

January 2022 Issue No. 17



# LEGACY LEDGER

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER OF LEGACY NAFC



*A Message From NAFC Education Foundation  
Executive Director, Tyler Bliss*

The calendar has turned another page. Our alumni are adding another year to the reunion marker and the graduating class of 2022 can now see the end of their final semesters in sight. The New Year marks a time to reflect and to project. Let's all wish the teachers and students of NAFCS a healthy and prosperous New Year. We wish the same for you, our valued Legacy NAFC members!



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

To start the first issue of the year, we're breaking the mold of Alumni Spotlight. Instead of profiling an exceptional individual from each school, we'll be telling the tale of an entire team of Bulldogs, followed by a series of teams at Floyd Central. And once again, I am grateful for the help from two terrific guest contributors.

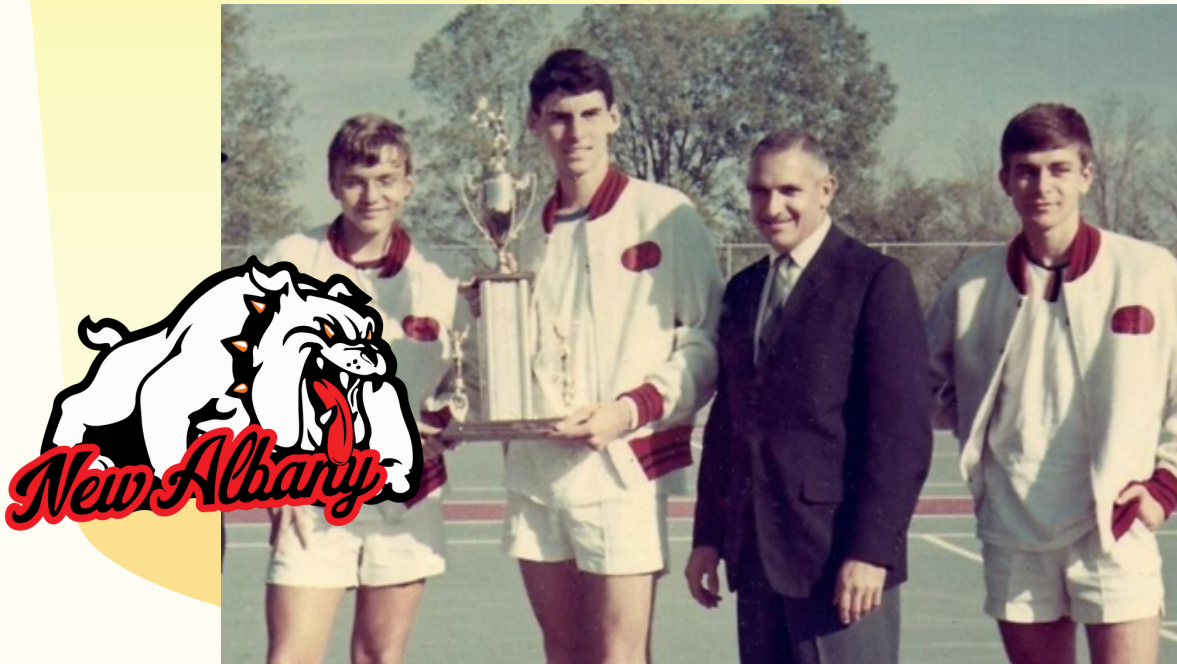
The tennis programs of both NAHS and FCHS have been very successful. But over fifty years ago, the Bulldogs got the party started and won the very first state tennis championship in 1967.

Wrestling has been phenomenally good for hundreds of boys at both schools. A key difference is that (the late) Phil Thrasher already had a good wrestling program in 1967. Up the hill, Roger Moody had to build something from virtually nothing.

I think you'll enjoy both stories.

**Guest editor Rex Bickers, FCHS 1970**

## The Beginning of NAHS Tennis...



The 1967 tennis stars, with "Coach Emeritus" Damon Sims.  
L to R: Sam Peden Jr., Bill Ellis, Sims, Ray Briscoe

The first state championship for New Albany was also the first-ever IHSAA state tennis championship. The year was 1967.

New Albany's trio of Ray Briscoe, Sam Peden, and Bill Ellis were already recognized tournament players before starting high school. Prior to that, New Albany had not allowed freshmen to play on the varsity team. However, it was obvious to NA's advantage to change that policy and play the freshman trio. There was no state tournament at that time for tennis. Lacking a sanctioned tourney, a "mythical" state championship had been established which NA won. As the trio was about to begin their senior year, the push was on to get IHSAA to sanction a state championship tennis tournament. Finally, a state tourney was set for the end of the 1967 fall tennis season.

Joe Cerqueira had been their coach for the first three years. But Coach Cerqueira left in August 1967 to become the varsity football coach at Floyd Central in its opening year. Bob Dusch was tagged to take over but was already committed to being an assistant varsity football coach for the Bulldogs. The IHSAA required that the players be accompanied by a coach or school representative and, with Coach Dusch unavailable, New Albany appointed Coach Emeritus Damon Sims to accompany the trio to the state championships. Incidentally, Coach Sims had been Sam's first tennis instructor in the parks, so he was not new to the sport.

Different from today's format, the first tourney allowed each school to enter two teams of singles and two teams of doubles. The winner in each advanced to the state finals while the runners-up advanced as alternates. Ray advanced in singles competition; Sam and Bill advanced in doubles. Terry McCooe and Glenn Mason earned points for New Albany by advancing as alternates. In the finals, Ray won the singles title 6-0,6-3, and Sam and Bill won the doubles title by the same score. New Albany easily swept the state tourney totaling 20 points to defeat Northwestern (Kokomo) who scored only 9 points.

The team had dominated the high school competition in Indiana and in Kentucky, ending their four years with a 94-1 winning record while being undefeated for the last three years. The capstone of their high school sports experience, though, was being the first Indiana state tennis champions.

**Guest contributor Calise Peden Mossler, NAHS 1970**



**RAY BRISCOE**  
New Albany High School  
State Tennis Singles Champion



**SAM PEDEN, JR. and WILLIAM ELLIS II**  
New Albany High School  
State Tennis Doubles Champions

## The Origins of FCHS Wrestling...



**FC Coach Roger Moody, in July 2021, with one of the captains of the first winning wrestling team, Rick Rowe, class of 1970.**

In the span of six years, FC wrestling went from 0-11 to 11-1-1 and laid the foundation for a culture that has lasted 50 years.

There had been no wrestling at Georgetown when FC opened. Likewise, no returning upperclassmen from previous years. It turns out that the secret sauce had been planted in the fifth grade by Mr. Phil Hart at Lafayette Elementary (now Floyds Knobs Elementary). And a few had gone to Scribner, where they had the option to wrestle as JV Bulldogs for Coach Phil Thrasher at New Albany.

Coach Roger Moody's first team was composed of three juniors, five sophomores, and the largest number - - nine - - from the freshman class. They didn't have a single win.

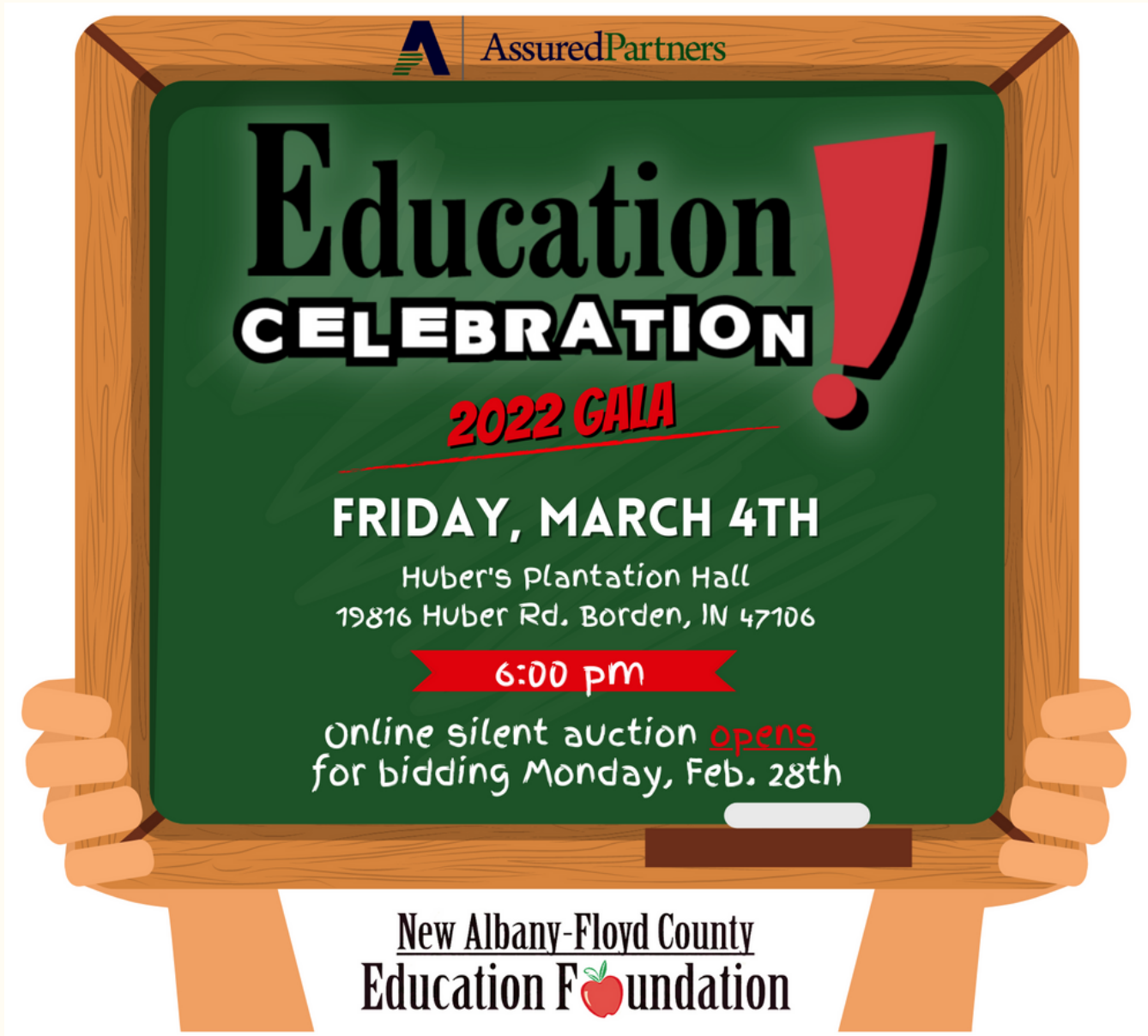
Seventh and eighth-grade wrestlers were one reason for optimism. There were 21 of them, and half had wrestled for Phil Hart at Lafayette. No one knew it at the time, but Mr. Hart would go on to win the Floyd County "elementary school championship" for 25 consecutive years with his fifth and sixth graders. And he came around fairly often at Floyd Central to watch and help with coaching. Year two improved to a record of 5-7 with 25 wrestlers on the team. Coach Moody would have a winning team every year after that, through his final year of coaching in 1972-1973, in a resounding way.

Year three saw the winningest team in FC's short school history at 10-2. Just three seniors, but the juniors more than made up for that. By 1971, when they became seniors, five of them made up of "Murderers' Row", in the middleweight classes (112 through 138): Doug Hollis, Larry Traub (team captain), Dennis Bryant, Mike Lynch, and David Snow. Traub finished his four-year career 59-7, a record that would stand for over a decade. Sophomore Terry Overton went on to have a single-season record of 26-1 by 1973, his senior year. It was Coach Moody's best and final year.

FC wrestling has gone on to become a culture of pride. But it all began with Coach Roger Moody believing that he could build something from nothing. And then, with the dedication of a lot of boys, the goal was attained.

**Rex Bickers and guest contributor Ken Hart FCHS 1976**

# Education Celebration! Gala Friday, March 4th



Join us for the annual Education Celebration Gala at Huber's Plantation Hall on Friday, March 4th, 2022. This fun event is for everyone: alumni, parents, teachers, business leaders, and more! The event will feature hors d'oeuvres, dinner, live entertainment, and a silent and live auction. The proceeds will benefit students, teachers, and schools in NAFC through the NAFC Education Foundation. Reservations are \$75 per person and can be made by visiting: [www.bidpal.net/educationcelebration](http://www.bidpal.net/educationcelebration)



# Dream Vacation: Winner's Choice Raffle

## Win 1 of 6 Amazing Packages

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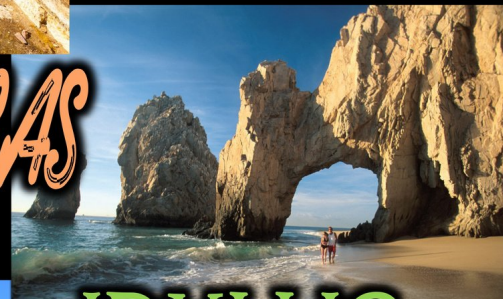
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# Dream Vacation: Winner's Choice Raffle

*Your chance to experience any of these 6 amazing packages! The winner will take their pick of any of the 6 packages listed below.*

**Each chance is \$100. Max 100 tickets sold!**

**WINNERS WILL HAVE TWO YEARS TO REDEEM!**

## **1. Escape to Maui**

4-Night Stay at The Fairmont Kea Lani Maui with Airfare for 2

## **2. Iceland Land of Fire and Ice**

Northern Lights, Blue Lagoon, and Golden Circle Tours, 5-Night Stay for 2

## **3. Exotic Supercar Driving Experience**

Drive Your Dream Car on a Racetrack, 3-Night Stay in a 4-Star Hotel on the Las Vegas Strip with Airfare for 2

## **4. Classic Greece**

5-Night Luxury Stay in Athens and Mykonos with Guided Tour for 2

## **5. Cabos San Lucas Getaway**

4-Night Stay in an Ocean View Room at Hilton Los Cabos Beach & Golf Resort with Airfare for 2

## **6. Idyllic Isle of Capri**

6-Night Luxury Stay at Sina Flora Hotel (Italy) with Private Boat Tour for 2

*Indiana State Gaming Laws prohibit the online sale of raffle tickets.*

**Call 812-542-2228 to purchase your chance to win**

**Drawing at the Education Celebration gala on  
Friday, March 4th, 2022 at Huber's Plantation Hall.**

100 tickets will be sold at \$100 each. If 100 tickets sell, the Education Foundation may use our discretion and sell a second, 100 ticket raffle. The odds will remain 1 in 100. Two winners will be chosen, one from each 100 ticket pot.

If all 100 tickets are not sold, the winner will receive a 50/50 split of proceeds with the organization. Checks should be made out to: New Albany Floyd County Education Foundation. For more information call, 812-542-2228 or email Tyler Bliss, Executive Director at TBliss@NAFCedFoundation.org

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**NOT A MEMBER YET?**

# LEGACY NAFC

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New Albany-Floyd County  
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LEGACY  
NAFC

The New Albany Floyd County Education Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that works in conjunction with NAFC Schools to provide privately funded supplemental resources and programs to students, teachers, and schools. NAFC Alumni Nation is an alumni program of the NAFC Education Foundation. Legacy NAFC is the official support group of NAFC Schools, NAFC Alumni Nation, and the NAFC Education Foundation.



[www.NAFCEdFoundation.org](http://www.NAFCEdFoundation.org)

<https://nafcalumni.nationbuilder.com/>

For more information, contact Tyler Bliss, Executive Director at 812-542-2228  
or TBliss@NAFCEdFoundation.org