

NEIRON BALL LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD 2025

AWARD AMOUNT \$1,158

“DESPITE ALL OBSTACLES, HE SMILED IN THE FACE OF GOD.”



Neiron Arrod Ball was born on August 20, 1992 and he passed away on September 10, 2019. He was a student in the Butts County School system where his favorite teacher was Mrs. Claire Zant. Mrs. Zant was pivotal in helping Neiron and his family during the difficult time when he lost both parents by the age of 9 years old. A team of loving relatives worked together to raise him and ensure his success: his grandmother, the late Josephine White; his aunt, Betty Ball Coleman; his sister and brother-in-law, Natalie Ball-Myricks and Dary Myricks. Neiron was an honor student and member of the BETA Club throughout his educational career. Neiron was a three-sport athlete at Jackson High School where he ran track, played basketball, and excelled at football. Neiron graduated from Jackson High School in 2010. He received a full athletic scholarship to the University of Florida (UF) and graduated early from Jackson High School as he enrolled at UF on January 2010. He attended the University of Florida where he was a linebacker on the football team from 2010-2015. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from UF. Neiron entered the 2015 National Football League Draft. He was drafted in the 5th Round (#161) by the Oakland Raiders. Neiron played for the Oakland Raiders from 2015-2017. Despite these athletic accolades, his greatest accomplishment was his character and courage as he wore a smile on his face and was a caring individual. He was honored with two prestigious awards during his college career at UF: Chris Patrick Courage Award & Forest K. Ferguson Award.

The Chris Patrick Courage Award is given to the player who, after injury, demonstrates outstanding commitment and dedication in the athletic training room in an effort return to activity with the team. Neiron Ball is synonymous with the word courage. He suffered from AVM in 2012 and was sidelined with this injury for one season. During his time with the Gators, he was able to get back on the field and be a productive linebacker for the Gators. Ball was the recipient of the Christ Patrick Courage Award in 2013.

The Forest K. Ferguson Award is presented annually in memory of one of the University of Florida's greatest athletes. The award is given in the form of a trophy, which remains in permanent possession of the school. The recipient is the Gators' senior football player who displays outstanding leadership, character, and courage and is selected by the Florida Gators coaching staff; Neiron was the recipient of this award in 2014.

Neiron made his transition to be with the Lord on September 10, 2019 as a result of suffering a brain aneurysm on September 16, 2018. Neiron fought hard to overcome the obstacles of the illness while he was hospitalized. His sister, Dr. Natalie Ball Myricks, fought for good healthcare and his safety while Neiron was hospitalized. She established this scholarship in honor of her baby brother to be a beacon of hope for student athletes who struggle against all odds in their life. Despite all obstacles, Neiron smiled in the face of God. It is our hope that the recipient(s) of this scholarship will help continue Neiron's legacy by working hard and defying the odds. Hard work pays off, even when it doesn't pay off the way you want it to; Neiron never lost a game, he just ran out of time.

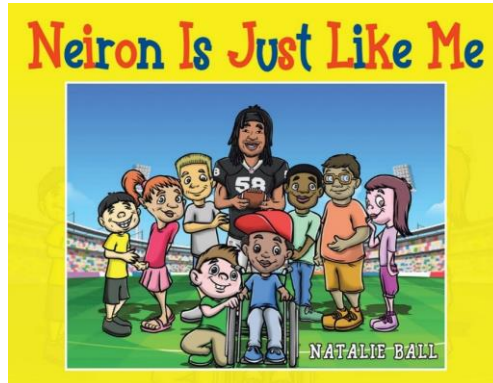
Neiron's story is currently being told all over the world. In November 2023, Natalie published a children's book in his memory that is available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon. In addition, his official football was signed at Raider Image stores in Las Vegas. For more information, scan the QR code below.



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Please type your answers or write in blue/black ink pen.	
1.	Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
2.	Mailing Address Street: City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
3.	Daytime Telephone Number: () Email Address: _____
4.	Date of Birth: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ Gender: _____
5.	Please attach the following to your application. A. Current transcript. B. Letter of recommendation from one teacher AND one JHS coach.
6.	Name of College You Plan to Attend in the Fall: _____
7.	Anticipated College Major: _____
8.	Name & address of parent(s) or legal guardian(s): (Include address if different than your own listed in Question 2.) Name(s): Street: City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Home phone of parents or legal guardians: () Cell phone: ()

9. On a separate sheet please provide a typed essay (400- 500 words) answering the questions below:

Why are you the best candidate for the NB Legacy Scholarship? Also, discuss in your essay about any challenges or obstacles you have dealt with and overcome in life and how this will help you succeed in college and beyond. How will you contribute with keeping Neiron’s legacy alive as a Jackson alumnus?

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STATEMENT OF ACCURACY FOR STUDENTS

I hereby affirm that all the above stated information provided by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also consent that if chosen as a scholarship winner my picture may be taken and used to promote the scholarship program. (Winner may waive photo due to unusual or compelling circumstances.)

I hereby understand I will not submit this application without all required attachments and supporting information. Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet eligibility criteria will not be considered for this scholarship.

Signature of Scholarship Applicant: _____ **Date:** _____

Checklist

- Application
- Essay (Typed; Follow Guidelines)
- School Transcript
- 2 Letters of Recommendation (One from teacher and one from JHS coach)
- Copy of College Acceptance Letter
- 1 Current Photo (Email digital photo to: nataliemyricks@yahoo.com)

MAIL COMPLETE APPLICATION PACKAGE TO:

**Attention: Dr. Natalie Ball Myricks
NB Legacy Scholarship Committee
1256 McAllistar Drive
Locust Grove, GA 30248**

REMINDER:

**The deadline for this application to be received is:
April 4, 2025 4:00 p.m. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

