National Football Foundation
and College Hall of Fame
Walter J. Zable/San Diego Chapter

52ND ANNUAL
AWARDS BANQUET

National Football Foundation
WALTER J. ZABLE SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Honoring
SCHOLAR-LEADER-ATHLETES

April 11, 2025
San Diego, California

PROGRAM - 6:30 PM

Welcome _____ John Nielsen, Board President

Guest Speaker - Legedu Naanee, played for Chargers 2007-2010, wide receiver
Master of Ceremonies - Paul Rudy, KUSI-TV Sports

RECOGNITION of SAN DIEGO HALL of FAMERS

Marcus Allen, University of Southern California, 1981
Lance Alworth, University of Arkansas, 1959-61
Bob Babich, Miami of Ohio, 1968
Stan Barnes, CAL, 1918-1921; US Navy, 1942-43; (San Diego High)
George Brown, San Diego State Teachers College, 1947
Don Coryell, Whittier College; Coach of San Diego State College, 1957-1972
Fred Dryer, San Diego State College, 1968
Mike Garrett, University of Southern California, 1965
Marshall Faulk, San Diego State University, 1991-1993
Lincoln Kennedy, University of Washington, 1989-1992; (Morse High)
Dr. Bill McColl, Stanford, 1952
John Robinson, Coach, University of Southern California, 1976-1982; UNLV, 1999-2004
Billy Ray Smith, University of Arkansas, 1979-82
LaDainian Tomlinson, Texas Christian University, 1997-2000
Cotton Warburton, University of Southern California, 1932-1934; (San Diego High)
Ed White, CAL, 1968
Ricky Williams, University of Texas, 1995-1998; (Patrick Henry High)
Walter J. Zable, College of William and Mary, 1937

PRESENTATION of AWARDS

SCHOLAR-LEADER-ATHLETE AWARDS
High Schools and Colleges

WILLIE JONES MOST INSPIRATIONAL AWARD
SirDarius Autry

OUTSTANDING OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD
John Downing

PRESIDENT'S AWARD
Stuart Lourie

COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD
Tom Carroll

MERITORIOUS COACH AWARD
Rick Jackson

WALTER J. ZABLE PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION & COLLEGE HALL OF FAME

WALTER J. ZABLE/SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

We are justifiably proud of the genuine sportsmanship and integrity exhibited in high school and college football. An emotionally integrated force, football provides the common denominator and rallying ground for students, faculty, alumni and friends of our great American schools,colleges and universities. To no small degree, football provides a unique training field for leadership in our competitive society. We earnestly strive to support educators in a desire to maintain the popularity of football as the finest and most testing game for developing skills of competition. Weighing equally with football ability in selection of the Scholar Leader Athlete awards, are scholastic excellence and community leadership. Tonight's Annual Banquet event is to honor outstanding Scholar-Leader-Athlete high school and college players of the Greater San Diego area selected by the Awards Committee of this chapter.

SCHOLAR–LEADER–ATHLETE SELECTION

The 2023-24 National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame Scholar Athletes were selected from a group of outstanding nominees from San Diego area high schools, colleges and universities. The schools were contacted, and recommendations from principals and football coaches, along with grade transcripts, were considered. A scholastic average of 3.0 or better is one of the requirements for consideration of this top award. The student must have also received All League honors as a football player. Citizenship on and off the campus is a third consideration in the selection process.

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Natalia Mendez

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WALTER J. ZABLE



Walter J. Zable, scholar-leader-athlete, was the founder and chief executive officer of San Diego-based Cubic Corporation, one of the nation's largest and most successful electronics firms.

He graduated from the College of William & Mary and was an honorable mention All-American football player as well as first-team All-South Atlantic Conference low-hurdle champion.

He lettered in football, baseball and track. Zable was drafted to play professional football with the New York Giants, but war-related duties did not allow him to play.

He received his master's degree in physics and mathematics from the University of Florida. William & Mary conferred upon him an honorary doctor of law degree.

Zable's football honors include selection to the Sports Illustrated Silver Anniversary Team and induction into the William & Mary Hall of Fame. He was the first recipient of the Distinguished American Award from this chapter of the National Football Foundation. He was enshrined in the College Football Hall of Fame and was presented with the Foundation's highest recognition for athletic and humanitarian excellence – the Gold Medal Award. He also received the NCAA's most prestigious award, the Teddy Roosevelt Award. In 1985, he was named honorary chairman of the Holiday Bowl in San Diego, California.

His leadership honors include San Diego Magazine's "Industrialist of the Year," National Management Association's Golden Knight Award, City of Hope's "Man of the Year," and San Diego Press Club's "Headliner of the Year." In July 1992, Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder appointed him to a four-year term on the William & Mary Board of Visitors. In February 1992, he was named "Community Champion of the Year" by the San Diego Hall of Champions. In 1995, the San Diego Press Club selected him as a Headliner in Sports and Business.

Zable was one of the founders of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame San Diego chapter that was established in 1971 and has been one of its strongest supporters. He was a member of the national organization's Board of Directors.

Unfortunately, we lost Zable in June of 2012. He was 97 years old.

2025 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



Elijah Bechtel
San Marcos High

Elijah Betchel is a two-sport athlete for the Knights, a four-time letterman in Football, and a three-time letterman in Baseball. Elijah is known as a hard hitting linebacker for San Marcos; he racked up 96 tackles in his senior season, with 10 of those happening in the opponent's backfield. Betchel was named to the 2024 First-Team All Palomar League Defense, and to the 2024 All-CIF Second-Team Defense for his play at linebacker. In the classroom: Elijah has a 4.2 GPA, he achieved Scholar Athlete Honors in 2022 & 2023, and was named to the Silver Honor Roll in 2024. Betchel is also the Sports Director for San Marcos's ASB. Elijah will be attending the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he will be studying Pre-Medicine.



Charlie Berkley
St. Augustine High

Charlie Berkley is a two-sport athlete for the Saintsmen. He has lettered all four of his years in Football, along with being a three-year letterman in Track & Field. Charlie was one of the best two-way stars on the Football field in his senior season as he captained the Saintsmen to a CIFSDS Title. He racked up 85 total tackles playing linebacker for Saints, while also adding 775 total yards and 3 touchdowns at running back and wide receiver. He was named to the First Team All-Western League squad for a second time in his senior year. In the classroom, Berkley has a 3.8 GPA, and plans on studying Electrical Engineering in college. He enjoys fishing, surfing, and video editing in his free time.

2025 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



Matthew Bresko
University City High

Matthew Bresko is a three-sport athlete at University City High School; a three-year letterman in Football, Matthew also earned letters in Swimming and Track & Field. On the Football field, Bresko Captained University City to a (10-2) record in 2024, as he starred as a two-way player for the Centurions. Matthew racked up 75 tackles at linebacker and 400 yards and 2 touchdowns at wide receiver in his senior season. Matthew received 2024 Second Team All-Eastern League honors for his play at linebacker for the Centurions. Bresko excels off the field as well, in the classroom he has a 4.02 GPA. During his free time, Matthew likes to remain active, "I love being outdoors and playing sports. I spend a lot of time working out, playing pickup basketball, fishing, skiing, skating, going to the beach, all while being with friends." Bresko plans to continue playing Football at the collegiate level, as he is set to attend San Diego Mesa College. Matthew intends on majoring in Biology.



Joseph Brinkman
Otay Ranch High

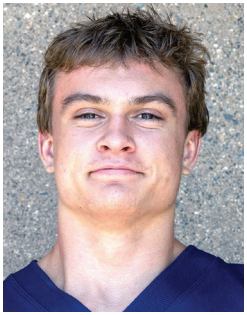
Joseph Brinkman is a two-year letterman in Football at Otay Ranch. In his senior season, Joseph was a key contributor to a Mustang's defense that led San Diego County in sacks and tackles for loss; with Brinkman leading his team in sacks with 11.0, the 7th highest total in San Diego County. Joseph's ferociousness as a pass-rusher would earn him First-Team All Metro-Mesa Conference Defense honors in 2024, while also earning him Otay Ranch's Team MVP and Fall Sports Player of the Year awards. Brinkman's 4.10 GPA has earned him a place on the Honor Roll for all four of his years at Otay Ranch High School. Joseph is still undecided on where he will attend college, but he plans on majoring in Electrical Engineering.

2025 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



Wyatt Casillas
Fallbrook High

Wyatt Casillas is a two-sport athlete for the Warriors of Fallbrook High School, earning three letters in Football, and four letters in Track & Field. Wyatt Captained the Football Team at Fallbrook, and not only did he lead the team while charging out onto the field, but he led in between the white lines as well; as his 45 total tackles at linebacker earned him First-Team All Palomar League Defense honors in his senior season. Wyatt also tallied over 200 rushing yards and 3 touchdowns on the offensive side of the ball for the Warriors as well. In the classroom, Casillias's 3.96 GPA has placed him on the Principal's Honor Roll all four of his years at Fallbrook. Wyatt is also involved in Fallbrook's FFA and Superintendent's student council. Casillas is still undecided about what he will study in college, but he will continue his education at Palomar College.



Tanner Doyle
La Costa Canyon High

Tanner Doyle was one of the best linebackers in San Diego County in 2024, and was a major part in the success of the Mavericks as they won the Avocado League with an impressive undefeated record of (5-0). Tanner led the La Costa Canyon defense with 100 total tackles and 2 interceptions, and he was honored with selections to the All-Avocado League First Team, All-San Diego Section First Team. Doyle is a two-sport athlete, lettering twice in Football and three-times in Wrestling. His ferociousness at linebacker stems from his Wrestling background, as he is a CIF Wrestling Champion and a 2x All-Avocado League Wrestling selection. In the classroom, Tanner has a 4.0 GPA and is set to attend San Jose State University, as he pursues a degree in Kinesiology.

2025 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



Isaac Grassi
La Jolla Country Day

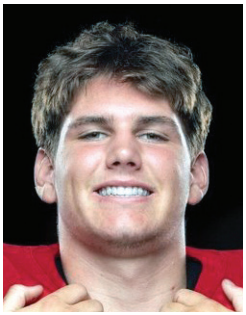
Isaac Grassi is a two-sport athlete for the Torreys of La Jolla Country Day. A four-year letterman in Football, Isaac also played Lacrosse for the Torreys as well. Grassi is a hard-nosed linebacker who has led La Jolla Country Day in tackles each of the last two seasons, and has racked up 252 total tackles and 19 tackles for loss in his high school career. He has been named to the All-Coastal League Defense team three times, and even claimed All-CIF honors in 2023. In the classroom, Grassi is a Cum Laude Inductee with a 4.31 GPA. Isaac is also involved in numerous clubs including the Model United Nations, and offers his time as a Migrant Shelter Volunteer and Pee Wee Football Coach. Grassi plans to attend Tufts University, with the intent to major in Political Science.



Hank Hansen
La Jolla High

Hank Hansen is an incredible two-sport athlete for the Vikings of La Jolla High School. Hank is a four-year letterman in both Football & Baseball. While Hank is a career .308 hitter on the baseball diamond, he has also racked up over 1,500 yards & 21 touchdowns on the football field. Hank is a 2x All-Eastern League selection in Football, as well as a 3x All-League selection in Baseball. Hansen has been selected as a Captain of both the Football & Baseball teams at La Jolla as well. In the classroom, Hank has a 4.35 GPA and has been on the Honor Roll over all of his years at La Jolla. Hansen has received 7 CIF Academic Awards across Football and Baseball. Hank is still undecided on where he will attend college, but he plans on pursuing a degree in Economics.

2025 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



Brody Harriff
Cathedral Catholic High

Brody Harriff is a three-sport athlete at Cathedral Catholic, a two-year letterman in Football, a three-year letterman in Rugby, and also gained a letter in Track & Field. Harriff was a monster on the defensive line for the Dons in 2024, as he tallied 42 total tackles, 3 sacks, and 3 hurries as a key member of Cathedral Catholic's Open Division runner-up squad. He earned Second Team All-CIF Defense and First Team All-Western League Defense honors for his play at defensive tackle in 2024, and was also named the Big Man of the Year and Weightlifter of the Year by his fellow Dons teammates and coaches. In the classroom, Brody has a 4.24 GPA, and he has tallied up 11 Scholar Athlete Awards across his time playing Football, Rugby, Track & Field, and Volleyball. Harriff has also been named to the City Conference All-Academic Team for Football these last two seasons. He plans on studying Sports Media & Communications at Drake University.



Philip Huynh
Crawford High

Philip Huynh is a four-sport athlete for the Colts, and he has earned 12 varsity letters in his four years at Crawford High School. He's a two-time letterman in Football, starring as the team's starting Quarterback; he's a four-time letterman in both Wrestling & Badminton; and he's also a two-time letterman in Track & Field. In his two seasons as Crawford's starting quarterback, Huynh threw for 2,302 yards & 24 touchdowns, earning him two All-City League Offense honors. In the classroom: Philip has a 4.40 GPA, he's made the Honor Roll each of his years at Crawford, he is a 2x Scholar Athlete, and has been a part of Crawford's ASB for all four of his years, currently serving as the ASb Athletic Commissioner. Huynh will be staying home for college, as he plans on attending UC San Diego to pursue a degree in Biology.

2025 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



Aden Jackson
Lincoln High

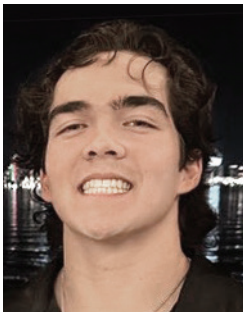
Aden Jackson is an undeniable baller on the field and an exemplary student off the field. Jackson is a two-sport athlete, a four-year letterman in both Football and Track & Field. His play at running back for the Hornets was a key factor to Lincoln winning the CIFSDS Open Division Title before going on to win a CIF State Title. Aden tallied 1,670 total yards and 22 total touchdowns in his senior season, including a standout performance against Los Alamitos where he rushed for 256 yards and 2 touchdowns. He was honored as a Finalist for the 2024 PPR Silver Pigskin Trophy, is a 2x First Team All-Western League selection, and was selected to the MaxPreps First Team All-San Diego Section. In the classroom, Aden has a 4.33 GPA, has been on the Honor Roll all four of his years at Lincoln High School, and is a 2x First Team CIF Academic selection. Jackson will play Football at the collegiate level, as he is set to attend UC Davis. He intends to pursue a degree in Biology.



Ryan Jackson
Madison High

Ryan Jackson is a three-sport athlete, and has earned twelve varsity letters over his time at Madison High School. Ryan has played on the Varsity Football, Baseball, and Basketball teams since he was a freshman at Madison. Jackson played both wide receiver and quarterback in his senior season for the Warhawks, and named to the First Team All-Western League team for his outstanding play, and named Madison's Team MVP. Ryan was presented with the Dr. Pepper Most Inspirational Player of the Year award at the 2024 Holiday Bowl, for the way he inspired his teammates and coaches. In the classroom, Jackson's 4.48 GPA has placed him on the Principal's Honor Roll all four of his years at Madison, and he was honored with a CIF All-Academic selection. Ryan will be staying home for college, as he is set to attend San Diego State University, with plans of studying Criminal Justice. Jackson says his goal is to one day become an FBI Agent.

2025 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



Brady Joralemon
El Capitan High

Brady Joralemon is a three-sport athlete for the Vaqueros at El Capitan High School, lettering twice in Football, once in Volleyball, and once in Lacrosse. In Football, Brady was the main running back for a CIFSDS Title winning Vaqueros team in 2024. He tallied over 900 total yards and led El Capitan in scoring with 12 total touchdowns. Joralemon was named to the First Team All-Grossmont-Valley League team for his play at running back. In the classroom, Brady's 4.535 GPA has placed him on the Principal's Honor Roll all four of his years at El Capitan. In his junior year, Joralemon won the CTE Construction Champion Award. He is set to attend Claremont Mckenna College, where he will pursue a degree in Economics and Finance.



Luis Mejia Lomeli
Montgomery High

Luis Mejia Lomeli, a three-sport athlete for the Aztecs, earning 3 letters in Football, 3 letters in Wrestling, and 3 letters in Track & Field. On the football field, Luis is regarded as one of the best offensive lineman in San Diego, and played a key role towards Montgomery winning the Metro-South Bay League Title in 2024. Mejia Lomeli was named to the Second-Team All-Metro-South Bay League Offense team, and honored as the Fall Student Athlete of the Year. His success in the trenches comes from time on the Wrestling team at Montgomery, where Luis is the Metro Conference Wrestling Champion, and won the Kai Ateslap Memorial Tournament Outstanding Upper Weight Wrestler and Champion award, along with honors to the First-Team All-League Wrestling team. Mejia Lomeli's 4.1 GPA placed him on the Honor Roll all four years at Montgomery, and earned him the 2024 AP Scholar Award. Luis plans to attend UC San Diego, studying Bio-Chemistry.

2025 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



Eugene Rice
Lincoln High

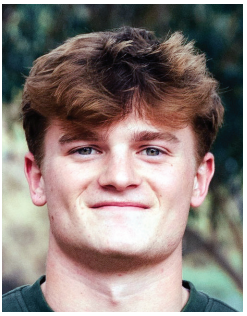
Eugene Rice is a dedicated student-athlete at Lincoln High School, excelling both academically and athletically. With an impressive 4.19 GPA, Eugene balances rigorous coursework with his role on the football team's Defensive Line. His performance on the field earned him 2024 1st Team CIF Defense and 2024 1st Team Western League Defense honors. Off the field, Eugene is a committed leader, actively involved in student government and community service, embodying the values of hard work, leadership, and service.



Ricardo Rojas
Bonita Vista High

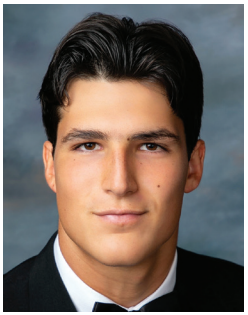
Ricardo Rojas III is a two-time letter winner in Football at Bonita Vista High School, and was the star kicker and punter for the Barons the past two seasons. Ricardo was one of the best kickers in San Diego County in 2024; his 8 made field goals were tied for the most by any kicker in San Diego, he made a 52 yarder which was the longest made field goal in San Diego this season, and his 46 points this season rank 14th best among kickers in the County. Rojas set three school records while kicking for the Barons: Longest Field Goal, Most Career Field Goals, and Most Field Goals in a Season. In the classroom: Ricardo has a 4.50 GPA, and has made the Principal's Honor Roll all four years at Bonita Vista. He will be graduating with honors, and while he has yet to decide where he will be attending college, he is committed to a degree in Chemistry.

2025 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



William Schmitz
Eastlake High

William Schmitz is a two-sport athlete with the Eastlake Titans, earning three letters in Football, and two letters in Baseball. On the football field, William is probably the most underrated running back in San Diego. He was everything for the Titans, rushing for 998 yards and 8 touchdowns in his senior season, while also collecting 23 tackles and 3 pass break-ups on the defensive side of the ball at safety. Over his three seasons of playing varsity football, Schmitz rushed for 2,117 yards and 13 touchdowns, and was named to the First Team All-Metro Mesa League Offense Teams in 2022, 2023, and 2024. In the classroom, William's 4.50 GPA has placed him on the Principal's Honor Roll all four of his years at Eastlake, and has earned him the title of Scholar Athlete for three straight years. William will be staying home for college, as he is set to attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, with the intent to study Computer Engineering.



Ryan Stadtherr
Scripps Ranch High

Ryan Stadtherr is a three-sport athlete, a four-year letterman in Football, a four-year letterman in Track & Field, and a three-year letterman in Wrestling. Stadtherr was one of the best two-way Football stars in San Diego in 2024. Ryan led the Falcons in touchdowns, yards, and tackles on their way to an Eastern League Title. Stadtherr was also a part of the Falcons State Title winning team in 2021. His Football resume includes: 2x Scripps Ranch Team MVP, 2024 Eastern League Offensive Player of the Year, 3x All-Eastern League Honors, 2024 All-CIF Honors,and a 2024 PPR Two-Way Player of the Year Nominee. In the classroom, Ryan has a 4.71 GPA, he was named an AP Scholar in 2024, and he has operated as Class President for the past two years. Stadtherr is still undecided on where he will attend college, but he plans on studying Aerospace Engineering for his major.

2025 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



Jett Thomas
La Jolla High

Jett Thomas is one of the greatest offensive lineman to ever play in San Diego. Thomas is a four-year letterman in Football and he also lettered in Track & Field during his sophomore year. Thomas is a human wall when he's in between the white lines, as he is one of the few players to have never allowed a sack in his varsity career. Jett won the 2024 PPR Iron Hog award for being the county's best lineman, he is a 2x First Team All-CIF Offense selection, a 3x First Team All-Eastern League Offense selection, and a Cal-High First Team All-State Offense selection. Jett was also invited in 2024 to participate in the Army Bowl. In the classroom, Thomas has a 3.98 GPA, and has been honored as a part of the San Diego City Conference All-Academic Team the last two seasons. Jett will stay home for college, as he will play football for the Aztecs at San Diego State University; he plans to pursue a degree in Business Real Estate.



James Treichel
Madison High

James Treichel is a two-sport athlete for the Warhawks, a three-time letterman in Football and two-time letterman in Wrestling. In a Western League that is loaded with talent, James is one of the best linebackers around; in 2024 he was selected to the First-Team for the All-Western League Defense honors. In the classroom, Treichel is the very definition of a scholar athlete, as his 4.5 GPA has placed him on the Honor Roll at Madison since 2021. James is involved with numerous clubs on campus: he is the Captain of the Aspen Challenge Team at Madison that won a trip to Colorado for their efforts in reducing the consumption of single-use plastics, he is also a member of the Circle of Friends Club, Paddle for Peace, CSF, Broadcast Club, and ASB. Treichel will be staying home for College, as he is set to study Mechanical Engineering at San Diego State University.

2025 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



Parker Vance
Granite Hills High

Not only is Parker Vance a two-sport athlete at Granite Hills, but he is one of the better two-sport athletes San Diego has produced in recent years. A three-time letterman in Football, and a four-time letterman in Baseball, Parker has quite the resume to go along with his seven varsity letters. In Football, he was a part of Granite Hills's first ever CIFSDS Title winning team in 2022, who then eventually went on to win a CIF State Title; in 2023, Vance played a key role on the Eagles team that won the CIFSDS Open Championship over Lincoln; and finally in 2024, he helped lead Granite's defense to another CIFSDS Title. Vance was named the Grossmont Hills League Defensive Player of the Year, First Team All-CIF, and Second Team All-State in 2024 for his ball-hawking play safety. Vance has committed to playing Football at the next level at Southern Utah University. His 3.80 GPA has earned him All-Academic honors in 2022, 2023, and 2024.



Luke Westfall
Cathedral Catholic High

In an extremely talented defensive line group for the Dons, Luke Westfall is the top dog among them. A ferocious pass rusher, Luke led Cathedral Catholic in sacks (7.5), hurries (12), and tackles for loss (18). Westfall played a huge role in Cathedral Catholic reaching the Open Division Championship Game in 2024. Luke is a two-sport athlete, a four-year letterman in Football, and a three-year letterman in Rugby. Westfall has received All-Western League honors three times, All-CIF Honors in his senior season, and he was nominated at the 2024 PPR Gala for both the Iron Hog and Defensive Player of the Year awards. In the classroom, Luke has a 3.85 GPA, and has been honored as an Athletic Scholar each of his four years at Cathedral Catholic. Westfall will continue playing Football at the next level, as he has committed to play at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where he will major in Construction Management.

2025 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



Kevin White
West Hills High

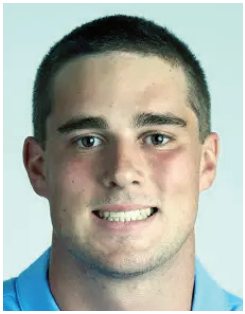
Kevin White is a two-sport athlete for the Wolf Pack, lettering twice in Football and three-times in Lacrosse over his time at West Hills. In between the white lines, Kevin is known to be a stout defender in both sports; in 2024 he achieved First-Team All-Grossmont League Defense honors for his play at outside linebacker, and Second-Team All-Grossmont League Defense honors in Lacrosse. White also captained both squads for the Wolf Pack, and received the status of Scholar Athlete Captain in 2024 for having the highest GPA on his team (4.64), a team that also had the highest average GPA in the Grossmont Conference. Kevin is still undecided where he will be attending college, but he plans to major in Business. From 2022-2023, White was a member of the "Best Buddies" program, which helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities form meaningful connections in the community that allow them to shine.



Cooper Woodhall
Hoover High

Cooper Woodhall is a two-sport athlete at Hoover High School, earning two letters in both Football and Track & Field for the Cardinals. On the football field, Cooper is a two-way star for Hoover, accounting for over 500 yards and 6 touchdowns at wide receiver in his senior season, and was named the 2024 Defensive Player of the Year in the Central Conference, to go along with his First-Team All-Central Conference Defense honors for his play at safety. His 3.7 GPA has earned Woodhall Scholar Athlete honors all four of his years at Hoover. Cooper is a part of the 11 Meals Mission, which provides food for the needy in downtown San Diego. Woodhall will pursue an Engineering Degree at Bemidji State University.

2025 UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR–LEADER–ATHLETES



Evans Bowling
University of San Diego

Evans Bowling is a four-year starter for the Toreros at offensive tackle. In 2024, Evans was named USD's Most Outstanding Lineman, and he earned a spot on the Pioneer Football League's Second-Team All-Conference for his work in the trenches. In 2021, Evans was a key part of USD's team that won the Pioneer League regular-season title. Bowling is a Real Estate Graduate who is currently in leadership studies grad school. Bowling is also a part of the Real Estate Society and the SAAC at USD.

WILLIE JONES – IN MEMORIAM



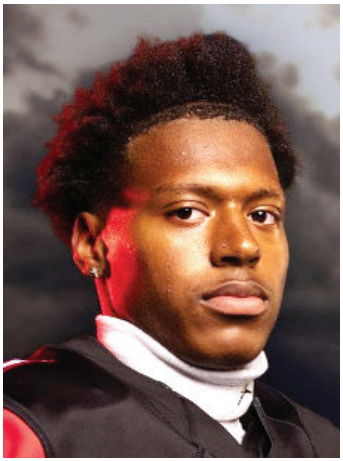
In June 1994, Willie Jones had everything going for him. He was young. handsome, intelligent and had been awarded a four-year scholarship to Cornell University. Then, on the terrible, tragic night of June 17, a sudden act of violence ended those dreams and the promise he offered not only to us, but to the world he would have served.

We, at the Walter J. Zable/San Diego Chapter of the National Football Foundation, vowed that Willie would not be forgotten. We could think of no more fitting, nor more deserved honor, than to name our Most Inspirational Player Award in his memory. We hope that by reminding ourselves of our loss, we will be inspired to overcome with courage and the adversity we face in our own lives. At the same time, we hope his memory will inspire us to the kind of excellence he strived to attain.

Willie Jones was 18 years old when he was taken from us. He had a smile as big as all outdoors. Everyone who met him, loved him. He was a graduate with a 3.97 grade point average. He was the student council president, captain of Lincoln High's wrestling team, and his dream was to become a doctor and open clinics to serve the San Diego Community.

His mother, Rosetta Jones, passed away in June of 2020. She was always in attendance at the NFF Awards Banquet and she most enjoyed meeting the recipients and their families. The Jones family is extremely proud that the chapter has named its Most Inspirational Player Award after their son. Rosetta's husband, Willie Jones, is present with us this evening to present the award.

2025 WILLIE JONES MOST INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER



SirDarius Autry
Hoover High

The greatest running back to ever play at Hoover High School, and one of the greatest running backs to ever grace a high school field in San Diego. SirDarius Autry is a two-sport athlete, lettering all four of his years in Football, and lettering three times in Track & Field. A prolific runner, SirDarius was one for the record books for both Hoover and San Diego County: 4x All-Central League, 2x Central League Offensive Player of the Year, 2x All-CIF, 3x All-State, 3x Hoover Athlete of the Year, and a PPR Silver Pigskin Finalist. Autry holds the Hoover school records for: Most Touchdowns in a Season with 32, Most Yards in a Season with 2,224, Most Career Touchdowns with 71, and Most Career Yards with 5,843. He ranks 5th all-time in Career Rushing Yards in San Diego, and 13th all-time in Career Rushing Touchdowns. His impact at Hoover led the Cardinals to their first Central League Title in 2024, and their first League Title in 10 years. SirDarius has committed to playing Football at the next level with San Jose State University, where he will study Business.

2025 SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETE NOMINEES

The Walter J. Zable/San Diego chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame salutes the following prep athletes who excelled in the classroom as well as on the football field and therefore qualified to be nominated for the Scholar-Leader-Athlete Award

High School Nominees

City

Frank Pizarro ..... Morse
Jayden Wade ..... San Diego

Coastal

Zach Dorros ..... La Jolla Country Day
Luke Givens ..... La Jolla Country Day

Eastern

Dreyden Garner ..... University City
Ryan Kestler ..... La Jolla

Grossmont Valley

Marlon Ames ..... El Capitan
Abdelrhman Boshara ..... El Cajon Valley
Alex Villanueva ..... Monte Vista
Kevin White ..... West Hills

Imperial Valley

Jared Martin ..... Central Union

Manzanita

Angel Garcia ..... Borrego Springs

2025 SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETE NOMINEES

Mesa

Joey Brinkman ..... Otay Ranch
Prince John Dumaran ..... Otay Ranch
Diego Martinez ..... Otay Ranch
Johnnie Welborne ..... Otay Ranch

Metro-Mesa

AydenAlicea-Acosta ..... Chula Vista

Metro-Pacific

Vincent Aborqui ..... Castle Park
Nery Gomez ..... Southwest (SD)
Christian Lucas ..... Mar Vista
Dillan Villarreal ..... Castle Park

Metro-South Bay

Aidan Cena ..... Olympian
Zaryan Crews ..... Sweetwater
Juan Matuz ..... Hilltop

Palomar

Jase Nixr ..... San Marcos
Brady Pohl ..... San Marcos
Caleb Reese ..... San Marcos

Sunset

JD Class ..... Maranatha Christian
Ashton St Jean ..... The Rock Academy

Western

Wilford Anderson ..... St. Augustine

IN SUPPORT OF EXCELLENCE

The young men honored here tonight exemplify the highest caliber of America's youth. Molding of these men and those who follow them, is the responsibility of many. A vital link in the development of this nation's young people are the men and women who teach them. Tonight, as we recognize these Scholar-Leader-Athletes, we also honor their parents, teachers, coaches, administrators and schools.

HIGH SCHOOL	COACH	PRINCIPAL	LEAGUE
Bonita Vista	Jay Hernandez	Lee Romero	Metro Mesa
Cathedral Catholic	Sean Doyle	Marlena Conroy	Western
Crawford	Matt Marquez	Dr. Reashon Villery	City
Eastlake	Jose Mendoza	Dianne Huslin	Metro - Mesa
El Capitan	Ron Burner	Scott Goergens	Grossmont Valley
Fallbrook	Ross Johnson	Lauren Jones	Palomar
Granite Hills	Kellan Cobbs	Eric Jesperson	Grossmont Hills
Hoover	Will Gray	Mrs. Barcelo-Carrillo	Central
La Costa Canyon	Sean Sovacool	Justin Conn	Avocado
La Jolla	Tyler Roach	Chuck Podhorsky	Eastern
La Jolla Country Day	Tyler Hales	Jeff Terwin	Coastal
Lincoln	David Dunn	Stephanie Brown	Western
Madison	Rick Jackson	Frederick Hilgers	Western
Montgomery	Freddy Dunkle	Louie Zumstein	Metro South Bay
Otay Ranch	Brad Burton	Julio Alcala	Metro Mesa
San Marcos	Tom Carroll	Christina Wilde	Palomar
Scripps Ranch	Marlon Gardinera	Matthew Lawson	Eastern
St. Augustine	Ron Caragher	James Horne	Western
West Hills	Casey Ash	April Baker	Grossmont Valley
University City	Paul Lawrence	Mike Paredes	Eastern

COLLEGES	COACH	PRESIDENT	CONFERENCE
University of San Diego	Brandon Moore	James T. Harris, DEd, President	Pioneer

2025 OUTSTANDING FOOTBALL OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR



John Downing

John Downing began his officiating career in 1986 in Western Pennsylvania and has since dedicated nearly four decades to the game across multiple states and levels. From youth and high school games to Junior College, NAIA, and NCAA Division III, II, and FCS football, John has earned a reputation for professionalism and integrity. He has also worked practices for the San Diego Chargers, Dallas Cowboys, and Miami Dolphins, reflecting the high level of trust placed in his officiating expertise.

Since joining the San Diego County Football Officials Association in 1989, John has been a driving force in the local officiating community, serving as Crew Chief, Instructor, Board Member, and President. His involvement extends across numerous collegiate associations, and his resume includes officiating roles in countless CIF playoff games, regional and state finals, Junior College bowl games, the NAIA National Championship, the NCAA Division II Semifinal, and the NCAA Division III Championship—better known as the Alonzo Stagg Bowl.

A respected leader on and off the field, John lives in San Diego with his wife, Linda, and their sons, Luke and PJ. The National Football Foundation proudly honors John Downing as the 2024 High School Football Official of the Year, celebrating his outstanding contributions to the game and the example he sets for future generations of officials.

2025 PRESIDENT'S AWARD



Stuart Lourie

Born and raised on Long Island, New York, Stuart Lourie has lived a life defined by service, scholarship, and a deep passion for the game—even without ever playing a down of high school or college football. A proud graduate of Cornell University's Class of 1969, he went on to serve six years in the United States Army Reserve. His lifelong commitment to education and leadership was later recognized with an Honorary Degree from California International Business University.

A dedicated mentor, Stuart spent years volunteering with Reality Changers, a transformative program that helps inner-city youth find a path to college. His impact extended beyond the classroom, as he found another calling with the National Football Foundation. Since joining the NFF board in 2014, he has become one of its most devoted and respected members.

Affectionately known among his peers as "The Historian," Stuart has become the go-to authority on the legacy of NFF award winners, bringing unmatched knowledge, reverence, and storytelling to each ceremony. His love for the game is as pure as it is passionate—perhaps best embodied in his fondness for the storied Cathedral vs. St. Augustine rivalry, known as the Holy Bowl, which he proudly covered for seven straight years.

In honoring Stuart Lourie with the President's Award, the National Football Foundation celebrates not only his unwavering commitment to the organization, but also the lasting impact of a man who has elevated the game through heart, history, and service.

2025 COACH OF THE YEAR



Tom Carroll
San Marcos High School

Tom Carroll recently completed his 17th season in high school football, marking his third year as the Head Coach at San Marcos High School. His journey with the Knights began over a decade ago, serving as the Defensive Backs Coach from 2012 to 2015 and then as Defensive Coordinator from 2016 to 2018. In addition to his time at San Marcos, he has brought his defensive expertise to several programs across San Diego County, including stints at Carlsbad High School (2021), Orange Glen High School (2011), and Oceanside High School, where he helped lead the team to five CIF championships between 2006 and 2010.

Coach Carroll is known not only for his football acumen but for the values he instills in his players—discipline, resilience, and teamwork. His leadership has helped shape a culture of excellence both on and off the field, earning the respect of his peers, players, and the broader football community. His ability to develop talent and foster unity has made a lasting impact everywhere he's coached.

With heartfelt gratitude, Coach Carroll thanks God for the opportunity to work with such incredible student-athletes and a dedicated coaching staff. He offers special appreciation to his wife, Rosio, for her unwavering support, and to his children, Mary, JT, and Sammy, for their love and patience. He also extends sincere thanks to the San Marcos High School administration and the entire Knight Football Family for trusting him to lead the program with passion and purpose.

2025 MERITORIOUS COACH AWARD



Rick Jackson
Madison High School

Rick Jackson has been a cornerstone of Madison athletics since 2000, the same year he married his wife, Kim. Together, they've built a family rooted in sports and community, raising two sons, Jake (20) and Ryan (18), both collegiate baseball players.

Rick began his Madison journey as a teacher but quickly found his calling on the sidelines. He took over as Head Track Coach and led the program for 17 years, capturing an impressive 11 league championships across both the boys' and girls' teams. He also served a stint as Head Basketball Coach before stepping into his most enduring role: Head Football Coach in 2004.

Over 21 seasons at the helm, Rick transformed Madison Football into a powerhouse, earning 11 league championships, 3 CIF titles, and 2 State Championships. His teams posted a remarkable 173-71-1 record, a testament to his leadership and vision. Yet for Rick, the true reward lies beyond the wins—it's the lifelong relationships forged with players, staff, officials, and families that he holds most dear.

Since 2006, Rick has also served as Madison's Athletic Director, where his passion for sports continues to fuel the growth of all athletic programs on campus. As he continues in that role, he looks forward to supporting Madison's next generation of student-athletes while enjoying more time with Kim and traveling to watch Jake and Ryan chase their own dreams on the diamond.

The Walter J. Zable/San Diego Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame recognizes and thanks the following individuals and organizations in our 2025 banquet.

SPECIAL THANKS

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WALTER J. ZABLE SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

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