

2022-2023 Elida Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees



Aaron Thompson

Aaron Thompson, a 2006 graduate, was a four-year varsity basketball player and four-year varsity golfer. During Aaron's senior year, he was named Western Buckeye League Player of the Year for basketball. He also was named District 8 All-District First Team, Northwest Ohio First Team, All-State Special Mention, Lima News Dream Team, and played in the District 8 North/South All-Star game. Aaron was one of the 2006 Valedictorians with a 4.0 GPA.

After high school, Aaron went to college at Washington University in St. Louis and continued his basketball career. During his college career, Aaron earned many accolades and accomplishments.

Career Highlights:

- Second in school history in three-pointers (285), third in scoring (1,558 career points), fourth in steals (161), sixth in assists (335), Seventh in three-point field goal percentage (.425), and 10th in field goals made (537)
- Led WU to 2008 and 2009 NCAA Division III National Championship
- 2008 and 2009 Final Four All-Tournament Team
- 2007 UAA Rookie of the Year
- 2007 Division III Freshman All-American Team
- 2009 First Team Division III All-American
- 2009 UAA Player of the Year
- 2010 Division III Preseason National Player of the Year
- 2010 Third Team Division III All-American
- Three-time Academic All-UAA honoree
- 103-16 career record
- 119 games played is the most all-time at WU

Aaron graduated in 2010 from Washington University with a degree in Finance. He currently lives in Arvada, Colorado with his wife, Angie. Aaron is an information and projections analyst for Huddle Technology.



Dennis Thompson

Denny Thompson is a 1974 Elida High School graduate and a 1978 Bluffton College graduate. While in high school, Denny participated in basketball, track, cross country, and tennis, earning five varsity letters. He went to Bluffton College and majored in Mathematics. At Bluffton, he played four years of varsity basketball and two years of varsity golf.

During Denny's high school years of basketball, he was named First Team All-Western Buckeye League and First Team All-City. Although he was a guard, Denny was known for his rebounding. His career high for one game was 25 rebounds. During his senior season, Denny had 272 rebounds and averaged 14.4 per game.

Denny was inducted into the Bluffton College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000. They described him as "one of the most versatile performers to ever step onto the basketball court at Bluffton." He is listed in almost every statistical category in the record book and at or near the top of several. For his senior season, he scored 536 points for an average of 22.3 points per game, sixth best all-time at Bluffton. On defense, he recorded 82 steals for an average of 3.4 per game and still holds the school record. He was named First Team All-Hoosier-Buckeye Conference and NAIA District 22 selection.

Thompson is one of nine Bluffton players to collect at least 1,000 points and 500 career rebounds. His career rebounds of 654 rank him ninth all-time at the college. He ended his college career with 1,296 points, ranking him 11th of all time. Denny was named Converse Small College Honorable Mention All-American in 1978.

After college, Denny began his teaching and coaching career in 1978 at Montpelier and then Bath Schools. He came to Elida High School in 1984 and taught math for a total of 33 years. Coach Thompson coached high school athletics in six different decades. He was the head golf coach for 39 years. He was the head basketball coach for 15 years after being the assistant for 20 years. During Coach Thompson's career, he had the honor and privilege of coaching many tremendous athletes which helped lead Elida to seven Western Buckeye League titles in golf

and three Western Buckeye League titles in basketball. He was named Western Buckeye League Coach of the Year seven times in golf and three times in basketball. His basketball post-season record is 35-15. In his 15 years, his team garnered nine sectional titles, three district titles, one regional runner-up, one regional title. In 2012, he led Elida to a state runner-up in its only state appearance. In golf, Coach Thompson's teams had 23 district appearances, three teams went to the state tournament, and three individuals went to state.

Denny Thompson has devoted the majority of his life as a student, athlete, and coach to the Elida School District. For that, Elida is thankful and appreciative. Coach Thompson can still be found coaching basketball. He has returned the past two seasons as an assistant at Bluffton University, giving back to his college alma mater.

Denny and his wife Janna reside in Elida and continue to be supportive of Elida students and athletic programs.



Tommy Thomas

Tommy Thomas is a 1996 graduate of Elida High School, where he excelled in soccer. He was a four-year varsity soccer athlete and a two-year varsity baseball player. Soccer was Tom's passion which led him to a soccer career at the college level and a present soccer coaching position at Elida.

Tom had many soccer accomplishments in his four years at Elida.

- Four Western Buckeye League Championships (1992 through 1995)
- Career points leader (207)
- Career goals leader (88)
- Career assists leader (31)

- Most goals in a single season (28)
- Three-time Western Buckeye League First Team (1993, 1994, 1995)
- Two-time Western Buckeye League Player of the Year (1994 and 1995)
- Two-time All-District 1st Team (1994 and 1995)
- Two-time All-District Player of the Year (1994 and 1995)
- All-District Second Team (1993)
- All-State (1995)
- Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award (1995)

After high school, Tom went on to attend Bowling Green State University and earned his Bachelor of Science in Technology and Construction Management. While attending BGSU, he played on the men's soccer team from 1996 through 2001. While playing for Bowling Green, Tom and his team won a MAC regular season championship. He played in four MAC Tournament Championship games and won two of them. Tom played in two Sweet 16s in the NCAA Tournament as well. He was the 2001 team captain. He started in the final 66 matches of his career.

After college, Tom returned to his hometown and has had the opportunity to share his love of the sport with the youth of Elida. His head coaching career began in 2004 and continues through the present. The past four years he had the pleasure of coaching his son, Ethan. His current record as a coach is 193-118-42.

Coach Thomas earned Western Buckeye League Coach of the Year in 2009 and 2017 and District Coach of the Year in 2009 and 2015. He has the most coaching wins in program history. Elida boys' soccer has won two Western Buckeye League Championships, four District Championships, and has two Regional Final Runners-up with Coach Thomas. Tom started the Elida Soccer Association for the youth in 2005. The time and energy that he has invested in the soccer program is indescribable and very appreciated.