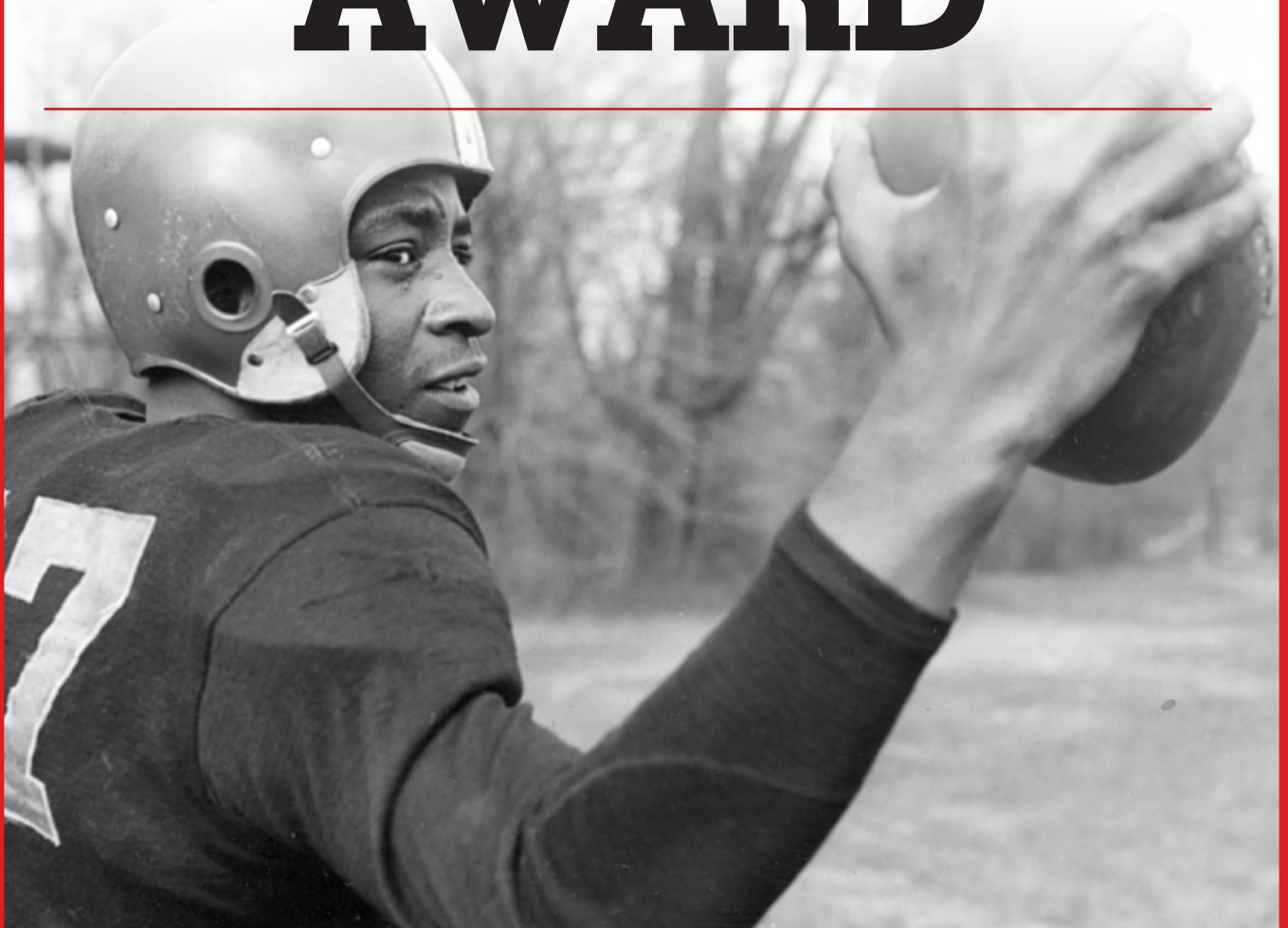


THE 2021

SECOND ANNUAL

WILLIE THROWER AWARD



PRESENTED BY:

**THE WILLIE THROWER
AWARD FOUNDATION**



WILLIE THROWER MEMORIAL AWARD FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS

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Willie Thrower, Jr.

Melvin Thrower

Jennifer Thrower Mason

WILLIE THROWER MEMORIAL AWARD FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT

The Willie Thrower Memorial Award, beginning with the 2020 season, will annually honor the best high school quarterback in Southwestern Pennsylvania to memorialize Willie Thrower for being the first Black Quarterback in professional football history.

We want to recognize and pay tribute to the fact that in the storied history of professional sport's most dominant league (NFL) that it was a black quarterback who hails from Southwestern Pennsylvania who broke through that barrier.

The individual selected to receive this award will be determined by the voting of a panel comprised of high school football coaches representing each of the conferences from the WPIAL and City League along with a panel of sports broadcasters and sports writers who cover high school football on a regular basis in the ten-county area of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Willie played for the former New Kensington High School which has since merged with Arnold High School to form Valley High School. Thrower was known as "Mitts" because of his large hands and arm strength which stood in contrast to his 5'11" frame.

He was part of a 2-time WPIAL Championship team and 1-time WPIAL runner-up squad.

Collegiately, he played at Michigan State University under legendary Spartans head coach Clarence Lester "Biggie" Munn and was a member of the 1952 Michigan State University Division One National Champions. In 1953, after signing as a free agent with the NFL's Chicago Bears, he made his groundbreaking debut against the San Francisco 49ers on October 18, 1953.

The recipient of this award will receive a bronze replica statue of Willie Thrower just like the one that is on display at the entrance to Valley High School's football stadium in New Kensington, Pennsylvania.

"Whatever it is that you are going to be...be a giant."

—Willie Thrower, Sr.

**WILLIE THROWER MEMORIAL AWARD HONORING THE BEST HIGH SCHOOL
QUARTERBACK IN SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA**

HOW THE WINNER WILL BE DETERMINED

The selection process will be comprised of a panel of high school football coaches representing each of the conferences from the WPIAL and City League along with a panel of sports broadcasters and sports writers who cover high school football on a regular basis in the ten-county area of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

The award will be given to an outstanding high school football quarterback who is a leader both on and off the field. The recipient will be a very talented signal-caller who like Willie Thrower was, is dangerous with both his arm and his legs and makes opposing defensive staffs stay up late at night trying to devise schemes to slow him down.

The recipient must be a dependable and respected teammate and be of good character.

Each participating panel member will at the conclusion of the regular season submit their nominees via email or postal mail to the Willie Thrower Award Committee.

Each participating panel member will rank their top 5 high school quarterbacks that they have either played against, watched play or read about their accomplishments during that regular high school football season. It is recommended that the panel members make themselves aware of their 5 nominees' statistical achievements from the season. For example, passing yards, rushing yards, completion percentage and touchdowns passing and rushing.

Each participating nominator will rank their top 5 high school quarterbacks on the following scale: Their number 1 ranked nominee will receive (10) points, number 2 (8) points, number 3 (6) points, number 4 (4) points and number 5 (2) points.

The top 5 nominees who earn the most points will be invited to an awards banquet in March/April in which they will be recognized and the eventual winner will be announced. The winner will receive a bronze replica statue of Willie Thrower just like the one that is on display at the entrance to Valley High School's football stadium in New Kensington, Pennsylvania.

Additional Criteria for Nominators to Consider in Determining their 5 Nominees:

- A. *Clearly a difference maker* for his team when he is on the field.
- B. Rises to the occasion when his squad *really* needs it most.
- C. Mentally and physically strong.
- D. Wants to win every game but more importantly *"hates to lose"*.
- E. Possesses an exemplary work ethic.
- F. Sets the bar for his team in terms of demonstrating *"good sportsmanship"*.

BIOGRAPHY OF WILLIE "THE PRO" THROWER

by Melvin & Willie Thrower Jr.

WILLIE THROWER was born March 22, 1930 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Willie Thrower went to Ken High in 1945-1949, known today as Valley High School, in New Kensington, PA There he helped lead his team the Ken High Raiders to 2 WPIAL Championships in 1946 and 1947, they also were the WPIAL runner-up in 1945.

After graduating high school, Willie Thrower went to Michigan State from 1949 - 1952 where he helped lead the Spartans to win their first National Championship in 1952 beating Notre Dame.

Willie Thrower graduated with a degree in Psychology from Michigan State University. Later on, he went undrafted to the Chicago Bears in 1953 for just one season. Willie then went on to play for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1954-1956.

Willie ended his career at the age of 27 due to a shoulder injury. He married Mary Rowe (THROWER) in 1964 at St. James A.M.E church in New Kensington where they became the church's first African American couple to get married. From this union they had 3 boys: Willie Jr., Jason and Melvin Thrower.

Willie Thrower was not only a pioneer who broke the color barrier for quarterbacks, he was a great man who loved his family, community and was loved by many that looked up to him. He was a tremendous inspiration, mentor, and advocate, most especially to those in his community. The famous line he would tell kids when he mentored them was, "Anything you do, always be a Giant."

Willie Thrower passed away February 20, 2002.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & AWARDS

- Allegheny-Kiski Valley Sports Hall of Fame
- W.E.B DU BOIS AWARD N.A.A.C.P (W.E.B. DU BOIS Exhibited Great Courage in His Fight of Social Justice and Equality)
- WPIAL HALL OF FAME - 2011 Athlete/Heritage Award.
- Featured in the ESPN Sports History book: *THIRD AND A MILE - THE TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS OF THE BLACK QUARTERBACK.*
- RIPLEY'S BELIEVE OR NOT: Known for the world's largest pro football hands.

Willie Lee Thrower (March 22, 1930 – February 20, 2002) was an American football quarterback. Born near Pittsburgh in New Kensington, Pennsylvania, Thrower was known as “Mitts” because of his large hands and arm strength, which stood in contrast to his 5’ 11” frame. He was known to toss a football 70 yards. Thrower was a part of the 1952 Michigan State Spartans who won the national championship. He became one of the first National Football League (NFL) African American quarterbacks in the modern era, playing for the Chicago Bears in 1953.

Early life

Thrower played halfback in the single-wing formation for New Kensington High (present-name: Valley High School) as a freshman just after the end of World War II in 1945. Single wing halfbacks received a direct center snap, and then had run, handoff, or pass options. The team lost 2 games. In subsequent seasons head coach Don Fletcher installed the T formation and moved Thrower to quarterback. From his sophomore to senior years, New Kensington won 24 straight games, including the 1946 and 1947 Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) Class AA championships. He would only lose one game in his career. As a dual-threat quarterback, Thrower was also an All-WPIAL and all-state first team honors, and he was named captain for an All-American scholastic selection covering the nation east of the Mississippi River. His final high school record was 35–3–1. Despite his accomplishments, Thrower still experienced racism. In 1947, the Miami, Florida Peanut Bowl, featuring top high school teams around the country, rescinded the invitation it had extended to Ken High to play in the annual prep classic game when organizers saw a photograph of its star. In addition, many colleges opted not to extend Thrower a scholarship when they discovered his ethnicity.

College football

After graduating, Thrower chose to play collegiate football for the Michigan State Spartans alongside some of his high school teammates William Horrell, Joseph Klein, Renaldo Kozikowski, Vincent Pisano, and the Tamburo brothers, Harry and Richard. He would remain in East Lansing from 1949–1952, competing for playing time at quarterback with All-Americans Al Dorow and Tom Yewcic. Under head coach Clarence “Biggie” Munn Thrower became the first black quarterback to play in the Big Ten Conference in 1950 in his first year of varsity eligibility (NCAA rules dictated no freshman on varsity preventing Thrower, who was a freshman in 1949, to play) although during the first two years of his varsity career, he had only attempted 14 passes. During the 1952 championship season, Thrower was an integral part of the title run, completing 59 percent of his passes (29-of-43) for 400 yards and five touchdowns. In a crucial game with Notre Dame, Thrower stepped in for an injured Tom Yewcic and threw a touchdown in a 21–3 win. In his final game in a Spartan uniform, Thrower completed seven of his 11 attempts for 71 yards and a touchdown, and added a rushing touchdown in a dominating 62–13 win over Marquette that sealed the nation’s Number 1 ranking, and championship, for Michigan State.

Professional career

National Football League (1953)

In the 10th minute of the period, (Joe) Perry fumbled and (Dick) Hensley recovered on the 49ers’ 16. Willie Thrower, former Michigan State Negro quarterback star making his major league debut, passed 12 to (Jim) Dooley, putting the ball on the 4. (George) Blanda and (Fred) Morrison came into the game with a resounding razzberry. They wanted Willie to put it over. But Morrison did it on a blast off tackle. The boos changed to cheers. Although Thrower was not drafted in 1953, he was offered one year, \$8,500 contract with the Chicago Bears. He became the backup quarterback and roommate to future

Pro Football Hall of Famer George Blanda. He did not play until October 18, 1953 against the San Francisco 49ers. Bears coach George Halas was unhappy with Blanda's play and pulled him, sending in Thrower. He moved the team to the 15-yard line of the 49ers, but was denied a chance to score a TD when Halas put Blanda back into the game. The Bears eventually lost the game 35–28. Thrower completed 3 out of 8 passes for 27 yards, and had one interception. He would only play one more game for the Bears, who released Thrower after the 1953 season.

Legacy

In 1979, he was elected to the Westmoreland County Sports Hall of Fame. In 1981, he was inducted into AK Valley Hall of Fame. In 2003, an official state marker was dedicated to him in his high school. In 2011, he was inducted into the WPIAL Hall of Fame. Being the first African-American quarterback in the NFL, in 2002 Thrower told The Valley News Dispatch of Tarentum, Pa, "I look at it like this: I was like the Jackie Robinson of football. A black quarterback was unheard of before I hit the pros."

Death

He died of a heart attack in New Kensington on February 20, 2002, at the age of 71. His funeral was held at the Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in New Kensington, where 150 people mourned. In 2006, a statue of Thrower was erected near Valley High School in New Kensington to honor his accomplishments. The statue was unveiled during a Valley High School football game in September attended by Pittsburgh Steelers owner Dan Rooney as well as Thrower's family. Willie Thrower was also mentioned by former NFL quarterback Warren Moon in his Pro Football Hall of Fame acceptance speech. Moon thanked Thrower, among others, for giving him inspiration during a time when few African-Americans played the quarterback position in the NFL.

REMEMBERING THROWER'S CONTRIBUTIONS

by: **Len Pasquarelli**

ESPN.com

A dozen African-American quarterbacks started a combined 112 NFL games during the 2001 season. While those numbers represent all-time league highs, it is likely not a single one of those 12 QBs can correctly identify the first man of color to take a snap in a modern-day NFL game.

Then again, no one could blame Donovan McNabb if he never heard of Willie Thrower. Ditto Steve McNair, Michael Vick, Aaron Brooks, Daunte Culpepper, Charlie Batch, Quincy Carter or Tony Banks. And even though Kordell Stewart plays 30 miles south down the Allegheny River from where Willie Thrower established himself as a prep school star, operating the single-wing formation at New Kensington (Pa.) High, it's understandable that the name would likely register a blank with the Pittsburgh Steelers star.

Unless you were born in Western Pennsylvania, weaned on the lore of that area's gridiron history, there is little chance of familiarity with Willie Thrower. I first heard of Thrower from my dad and my uncles and, in subsequent trips to the hamlets of the Allegheny Valley, his legend became a part of my football rearing.

"But he was a lot more than a thrower. He was a passer, a guy who could fit the ball through the eye of a needle when he needed to." — Hall of Fame quarterback George Blanda on Thrower

But as they say about a bad joke, well, you had to be there.

The irony is, Willie Thrower was no joke, and his football deeds no laughing matter. You've got to dig deep into the pages of encyclopedic tomes such as Total Football to unearth the fact that Thrower, then 23 years old, played two games for the Chicago Bears during the 1953 season. He completed three of eight passes for just 27 yards and tossed an interception before coach George Halas released him.

It was 13 seasons before another black man lined up at quarterback in an NFL game.

The printed professional football legacy of Thrower, who died Wednesday at age 71, occupies all of 3½ lines, and two of those detail his height and weight, birth date, high school and college. It is preposterous, though, to suggest that Thrower's contribution to the game can be limited to a puny half-inch of agate type.

For many players of this era, the history of the black quarterback in the NFL commences with the glory days of Doug Williams, who earned most valuable player honors in Super Bowl XXII. It's likely, of course, that players such as McNabb and Stewart and McNair still would have become high-profile performers in the NFL even if Thrower had never made his two-game cameo. But to diminish the importance of Thrower's contribution, from a competitive and social standpoint, is incredibly shortsighted.

Those eight passes Thrower tossed in 1953 before Halas decided he didn't really require a third quarterback on the roster certainly were not the galvanizing event of, say, Rosa Parks refusing to move to the back of the bus. Neither should Thrower's brief NFL career be tossed into the trash bin of history, nor discarded as an afterthought occurrence. He earned less than \$10,000 on his only league contract, but his legacy is far richer than that.

Thrower's son, Melvin, on Wednesday told the local Valley News Dispatch his father was "a giant." But be careful before you charge a grieving son with hyperbole, because Willie Thrower overcame insurmountable odds to simply make it out of the river town where his name and his deeds meant so much.

One of the game's most aptly named athletes, Thrower could fling the ball 70 yards on a line. "But he was a lot more than a thrower. He was a passer, a guy who could fit the ball through the eye of a needle when he needed to," said Hall of Fame quarterback George Blanda.

When the historians click off the names of great quarterbacks of western Pennsylvania lineage -- John Unitas, Joe Namath, Joe Montana, Dan Marino, Jim Kelly and others -- the famous litany never includes Thrower. It's an unfortunate oversight. In the bigger picture, the one beyond the field, his accomplishments were every bit as significant.

A humble and giving man even as a youngster, Thrower's celebrity drew thousands to the New Kensington games on Friday nights, and he led coach Don Fletcher's team to a pair of Class AA titles in the late 1940s. The games also drew college recruiters, many of whom came armed with scholarship offers, only to withdraw them once they noticed through binoculars that Thrower was black.

It took an enlightened administration, and plenty of convincing on both sides, to get Thrower into Michigan State, where he became the Big Ten's first African-American quarterback. After his stint in the NFL, Thrower played three years in the CFL before retiring and returning home to western Pennsylvania to raise his family and work in the community.

Battling diabetes for the past eight years, Thrower spent much of that time spinning yarns at the local Elks lodge, where on Wednesday night his fellow members toasted his memory. There will be thousands of prayers whispered for Willie Thrower over the next few days, oratories by those who recalled him not only as a football star but more important as a good guy.

It would be fitting if the fraternity of black quarterbacks who now star in the league could recall Thrower with a prayer of thanks.

Len Pasquarelli is a senior writer for ESPN.com.

GEORGE SOLOMON AND THE HALL OF FAME

by: Korry Alden Greene

Esquire

Second only to Willie Thrower's accomplishments and conquests as a quarterback was the effort of George Solomon. A New Kensington native himself, like most of us, George knew of Willie's legendary status as the first African American to play quarterback in the NFL. It was George's efforts that compelled the NFL to recognize its history. It was George Solomon who pursued Willie Thrower's admission to the NFL Hall of Fame, George was both catalyst and committee. I liken Willie Thrower's quest to quarterback an NFL team in the 1950s, and let us remember this was one of the founding teams of the league-the Chicago Bears, being akin to walking on the moon in the 1960's. As something that people of all backgrounds would not have anticipated ever happening. Although not nearly as strenuous as the required efforts of Willie Thrower, having to time and time again prove his ability to doubters, George's quest to gain Willie's admission to the NFL Hall of Fame, to force the NFL to recognize its history and Willie, to make it known that the first African American Professional quarterback was well before Marlon Briscoe of the Denver Broncos and James Harris of the Buffalo Bills and Los Angeles Rams in the late 60's and early 70s, that the color barrier had already been broken by no one other than Willie "The Pro" Thrower. Without George Solomon's efforts who knows if Mr. Thrower would have ever received his due.

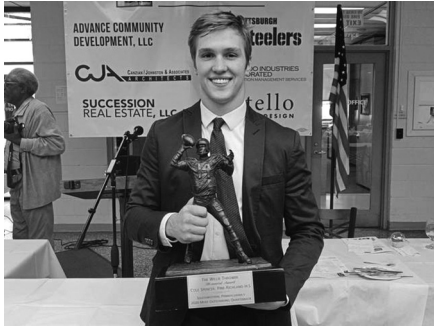
Because of George's efforts and Willie's greatness we are able to gather here tonight to, not only, honor the "Best High School Quarterback in Southwestern Pennsylvania" but also to further extend back in time Southwestern Pennsylvania's rich tradition of quarterbacking in the NFL to include the NFL's FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN QUARTERBACK - MR. WILLIE THROWER.

PINE-RICHLAND'S COLE SPENCER NAMED FIRST WILLIE THROWER AWARD WINNER AS WPIAL'S TOP QB

by: Steve Rotstein

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

April 10, 2021



A two-time all-state selection who led Pine-Richland to an undefeated season and WPIAL and PIAA Class 5A championships this past fall, Rams senior quarterback Cole Spencer picked up one more award before officially closing the book on his high school career-the Willie Thrower Award.

Named after the New Kensington native who went on to become the first Black quarterback to play in the NFL, the Willie Thrower Award will be presented annually to the best quarterback in the WPIAL. Spencer became the award's first-ever recipient at the inaugural Willie Thrower Award luncheon at Valley High School on Saturday afternoon.

"Me being the first ever is honestly unreal," Spencer said. "It's just awesome."

Saturday's luncheon was hosted by master of ceremonies Jonathan Whaley and included brief speeches from all five finalists and their coaches, along with remarks from former Brashear and West Virginia star Major Harris and WPIAL executive director Amy Scheuneman. Several of the late Thrower's family members were in attendance, including his wife, Mary, his sons, Melvin and Willie, Jr., his sisters-in-law, Toni Burton and Louise Turner, and his cousin, Monique Smith.

Pine Richland quarterback Cole Spencer was the winner of the inaugural Willie Thrower Award. given to the best quarterback in the WPIAL, after a ceremony at Valley High School on Saturday, April 10, 2021. (Steve Rotstein/Post-Gazette) Following each of the finalists' speeches, a video highlight package put together for each player played on a projection screen beside the podium.

Spencer passed for 2,606 yards and 33 touchdowns in 2020 -both tops in the WPIAL -and also rushed for 302 yards and eight additional scores on the ground. He finished his career as Pine-Richland's all-time leader with 110 total touchdowns, and also ranks ninth in WPIAL

history with 7,089 passing yards. He finished his high school career with a record of 32-5, two WPIAL titles and one state title.

During his speech, Spencer revealed his surprising connection with Thrower, Spencer's grandfather, Chuck Curtis, was a former NFL quarterback for the New York Giants who went on to become a scout at SMU. There, Curtis became the first known scout to recruit a Black player to college, which Thrower acknowledged in an old interview played during the award ceremony.

"That was pretty cool to see that connection to the Thrower family," Spencer said.

Thrower, who died of a heart attack in 2002, compiled a 35-3-1 record and, like Spencer, won two WPIAL titles at New Kensington before graduating in 1948. He went on to lead Michigan State to a national championship in 1952 before playing one season for the Chicago Bears in the NFL, as well as a few seasons in the Canadian Football League.

As talented as Spencer is on the football field, though, the Willie Thrower Award is likely the final football accolade he'll ever receive. One of the premier two-sport athletes in the WPIAL, Spencer is signed to wrestle at Penn next year. He won his second WPIAL wrestling title last month and finished third at 160 pounds at the PIAA Class 3A individual wrestling championships.

Spencer beat out a star-studded cast of quarterbacks from across the WPIAL to win the award. The other finalists were Upper St. Clair senior Ethan Dahlem, Central Valley senior Ameer Dudley, Thomas Jefferson senior Jake Pugh and freshman Brad Birch, who played at Jeannette this past fall but has since transferred to Gateway.

Voting for the award was conducted by a panel of WPIAL coaches and media members, who were asked to rank the top five quarterbacks in the WPIAL in 2020 in order. First-place votes counted as five points, second-place votes counted as four points, and so on.

"To end it off with [an award named after] such a great man, alongside four other awesome finalists as well—it's an honor to be recognized," Spencer said.

SECOND ANNUAL WILLIE THROWER MEMORIAL AWARD LUNCHEON

APRIL 9, 2022 NOON

NEW KENSINGTON QUALITY INN

Welcome	George Guido - Foundation Board Member & Master of Ceremonies
Introduce the head table and Preview the Afternoon's Events	George Guido
Pledge of Allegiance.....	James Santorella, - WHJB Radio -Moment of Silence for Solicitor David Regoli-
Welcoming Remarks	Thomas Guzzo, - Mayor, City of New Kensington
Introduce the Foundation Board Members and Distinguished Guests	George Guido
Luncheon Begins	Attendees will be served at the Buffet Table

PROGRAM BEGINS

Introduce **Don Holl**, head football coach Gateway High School & Brad Birch

HUDL highlight video of **Brad Birch** - Sophomore QB - Gateway Gators

Introduce **Nick Nardone**, head football coach Beaver Falls High School & Jaren Brickner

HUDL highlight video of **Jaren Brickner** - Junior QB - Beaver Falls Tigers

Introduce **Bob Palko**, head football coach Mount Lebanon High School & video address from Joey Daniels.

HUDL highlight video of **Joey Daniels** - Senior QB - Mount Lebanon Blue Devils

Introduce **Frank Fabian**, head football coach Armstrong High School & Cadin Olsen

HUDL highlight video of **Cadin Olsen** - Junior QB - Armstrong River Hawks

Introduce **Brett Berish**, defensive coordinator Belle Vernon Area High School & video address by Devin Whitlock

HUDL highlight video of **Devin Whitlock** - Senior QB - Belle Vernon Leopards

Introduce our featured guest speaker - **Amy Scheuneman** - Executive Director WPIAL

Introduce our keynote speaker - **J.T. Thomas** - four-time Super Bowl champion with the Pittsburgh Steelers

ANNOUNCE THE WINNER OF THE WILLIE THROWER MEMORIAL AWARD.

The four finalists receive their momentos as they are called.

Recipient comes to the podium and shares his thoughts

The Willie Thrower Memorial Award Foundation Would Like To Extend A Very Special Thanks To:

Keynote Speaker **J.T. Thomas**, the former Steelers defensive back and first round draft choice from 1973 from Florida State University. Mr. Thomas was a long-time entrepreneur in the Pittsburgh area following his playing days;

Featured Guest **Amy Scheuneman**, the fourth Executive Director of the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League;

Guests

**Chuck Cooper III, Darnell Dinkins, Mark McCloud,
Thomas Rooney, Charlie Schliebs, Hon. Dwayne Woodruff;**

AND

Valley High School technology teacher **Rich Shaner and his students** for assembling the video portion of today's luncheon.

For being a valuable part of the second Willie Thrower Memorial Award Luncheon honoring the top quarterback in Southwestern Pennsylvania

BRAD BIRCH



SOPHOMORE - QUARTERBACK GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL

- Jeannette 1A Freshman Season 1,643 Yards & 30 TD'S
- Gateway 5A Sophomore Season 2,615 Yards (Lead WPIAL) & 32 TD'S
- 2 Year Total = 4,258 Yards Passing & 62 Passing TD'S. 10 Rushing TD'S.
- 1A All State as a Freshman, Max Prep Freshman All American Team.
- Big East Conference 1st Team. 5A All State as a Sophomore
- Division 1 Offers from Oregon & Akron.
- Interest from Penn State, West Virginia, Ohio University.
- Trains with 2/Tenths Coach Greg McGhee & Coach Adam Demichele along with Coach Don & Donnie Holl at Gateway.
- Plays for 412 Elite 7 on 7.
- Started playing Football at age 5 with the Jeannette Midgets where they won 4 Championships in 6 years. At age 11 he guided the team to an undefeated season and finished 3rd Nationally in the 1st National Football Tournament held in Canton Ohio losing only 1 game to the eventual National Champions from Georgia.
- Played at Woodland Hills in 8th Grade & had an Undefeated season & won a Championship.
- Won a 1A WPIAL Title his Freshman Season at Jeannette becoming the 1st Freshman ever to start at QB in the history of the school.
- Was PROUD to be one of five elected for the Inaugural Willie Thrower Award last year as the only Freshman among 4 other Senior QB'S.
- Helped Gateway get to the 5A Playoffs in 2021.
- Brad enjoys playing basketball & 7 on 7 football in his spare time & loves spending time with friends.
- Volunteers with Educated Athletes First, which is a non profit group that benefits youths.
- Learned a lot about Willie Throwers Legacy from last year's Banquet and I really do want to Thank the Thrower Family for their journey and sacrifices.

JAREN **BRICKNER**



JUNIOR - QUARTERBACK BEAVER FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

2021 FOOTBALL SEASON • JUNIOR YEAR

- Passing yards: 2579 - Second in WPIAL
- Touchdown passes: 25 -Third in WPIAL
- Rushing yardage: 428 yards; 8 touchdowns
- Combined passing and rushing yardage: 3007 yards
- Combined passing and rushing: 33 touchdowns
- Three-year letter winner in football
- Three-year starting quarterback
- 2021 MAC All-Conference Quarterback
- Beaver County Times Top 22 Football All-Star
- 2021 2A All-State Quarterback PA Writers Association
- Led the Tigers to the WPIAL Championship Game two consecutive years
- Set Beaver Falls High School single-season record for passing yards
- All-time leading passer in Beaver Falls High School history
- All-time leading quarterback in Beaver Falls High School history with 24 wins
- High Honor roll achievement

2020 FOOTBALL SEASON • SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Quarterback of 2020 2A WPIAL Champion Beaver Falls Tigers
- Beaver County Times Top 22 Football All-Star
- Passing yards: 1049
- Touchdown passes: 6
- High Honor roll achievement

A MAN OF MANY TALENTS

- Two-year letterman in Basketball at Beaver Falls
 - o 2021-22 Season: Played 21 Games // 200 Points // 9.5 Average // 134 Rebounds // 24 Assists // 28 Steals // 30/44 Foul Shots (68%) - Led team in points and foul shot percentage
 - o 2020-21 Season: Played 12 Games // 22 Points // 1.9 Average // 20 Rebounds // 7 Assists // 4 steals
- One-year letterman in Baseball at Beaver Falls High School
 - o First-year starter at centerfield for Beaver Falls
 - o Batting average: .309
 - o All-Conference Outfielder 2021

TAKING THE STAGE EARLY ON

- Started playing football, baseball, and basketball at six years old
- Won five Beaver County Youth Football League Championships in seven years as quarterback for the Beaver Falls Little Tigers
- Quarterback of Beaver Falls Mitey-Mite team featured on Friday Night Tykes Steel

Country

- Played AAU Basketball for Stags
- Played AAU Baseball for Beaver Valley and Astro Falcons
- 2013 Blackhawk Youth Baseball Flame Thrower award winner at 9 years old

JOEY **DANIELS**



SENIOR - QUARTERBACK MT. LEBANON HIGH SCHOOL

- 2x Team Captain
- 2021 PA 6A State Champions: 15-0
- 2021 6A WPIAL Champions
- Big 33 All Star Game Selection - representing PA against Maryland
- PA Football Writers 6A All-State Team
- PA Coaches 2nd Team All-State Team
- Big 56 First Team All-Conference
- TribLive First Team All-Conference
- Post Gazette First Team All-Conference
- Preseason TribHSSN 25 All Star Team
- Postseason TribHSSN 25 All Star Team
- Elite 11 Regional Invitee
- 3 Rivers Broadcasting Co-Player of the Year
- Senior Stats: 112/189 for 2,118 yards, 31 TDs, 4 rushing TD, 1 receiving
- Finished career as LEBO's all-time leading passer in yards, completions and touchdowns
- TribLive Player of the Week - State Semifinals - 6 passing TD's
- 3-year starter for the Varsity Baseball Team
- Recipient of prestigious LEBO alumni award - Dan Howard "Mr. Football" award
- Played QB for 6 years with Evolve 2/10ths 7on7 travel team
- Volunteers regularly at United Methodist Church food pantry and referees for LEBO's flag football program
- 3.9 overall GPA and member of the National Honor Society
- Plans to attend college and continue his football career and major in Business
- Fun Fact: won the league championship his first year playing youth football and finished his high school winning the state title - both going undefeated!
- In his spare time, Joey enjoys fishing, golf, working out, playing video games and spending time with his family and friends

CADIN **OLSEN**



JUNIOR - QUARTERBACK ARMSTRONG HIGH SCHOOL

POST SEASON ACCOLADES

- Offer from the University of Pennsylvania
- HSFA Academic All-American Selection
- National Honor Society
- PA All-Academic Selection with a 4.48 GPA
- PA Writers All State QB (2020)
- PA Prep Rivals All-State QB (2020)
- Tribune Review WPIAL All Star Team
- Feb 22 Selection
- 2x All-Conference QB
- MaxPreps PA player of the week (wk 2)
- Tribune Review Football Player of the week (wk 9)
- Preseason All-State Max Preps QB
- Preseason PA Writers All-State QB
- PA Prep Rivals Sophomore Qb of the Year (2020)
- WPIAL Regular Season Passing leader (2020)
- School Passing records for single game TDs, single game Yards, single season TDs, single season yards. Career TDs and career yards.
- 2X first team all Big 56 in 5A basketball.
- Tribune Review Basketball Player of the wk. (wk 6)
- 2x Elite 11 invitee
- Rivals/Wilson QBX Invitee

DEVIN **WHITLOCK**



SENIOR - QUARTERBACK
BELLE VERNON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

2021

QB

64-96-2 int- 9 TDS- 1023 yards

RUSHING

109-1189 10.9 yards per carry

27 total touchdowns

2020

35-76-3 int-6 TDS-528 yards

RUSHING

101-1082. 10.7 yards per carry

21 total touchdowns

2019

2-3-0 int-1- TD- 6 yds

RECEIVING

22/291 13.2 yards per reception

RUSHING

66 Carries 507 yds. 7.7 yards per carry

10 total touchdowns

2018

Monessen high school

11 touchdowns

THANK YOU

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