

# ***PLAY LIKE A CHAMPION TODAY***

18th Annual National Sports Leadership Conference



Join us on 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>

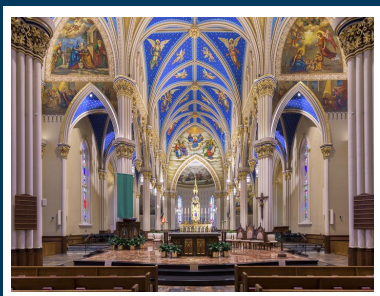


# 2023 Conference Preview



## 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

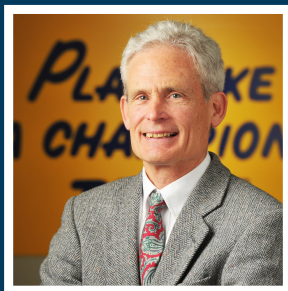
wish to attend the 5:00pm (Sunday) Vigil Mass on Saturday evening at the Basilica. On Sunday, Mass is celebrated at the Basilica at 10:00 am, with Mass in the Basilica's crypt at 6:30 am, 9:30 am and 11:00 am. Tours of the Basilica are also available daily from 9:00 - 11:00 am.

## 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](#).



# Play Like a Champion Staff

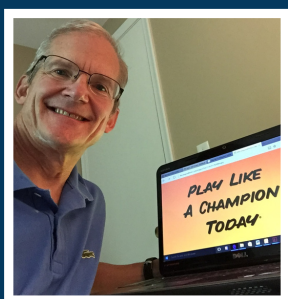


## Dr. Clark Power

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

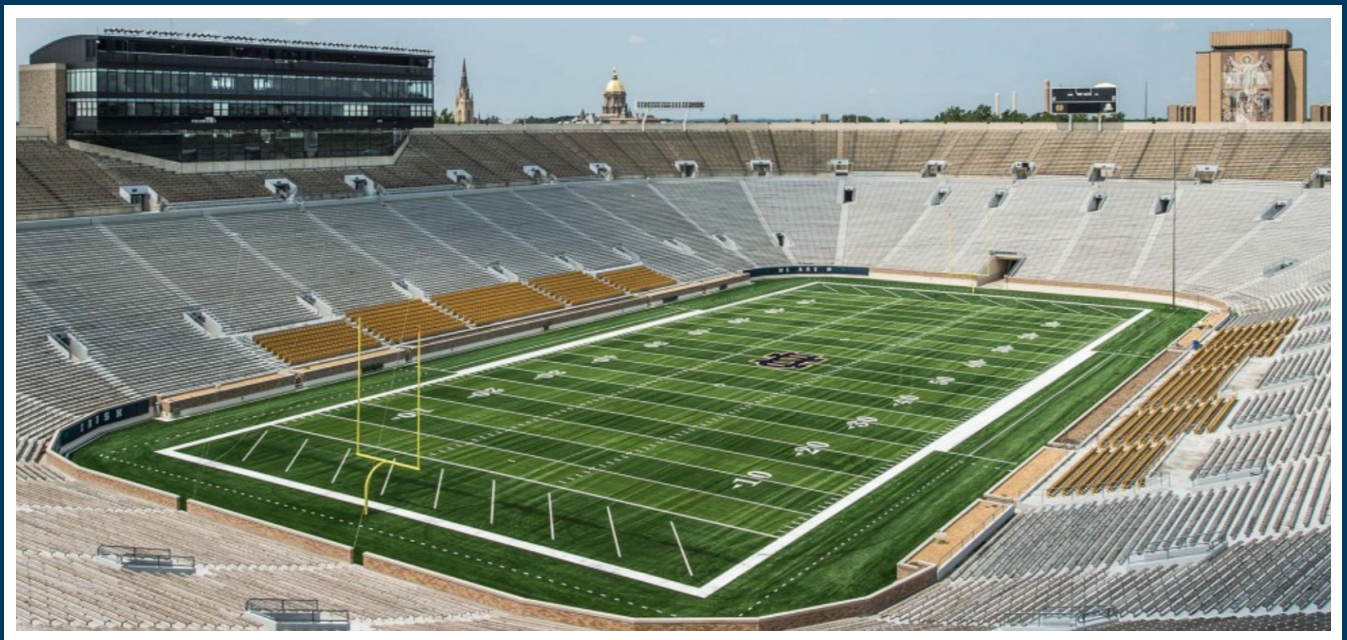


# Additional Highlights

## 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!





**PLAY LIKE  
A CHAMPION  
TODAY**

Character Education Through Sports



## Play Like a Champion Today Educational Series

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