



NATIONAL FOOTBALL
FOUNDATION

Toledo-Wistert Chapter
Founded 1961

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: March 12, 2022

Toledo, Ohio ---

On March 9, 2022, **The Toledo/Wistert chapter of the National Football Foundation** was honored to host The Ohio State University Football Head Coach Ryan Day as our featured speaker at the 60th Annual Scholar-Athlete Awards dinner recognizing 40 area high school student athletes, high school coaches, referees, as well as a University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University Football Scholar-Athlete. We were thrilled to distribute more than \$20,000 in scholarships at this year's banquet. More than 720 were in attendance at the event held at the Toledo Seagate Convention Center.

For over 60 years this local chapter of the NFF has recognized young athletes for community service, academic excellence, and football talent. The Executive Board of the NFF Toledo-Wistert Chapter was excited to announce they will be **adding a new initiative to the local chapter's pursuit of supporting our high school students**. Our board of directors committed to making **Mental Health and Awareness** a priority. Thanks to the generous support at this time of the NFF's long-time supporter from the **Roy Roberts family, and Dr. Burt Rogers, Ed.D, and Nationwide Children's Hospital - Toledo**, together with their commitment along with the **National Football Foundation Toledo--Wistert Chapter**the first **NFF Mental Health Awareness Forum initiative will be ready to be launched this fall 2022** in memory of Roy Roberts.

The 3 goals of the **NFF Mental Health and Awareness** initiative are:

- 1) To reach out to our local leagues, players, coaches, and parents to provide lessons and concepts that include Mental Health Awareness
- 2) To provide and equip young athletes with the resources to build life skills and values for success and learn how to deal with emotional issues on and off the field to become a Mental Health Champion to help others.
- 3) To offer support and encourage them start the conversation, reach out and ask for help.

It was with great pleasure that our NFF chapter presented a financial donation to **The Christina and Ryan Day Fund for Pediatric and Adolescent Mental Wellness at Columbus Nationwide Children's Hospital**. Coach Day and Wife Christina established the fund to help raise mental health awareness, increase educational opportunities, and inspire assistance. Coach Ryan Day has not only been successful on the football field at Ohio State, but last August, Coach Day and The Ohio State University made one of its biggest commitments to provide the best possible mental health care for its student-athletes. Ohio State football expanded its athletic staff by hiring three new employees, a sport psychologist and 2 athletic counselors. Coach Day understands that there is so much more to supporting our youth as it pertains to Mental Health and Awareness

For additional information or question, you may contact Ray Pohlman at 419-704-0269.

About Us -- The Toledo/Wistert chapter of the National Football Foundation was organized in 1962 by a group of Toledo friends, led by former University of Michigan All-American "Whitey" Wistert. The main function of the organization is to recognize deserving Student Athletes that excel on the field, in the classroom and in their community. The local chapter also recognizes the contributions of Coaches, Officials and players that have overcome obstacles to play the game of football. Throughout the years, over 1,700 Student Athletes have been honored into the National Football Foundation – Toledo/Wistert

Chapter – Hall of Fame and over \$400,000 in scholarships have been awarded. For more information regarding the NFF Toledo-Wisert Chapter, please access: www.nfftoledo.com.

The National Football Foundation is a non-profit, nationwide organization founded in 1947 under the leadership of Army Black Knights football coach Earl Blaik, General Douglas MacArthur and noted journalist Grantland Rice. Its mission is to promote American amateur football as an integral and wholesome part of our educational process; to encourage the beneficial direction and playing of the game at schools and colleges throughout the country; to provide the proper incentives and ideas for American youth and set standards of sportsmanship for the individual player.

In addition to supporting amateur football on the local level, the National Football Foundation oversees the support, administration, and operation of the College Football Hall of Fame. Since the inception in 1951, the NFF administers the balloting for the College Hall of Fame. The names of Red Grange, Jim Thorpe, George Gipp, Knute Rockne, and Amos Alonzo Stagg were among those elected to the first class of inductees to the Hall. Each year the William V. Campbell Trophy is awarded to the American college football player that best represents the combination of academics, community service and on-field performance. The William V. Campbell Trophy is referred to as the “Academic Heisman”.

Over the past 70+ years, the NFF has grown to more than 120 chapters, with over 15,000 members. The organization headquarters is located in Irving, Texas and is led by Chairman of the Board – Archie Manning, and President & CEO, Steven Hatchell. For more information on the NFF, please access: www.footballfoundation.org.