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NFL PLAYER ENGAGEMENT, PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME AND WHARTON SCHOOL TO HOST INAUGURAL NFL PREP ACADEMY

Four-Day Program Slated for June 17-20 at The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania

Hall of Famer Anthony Muñoz to Deliver Keynote Address

The inaugural **NFL PREP ACADEMY**, an invitation-only program designed for elite high school football student-athletes and their parent or guardian to teach the values of education, character, leadership, and community outreach, kicks off today at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, the NFL and the Pro Football Hall of Fame announced.

This four-day program features a variety of classroom presentations that include “Goal Setting,” “Values,” “Academic and Career Planning,” “Healthy Relationships,” “Life Beyond Football,” and “Leadership & Character Development.” The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania helped develop the curriculum and Wharton faculty and staff will assist the students in the classroom. The Jefferson Awards Foundation (JAF) will direct leadership and community engagement sessions, training participants to drive youth-led service in their home communities, equipping them with the tools to inspire change and encouraging them to reach their maximum impact on and off the field.

In keeping with NFL Player Engagement’s industry leading peer-to-peer model, students will gain knowledge and insight from those who have been successful on the field. Sessions will include instruction from former NFL players who are trained as Transition Coaches, including **GARRY COBB, STEVE FITZHUGH, SCOTT GALBRAITH, EDDIE MASON, FREDDIE SCOTT** and **TONY STEWART**. Pro Football Hall of Famer **ANTHONY MUÑOZ** will deliver the keynote address and will be in attendance throughout the program.

The Academy will culminate with a service project at Cradles to Crayons, a resource for communities in-need and a hub of civic engagement in Philadelphia. The organization provides essentials such as donated clothes, shoes, books and school supplies to homeless and low-income children. The participants will visit the Cradles to Crayons warehouse to sort through donated items to ensure they are in good condition and package them to be delivered to those in need.

“Working with the Pro Football Hall of Fame and The Wharton School, we are pleased to host the first NFL Prep Academy to educate, inspire and empower football’s next generation of leaders,” said **CHARLES WAY**, vice president of NFL Player Engagement. “We want to thank David Baker and his team at the Hall of Fame for their dedication to helping instill and celebrate character and leadership in football players at all levels of the game.”

“We are so pleased to work with Charles Way and the NFL Prep Academy and bring the nation’s top football prospects for this inspirational program of leadership, character and integrity,” said **DAVID BAKER**, president

& executive director of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. “The game of football is a great teacher for the game of life and we look forward to being part of the classroom.”

Forty-one student-athletes from 20 states were selected to participate in the Academy based on academic and athletic performance, character, civic involvement, and a coach’s recommendation:

Student-Athlete	High School (State)
Brennan Armstrong	Shelby High School (OH)
Wyatt Blake	Crystal Lake Central High School (IL)
Christopher Bleich	Wyoming Valley West (PA)
Kevin Brennan	Don Bosco Prep (NJ)
Leddie Brown	Eastern Christian/National Connections Academy (MD)
Jack Carter	Davidson Day High (NC)
Matthew Corral	Oaks Christian (CA)
James Foster	Sidney Lanier High (AL)
Realus George	Pace Academy (GA)
Coby Germany	Evans High (GA)
Kalon Gervin	Cass Technical High (MI)
Richard Gouraige	Cambridge Christian (FL)
Jalen Hall	Hawkins High (CA)
Tate Haynes	Cathedral Catholic (CA)
Keith (KJ) Henry	Forsyth Country Day (NC)
Dax Hollifield	Shelby High (NC)
Dawson Jaramillo	Lake Oswego High (OR)
Tyreke Johnson	Trinity Christian (FL)
Brevin Jordan	Bishop Gorman (NV)
Lorenzo Lingard, Jr.	University High (FL)
Jalen Mayden	Sachse High (TX)
DeAngelo McKenzie	Mt. Pleasant High (CA)
Verone McKinley III	Prestonwood Christian Academy (TX)
Teradja Mitchell	Bayside High (VA)
PJ Mustipher	McDonogh High (MD)
Micah Parsons -JD	Central Dauphin (PA)
Ricky Person Jr.	Franklinton High (NC)
TJ Pledger	Chaminade Prep (CA)
Merlin Robertson	Junipero Serra High (CA)
Jacob Sirmon	Bothell High (WA)
Patrick Surtain Jr.	American Heritage (FL)
Leonard Taylor	Springfield High (OH)
Alfred Thomas	Sidney Lanier High (AL)
Xavier Thomas	Wilson High (SC)
Dorian Thompson-Robinson	Bishop Gorman (NV)
Trevor Trout	Chaminade High (MO)
Taron Vincent	Gilman High (MD)
Brey Walker	Southmoore High (OK)
Quandree White	College Station High (TX)
Max Wilhite	Desert Edge High (AZ)
Max Wright	Taylor High School (TX)

About NFL Player Engagement

NFL Player Engagement assists players in reaching their highest potential on and off-the-field with guidance, support, and resources provided before, during, and after their NFL experiences. NFL Player Engagement works with three core audiences: Prep, Life, and Next. NFL Life (current players) and NFL Next (former players) reach more than 2,000 NFL players and spouses each year through a variety of programs and services focused on career development, financial and continuing education, as well as personal, psychological, and physical wellness. NFL Prep provides high-school and college student-athletes of all sports with tools to help them succeed in life, focused on awareness, prevention, and education. More information can be found at www.nflplayerengagement.com.

About Pro Football Hall of Fame

Located in Canton, Ohio, the birthplace of the National Football League, the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Mission is to Honor the Heroes of the Game, Preserve its History, Promote its Values, & Celebrate Excellence EVERYWHERE. The Hall's programs reach across the country and the world with a focus on five key values learned from the game: commitment, integrity, courage, respect, and excellence. For more information, please visit ProFootballHOF.com; @ProFootballHOF on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

About Wharton Sports Business Initiative

The Wharton Sports Business Initiative (WSBI) is a partnership among top level business leaders, Wharton faculty and students that generates and disseminates knowledge about the sports industry through educational programs, strategic corporate partnerships, high-level student consulting assignments, global forums, and research. The Wharton Sports Business Initiative is a research and executive education focused "think tank."

The Wharton Sports Business Initiative examines the sports industry in the same manner that, for example, financial institutions, manufacturing or the real estate industries are traditionally explored at major business schools. Wharton is uniquely positioned with its breadth of faculty to serve as a leader for the examination and implementation of best practices and future business models in this arena.

Many sports industry practices may be 'suboptimal' - that is, there may be inefficiencies that could be eliminated or reduced if the industry were exposed more broadly to new ideas from the academy. The academic setting allows for sports business competitors to benchmark and work together on industry wide issues. Additionally, the Initiative is focusing on best practices for sports entities and individuals regarding their philanthropic activities. The Initiative is located in the Wharton School's Legal Studies and Business Ethics Department, where a major focus of the faculty's work is on social responsibility in business.

About the Jefferson Awards

The Jefferson Awards Foundation is the country's longest standing and most prestigious organization dedicated to activating and celebrating public service. Through its programs, JAF trains and empowers individuals to serve and lead in their communities, amplifying their impact through the organization's vast network of media partners, mentors and volunteers. To learn more about the Jefferson Awards Foundation, visit: JeffersonAwards.org or engage on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

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