



Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

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March 20, 2025

Cato Memorial Scholarships to be presented to 12 seniors Student-Athletes to be recognized April 17 at Indianapolis Colts Complex

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 2025 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, and Sport Graphics, Inc., 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.

Each individual will receive a \$2,500 scholarship for their prep accomplishments and be recognized at this year's inaugural **[IHSAA Foundation Impact Awards](#)** at Gridiron Hall, within the Indianapolis Colts Indiana Farm Bureau Football Center on Thursday, April 17, 2025.



This year's recipients of the 2025 IHSAA/C. Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarships are:

2025 IHSAA/C. Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarship Recipients

Nathaniel Beck	Marion
Addison Brubaker	Manchester
Makena Cruse	Greenwood Community
Claire Hack	Jennings County
Lena Jones	Plymouth
Jace Martin	North Harrison
Kevin Nord	Maconaquah
Colton Phillips	Perry Meridian
Isabella Sellers	Indianapolis Shortridge
Evan Smith	Lake Central
Seth Wagler	Barr-Reeve
Adelyn Wyndham	Avon



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 or athletic director; 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.

Over 150 completed applications were received from across the state and a blue-ribbon panel of individuals decided upon the final recipients:

Andy Arnold, Senior Vice President, Facilities Operations, Pacers Sports & Entertainment

Bill Benner, Retired Vice President, Pacers Sports & Entertainment

Bobby Cox, Commissioner Emeritus, Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc., and member of the IHSAA Foundation Board of Directors

Phil Eskew, Jr., M.D., Emeritus Professor, OBGYN, IU School of Medicine and chair of the IHSAA Foundation Board of Directors

Bob Gardner, Commissioner Emeritus, Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc., and Retired Executive Director, National Federation of State High School Associations

Frank Hancock, President and CEO, Sports Graphics, Inc.

Andy Matis, Senior Manager of Football Development, Indianapolis Colts

Paul Neidig, Commissioner, Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

Since 2003-04, the IHSAA has recognized 293 outstanding student-athletes with scholarships totaling \$676,500.

Recognized alongside the recipients of this year's Cato Scholarship and eight additional IHSAA Foundation scholarships at the IHSAA Foundation Impact Awards, Forté Sports Medicine Research and Education Foundation will honor Indiana high school student-athletes who have overcome injury or hardship with the Brady Comeback Award. Additionally, graduating members of the IHSAA's Student Advisory Committee will be recognized for their contributions and work as a voice for today's student-athletes. Recipients of these scholarships will be recognized in the near future.

The IHSAA Foundation Impact Awards serves to recognize the accomplishments of our next generation of leaders in competition, in the classroom, and within their communities. Those interested in celebrating these accomplishments at the banquet can find more information at the [event's webpage](#).

To learn more about the history of the Cato Scholarship and all IHSAA/IHSAA Foundation scholarship opportunities, visit ihsaa.org/foundation/scholarships.

Who was C. Eugene Cato?

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.

Biographies for this year’s Cato recipients are listed below:

Nathaniel Beck (Marion)

Four-sport student-athlete **Nathaniel Beck** of Marion High School is a 16-time varsity letter winner, participating in Cross Country, Soccer, Track & Field, and Wrestling during his time as a Giant. He’s received All-Conference honors for his efforts in Cross Country and Track & Field, while also receiving Academic All-State honors for Soccer, Cross Country, and Track & Field. He served as Team Captain for each of the four sports in which he competed during his junior and senior seasons. Beck ranks first in his senior class of 270 students with a 4.0 unweighted GPA. He is the co-founder and leader of Marion’s Fellowship of Christian Athletes and President of their National Honor Society. Nathaniel volunteers his time officiating middle school Track & Field and Wrestling, creating ESL lesson plans with Marion’s faculty, and helps with the youth soccer camps in his community. He will be attending Purdue University in the fall.

Addison Brubaker (Manchester)

Manchester High School senior **Addison Brubaker** ranks first in her class of 102 students, posting a 4.0 unweighted GPA. She earned eight varsity letters, participating in Soccer and Tennis in each of her years as a Squire. Brubaker served as a Team Captain and has earned All-Conference and Academic All-Conference honors in each sport. She is a member of the Spanish Club, serves as President of Key Club, and is Treasurer of Manchester’s National Honor Society. Addison spends time volunteering by providing food to students in need (Blessings in a Backpack), raising money for new playground equipment for schools in her district, and setting up Christmas trees in schools and nursing homes in the winter. Throughout high school, she has worked as an Office Assistant and Social Media Manager for a local real estate and property management firm. Addison will be attending Purdue University in the fall.

Makena Cruse (Greenwood Community)

Greenwood Community’s **Makena Cruse** is a three-sport athlete, earning four varsity letters in Soccer, three in Track and Field, and two in Cross Country. She’s been named All-Conference in Track and Field, as well as Academic All-State in Track and Field and Soccer. In the classroom, Makena has maintained a weighted GPA of 4.26. She is the Vice President of her senior class, Editor-in-Chief of Greenwood’s school newspaper, and a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Cruse also serves as President of the IHSAA Student Advisory Committee, where she assists with IHSAA State Finals events throughout the year and serves as an ambassador to student-athletes throughout the state. Additionally, Makena volunteers her time fundraising for charities like Donate Life Organization and Walk2EndAlz, has worked as a camp counselor and teaching assistant during the summer, and is an active member of her church. She will be attending Indiana Wesleyan University in the fall.

Claire Hack (Jennings County)

Jennings County High School’s **Claire Hack** ranks first in her class of 257 students, maintaining a 12.59 weighted GPA. She competed in Basketball (three varsity letters) and Softball (four varsity

letters) during her time as a Panther. Hack is a member of Jennings County's National Honor Society, Best Buddies, and the Student Athlete Leadership Team. She is also a member of the IHSAA Student Advisory Committee, where she assists with IHSAA State Finals events throughout the year and serves as an ambassador to student-athletes throughout the state. Claire volunteers her time leading youth basketball and softball camps in her community, painting murals for local businesses, and mentoring elementary school students. She will be attending Purdue University in the fall.

Lena Jones (Plymouth)

Plymouth High School senior **Lena Jones** is a four-sport student athlete, earning four varsity letters each in Basketball and Track & Field, and one varsity letter each in Cross Country and Volleyball. She served as Team Captain in each of her sports and received All-Conference honors for Basketball and Academic All-State for Track & Field. Jones is the Vice President of the IHSAA Student Advisory Committee, where she assists with State Finals events throughout the year and serves as an ambassador to student-athletes throughout the state. She also serves as President of Plymouth's Champions Together Program, President of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Secretary for both the Student Government and Key Club. Lena is active in 4-H and helps younger 4-H members take care of their animals by mentoring them on how to feed and groom them correctly. In addition, her volunteer work includes planning and administering youth basketball and volleyball camps in the summer, tutoring her fellow classmates in Math, and regularly helping at her church's nursery. Lena is currently undecided on her college choice.

Jace Martin (North Harrison)

Jace Martin of North Harrison High School is a two-sport athlete, competing in Baseball (four varsity letters) and Tennis (three varsity letters) for the Cougars. In the classroom, he ranks first in his class of 157 students, earning a 4.29 weighted GPA. He's a member of North Harrison's Student Council, Renaissance Club, National Honors Society, and serves as President of his senior class. Jace is also a member of the IHSAA Student Advisory Committee, where he assists with State Finals events throughout the year and serves as an ambassador to student-athletes throughout the state. He volunteers his time by assisting with Saint Michael's Catholic Church's Annual Fish Fry and working the concession stand during the high school basketball season. Martin also works part-time for the Indian Creek Gun Club and a local landscaping and lawncare company. He will be attending the University of Louisville in the fall.

Kevin Nord (Maconaquah)

Maconaquah High School's **Kevin Nord** ranks second in his class of 125 students, earning a 12.71 weighted GPA. He participated in Soccer (four varsity letters), Track & Field (two varsity letters), Swimming & Diving (one varsity letter), and Football (one varsity letter) during his time as a Brave. Nord received All-Conference and Academic All-State honors for Soccer and Track & Field. Kevin is a member of VEX VRC Robotics where he is the Lead Programmer/Coder, Builder, and Strategist. His team has qualified for state four times and 2023 State Competition Champions. Nord is also a member of the Peru Amateur Circus, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and National Honor Society. He stays active in the community by delivering Christmas gifts to families in need and serving at his church. In addition, Kevin works part-time at an ice cream shop and as a lifeguard during the summer. He will be attending Purdue University in the fall.

Colton Phillips (Perry Meridian)

Colton Phillips of Perry Meridian High School ranks first in his class of 549 students, earning a 4.6 weighted GPA. He is a two-time varsity letter winner in Basketball, earning Academic All-State honors and serving as the team's captain during his senior season. Colton is a member of Perry Meridian's Student Council, Link Crew, National Honor Society, and works as an Anchor/Tech Member/Producer for Falcon TV. He volunteers his time coaching youth basketball throughout the year and running camps in the summer, assists at the Willow Pond Elderly Neighborhood, and

helps with various events and camps at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School and Abraham Lincoln Elementary School. Colton will be attending Michigan State University in the fall.

Isabella Sellers (Indianapolis Shortridge)

Three-sport student-athlete **Isabella Sellers** of Shortridge High School is a 12-time varsity letter winner, competing in Softball, Swimming & Diving, and Volleyball in each of her years as a Blue Devil. She ranks first in her class of 273 students, posting a 4.52 weighted GPA. Isabella is Vice President of Shortridge's National Honor Society and Treasurer of both the Key Club and National English Honors Society. She is also a member of the Science Olympiad, Math Club, and Blue Devil Buddies. Sellers volunteers her time mentoring her peers with their coursework, working the concession stand at many of Shortridge's events, and assisting with career planning for those who have graduated. Additionally, Isabella has organized multiple fundraisers for Shortridge and their athletic programs. She will be attending Purdue University in the fall.

Evan Smith (Lake Central)

Lake Central High School's **Evan Smith** ranks first in his senior class of 780 students, maintaining a 4.67 weighted GPA. He participated in Cross Country and Track & Field for the Indians, earning a varsity letter for both sports in each of his four years. He has served as Team Captain for Cross Country and Track & Field and received Academic All-State honors in both sports. Evan is a member of Lake Central's National Honor Society, Mentorship Ambassador Program, Student Council, Academic Letterwinners Club, and N-Teens. Smith's volunteer experience includes work with the Salvation Army Angel Tree Toy Drive, St. Baldrick's Foundation Assembly, and raising money for Lake Central's athletic programs. Evan also works part-time for a local landscaping company. He will be attending Purdue University in the fall.

Seth Wagler (Barr-Reeve)

Two-sport student athlete **Seth Wagler** of Barr-Reeve High School earned four varsity letters in both Baseball and Basketball during his time as a Viking. Seth earned All-Conference and All-State recognition for Baseball, while also earning All-Conference honors for Basketball. He served as Team Captain for both sports. Wagler is at the top of his class of 62 students, maintaining a 4.57 weighted GPA. He is a member of Barr-Reeve's Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Beta Club, and Education Professions. Seth's volunteer work includes community clean-up events, event set-up and tear down for the annual Montgomery Ruritan Club Turkey Trot Festival, providing food for those in need, and serving on a missionary trip to Juarez, Mexico during his sophomore year. He will be attending Vincennes University in the fall.

Adelyn Wyndham (Avon)

Adelyn Wyndham of Avon High School is a two-sport student athlete, earning four varsity letters in Volleyball and three varsity letters in Tennis during her time as an Oriole. In the classroom, Adelyn ranks second in her senior class of 777 students, maintaining a weighted 5.5 GPA. She is a member of Avon's National Honor Society, Computer Science Honor Society, Community Ambassador Program, and the STEM Tutoring Club. Wyndham also serves as President of the Interact Club. She is active in her community, volunteering her time by raising money for a local domestic abuse shelter by selling prom dresses, providing food to the Mary Lee Maier Food Pantry, distributing gifts to those in need during the holidays, raking and cleaning up the yards of the elderly and disabled members of her community, and assisting with youth Volleyball and Tennis camps and clinics. In the fall, Adelyn will be attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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 409-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 24 sports, 11 for girls, 11 for boys and two co-eds (unified flag football, 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 2015 as the philanthropic arm of the IHSAA. Its mission is to help protect, sustain, and nurture high school sports in Indiana for the 409 high schools it serves. The 17-member Foundation Board is made up of member-school superintendents from each of the three IHSAA districts, at minimum two member-school athletic directors, the Chair of the IHSAA Executive Committee, the current IHSAA Commissioner, and 11 at-large members from all corners of the state. Members of the Board are nominated by IHSAA Commissioner, Paul Neidig, and ratified by Board Approval.