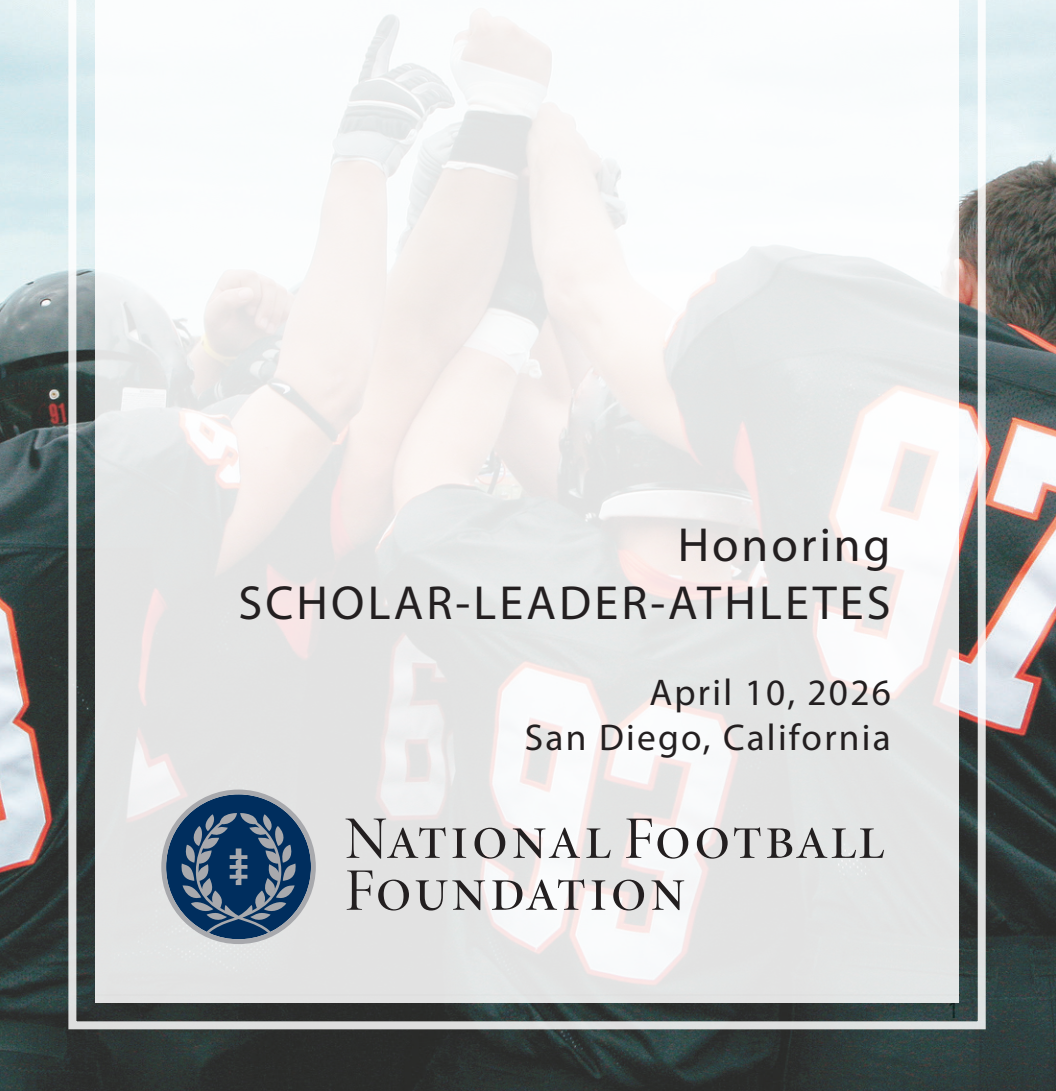
National Football Foundation
and College Hall of Fame
Walter J. Zable/San Diego Chapter

53RD ANNUAL
AWARDS BANQUET



Honoring
SCHOLAR-LEADER-ATHLETES

April 10, 2026
San Diego, California

NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

PROGRAM - 6:30 PM

Welcome _____ John Nielsen, President

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

WILLIE JONES MOST INSPIRATIONAL AWARD
Max Martinez

COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD
Bill Dunckel

FOOTBALL OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD
Chris Wiggins

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 2025-26 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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Chet DeVore (dec.)
Sid Gillman, Emeritus (dec.)
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Walter J. Zable (dec.)

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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.

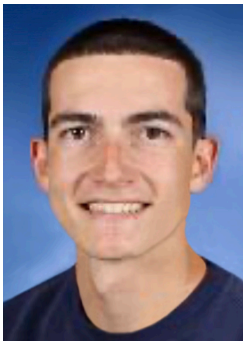
He received his master's degree in physics and mathematics from the University of Florida. William & Mary conferred upon him an honorary doctor of law degree.

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.



Spencer Chastang
El Capitan High

Spencer Chastang made the most of his two varsity seasons at El Capitan High School. Playing defensive back, receiver, and punt/kick returner under Coach Ron Burner, he found ways to contribute on all three phases and collected hardware doing it.

In 2024, he earned 1st Team All-League Safety in the Grossmont Valley, Special Teams Player of the Year, and Most Improved in track and field. He came back in 2025 and added MVP honors in both track and football, along with 1st Team All-League in the Grossmont Hills. He also spent a year on the soccer pitch, rounding out three varsity sports during his time at El Capitan.

A 3.85 GPA and Global Language Leadership recognition reflect a student who brings the same attention to his academics, and his plans to study Spanish point to a genuine passion for language.

His college destination is still to be decided, but wherever he lands will get a competitor who shows up everywhere he's needed. When he's not on the field or the track, Spencer is snowboarding, at the beach, playing Spikeball, or catching a Padres or Chargers game. Congratulations, Spencer, and good luck with what's next.

2025-26 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



Kawika Devore
Madison High

Kawika Devore has spent three varsity seasons at Madison High School doing the kind of work that shows up in the stat sheet and on the awards list. Under Coach Kenny Nears, the linebacker, tight end, and running back grew into one of the more decorated players in the county.

On the football field, he went from JV Team MVP in 2023 to Iron Man Award and 2nd Team All-Western League in 2024, to Team MVP, 1st Team All-Eastern League, and 2nd Team CIF All-San Diego Section in 2025.

In track and field, he qualified for the Junior Olympics in four throwing events in 2024 and returned in 2025 as SD CIF Division 3 Champion in shot put and discus, adding Central League Field Athlete of the Year along the way.

Off the field, Kawika has served as Treasurer of the Pacific Islander Club, volunteered as a youth football coach with the Clairemont Hawks, and tutored peers with special needs. He carries a 3.80 GPA with Scholar Athlete honors and Principal's Honor Roll recognition every year since 2022.

Devore plans to study Education or Kinesiology, with his college still to be decided.

2025-26 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



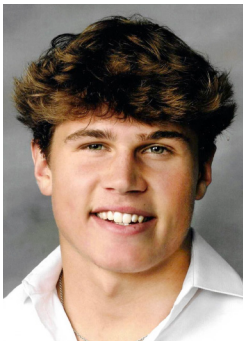
Tristen Diaz
Granite Hills High

Some players accumulate accolades. Tristan Diaz accumulates championships. The Granite Hills wide receiver and safety has been part of four consecutive Grossmont Hills League title teams, with CIF championships in Division 2 in 2022, the Open Division in 2023, and back-to-back Division 1 titles in 2024 and 2025. Four years on varsity under Coach Kellan Cobbs, and the trophy case kept growing.

On the field individually, he capped his senior season with 2nd Team All-Grossmont Hills League honors, tied the all-time school record for receptions in a single game with 14, and ranks 7th all-time at Granite Hills in both receptions and yards.

His lacrosse career is a story of its own. Rookie of the Year and Best Midfielder as a freshman, MVP and Offensive Player of the Year as a sophomore, and a USA Lacrosse All-American as a junior. He earned 1st Team All-Grossmont Hills League three straight years, All-Grossmont Hills League Player of the Year in 2024, and 2nd Team All-CIF in 2025 as part of a Division 1 championship team. He also took home Granite Hills Top Athlete honors in his sophomore and junior seasons.

In the classroom, Tristan earned the Scholar Athlete Award four years running and carries a 3.8 GPA. He serves as Vice President of the Pickleball Club and has been active in the Sports Medicine Club for three years. He plans to study Kinesiology at the University of Utah. Congratulations, Tristan, and good luck as a Ute.



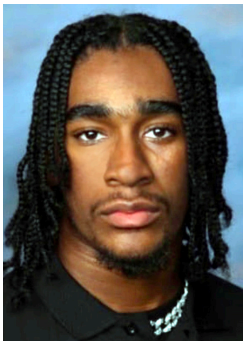
Carson Diehl
La Jolla High

There were several weeks where Carson Diehl's name would ring through the county for his utterly dominant performances in every phase of the game. Diehl is a Wide Receiver, Safety, and punt returner. He finds ways to score no matter where he's lining up.

The four-year varsity man will be staying in San Diego, as he plans to play for Coach Sean Lewis' program at San Diego State University. The future Aztec plans to study business while he's taking care of it on the football field.

Diehl was named to the All-CIF team in 2025... for offense and defense. 246 all-purpose yards, 4 touchdowns, and 1 interception against St. Augustine is a one-game example of why that recognition is well deserved. He was also All-Eastern League offense and defense for three consecutive years.

His achievements are not limited to the football field either. Diehl has a 4.0 GPA, was on the honor roll in '22-'25, and participates in the League of Young Men. The young man lettered in basketball, track, and golf at La Jolla High.



King David Dunn
Lincoln High

Playing in a skill position at one of San Diego's foremost football programs is a lot of pressure. King David Christopher-Dunn is no stranger to pressure, though. In academics, communal leadership, social equity movements, and athletics, Dunn is as committed to excellence as anyone.

His mother, an educator and social justice advocate, and father, an awardwinning coach and athlete, gave King David the platform to become the kind of person people look up to. To be shown the path is one thing; to take it and blaze a trail of your own is exactly what Dunn has done.

King David founded the Take a Knee Foundation, providing support to inner-city youth facing bullying. He successfully campaigned for his school to secure funding for a new football field. Among many other advocacy and leadership actions, Dunn earned the Rising Leaders of the Dream Youth Award.

The Hornet Homecoming King also averaged 18 yards per catch in his senior season, earned the CIF Sportsmanship Award, and was named the Spanos AllStar Game MVP.

With a head start already in his business degree, we eagerly await seeing the fruits of this young man's hard work as time goes on.

2025-26 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



Brewin Ford
El Capitan High

Brewin Ford plays football the way El Capitan High School needs him to, wherever that happens to be. Outside linebacker, middle linebacker, safety, wide receiver. Three years on varsity under coaches Ron Burner, Shaun McDade, and Josh Lee, doing the work that keeps a team functioning.

On the field, he earned 2nd Team All-League Grossmont Valley Defense as a linebacker in 2024 and Honorable Mention Grossmont Hills Defense in 2025. His lacrosse career runs even deeper, with four varsity years, 3x 2nd Team All-League Grossmont Hills, competing with True National and Cali Gold at the club level.

Ford has been a presence in his school community as well. Three years as a Link Crew Leader, two years with School V-Crew, and a year with Surf Club paint a picture of someone who shows up beyond the field. He carries a 4.84 GPA and has made the Principal's List every year from 2023 through 2026, also earning Student Athlete of the Week along the way.

Brewin plans to study Criminal Justice at Walsh University. When he's not competing or in the classroom, he's out fishing, on a bike, or behind the wheel of a Razor. Congratulations, Brewin, and good luck with what's ahead.



Dylan Haugum
La Jolla High

There are few players in San Diego County who dominated on both the offensive and defensive lines like Dylan Haugum.

Haugum's versatility in the trenches makes him a challenge for any opposing coach to deal with.

Spending three years on varsity, Haugum improved year over year. In 2024, he was second team All-Eastern-League. In 2025, he earned his spot on the first team.

He just placed as a Division 4 CIF runner-up in wrestling, showing that his prowess on the football field translates to being an overall athlete. He spent his sophomore and junior seasons on varsity lacrosse as well.

Dylan plans to attend the University of Redlands to study business. With a 3.9 GPA in the classroom, he also found community in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

After the playoffs, chances are you'll find him in the gym or on his snowboard. In everything he does, Haugum handles business.



Henry Mallory
La Costa Canyon High

Henry Mallory is not the name you want to see as your assignment for several reasons. The linebacker and fullback is as stout at both positions as anyone in San Diego.

Mallory earned All-Avocado League offense in '24 and defense in '25. He came up with 80 tackles, an interception, and 4 fumble recoveries in his senior season.

At 6'2" and 230 pounds, his four years as a lettering swimmer are astounding. He swam extremely well at that, qualifying for CIF three times. Mallory also earned First-Team All-Conference Rugby in his junior and senior seasons.

It isn't just in football, the pool, or the pitch that Mallory excels; it's in the classroom. A humble 4.57 GPA, American Sign Language biliteracy, and back-to-back AP Scholar Awards show that he is as well-rounded as they come.

His options for his future studies are still open, but he wants to study mechanical engineering. Mallory enjoys 3D printing, reading, and exercising in his free time.

2025-26 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



Damian Moreno
Hilltop High

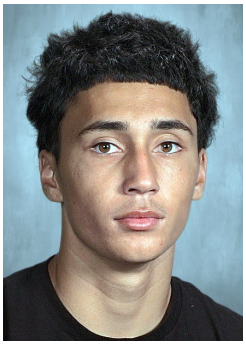
Damian Moreno lines up at Middle Linebacker, Outside Linebacker, and Slot Receiver for Hilltop High School, and he's been doing it at the varsity level for three straight years under Coach Bryan Wagner.

His accolades tell the story of a player who got better every season. He earned Defensive Player of the Year in both 2024 and 2025, moved from 2nd Team All-Metro South Bay League defense as a junior to 1st Team as a senior, and capped it all with Metro South Bay Male Athlete of the Year in 2025. That last one goes beyond football, and Moreno earned it.

In the classroom, he carries a 4.02 GPA and has made the Principal's Honor Roll every semester for four years. He plans to study Electrical Engineering at UC Berkeley, where he'll bring the same discipline that defined his time at Hilltop.

Outside of sports, Moreno has spent four years in the Foreign Language and Global Studies program, showing a curiosity that extends well past the field.

When he's not working out or competing, you might find him playing chess, diving into physics, or throwing the baseball with friends.



Kymani Nua
Oceanside High

Kymani Nua: Kymani Nua is one of the special kinds of athletes that seems destined to be playing the game when you watch him from the stands. But that sort of presence only comes from the work that he puts in every day.

Oceanside Coach Fale Poumele's three-phase threat plans on attending Army West Point, a breeding ground where premier talent develops into premier leadership. These are a few of his previous accolades:

- 2024 & 2025 First-Team Offense,
- Special Teams Player of the Year
- 2025 Team MVP.

Nua isn't just a force on the football field; he dominates on the track and in rugby. He even holds a meet record in the triple jump. Nua embodies the warrior spirit that all of the elite athletes who have earned this recognition have in common.

Nua wants to study Environmental Science. He comes with a 3.83 GPA, 7x Honor Roll recognition, and the culture instilled in him as an Oceanside Pirate, all under his belt. Congratulations, Kymani, and good luck with your bright future ahead.



Quinn Obrigewitch
University City High

Quinn Obrigewitch has spent four years in the trenches at University City High School, playing defensive line and left tackle under Coach Paul Lawrence. This role is not for the glamour, it's for the team and the brothers you line up next to.

He earned 2nd Team All-Eastern League Defense in 2024 and 2nd Team All-Western League Defense in 2025, holding his own against league competition on both sides of the ball. Away from football, he competed in track and field for three varsity seasons, adding three more letters to his athletic resume.

In the classroom, Quinn has been just as consistent. A 4.0 GPA and All-Academic Team recognition in 2023, 2024, and 2025 reflect a student who takes his academics as seriously as his athletics.

He plans to study Mechanical Engineering or Aviation Maintenance at SDSU or Miramar, a natural fit for someone who spends his free time working on his car.

2025-26 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



Ansu Perez
Torrey Pines High

Ansu Perez is the kind of person who makes you wonder where he finds the time. The Torrey Pines defensive tackle and center has spent three varsity seasons under Coach Scott Ashby while quietly building one of the most well-rounded resumes in this year's class.

On the football field, he earned 2nd Team All-League Defense, Falcon of the Year, Falcon of the Week, and Beast of the Week honors in 2025. On the mat, he's been even more decorated:

- 4x CIF Wrestling Placer and Masters Qualifier
- 2x 1st Team All-League wrestler
- Four-year varsity competitor.
- Three years on the track and field team.

Off the field, Perez serves as a Link Crew Leader, competes in Speech and Debate, participates in DECA, bakes for Cookies for a Cause, and has been active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes since 2023. He was elected to the Senior Cabinet in 2025.

In the classroom, he carries a 4.68 GPA, earned AP Scholar with Distinction, was named a National Merit Scholarship Commended Scholar, and has been recognized as a Scholar Athlete eight times.

Ansu plans to study Computer Science and Engineering at MIT. When he's not doing all of the above, he's at the beach with friends, reading, or pulling Pokémon cards with his best friend Gordon. Congratulations, Ansu, and good luck in Cambridge.



Michael Ruiz
St. Augustine High

Michael Ruiz - Four years at the varsity level, two sports and multiple positions. Michael Ruiz has spent his high school career doing whatever St. Augustine needed him to do, and doing it well.

At wide receiver, safety, and punter under Coach Ron Caragher, Ruiz earned 2nd Team All-Eastern League recognition on both sides of the ball in 2025. That kind of two-way production is a reflection of a player who puts the team first and finds a way to contribute wherever he lines up.

On the diamond, he added All-Western League Honorable Mention as a first baseman in back-to-back seasons, proving his athleticism carries well beyond the football field.

In the classroom, Ruiz has been just as consistent. A 4.1 GPA, four years on the Principal's Honor Roll, and CIF Scholar Athlete honors in both 2024 and 2025 paint the picture of a student who takes his academics as seriously as his athletics.

Michael plans to study finance, with his college choice still ahead of him. Whatever program gets him will be getting a player who has earned everything the right way. After the season, he's either out on the water or on the sticks. Congratulations, Michael, and good luck with what comes next.

2025-26 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



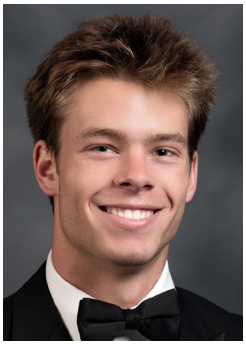
Samuel Ruvalcaba
Imperial High

Samuel Ruvalcaba has been a fixture on the Imperial High School defensive line for three varsity seasons, lining up at defensive end under Coach David Shaw and making his presence felt on both sides of the ball as a tight end as well.

He progressed from 2nd Team All-IVL Defense to 1st Team All-IVL Defense, capping his career with the higher honor. Off the football field, he spent four years on the varsity basketball court. Footwork and agility, as well as power and physicality, are traits that served him well in both sports.

In the classroom, Samuel carries a 3.6 GPA and has earned Honor Roll recognition. He plans to study Nursing at SDSU, bringing the same work ethic to healthcare that defined his time at Imperial.

Ruvalcaba is an avid golfer, loves the gym, and unwinds with music and video games.



Ty Sagaser
San Marcos High

Ty Sagaser brings versatility and length to the San Marcos defense. The 6'3" defensive end and outside linebacker has spent three varsity seasons under Coach Tom Carroll, developing into one of the more reliable players on that side of the ball. He plays tight end as well, rounding out his roles as a physical force in a tough league.

His recognition reflects steady growth. He earned 1st Team All-Palomar League Defense in 2024 and followed it with 1st Team All-Avocado League West in 2025. He also spent three seasons on the varsity basketball court, showing that his athleticism carries well beyond football season.

Ty plans to attend the Naval Academy, carrying a 3.81 GPA into that next chapter. The discipline required to pursue a service academy speaks to the kind of person he is off the field.

When the season wraps up, you'll find him on the golf course, out hunting, hiking, or in the kitchen.

2025-26 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



Ryan Scully
La Costa Canyon High

Ryan Scully is the kind of linebacker that offensive coordinators lose sleep over. The La Costa Canyon standout has the instincts and motor to make plays from sideline to sideline.

Under Coach Sean Sovacool, Scully put together a decorated two-year run. A few of his accolades:

- 2024 & 2025 La Costa Canyon Defensive Big Player of the Year
- 2024 & 2025 1st Team All-Avocado League
- 2025 1st Team All-CIF San Diego Section
- 2024 2nd Team All-CIF San Diego Section

Scully gets it done in rugby as well. He earned LCC Varsity Rugby MVP and 1st Team All-Southern California Rugby honors in 2024, competing with the Thunder Rugby Club. That kind of cross-sport dominance doesn't happen by accident.

Ryan plans to take his talents to Cal Berkeley to study Business, bringing a 3.85 GPA and a CalKids Scholarship with him. When he's not on the field, you'll find him out in nature, on a bike, in the gym, or gaming.



Christian Slojkowski
West Hills High

If you need someone dialed in high-pressure field goal situations and ready to boot a punt with serious hang time, Christian Slojkowski has both needs met.

The back-to-back Grossmont Valley League kicker of the year also owns the West Hills school record for average punt distance at 42.3 yards.

Slojkowski is ranked 54 nationally as a punter in the class of 2026 and 86 as a kicker. With a cannon for a leg, it's no surprise that he also dominated on the soccer field, earning Defender of the Year Awards in '24 and '25.

Locking in a 3.93 GPA, Slojkowski made it to the honor roll all four years of high school and earned a scholar-athlete award in 2024.

In his free time, he surfs, golfs, exercises, plays games with friends, and enjoys music.

Christian remains undecided on where he will attend school, but wherever he goes, he brings talent that any program will be lucky to have.



Cade Smith
Cathedral Catholic High

Cade Smith has spent three varsity seasons as a linebacker at Cathedral Catholic High School, bringing his physicality to the field and his character to everything around it. Under Coach Sean Doyle, Smith developed into a steady presence on a defense that demands a lot from its players.

In 2025, he earned All-Western League Defense honors at linebacker. The year prior, his teammates voted him the Most Inspirational Player at Cathedral Catholic: an award that often says more about a person than any league honor could.

Away from football, Smith has competed in men's varsity rugby for two seasons and serves as a Club Leader for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Cathedral Catholic, a role that reflects how seriously he takes his faith and his influence on those around him.

In the classroom, he carries a 4.03 GPA, three straight years on the Honor Roll, and was named Spanish Sophomore Student of the Year in 2023-2024. He plans to study Real Estate at the University of San Diego.

After the season, you'll find him out on the water, in the kitchen, in the field hunting, or on the sticks. Congratulations, Cade, and good luck as a Torero.



David Smith
Otay Ranch High

David Smith has been a constant on the Otay Ranch defense for three varsity seasons, lining up at linebacker under Coach Howard Bannister and earning recognition every year he's been on the field.

He started his career with 2nd Team All-Metro League Defense in 2023, alongside the Otay Ranch Fall Athlete of the Year award. From there, he climbed to 1st Team All-Metro League Defense in both 2024 and 2025, adding a second Fall Athlete of the Year honor as a senior.

Smith also competes in track and field and varsity golf, rounding out an athletic profile that goes well beyond football season.

Off the field, he serves as an Officer for the Black Student Union, has volunteered for two years with the Miracle League of San Diego, and has been involved with ASB and the Tobacco Use Prevention Club. He carries a 4.59 GPA and has earned Honors Roll recognition throughout his high school career.

David plans to study Computer Science, with his college destination still to be decided. He loves reading, hiking, lifting, and building automation workflows, and we're excited to see what he does next.



Trevor Taumoepeau
Mt. Carmel High

Four years on the varsity roster at quarterback is a statement in itself. But Trevor Taumoepeau's path to becoming one of the more reliable signal-callers in the Palomar League wasn't a straight line, and that's what makes his story worth telling.

He arrived at Mt. Carmel and earned his varsity letter as a freshman wide receiver, taking home 2nd Team All-Palomar League Offense in 2022. The following year, he transitioned to quarterback and earned 1st Team All-Palomar League Offense in both 2023 and 2025.

Under Coach Andrew Westling, Taumoepeau developed into a leader that his teammates could count on. The progression from role player to two-time first-team honoree over four varsity seasons reflects the kind of growth that this award is meant to recognize.

In the classroom, Trevor carries a 4.1 GPA and has contributed to the Clean Campus Crew at Mt. Carmel. He plans to attend UC Davis, with his major still ahead of him.

After the season, you'll find him at the beach, in the gym, or at the card table with friends. Congratulations, Trevor, and good luck as an Aggie.



Viliamu Trollinger
Montgomery High

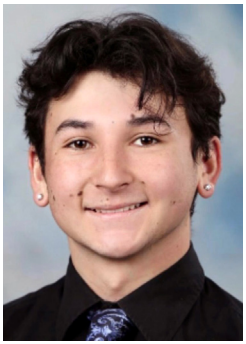
Viliamu Trollinger has done it all at Montgomery High School. Linebacker, defensive end, long snapper, tight end, running back; four years on varsity contributing wherever the team needed him most.

His accolades reflect a career that kept getting better. He earned All-Western League recognition in 2022 and 2023, then in 2024 added AII-CIF, AII-Southbay League, Southbay League Defensive Player of the Year, and Team MVP. His senior season was his best yet, earning 2nd Team All-State, AII-CIF, All-Area 51, Southbay League Defensive Player of the Year, AII-Southbay League, Makasi Bowl MVP, and Scholar Athlete of the Year. He also claimed a CIF Division 1 Championship along the way.

Beyond football, Trollinger earned varsity letters in track and field, basketball, and baseball. He spent two years with Link Crew mentoring incoming freshmen, two years in the Pacific Islander Club, and two years with Aztec Buddies supporting athletes with special needs in competition.

In the classroom, he carries a 3.89 GPA, four years on the Honor Roll, Presidential Honor Roll recognition in his junior and senior years, and Conference Scholar Athlete of the Year in 2025. He plans to study Sports Medicine at Mesa College .

2025-26 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



Gage Weichelt
Grossmont High

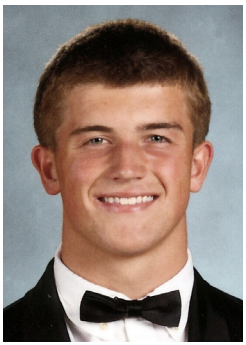
Gage Weichelt has been a backbone of the Grossmont Foothillers secondary for the past two seasons, and does damage on special teams as a returner. In his Junior season, he was the team's defensive MVP, earning second-team All Grossmont Hills League defense in the process.

As a senior, he made it to the first team in the Grossmont Valley League and helped his team to a 9-2 record, the program's most successful in a decade. He was named GHS's Team MVP and wears that badge with honor.

Weichelt plans to attend Navy, West Point, or UC Berkley after graduating. At school, he's interested in studying political science. In San Diego, he interned at Supervisor Joel Anderson's office.

Displaying discipline in his athletics, academics, and extracurriculars, Weichelt didn't stop there, serving as an operations officer for his NJROTC program.

Gage is not just an excellent football player; he is also elite at lacrosse. Wherever he goes and whatever path he chooses, Weichelt brings the grit every recipient of this award represents.



Benjamin Wellons
Scripps Ranch High

Benjamin Wellons is a football player's football player. Lining up at the middle linebacker and fullback positions, he's ready to get in the trenches every snap for his team.

Wellons found lots of success on the defensive side of the ball. In his junior year, he was second-team All-Eastern League defense. As a senior, he got first-team All-Western-League honors.

Wellons plans to study economics at the Naval Academy, where all the lessons learned in the field will be put into practice as he carves his path in college.

Lettering in track as well as baseball, Wellons shows his all-around athleticism isn't limited to one sport.

For the past 8 years, Wellons developed leadership and skills in Boy Scouts as well, where he served as a Patrol Leader. He was also involved at Scripps Ranch as a peer mentor and member of the National Honor Society.

Adept with a board in his hand, whether it's for surf, skate, or snow, Wellons prides himself on being a good friend more than anything.



Anthony Zaravia
Eastlake High

Anthony Zaravia has been a fixture in the Eastlake High School secondary for two varsity seasons, playing strong safety, free safety, and outside linebacker under Head Coach Jose Mendoza.

As a player, he's earned Defensive Player of the Game against Bonita Vista, and followed that with Impact Play of the Week honors from the Prep Pigskin Report.

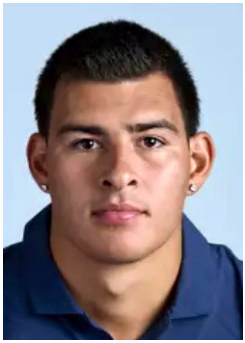
By 2025, he had grown into one of the better defensive backs in the region, earning 1st Team All-Metro Mesa League Defense, Mr. Titan, and Special Teams Player of the Year. Along the way, he also spent a season on the lacrosse field.

Zaravia carries a 4.44 GPA, has been on the Principal's Honor Roll all four years of high school, earned AP Scholar with Distinction in 2025, a UC Statewide Guarantee in 2024, a College Board National Recognition Program award in 2025, and was an NSHSS Invitee in 2025.

He serves as Associated Student Body Commissioner of Finance and has been involved with Corpus Christi Parish, the Breakfast Club SD, Faith Club, and Link Crew throughout his high school years.

Anthony plans to study Construction Management at SDSU or CSULB. When he's not on the field or in the books, you'll find him working out, hiking, playing pickup basketball, or exploring stock investing and soda tasting.

2025-26 UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR – LEADER – ATHLETES



Ruben Lopez
University of San Diego

Ruben Lopez made his mark at the University of San Diego in his four years. The defensive back has spent four years in the heart of the Torero defense, finishing his career as a consistent defensive force.

He closed out his senior season in 2025 as a captain, appearing in all 12 games and logging 53 total tackles, five interceptions, a forced fumble, and four pass breakups. He was named All-PFL Second Team Defense and earned All-PFL Academic Second Team honors as well. His 11 career interceptions tied for fourth in program history.

His production was consistent throughout. As a junior in 2024, he racked up 34 tackles, three interceptions, five pass deflections, and two fumble recoveries, including an 87-yard walk-off fumble recovery touchdown in overtime against Presbyterian. He earned All-PFL Second Team Defense and PFL Co-Defensive Player of the Week that season, too.

What Lopez built at USD didn't happen overnight. It was four years of showing up, competing, and earning it one game at a time. Congratulations, Ruben.

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.

SCHOOL	COACH	PRINCIPAL	LEAGUE
El Capitan	Ron Burner	Carrie Gaeir	Grossmont Hills
Madison	Kenny Nears	Fred Hilgers	Eastern
Granite Hills	Kellen Cobbs	Eric Jesperson	Grossmont Hills
La Jolla	Tyler Roach	Dr. Charles Podhorsky	Eastern
Lincoln	David Dunn	Melissa Agudelo	Western
USD	Brandon Moore	Dr. James T. Harris	Pioneer
La Costa Canyon	Sean Sovacool	Justin Conn	Avocado
Southwest	Bo Seibel	Easter Finley	Desert
Hilltop	Bryan Wagner	William Walsh	Metro
Oceanside	Fale Poumele	Dr. Skyler Garrahy	Avocado East
University City	Paul Lawrence	Mike Paredes	Western
Torrey Pines	Scott Ashby	Rob Coppo	Avocado West
St. Augustine	Ron Caragher	James Horne	Eastern
Imperial	David Shaw	Jose Apodaca	Imperial Valley
San Marcos	Tom Carroll	Dr. Christina Wilde	Avocado West
West Hills	Casey Ash	April Baker	Grossmont Valley
Cathedral Catholic	Sean Doyle	Marlena Conroy	Western
Otay Ranch	Howard Bannister	Julio Alcala	Metro Mesa
Mt. Carmel	Andrew Westling	Dr. Yael Bozzay	Palomar
Montgomery	Freddy Dunkle	Sasha Scott	Metro South Bay
Grossmont	Anthony Lawrence	Dan Barnes	Grossmont Valley
Scripps Ranch	John Taylor	Dr. Matt Lawson	Western
Eastlake	Jose Mendoza	Dianne Huslan	Metro - Mesa

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

Avocado West

Cutter Vorhees ..... San Marcos

Eastern

Brock Benson ..... St. Augustine
Patrick McNamara ..... St. Augustine
Vince Smith ..... St. Augustine

Grossmont Valley

Maximus Tufugafale ..... Grossmont

Manzanita

Travis Asche ..... Borrego Springs

Mesa

Gabriel Ramirez ..... Chula Vista

Metro

Erik Nealson ..... Hilltop

Metro-Mesa

Tyler Balko ..... Eastlake
Darion Frisson ..... Chula Vista

Palomar

Braylon Mitchell ..... Valley Center

Pioneer

Cayden Gibson ..... University of San Diego

Valley

Camden Hoff ..... Fallbrook

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.

2026 WILLIE JONES MOST INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER



Max Martinez
Southwest High

Maximiliano Martinez is a versatile lineman for Southwest High School. Max prides himself on being someone you can count on and represents the unsung heroes of every football program.

Willing to get the job done by any means, Max earned honors with the Southwest Coaching Award. Despite some tough losses in his senior season, Max proved himself to be a leader throughout.

He even played in the 2025 All-Star Desert League as a left tackle. Max's talent extends to Track & Field, where he lettered for two years. To move that fast on the track and protect the quarterback takes a rare crossover of skills and athleticism.

Max is a glue guy for his team and on the line, and he kept with the theme as a part of the welding shop at school. He plans to attend College to study Diesel and Automotive Technology.

2026 COACH OF THE YEAR



Bill Dunckel
Valley Center High

Coach Bill Dunckel brings decades of athletic excellence, community commitment, and championship experience to the field. A lifelong North San Diego County resident, Bill has been married to his wife Christie for 34 years, and together they've raised four children—Brie, Brittany, Kate, and Jake—while calling Valley Center home for the past 24 years.

A 1987 graduate of Fallbrook High School, Bill was part of a historic Fallbrook football team that captured the CIF Division I Championship for the first time in school history. He continued his athletic career at Palomar College, where he played baseball and helped lead the team to two conference titles. He then advanced to San Diego State University, earning two more conference championships before reaching the professional level with the California Angels organization in the early 1990s.

Coach Dunckel's coaching career spans over three decades and multiple sports, including football, baseball, and softball. He began at Poway High School, followed by three years at Orange Glen High School, and has since dedicated the past 27 years to Valley Center High School.

In his current role as Head Football Coach at Valley Center, Bill has sought to continue the great football tradition Rob Gilster established. In just three seasons, his teams have secured two league championships and, most notably, delivered the football program's 6th CIF title, 1st ever regional title, and 1st state championship in school history—cementing a legacy of excellence and pride for the small community of Valley Center.

Known for his leadership, passion, and dedication to developing student-athletes both on and off the field, Coach Dunckel continues to inspire the next generation through discipline, teamwork, and a commitment to winning the right way.

2026 FOOTBALL OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR



Chris Wiggins

While earning a Bachelor's degree at the University of CA at San Diego, Chris could always be found on an intramural football field officiating games and trying to earn some spending money. Once out of school, it did not take long for him to realize just how much he enjoyed and missed that. A friend suggested he look into the San Diego County Football Officials Association. It was love at first sight! Even when working 5 Pop Warner games in 110 degree heat in Murrieta, the look and feel of a football field just fit. The excitement has never faded. From the first freshman game assignment, to the first JV/Varsity double header, to JC football and beyond, there has always been a passion for this avocation.

Chris has been Blessed with many years and many memories on football fields. Officiating football games in Havana Cuba and Sydney Australia were certainly highlights. The biggest highlight was a phone call asking if Chris would consider joining the Pac 12 as an official. It did not take long to say yes.

Chris also has worked the Indoor Football League for several years, including the 2022 National Championship game in Las Vegas.
It has now been 30 years working this avocation and Chris is entering his 12th year with the Pac 12. This has provided many opportunities to see many small towns across this great country. There have been two high school state championship assignments, and several small college playoff assignments. There have also been 7 Bowl game assignments including the 2020 Cotton Bowl.

Even experiencing the downfall of the Pac 12 has not dampened the spirit. And with the Pac 12 rejuvenated and returning this season, there are many experiences still to come.

Chris also instructs up and coming officials in the local San Diego college officiating group.

Chris has been in the mortgage business for many years and manages a branch for a local mortgage bank. He and his lovely wife Kristina live local and are parents to three wonderful daughters.

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 for sponsorship in our 2026 banquet.

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