

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 with the 2021 C. Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarships.

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 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.

Each individual will 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 Methodist Sports Medicine on June 3, 2021.

This year's recipients are:

2021 IHSAA / C. Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarship Award Recipients

Tate Cowan	Wawasee
Abigail Fulton	Southwestern (Hanover)
Aubrey Gearhart	Winamac Community
Kennedy Hallam	North Posey
Drew Labhart	Perry Central
Jake Martin	Northwestern
Kennedy Peggs	Tri
Bennett Schmitt	Jasper
William Staggs	South Knox
Summer Stogsdill	Lebanon
Deven Suhka	Culver Academies
Megan Wagner	Carroll (Flora)
Noah Zahn	Huntington North



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: Bill Benner, retired Senior Vice President, Pacers Sports & Entertainment; Tina Bennett, Superintendent, Clarksville Community Schools and member of the IHSAA Foundation Board of Directors; Rob Craig, Director of Outreach Services and Marketing, Methodist Sports Medicine; Joe Fonderoli, Director of Special Events, Indianapolis Colts; Lee Ann Logan, System Marketing Director, Franciscan Health; Paul Neidig, Commissioner, Chris Kaufman, Assistant Commissioner and; 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 204 outstanding student-athletes with scholarships totaling \$510,000.

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

Biographies for this year's recipients are listed below:

Tate Cowan – Wawasee

Tate Cowan has been a three-sport athlete all four years as a Wawasee Warrior. She earned a varsity letter in basketball (2), golf (4), and tennis (3). Tate was a senior captain in all three sports. Off the playing field, Tate ranks first in her senior class of 186 students with a 4.16 GPA. She participates in Student Council, National Honor Society, DECA, the Science Academic Super Bowl, and is also editor of the yearbook. She is currently Vice President of her National Honor Society chapter, Student Body President and was Class President of her junior class. Tate also finds time to better her community by helping with youth basketball camps, tutoring fellow athletes and students, actively participating in community cleanup and upkeep, as well as volunteering with organizations like Special Olympics, Kosciusko Youth Leadership Association, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and Relay for Life. Tate hopes to attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall.

Abigail Fulton – Southwestern (Hanover)

At the top of her class of 88 students with a 4.67 GPA, **Abigail Fulton** of Southwestern High School is a four-year letterman in basketball, softball, and volleyball. She served as senior captain for basketball and softball. She was class president for her freshman, sophomore, and junior year and is currently Student Body President. She serves as Vice President for her National Honor Society chapter. She also takes the time to tutor fellow teammates and students in various subjects throughout the year. In her community, Abigail has helped build and renovate homes for those in need, learned to sew to provide masks for others, helped with vacation bible school at her church, helped engage youth about politics and civic literacy through the Mayor's Youth Council and the United Way, and volunteered her time with local youth basketball leagues. Abigail was even an assistant coach for their middle school's girls' basketball team as a junior. Abigail plans to attend Butler University in the upcoming year.

Aubrey Gearhart – Winamac

Nine-time varsity letterman **Aubrey Gearhart** of Winamac Community High School ranks second in her class of 67 students with a 4.18 GPA. She lettered four times in basketball and softball and served as senior captain for both teams. Aubrey also earned a varsity letter in volleyball her senior season. She earned All-Conference recognition in softball. Outside of her athletic achievements, she was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor Society, Athletic Leadership Council, the Conference Math Team, and the Sunshine Society. Aubrey also made time to make a difference in her community serving through her local church by volunteering at vacation bible school and providing meals for families in need, offering lawn care service to elderly members in the area, collecting toys and gifts for youth in need around Christmas time, raising money for Riley Children's Hospital, and giving back to youth sports in her community through mentoring and coaching. Aubrey will be attending Indiana Wesleyan University.

Kennedy Hallam – North Posey

North Posey student-athlete **Kennedy Hallam** earned a varsity letter in basketball and softball in all four years as a Viking, while also spending her time as a team manager for volleyball and football during her junior and senior year. She also played varsity soccer as a sophomore. Kennedy is dedicated in the classroom, ranking third in her class of 93 students with a 4.1 GPA. She was a four-year member of student council and Health Occupations Students of America. She also participated in Spanish Club, National Honor Society, and helped as a teacher aid. Kennedy also spent her time volunteering in the community, serving through the Edwards County Hope Center by distributing food and clothes to those in need, assisting at the Evansville Rescue Mission, and participating in various community outreach activities with her local church's youth group. She even made time to mentor youth through Big Brothers Big Sisters and serve as a volunteer coach in baseball and basketball youth leagues in her area. Kennedy has been accepted to Purdue University.

Drew Labhart – Perry Central

National Honor Society member and varsity baseball athlete **Drew Labhart** is currently third in his class of 86 students with a 3.95 GPA. Drew has been a varsity baseball athlete for three years and a varsity basketball athlete for two. He serves as a senior captain of the baseball team. Outside of NHS, Drew also is a member of Students Take Actions Not Drugs, Spanish Club, and Student Government, where he currently serves as Treasurer. He serves his community through his local church, participating in various community outreach events such as environmental cleanup and park renovation. He also helps run their annual community fair. Drew has been accepted to IUPUI and plans to attend in the fall.

Jake Martin – Northwestern

Senior **Jake Martin** sits atop his class of 126 students with a 4.63 GPA. Jake has been a varsity athlete in golf the past three years and in football the past two. He has been a member of the National German Honors Society, National Honor Society, Student Athlete Leadership Team, Student Council, Future Farmers of America, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He has participated in both the Howard County Science Fair and the East Central Indiana Regional Science Fair for multiple years. Jake placed first in the East Central Indiana Regional Science Fair and first in the Science Education Foundation Indiana State Science Fair as a sophomore. He has spent time volunteering by raising money for his community through the Salvation Army, cleaning up parks with Serve Together Kokomo, participating in Goodfellows Christmas voucher program, and volunteering in various roles at his local church. He is also a member of his local 4-H program. He spent his summers working for a home improvement and remodeling company. Jake plans to attend the University of Michigan next fall.

Kennedy Peggs – Tri

Three-sport athlete **Kennedy Peggs** of Tri High School earned a 4.02 GPA in her time as a Titan. She ranked fifth out of 67 students. In all, she earned 11 varsity letters in volleyball (4), softball (4), and basketball (3) and she served as senior captain for all three sports. Kennedy is also a varsity cheerleader. Her extracurricular activities include choir, National Honor Society, Student Council, Spanish Club, Business Professionals of Indiana, Health Occupations Students of America, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She is also a member of Tri's yearbook staff. She has volunteered her time as a youth basketball camp instructor and youth cheer camp instructor. She also has spent time volunteering with the Salvation Army and her local church in various roles. Kennedy has been accepted to Ball State University and will attend in the fall.

Bennett Schmitt – Jasper

Four-year varsity tennis athlete and two-year varsity diver **Bennett Schmitt** of Jasper High School is currently ranked second in his class of 269 students with a 4.6 GPA. Bennett qualified for the Diving State Championships this past season and, currently, is the tennis team captain. He also serves as National Honor Society President, Student Council Vice President and Co-President of the Riley Dance Marathon, which raises money for Riley Children's hospital. Bennett also spends his time as a peer tutor and as assistant diving coach for the Jasper Middle School Diving Team. In the community, he has helped gather and put together gifts and stockings for underprivileged youth in his community and served as a member of DuBois County WyldLife. He has also spent time working at a local ice cream parlor. Bennett hopes to attend Indiana University this fall.

William Staggs – South Knox

Senior **William Staggs** is a three-sport athlete at South Knox High School and a four-time letterman in each of cross country, track and field, and swimming. He has served as senior captain for all three sports. In the classroom, William ranks first out of 83 students with a 4.0 GPA. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Science Interact Team, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Spanish Club, and the Interact Club. He also has spent time volunteering in various roles at his local church. He also spent time working as lifeguard and swim instructor at a nearby pool. William plans to attend either Marian University of Indiana University.

Summer Stogsdill – Lebanon

Senior **Summer Stogsdill** is a three-sport athlete that has earned a 4.43 GPA during her time at Lebanon High School, which ranks fourth in her class of 228 students. She is a four-time varsity letterman in soccer, swimming, and track and field. Summer also participated in varsity cross country as a junior. She was a Track and Field State Qualifier in 2019 and has been named 1st-Team All-Conference at least once in all four sports she participated in. She was named captain of the soccer and swim teams as a senior. At school, Summer is a member of National Honor Society, Student Council, DECA, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and President of the Key Club. She spends time volunteering at the Humane Society of Boone County by administering medication to animals, cleaning cages and surrounding areas, and helping keep the dogs active through play and daily walks. She also helps teach youth at her local church. On the side, Summer has worked as a lifeguard and swim instructor at a near waterpark. She has been accepted to Murray State University and will attend this fall.

Deven Suhka – Culver Academies

Deven Suhka is a two-sport varsity athlete, competing in and serving as senior captain in football and baseball. Deven has earned a 3.95 at Culver Military Academies. Unlike the average high school student, Deven 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. Deven is currently serving as Infantry Battalion Operations Officer at Culver. Aside from what is expected at a military academy, Deven has taken time to participate in sports, Model UN, and Culver's conservation and environmental program, Green Life. He also has a part time job at a local hotel. Deven plans to attend Princeton University.

Megan Wagner – Carroll (Flora)

Carroll Cougar **Megan Wagner** is 10-time varsity letterman in cross country (4), basketball (4), and track and field (2). She has earned All-State honors in cross country and All-Conference honors in basketball. She also served as senior captain of the basketball team this past season. At school, she has served as National Honor Society Vice President, Senior Class Vice President, and participates in Student Council. She has earned a 4.15 GPA during her time at Carroll, which ranks first in her class of 73. Outside of the classroom, she participates in FFA and 4-H activities. She is currently Carroll FFA President, as well as Indiana FFA District V President. In the community, Megan has volunteered by providing food for youth in need with Hope for Hunger Food Bank, helping with Carroll County Community Center events, and by assisting in numerous food/toy/school supply drives in her area. Megan will be Attending Purdue University in the fall.

Noah Zahn – Huntington North

Huntington North's **Noah Zahn** is number one in his class of 316 students and currently has a 4.24 GPA. Noah is a four-time varsity letterman in tennis, as well as current senior captain. He also was a varsity golf and basketball athlete this year, earning team captain status for basketball. He has earned All-State recognition in tennis. At school, he participates in the Student Athlete Board, Student Council, Class Council, National Honor Society, Huntington Youth Leaders, and the Rotary Interact Club. In the community, he has mentored elementary youth and tutored peers in different subjects, volunteered at youth sports camps, participated in Special Olympics fundraisers, volunteered at his local animal shelter, set up playground equipment, participated and personally organized a food and clothing drive for those in need, and has volunteered in various roles at his church. Noah has also done lawn care in his surrounding neighborhoods on the side. Noah will be attending Notre Dame in the Fall.

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 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.