

IHSAA NEWS RELEASE



Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

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Cato Memorial Scholarships to be presented to 13 seniors **Student-Athletes to be recognized April 12 at Indianapolis Colts Complex**

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 2026 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, Musco Lighting, Eventlink, 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 Sunday, April 12, 2026.



This year's recipients of the 2026 IHSAA/C. Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarships are:

2026 IHSAA/C. Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarship Recipients

Laura Barco	Martinsville
Jordan Bunch	Delta
Sarah DePew	Garrett
Max Duttlinger	Kankakee Valley
Karter Gray	Shenandoah
McKenzie Hacker	New Palestine
Wijdan Mohammendain	Fort Wayne North Side
Katelyn Seibert	North Posey
Rex Speer	Bloomington North
Kenna Streeval	Edinburgh
Grier Swaim	Fishers
Sawyer Tippmann	Fort Wayne Snider
Ella Williams	Washington



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 24 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 100 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
- 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
- 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 326 outstanding student-athletes with scholarships totaling \$709,000.

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:

Laura Barco (Martinsville)

Three-sport student-athlete **Laura Barco** of Martinsville High School is an 11-time varsity letter winner, participating in Cross Country, Soccer, and Track & Field during her time as an Artesian. On the track, she holds Martinsville's school records in both the 1600m and 3200m. She has received All-Conference honors in Cross Country and Soccer, while also earning Academic All-State in all three of her sports. In the classroom, Barco ranks first in his senior class of 260 students with a weighted 4.65 GPA. She is a member of Martinsville's National Honor Society, Student Council, Student Athlete Leadership Team, and Key Club. Beyond athletics and academics, Laura is also an accomplished musician, earning ISSMA distinctions in piano and vocals. She also served as her church's full-time pianist and organist during her sophomore and junior years. Laura will attend Williams College in the Fall.

Jordan Bunch (Delta)

Delta High School senior **Jordan Bunch** ranks first in her class of 200 students, posting an 11.96 unweighted GPA. She earned 10 varsity letters, participating in Soccer and Swimming & Diving in each of her years as an Eagle. She also participated in Track & Field as a freshman and sophomore. Bunch served as a Varsity Team Captain in both Soccer and Swimming and has earned All-Conference and Academic All-Conference honors in both sports, while also earning All-District and All-State in Soccer. Jordan is a member of Delta's Best Buddies, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and National Honor Society. She also serves as President of Freshman Mentors and Group Leader of Sweets and Salvation, a club she helped create to serve and uplift the school through prayer and random acts of kindness. Bunch is active in her community, most notably through her church, where she serves as a Small Group Leader, Head of the Special Education Program, and Media Volunteer. She also was involved in the inception and implementation of The Community Basket, a food bank concept that provides hygiene items and cleaning supplies to her community. Jordan will attend Taylor University in the Fall.

Sarah DePew (Garrett)

Garrett High School's **Sarah DePew** is a three-sport student-athlete, earning four varsity letters in Basketball, Softball, and Volleyball. She served as a Varsity Team Captain and earned All-Area and All-Conference honors in all three sports. In the classroom, Sarah has maintained a 12.07 weighted GPA and ranks second in her senior class of 137 students. Her high GPA, strong test scores, and Dual Credit coursework earned her the Ivy Tech Student Leadership Award, as well as Rising Star of Indiana distinction. She serves as Secretary of Garrett's National Honor Society, Historian for the Student Council, and Secretary of her senior class. DePew also serves as Vice President of

Voices of Philanthropy, a club that supports community initiatives and local non-profits. She will attend Ball State University in the Fall.

Max Duttlinger (Kankakee Valley)

Kankakee Valley High School's **Max Duttlinger** ranks fourth in his class of 236 students, maintaining a 4.47 weighted GPA. He is a two-sport student-athlete, competing in Football and Track & Field in each of his four years as a Kougear, and has earned seven varsity letters (three in Football, four in Track & Field). Additionally, he served as a Varsity Team Captain in both sports and earned numerous Academic All-Conference and Academic All-State honors. Max is member of Kankakee Valley's Freshman Mentors and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He also serves as President of both Business Professionals of America and National Honor Society. Max has worked as a farmhand and livestock manager for his family farm, Duttlinger Farms Inc., for nine years. He's also active in 4-H and serves as President for the Walker 49ers 4-H Club. He will attend Purdue University in the Fall.

Karter Gray (Shenandoah)

Shenandoah High School senior **Karter Gray** is a three-sport student-athlete, earning four varsity letters each in Football and Track & Field and three varsity letters in Basketball. He served as a Varsity Team Captain in Football and Basketball and has received All-County and All-Conference honors for his play, along with multiple Academic All-State recognitions for his work in the classroom. Karter ranks first in his senior class of 106 students, posting a weighted GPA of 12.44. He is a member of Shenandoah's National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Class Office. He also serves as Yearbook Editor-in-Chief. In the community, Karter volunteers in community outreach projects through his church and has participated in several mission trips with TEAM Effort, an organization that travels the country helping with construction projects, community clean-up efforts, and other tasks that support impoverished communities. He will attend Indiana University Bloomington in the Fall.

McKenzie Hacker (New Palestine)

New Palestine High School senior **McKenzie Hacker** is a four-sport student-athlete, competing in Basketball (three varsity letters), Cross Country (two varsity letters), Soccer (three varsity letters), and Track & Field (four varsity letters) for the Dragons. She earned All-County and All-Conference recognition for her play, as well as numerous Academic All-State honors. In the classroom, McKenzie ranks first in her class of 304 students, maintaining a 4.3 weighted GPA. She is a member of New Palestine's Student Council, Dragon Athletic Leadership Board, and National Honor Society. Hacker also serves as Vice President of the Science National Honor Society and Treasurer of the Spanish Honor Society. Her community service work includes assisting with numerous youth basketball and soccer camps and clinics, helping with concessions at New Palestine athletic events, and serving as the Entertainment and Morale Coordinator for New Pal's Riley Dance Marathon. McKenzie will attend Butler University in the Fall.

Wijdan Mohammedain (Fort Wayne North Side)

North Side High School's **Wijan Mohammedain** ranks second in her class of 299 students, maintaining an unweighted 4.0 GPA. During her time as a Legend, she has participated in Cross Country, Tennis, Track & Field, and Volleyball. Wijan is a member of North Side's National Honor Society and the Student Athletics Association, where she helped reinvigorate school spirit and student engagement in North Side's extracurricular activities. She also serves as Yearbook Editor, attending numerous North Side events throughout the year to take photos, interview students, and write stories for the school's annual publications. Her community service work includes volunteering with the Universal Education Foundation, where she dedicates time each week to helping young Muslim students grow their faith. She has also organized events for food donations and packaging goods for those in need. Wijan will attend Indiana University Bloomington in the Fall.

Katelyn Seibert (North Posey)

Katelyn Seibert of North Posey High School ranks first in her class of 109 students, earning an unweighted 4.0 GPA. She is a three-sport student-athlete and an 11-time varsity letter winner, competing in Basketball, Cross Country, and Track & Field for the Vikings. Seibert serves as President of her senior class and President of North Posey's Business Professionals of America. She is also the Student Council Vice President, National Honor Society Treasurer, and a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Katelyn is active in 4-H and serves as President of the Rousing Rookies 4-H Club. Additionally, she is a Big Brothers Big Sister mentor, providing friendship and guidance to younger kids in her community. Katelyn will attend Hanover College in the Fall.

Rex Speer (Bloomington North)

Two-sport student-athlete **Rex Speer** of Bloomington North High School is an eight-time varsity letter winner, competing in Basketball and Golf in each of his years as a Cougar. He has served as a Varsity Team Captain for both sports and has earned All-Area recognition for his play. Speer ranks near the top of his class of 350 students, posting a 4.26 weighted GPA. He serves as President of North's Student Athletic Board, a group that works to boost school spirit and community outreach, and as President of the Cougar Leader Council, a club focused on easing the transition for incoming Freshman through orientation and weekly activities. Rex owns and operates his own lawn care and cleaning service and also works part-time at Cascades Golf Course, assisting in the Pro Shop and serving as an instructor for First Tee of Bloomington, the course's junior golf camp. Rex plans to attend Notre Dame in the Fall but has also applied to Villanova, Boston College, and Indiana University Bloomington.

Kenna Streeval (Edinburgh)

Edinburgh High School's **Kenna Streeval** ranks first in her senior class of 55 students, maintaining a 4.53 weighted GPA. She is a four-sport student-athlete and 12-time varsity letter winner, participating in Basketball, Softball, Track & Field, and Volleyball in each of her years as a Lancer. She has earned All-Conference recognition in all four sports, All-State honors in Softball, and holds Edinburgh's school record in the 100-meter dash. Kenna serves as President of her Senior Class and is a member of Edinburgh's National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Student Athletic Leadership Team. Her volunteer work includes assisting with youth basketball camps, mentoring young athletes, donating books to the district's elementary school through the Tri-Kappa sorority, and participating in several community food drives. She will attend Eastern Kentucky University in the Fall.

Grier Swaim (Fishers)

Fishers High School senior **Grier Swaim** ranks 13th in her class of 875 students, maintaining a 4.77 weighted GPA. She has participated in Basketball, Cross Country, and Track & Field for the Tigers and has earned Academic All-State recognition for her effort in the classroom. Swaim is a member of Fishers' Student Government and Student Athlete Leadership Team. She also has a leadership role in the Tiger Ambassadors Club, where she coordinates school tours for incoming eighth graders to help them get acclimated and creates service opportunities for students in the surrounding community through partnerships with local nonprofits. Grier also serves as Vice President of the IHSAA Student Advisory Committee, a group of 18 students representing schools throughout the state. Through the SAC, she assists with IHSAA State Finals events throughout the year and serves as an ambassador to student-athletes across Indiana. Her volunteer work is rooted in faith-based leadership. Most notably, she has volunteered countless hours with her church's kids ministry, where she guides young children in learning how to read and understand the Bible, fosters healthy discussions about faith and responsibility, and organizes weekly lessons and activities. Grier will attend Purdue University in the Fall.

Sawyer Tippmann (Fort Wayne Snider)

Sawyer Tippmann of Snider High School ranks first in his senior class of 450 students, maintaining a weighted 5.04 GPA. He is a three-time varsity letter winner in Football. He has served as Varsity Team Captain, received All-Conference honors for his play, and was a member of Snider's 2023 5A State Championship team. Sawyer earned numerous Academic All-State honors and was named a Colts Academic All-Star, an award given annually to 24 Indiana football players. He is a member of Snider's National Honor Society and Biomed Charity Council. Tippmann also serves as President of the IHSAA Student Advisory Committee, a group of 18 students representing schools throughout the state. Through the SAC, Sawyer assists with IHSAA State Finals events throughout the year and serves as an ambassador to student athletes across Indiana. His community service efforts include raising money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, organizing holiday gift drives and charity initiatives at Snider and the surrounding community, and advocating for and facilitating the growth Snider's Champions Together program. Sawyer will be attending the University of Notre Dame in the Fall.

Ella Williams (Washington)

Three-sport student-athlete **Ella Williams** of Washington High School is a 12-time varsity letter winner, participating in Basketball, Tennis, and Volleyball in each of her years as a Hatchet. She has served as a Varsity Team Captain in all three sports. Ella ranks first in her class of 196 students, maintaining a 4.42 weighted GPA. She serves as Senior Class President and is a member of Washington's Business Club. Williams also started Hatchet Gold, a mentorship program for incoming freshmen that pairs them with an upperclassman that can answer questions, provide advice, and help ease the transition into high school. Ella's volunteer work has focused on providing local youth and underprivileged students with school supplies, clothing, hygiene products, and other necessities. She will attend the University of Evansville 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 412-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 412 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.