

## *Pioneer Hall of Fame Award*

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# *Lynn Thomsen*

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The University High School Alumni Association honors Lynn Thomsen, class of 1983, as a 2017 Hall of Fame Alumni Award Recipient for his contributions to his profession, athletic career, and civic service.

Thomsen graduated from University High School in 1983, where he enjoyed both his academic and extra-curricular activities. He was an honor student and lettered in wrestling, football, and track.

After high school, Thomsen attended Augustana College, where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts in 1987. At Augustana, Thomsen excelled as being a leader on the football field.

The description of his college football career is simple, yet profound. He started every game for four years and never once tasted defeat. From the first day he set foot on the Augustana campus, he was the epitome of what the Vikings were about. He was a winner in every sense of the word.

When he walked off the field after Augustana defeated Salisbury State by a score of 31-3 in the 1986 Stagg Bowl in Phenix City, Alabama, he left with a personal record that can never be topped. He started all 50 games in his career and the Vikings went 49-0-1 during that time, winning four consecutive NCAA Division III national titles.

During his freshman season Thomsen played nose guard, but prior to his sophomore campaign he switched over to defensive tackle where he made his home for the next three years. He never missed a start and he rarely missed a single play. During that time, he helped anchor a defense that was the catalyst for the Vikings' incredible run of success.

Head coach Bob Reade always focused on stopping the run and Thomsen's presence certainly made that possible. During the four year stint that he patrolled the middle, the Augustana defense produced some eye-popping numbers.

In 50 games, opponents scored a grand total of 416 points, which is an average of 8.3 per game. In those same 50 games, the Viking defense allowed a total of 2,544 yards rushing for an average of 50.8 per game.

The finest hour for the Augustana defense had to be in 1986 when it compiled numbers that seem to be fictional. With a unit that boasted of six players who would earn NCAA Division III All-America honors – either that year or the next – poised and ready, the opponents gained ground in inches and feet, not yards. The 1986 team went 12-0-1, with the lone tie being a 0-0 game in the season opener against Elmhurst. In 11 of the 13 games, the Vikings held their opponents to seven points or less. They allowed an average of just 5.6 points per game and 25.5 yards per game rushing. It took 13 opponents 398 attempts to gain a grand total of 331 yards for the season. That averages out to 0.8 yards per attempt or less than 29 inches each time the opposition tried to run the football. With Thomsen and company on patrol, those carries were without a doubt painful.

Thomsen possessed good size for his day (6' 2", 243 pounds as a senior) but he was mobile and athletic and as a former high school State Champion wrestler, he had tremendous balance. He was a three time first team all-conference performer and was an NCAA Division III All-American in 1985 and 1986. In 1986 he was named to every All-America team available and was named the Most Valuable Defensive Player in the CCIW. His teammates chose him as the Augustana defensive MVP as well.

One of his finest accomplishments, however, came 10 years after his playing career ended when he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Indiana in the summer of 1997.

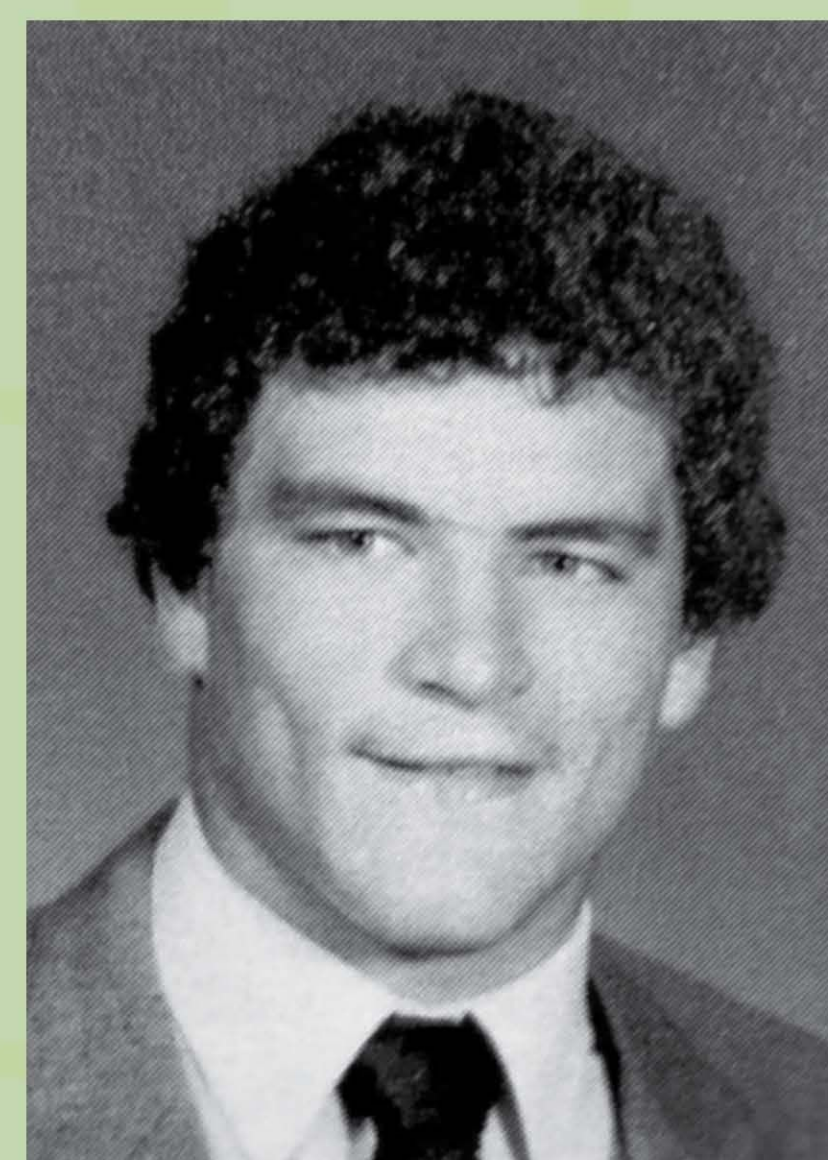
He married his Augustana classmate, the former Amy Johnson, and the couple have a daughter Emily (who attended U-High her first two years) and a son Jacob.

Thomsen is currently a Manager with State Farm Insurance and has enjoyed a very successful career with the company. In addition, he has volunteered time as the Chair of several United Way campaigns. Thomsen also served as an Assistant Football Coach at U-High from 1991-1993.

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# *University High School*

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