



The Big Ten Conference
Wayne Duke Postgraduate Award
Presented by
The Indianapolis Big Ten Community Partnership

The Wayne Duke Postgraduate Award is named for the former Big Ten Conference commissioner who served from 1971-89. While leading the Big Ten, Duke spent much of his time working to improve academic standards and graduation rates for students competing in intercollegiate athletics. Prior to arriving at the Big Ten Conference, Duke became the youngest executive officer of a major athletic conference when he took over the former Big Eight Conference at the age of 34 in 1963. Duke broke down barriers by hiring the first African American assistant commissioner of any national athletic organization in 1974 as well as the first female assistant commissioner in 1982. Duke graduated from the University of Iowa in 1950. He retired after 18 years of service to the Big Ten on June 30, 1989.

The Wayne Duke Postgraduate Award (the “Award”) is an annual scholarship recognizing one male and one female Big Ten senior for exceptional achievement in academics, athletics, and civic service. The Wayne Duke Postgraduate Award is merit-based and features a one-time, non-renewable financial award. For 2025, each Award is \$10,000. Awards will be funded directly to the recipient’s postgraduate institution upon verification of enrollment within eighteen months of graduation.

Each Big Ten institution may nominate one male and one female student who has consistently demonstrated high levels of achievement in academics, athletics, and civic service throughout their collegiate career. From these nominations, an independent committee will select one male and one female nominee to receive the award.

Nominations from university administrators are due upon completion of the Fall 2024 term, but no later than January 23, 2025. Nomination forms may be accessed online at www.indianasportscorp.org/events/wayne-duke-postgraduate-award. Complete nomination packets must be uploaded via the electronic application link.

The Selection Committee is comprised of individuals who are independent of the Big Ten Conference and each institution. The Selection Committee will review all nomination packets to select the two Award recipients.

The Indianapolis Big Ten Community Partnership will present the Awards during the 2025 Big Ten Men’s Basketball Tournament in Indianapolis.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for consideration, a nominee must:

1. Honorably represent a Big Ten Conference institution, exhibiting excellence in academics, athletics, and civic service while displaying strong character and leadership skills.

2. Be an undergraduate who is competing in:
 - a. His/her last season of athletic eligibility, and,
 - b. A varsity sport sponsored by his/her Big Ten Conference institution.
3. Plan to enroll in graduate or professional school within eighteen (18) months of graduation.

Nomination Process and Materials

Each institution should select one male and one female student pursuant to the criteria contained herein. The selection process at each institution is at the discretion of each institution. A complete nomination packet should be uploaded via the online application link to the Selection Committee upon completion of the Fall 2024 semester, but **no later than January 23, 2025**. A nomination packet must include:

1. A nomination form signed by the institution's Athletic Director and Faculty Athletic Representative
2. A letter of recommendation from the nominee's Head Coach (providing detailed examples of demonstrated athletic achievement, character, leadership, teamwork, work ethic, etc.)
3. A letter of recommendation from an academic faculty member familiar with the nominee's academic performance (providing detailed examples of academic achievement and effort, extracurricular activities, leadership, accomplishments, etc.)
4. A student application form prepared through the online portal and verified by the nominee
5. An official copy of the nominee's transcript
6. A copy of the nominee's resume
7. A headshot, and if possible, a sport-specific action shot of the student for publicity purposes

A list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) is available online at www.indianasportscorp.org/events/wayne-duke-postgraduate-award. Additional questions may be directed to Indiana Sports Corp at (317) 237-5000 or cdempster@indianasportscorp.org.

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OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM

Big Ten Institution: _____

Nominee Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Male Female Sport: _____

Academic Progress:

Degree Program: _____

Major(s): _____

Minor (if any): _____

Hours required for degree: _____ Hours Completed: _____

Cumulative GPA: _____ (_____ point scale) Expected Graduation Date: _____

The above-named nominee:

Yes No*

The above-named nominee:	Yes	No*
Is an undergraduate who is competing in his/her last season of athletic eligibility in a varsity sport sponsored by a Big Ten Conference institution.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plans to enroll in graduate or professional school within eighteen (18) months of graduation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Honorably represents a Big Ten Conference institution, exhibiting excellence in academics, athletics, and civic service while displaying strong character and leadership skills.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* If the answer is 'No', this student-athlete is ineligible for nomination.

(TO BE COMPLETED BY THE INSTITUTION'S ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AND FACULTY ATHLETIC REPRESENTATIVE)

I certify that the information provided above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Printed Name: _____

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STUDENT APPLICATION FORM

Big Ten Institution: _____

Nominee Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Male Female Sport: _____

Nominee's **Present** Address/Phone:

Nominee's **Permanent** Address/Phone:

(Street, Apartment/Room No.)

(Street, Apartment/Room No.)

(City, State, Zip Code)

(City, State, Zip Code)

(Telephone)

(Telephone)

Nominee's E-mail Address: _____

List extra-curricular activities:

Please describe your postgraduate aspirations and reasons for selecting your intended course of postgraduate study. You may also include the names of schools that you are considering. Please use no more than 300 words.

