a rival school to participate in collecting sunscreen for the local food pantry. The son of Chris and Nancy Cox, Aaron will attend the University of Notre Dame.

**Alex Galle** of Columbus East is ranked second in his graduating class of 364 with a 4.21 GPA. While at Columbus East, Alex has earned six varsity letters participating in tennis, basketball, and track. He was a captain in both basketball and tennis, and was selected as an Academic All-State member in tennis. Alex is also a member of National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society, and attended the IHSAA Student Leadership Conference. Outside of school, Alex facilitates discussions about moral and social issues with middle school students as a member of his youth ministry group at St. Bartholomew Church, and also volunteers at the humane society and thrift store. Alex is the son of Jamie Galle.

**Andrew Griffin** of Avon High School has excelled not only in athletics, but also academically. He is ranked tenth in his class of 685 with a 5.147 GPA, while being a two-time national qualifier in DECA. As a three-sport athlete, Andrew has earned nine varsity letters while earning countless awards in football. He has held multiple leadership positions on and off the court, serving as both president of the Student-Athletic Council and senior captain of the football and basketball teams. Furthermore, Andrew is an active member at Saint Susana Catholic Church, leading in youth ministry and helping freshman and sophomores complete their Confirmation. The son of Clark and Julie Griffin, Andrew plans on attending Princeton University.

A three-sport athlete, **Chelsea Huppert** ranks third in her graduating class of 118 at Bremen High School with a 4.06 GPA. Chelsea has participated in volleyball, basketball, and softball, earning 12 varsity letters and several awards and honors. She has served as a team captain seven times during her athletic career. A member of numerous clubs, Chelsea serves as the secretary of the Student Council, National Honor Society, and Key Club. Chelsea has played an integral role in implementing both the "#BHSLionsCup" and "Powder Puff Volleyball" to the Bremen's athletics department. She volunteers as a scribe for the Bremen Food Pantry and the Adopt-A-Friend program, as well as seasonally cleaning local parks. Chelsea is the daughter of Mike and Beth Huppert.

**Jeb King** of Franklin Central High School ranks second in his class of 610, graduating with a 4.377 GPA. A varsity letterman in cross country and track and field, Jeb has been involved in many student leadership roles during his time at Franklin Central. The Senior Class president and Student Council vice-president has led fundraising for prom and homecoming expenses, as well as leading the plans to build homecoming floats. Jeb is the Franklin Central radio operations manager and music director, as well as a proud member of National Honor Society. An Eagle Scout, Jeb raised \$3,000 to build four raised bed gardens at Franklin Township Middle School West for students in the Comprehensive Intervention Program. He is the son of Donald and Beth King.

Westview's **Maria McCoy** owns a 4.06 GPA, and she will graduate at the top of her class of 99. A two-sport varsity athlete and seven-letter winner in volleyball and basketball, she has won several athletic awards at Westview, such as basketball MVP and ICGSA Volleyball Academic All-State. This past season, she earned her place in Westview Basketball's 1,000 point club. Maria has also been an active member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Spanish Club, and a two-year editor of the Yearbook. She has spent her summers volunteering at Westview youth basketball and volleyball camps, and organized the school food drive through the school's National Honor Society chapter. She is the daughter of Michael and Nikole McCoy.

**Hannah Stoffel** of Huntington North High School is ranked sixth in her graduating class of 357 and carries a 4.16 GPA. The captain of her cross country, basketball, and track teams, Hannah has earned 12 varsity letters during her athletic career and has also won multiple honors for her talents. Not only is Hannah an outstanding student and athlete, she also serves as a member of National Honor Society, Student Athletic Board and Student Advisory Council. Her volunteer work

is extensive, having worked with the Special Olympics, as well as doing mission work through her church. The daughter of Annette Stoffel, Hannah will attend Indiana University next fall.

Fishers' **Halie Szilagyi** has excelled beyond the playing field during her tenure in school. While serving as captain of the track team, Halie is also a member of the Fishers' cross country team and will be graduating this year with a 4.871 GPA. In addition to athletics, she has been very active at Fishers as a member of the Marching Band, National Honor Society, and French Honors Society. Her work goes beyond the classroom and playing field, though, as she organized the Fishers High School College and Career Academy's grand opening. The daughter of Kathleen and Michael Szilagyi, Halie will serve as valedictorian at the Fishers graduation ceremony.

**Jessica VandenBoom** of Norwell High School has excelled not only in athletics, but also academically. She is ranked first in her class of 194 with a 4.0 GPA. As a two-sport athlete, Jessica has earned eight letters and was also named the captain of her soccer team. She holds multiple leadership positions off the field, serving as the president of the National Honor Society and Vice Chair of the Riley Dance Marathon Committee. Jessica has volunteered with her church, serving as an Upwards Basketball coach and middle school Sunday school teacher at Zanesville United Methodist Church. She is the daughter of Tina and Robert VandenBoom.

**Kate White** has earned a total of 12 varsity letters during her career at Fort Wayne Canterbury High School. A letter winner on the girls cross country, soccer, track, and swim teams, Megan has won multiple awards and honors, including a State Championship as a member of the soccer team. In addition to her athletic involvement, Kate was a leader of the Environment Club, the Champions Together group, and was also her school's newspaper editor. Outside of school, Kate volunteers as a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters, is a Relay for Life participant, and assists with various events for Key Club. Kate is the daughter of Dr. Eric White and Nancy White.

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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 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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