

PLAY LIKE A CHAMPION TODAY

18th Annual National Sports Leadership Conference



June 15-16, 2023 at the University of Notre Dame

Sport for All: Stronger Together

Conference Overview



Annual Leadership Conference

Each June, *Play Like a Champion* welcomes coaches and administrators from sports organizations across the United States to Notre Dame for their National Sports Leadership Conference. The conference serves as a forum for new attendees and veteran *Play Like a Champion* partners to connect while learning how to build an equitable youth sports system and foster the holistic growth of all children and adolescents. The conference also serves as the first step to beginning partnership with *Play Like a Champion* by training trainers to implement the program in their home community.

"It's always the people at the conference and the opportunity to engage in discussions with them about how they live out this mission within their own schools and leagues that is powerful. This is a phenomenal group committed to the well-being of our children and the mission of virtue driven sports. It's your biggest asset as a program and this conference allows the group to get together in one place and interact."



Connect, Educate & Inspire.



Past Conference Highlights



Pictures (clockwise from top): Play Like a Champion Executive Director Dr. Clark Power leads a roundtable discussion on the topic of "A Team for Every Child", Conference staff and speakers pose for a photo in Notre Dame Stadium, award winners Anne Stricherz (left) and Andrea McCabe (right) take a photo with conference staff, participants in the 3rd Annual Play Like a Champion Olympics pause for a group photo, participants enjoy a discussion during one of the conference sessions .

2023 Conference Preview



18th Annual Conference Preview

The 2022 Leadership Conference *Sport for All: Stronger Together* will be held June 15-16, 2022 at the University of Notre Dame. The option to attend portions of the conference virtually will be available for those unable to travel to Notre Dame.

A Team for Every Child

Conference attendees come from across America, with youth, high school and community leaders from a diverse group of schools and organizations. This national community is committed to providing opportunities for kids to participate and grow through sports and activities, creating *A Team for Every Child*.

As we continue this mission, we look forward to welcoming to the conference A Team for Every Child leaders from Homeboy Industries, North Lawndale Athletic and Recreation and Association, Michiana

Athletic and Recreation Association, New Life Centers (Little Village Chicago), Laureus Sport for Good Chicago and more. Join us in this exciting journey as we gather to connect, learn and be inspired at this year's conference!



Travel & Lodging

The University of Notre Dame is easily accessible by air, car or train. The campus is approximately 100 miles from Chicago airports and 150 miles from the Indianapolis airport or 5 miles from the South Bend Regional Airport. Several area hotels offer discounted rooms for the conference and lodging is also available in on-campus dorms. Click the link below for detailed information on both of these options!

<https://www.playlikeachampion.org/conference-travel>



2023 Conference Preview



Annual Pre-Conference Retreat

Our 9th annual pre-conference spiritual retreat will be held on Wednesday, June 14th. Prior to the start of this year's retreat, participants are invited to attend Daily Mass at 11:30 am EDT at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame. The retreat will begin at 1:00 pm EDT in the LaFortune Student Center on campus. This year's theme will be revealed in the spring. In 2022, the retreat theme was *Restoring and Refilling Our Cup*, an opportunity for busy athletic leaders to pause after two challenging years, reflect on the graces they have encountered, and "refill" their cup so that they can continue to pour themselves out to the athletes and staff entrusted to their care. This year's retreat will allow participants to experience the beautiful campus of the University of Notre Dame while providing time for prayer, reflection and discussion.



Mass on Campus

The University of Notre Dame offers several opportunities for visitors to attend daily and Sunday Mass on-campus. During the summer, Mass is celebrated Monday - Friday in the Basilica's crypt at 6:45 am (the entrance is located on the north end of the Basilica) and at 11:30 am in the Basilica. For those staying over the weekend, you may

wish to attend the 5:00pm (Sunday) Vigil Mass on Saturday evening at the Basilica. On Sunday, Mass is celebrated at the Basilica at 10:00 am, with Mass in the Basilica's crypt at 6:30 am, 9:30 am and 11:00 am. Tours of the Basilica are also available daily from 9:00 - 11:00 am.

Sacred Spaces

The Notre Dame campus is filled with inspiring sacred spaces for those looking for a place to pray and reflect. In addition to the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, visitors are often drawn to the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, a walk around St. Joseph Lake (with Stations of the Cross) and the reflecting pool underneath the famous "Word of Life" mural on the outside of the Hesburgh Library - often referred to as "Touchdown Jesus". We encourage attendees to take the time to experience these beautiful spaces. More detail on exploring the campus and maps with these locations are [available here](#).



Conference Speakers



JP Abercrombie

JP Abercrombie joined Notre Dame Athletics in February 2022 as the Executive Associate Athletics Director, Culture & Engagement, leading organizational culture, diversity, equity, inclusion, and various operational effectiveness efforts. Abercrombie's role includes active relationship building with student-athletes, coaches, staff, campus & industry colleagues, the local community and alumni. Managing key initiatives of the AD's office, Abercrombie serves as chair of the Athletics Leadership Team and influences

all aspects of the department. Prior to Notre Dame, Abercrombie served as the Associate AD for SOAR/Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer at Rice University. Her career also features stops at Mississippi State University, University of California, Berkeley, and Temple University. A Chicagoland native, Abercrombie competed in track and field at Temple University, graduating with honors in linguistic anthropology. She holds a Master's in the Cultural Studies of Sport in Education from the University of California, Berkeley.



Justin Becht

Justin Becht is the Director of Futsal for Indiana Soccer, focusing on the growth and development of Futsal at all age levels and ages in Indiana. Born and raised in Milroy, Indiana, Becht moved to Indianapolis to attend IUPUI for Sports Management. It was there that he was introduced to the game of futsal through his work at Indy Parks. The work gave him purpose and a new mission to provide access to soccer and futsal to communities

that are underserved by the existing soccer structure. In 2015, Becht was appointed Director of Indiana Futsal under the Indiana Soccer Association. Over the past eight years the organization has worked to serve Indiana communities through place making, in-school programming, capacity building, and public advocacy.

Conference Speakers



Dr. Jenny Conviser

Jenny H. Conviser Psy.D is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University, as well as the Founder of Ascend Consultation In Health Care. A Certified Mental Performance Consultant, she holds a master's degree in Exercise Science from Northern Illinois University, where she spent 7 years as their Head Gymnastics Coach. Today,

Dr. Conviser works with athletes, musicians, parents and coaches across the nation to assist them in achieving excellence in performance, including US Figure Skating National Champion and 2014 Olympian Gracie Gold. In addition, Conviser has served on the Advocacy and Communication Committee for the Academy of Eating Disorders (AED), conducts research and participates in policy development toward the prevention and awareness of eating disorders.

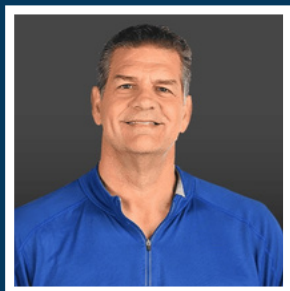


Fabian Debora

Fabian Debora is the Executive Director of Homeboy Art Academy. Born in El Paso, TX, he began his career in 1995 as a member of the East Los Angeles Streetscapers, where he was mentored by many Chicano artists and muralists, and was introduced to creative expressions of all forms. Debora's work has now been showcased in solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States and abroad, including Santa Barbara, Los

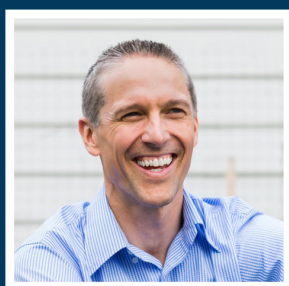
Angeles, Kansas City, Brooklyn, and throughout Latin America. He served as a counselor and the Director of Substance Abuses Services & Programming as well as a mentor at Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles for a decade, then moved on to worked as Community Connection Director at Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network. He also works in collaboration with Latino Producers Action Network (LPAN) as the Art Director, and is an instructor for community artists and students throughout Boyle Heights.

Conference Speakers



Mike Golic

A senior captain on Notre Dame's 1985 football team, Mike Golic enjoyed 8 years as a defensive lineman in the NFL before embarking on more than three decades (and counting) in sports media. From 2000-2017 his voice greeted American sports fans each weekday morning as one-half of the popular duo Mike & Mike on ESPN Radio and ESPN2, where his experience and passion for all things sports gained the show a legion of fans. Golic has since served as an analyst for college and professional football while appearing on a variety of popular shows and hosting a podcast. Alongside his wife Christine and three children, Golic is active with the family's non-profit [Golic Family Foundation](#), which provides grants and financial assistance to organizations in the local community.



Dr. Matt Hoven

Matthew Hoven is a professor at St. Joseph's College, University of Alberta and an author of the 2022 book [On the 8th Day, A Catholic Theology of Sport](#). His work focuses on the educational dynamic within religion and the religious dynamic in education, exploring forms of religious education that range from schools or parishes to the ice rink or basketball court. Hoven says that "People often overlook historical and contemporary connections between sport and religion. They downplay sport's significance or limit religion's reach. I want to change that." Raised in rural, central Alberta, Hoven earned his education degree from the University of Alberta and his Doctorate in Religious Education from Catholic University of America. He lives in Edmonton with his wife and three children, who he also helps to coach. Learn more about Matt by [clicking here](#).

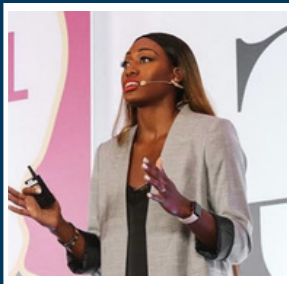
Conference Speakers



Icy Jones

Icy Jones is the Executive Director of America SCORES, which inspires youth to "lead healthy lives, be engaged students, and have the confidence and character to make a difference in the world." SCORES serves more than 13,000 students at more than 300 public and charter schools in 11 major cities, integrating soccer, poetry and service to impact youth. Jones has held leadership roles in numerous education, nonprofit, and government

agencies. Before joining SCORES, he served as the Director of Policy for the Maryland Department of Human Services Social Services Administration and previously worked for the Baltimore City Department of Social Services and the Philadelphia Education Fund.



Priscilla Loomis

Priscilla Frederick Loomis is a dynamic speaker, entrepreneur and Olympian, having recently retired after a Track & Field career that saw her compete in the 2016 Summer Olympics and become a two-time Pan Am Games medalist. Priscilla brings the "Olympic Mindset" to everyday life, working with high school and college student-athletes as well as

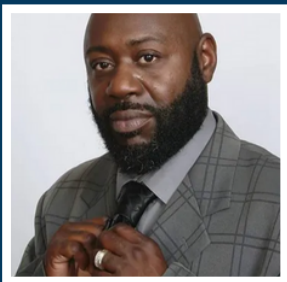
professionals from the business world to help them find purpose, overcome obstacles, and become the best versions of themselves. A wellness advocate and purveyor of positive energy, she has more than 10 years' experience as an athlete, speaker, content creator and coach. Through the Priscilla E. Frederick Foundation, she helps to assist single parent households with their children's education while offering relief and assistance to individuals, families and communities in need. You can learn more about Priscilla by [clicking here](#).

Conference Speakers



Andrea Perales

Andrea was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. She grew up playing sports and became a student athletic trainer throughout college; she not only has experience in athletics, but a passion for it. Andrea graduated from the University of Hawai'i with a Bachelor's in Kinesiology and is now pursuing a Masters in Sports Psychology at Pepperdine University. She is committed to helping athletes learn how to improve their sports performance and mental well-being with mindfulness and practice. Andrea believes in taking a collaborative approach to helping them reach their goal and improve their wellbeing. She is currently a practitioner at Sport Psychology north of Los Angeles, where her work focuses on individuals learning to cope with trauma, grief, depression, and anxiety.



Derrick Perry

Derrick Perry is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps who was born and raised in South Bend, IN. Having worked in mental health with children and adolescents for over 10 years, Derrick is passionate about ensuring our youth can grow into productive citizens of the world. He serves as a Board Member for the Michiana Athletic and Recreation Association and leads its Relationships Activate Life Long Relationships Program, connecting with youth in school and program settings. "I've seen this city go through a lot," says Derrick. "As a South Bend native, entrepreneur, mental health counselor and community organizer, I've worked with just about every slice of life in this city. First and foremost, I consider myself a facilitator. I've learned how to have tough conversations—especially with regard to race and the criminal justice system. Whether or not you know someone who is justice-involved, the principles of restorative justice can help you grow as an individual and as a neighbor."

Conference Speakers



LaVont'e Stewart

LaVont'e Stewart earned a degree in Computer Science from Chicago State University and his Master's in Public Administration from DePaul University. Having specialized in gang intervention and violence prevention for the Black United Fund of Illinois, he also worked for six years in the Illinois General Assembly. Stewart founded Lost Boyz Inc. in 2009 when he felt a call-to-action after witnessing how antisocial behavioral patterns and local

violence were increasingly impacting area youth. Having experienced firsthand the profound impact baseball can have on a child's development, he rallied the community around organized youth baseball. The organization added softball in 2014. Today, Lost Boyz provides sports-based youth development to help boys and girls ages 4-24 in Chicago's under-resourced neighborhoods develop confidence, resilience, and life skills.



Bishop Paul Tighe

Born in Navan, Ireland, Bishop Paul Tighe has long been known as the Vatican's "Media Guru", having been named Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications in 2007 before being appointed by Pope Francis to his current role as the Secretary of the Dicastery for Culture and Education in 2017. The Dicastery is home to the Catholic Church's efforts to engage sport and works for the development of human values while

considering how faith, religion and the Church interact with society. Bishop Tighe has spent much of the last 20 years looking at how an increasingly digital culture is changing the world and how to better communicate in that world. Doing so has meant working both in the Vatican as well as traveling across the world to dialogue with leaders. He celebrates 40 years since his ordination as a priest this year and was consecrated a bishop in 2016.

Conference Speakers



Kevin Triskett

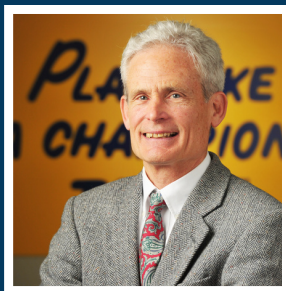
Kevin Triskett was named the Executive Director of America SCORES Chicago in June 2022, following more than 15 years working in nonprofit and foundation sectors across Chicago. Triskett works closely with his staff to serve students in some of Chicago's most underserved communities, using soccer, poetry and service to impact kids and the community around them.

Before joining SCORES, Triskett spent nearly seven years in program operations at Start Early, a nonprofit champion for quality early learning and care, focused on closing the opportunity gap for our young learners. He also previously worked at the Chicago State University Foundation, playing an integral role in advancing the interest and welfare of CSU by building relationships, securing philanthropic support, stewarding assets and otherwise procuring private support on behalf of the University.

Play Like a Champion Staff

Clark Power, Kristin Sheehan, Jim Power, and Peter Piscitello will be present to teach you Play Like a Champion's Character curriculum for coaches, sport parents and athletes. Our staff will welcome you and inspire you to join our community in kinship.

Play Like a Champion Staff



Dr. Clark Power

Clark is one of the nation's leading minds in moral education and developmental psychology. He is *Play Like a Champion's* founder, Executive Director and primary researcher, and provides key thought leadership for the program. He has served on the Board of the National Council for Accreditation of Coaching Education, the Notre Dame Faculty Board on Athletics, and the Association for Moral Education. A graduate of Villanova University and Washington Theological Union, and Harvard University, Clark has taught at Notre Dame since 1982.

Kristin Sheehan

Kristin has served as the Program Director of *Play Like a Champion* since the program's inception. She leads all partner relations, coordinates educational programs, and spearheads the development of new curricula. Kristin has co-authored numerous articles and publications and presented *Play Like a Champion* workshops across the country. She earned undergraduate and master's degrees in theology and psychology from Notre Dame, where she was a varsity athlete on the cheerleading team.



Jim Power

Jim serves as *Play Like a Champion's* Director of Strategic Planning, coming to the organization following a full career with GE Capital and years of coaching experience with his 5 children. His educational background includes both an MBA and a Masters of Social Work at the University of Pennsylvania. He has been very active in the Old St. Pat's Kinship Initiative in Chicago, IL as well as the North Lawndale Athletic and Recreation Association (NLARA).

Peter Piscitello

Peter serves as *Play Like a Champion's* Director of Operations, having joined the organization in 2017 after spending more than a decade in youth and college sports administration. He graduated from Benedictine College, where he studied business and theology before earning a Master's in Education from the University of Washington. He brings with him a passion for sports and a desire to help children grow in faith, character and skill.



Play Like a Champion Staff



Dr. Fabian E. Udoh

Fabian began teaching in 1998 at the University of Notre Dame's Program of Liberal Studies. He was born in Nigeria and did his university studies in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo), Rome (Italy), Oxford (England), and here in the United States at Duke University. As a scholar, his work has been focused on the New Testament, Early Christian History, and Jewish History in the Early Roman Period. Of late, he obtained a dual Executive MBA in Management from Purdue University and Tilburg University (Netherlands).

Mariah Smith

Mariah is a native of South Bend, having attended Washington High School and then graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Psychology in 2020. She has been with Play Like a Champion for a year working on data collection, reporting and marketing for the Michiana Athletic and Recreation Association, one of Play Like a Champion's A Team for Every Child partner organizations. Mariah is trained to lead Restorative Justice Peace Circle groups in local Michiana schools and sport programs to create a self-healing community among and with youth.



Play Like a Champion Fast Facts



Over 230 Youth & High School Partners across more than 150 Cities since 2006.



Over 140,000 Coaches & Parents ave been Trained in the Play Like a Champion approach. Benefiting more than 1.5 million children.



Play Like a Champion is active in over 43 diocese and hundreds of Catholic schools.

What Attendees Are Saying

"This is a phenomenal group of people from across the country who are taking this mission and applying it. We need to be committed to action so that we can continue to move forward with these big ideas and spread this 'cultural revolution' even further in sport." ~ Boston Coach.

"The conference exceeded my expectations. It was very organized and professional. The content presented was relevant, informative and thought provoking." ~ Partner from Atlanta, GA

"The program is quite impressive...this conference creates collaboration with seminar formats and close interaction with presenters and colleagues."
~ Attendee from Dallas, TX



"I was very happy to have been part of it. There were so many excellent speakers and valuable information and community shared. I only wish I had known about it sooner." ~ Past Conference Participant

"The conference...was spectacular. The featured speakers were very motivational and informative. Interacting with others and discussing our mutual challenges made me feel a part of something bigger than myself."
~ Kansas City Coach

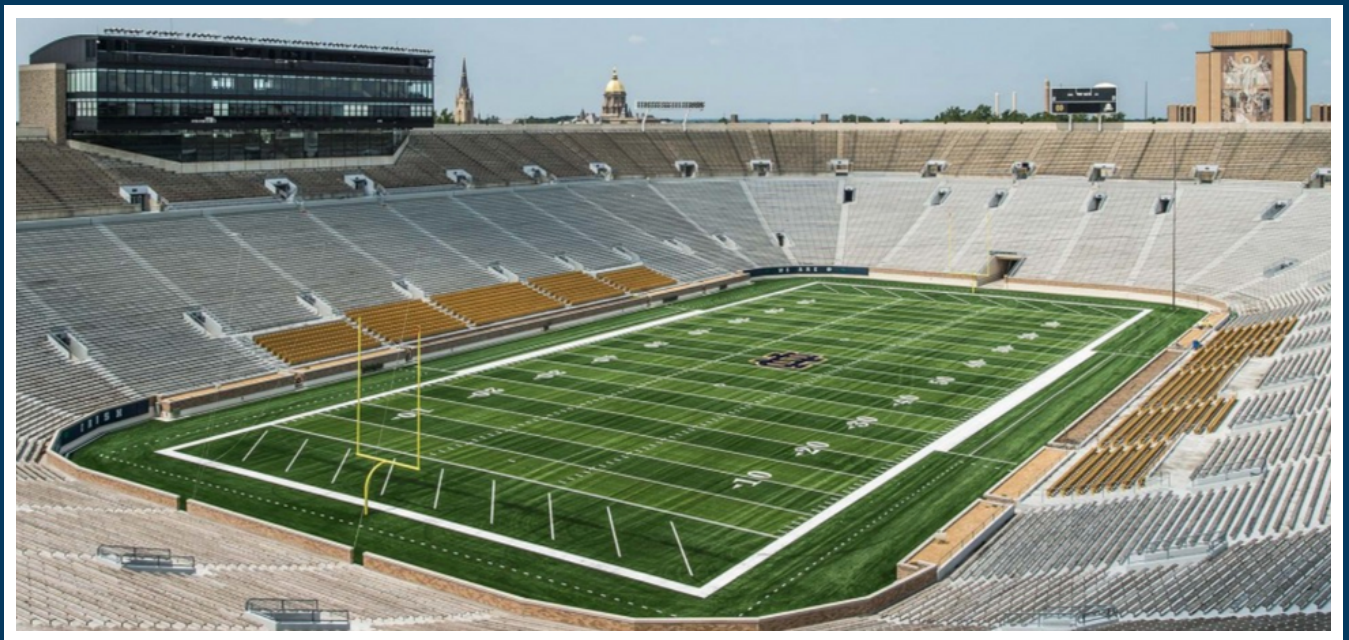
This conference, its attendees, panelists, speakers, partner presenters and coaches opened the door to so much great information. I've come home and researched all of the above people, bought books, read articles and picked up a movie. The conference hasn't stopped for me."
~ Past Conference Participant

"It is an honor to attend every year, and I hope you and the staff know what an impact you each make in sports. I am grateful for all that I learn, and I look forward to continuing to attend every summer." ~ Past Conference Participant

Additional Highlights

Notre Dame Highlights

The Conference features a number of great opportunities to experience the beautiful campus of the University of Notre Dame and its state-of-the-art facilities. Enjoy a dinner in the Dahnke Ballroom that overlooks Notre Dame Stadium. Saturday features dinner followed by a tour of the Compton Family Ice Arena (COVID protocols permitting) and the popular Play Like a Champion Olympics. While on campus, we invite you to explore the famous Golden Dome, take a photo of "Touchdown Jesus", visit the Snite Museum, light a candle at the grotto, attend Mass and take a tour of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, take a jog or walk around St. Joseph Lake and have a pint at the local Irish Pub. Guests will find plenty of fun things to do outside the conference schedule!





Character Education Through Sports

Play Like a Champion Today Educational Series

www.playlikeachampion.org

information@playlikeachampion.org

574-250-6424

