



Star Football and Wrestling captain also excels in Powerlifting



Tom Skelly graduated from Jim Thorpe-Area High School In 1990. During his high school career, Skelly excelled in two varsity sports. He captained the varsity football team in both 1989 and 1990 and, as a senior, was rated as the #1 middle linebacker in the Mid-Penn Conference and also was named to the First Team Mid-Penn Conference All-Star team.

As a varsity wrestler, he won a total of 68 matches in his career. In 1989 he had a record of 22 wins and 1 loss and during his senior year, he had a record of 29 wins and 1 loss. He was named captain of the wrestling team in both his junior and senior years and also was elected MVP by his teammates in both years. In his senior year, he finished in 3rd place in the District Wrestling Tournament Championship, 4th place in the Schuylkill league Meet and in 6th place in the Regional Tournament.

Skelly started powerlifting in 1990 as a senior and still continues to powerlift today. He has established many records since then culminating in 2012 when he was ranked in the top 25 of the United States by Powerlifting Watch in the following categories:

1. Ranked 24th in the top 25 for the squat lift with 639 lbs.
2. Ranked 8th in the top 25 for the bench press with 562 lbs.
3. Ranked 24th overall in the top 25 in total pounds lifted with 1702 lbs.

He also finished in 1st place in his weight class in the 2012 USAPL Fast Gym Classic.

He presently serves as assistant powerlifting coach at Jim Thorpe Area High School along with John McGowan who is also a 2006 Jim Thorpe Area Sports Hall of Fame inductee.





Record Breaking High School Star excels in College Baseball



Derrick Reis attended Jim Thorpe Area High School from 2001-2004 and lettered and excelled in two varsity sports.

He played varsity basketball, finishing his senior year as the team's offensive MVP, the Times-News area leader in scoring 3 point plays, a member of the Times-News area All-Star 2nd team and a 2nd team All-Star member of the Schuylkill League.

He really excelled in baseball. When he left Jim Thorpe in 2004, he had broken hitting and pitching records and his accomplishments were many:

In his 4 year baseball career, he had a batting average of .454 and 95 RBI; both of them Jim Thorpe area high school records. He also holds the high school record for lowest ERA with 2.12 and is 2nd in career hits (104), 2nd in career strike-outs as a pitcher and 2nd in career wins (19) as a pitcher.

He was the Olympian's MVP in his junior and senior years (2003 and 2004); he had 14 strikeouts against

Notre Dame in the district playoffs and 15 strike outs against Wilson High School. He finished off his senior year by being named to the 1st team All-Schuylkill League team.

He also played 5 years with the Lehigh Valley Legion Baseball team where he was a 4-time All Star and advanced to the regional All-Stars. He was named League MVP in his last year of Legion Baseball,

His baseball career didn't end in high school. He signed a letter-of-intent to play Division #1 baseball at LaSalle University who noticed Reis while he was playing with the Lehigh Valley Prospects Showcase Team. Reis won the starting shortstop position coming out of LaSalle's spring training but an injury slowed him down during the year.

He transferred to Kutztown University after his freshman year at LaSalle and earned the starting 3rd base position and a starting pitching spot with them after spring training. While Reis was at Kutztown, the team won the PSAC Championship all 3 years (2006-2008) and won the North Atlantic Championship in 2007 and advanced that year to the College World Series in Alabama. Kutztown was ranked #1 that year and finished 2007 in the Top 10 in the country.

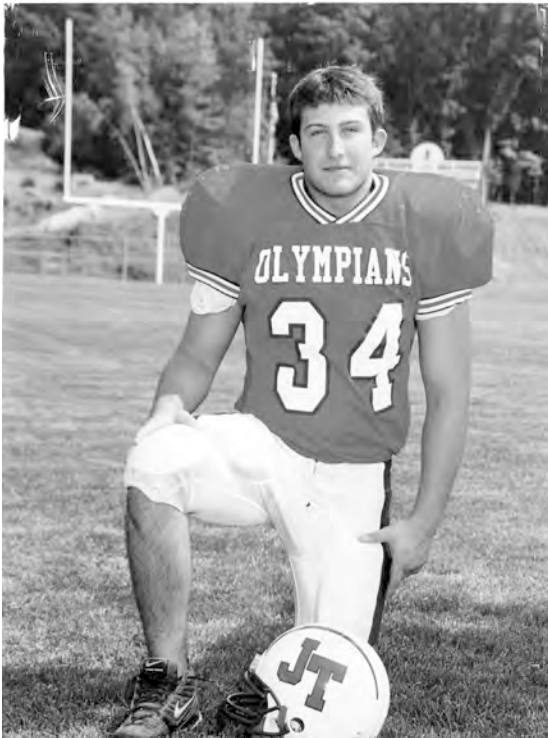
In 2008, Reis was ranked as one of the Top 10 pitchers in the PSAC Conference with an ERA of 3.40 and finished his career at Kutztown University with 103 innings pitched and a career won-loss record of 9-4 with 38 appearances and 3 saves.

Derrick currently is a substitute teacher at Jim Thorpe Area High School.





Young was a 4 year letterman and 2 year Captain of 2004 Team



Justin Young graduated from Jim Thorpe Area High School in 2004 and was a member of the star studded 2004 Jim Thorpe High School Football team which was the first and only team in school history to finish its regular season with a 10-0 record.

Young started every game in his four year career at Jim Thorpe. He played Fullback on offense and inside linebacker on defense. As the fullback on offense, he blocked for Jason Figura, Jim Thorpe's all time rushing leader.

On defense, the Olympians allowed just 74 points in 11 games, an average of 6.7 points per game while limiting opponents to an average of 134 yards per game. Young was the leader of that defense as he recorded 400 tackles in his career, the most in school history and received many awards for his play as inside linebacker on defense.

He was the team's defensive MVP in 2002, 2003 and 2004 and the team MVP in 2003 (and in 2004, the entire team received the MVP award). In 2004, he was named to the All-Area Football Team by the Allentown Morning Call and the 2004 Times-News All-Star team. He was selected as

the only member of the Jim Thorpe team to the Super 16 WNEP Dream Team and was selected to the All-Area team of the Pottsville Republican & Herald and named the Republican & Herald's Defensive Player of the Year.

He also was 4 year State Champion in Power Lifting. He was the MVP in 2003 and 2004 and earned the PA State "Best Lifter" Award in 2002; the PA "Best lifter" in the Abington Heights tournament and placed 2nd in the National Power Lifting tournament held in Texas in his senior year.

Young also received the Lehigh Valley Scholar Athlete Award in 2004. He had an overall GPA average of 100 and upon signing a Division I letter of intent to continue his athletic and academic career at Georgetown was described by his coach, Mark Rosenberger as being someone "special since he was a freshman. You knew he was going to be a leader when you saw him working out. He didn't miss a workout in four years. You couldn't ask for a better person".

Justin graduated from Georgetown with a GPA of 4.0 and began working at the New York Stock Exchange as a business analyst. After two years, he moved on to be the Head of Sales with a Hedge Fund company and has been quoted in such prominent publications as the Wall Street Journal, the Financial Times, Bloomberg News, and the New York Times.

He resides now in New York City with his wife, Allison and their dog Maui.





Jacob Heydt Received All-State Honors for Football in 2004



Jacob Heydt graduated from Jim Thorpe Area High School in 2004 and was another member of the star-studded 2004 Jim Thorpe High School Football team which was the first and only team in school history to finish its regular season with a 10-0 record.

While at Jim Thorpe, Heydt lettered in track while throwing the shot put, discus and javelin and also participated in Power lifting for all of his 4 years in high school, finishing 2nd in the 242 pound class at the Glen Mills Tournament in 2003.

Heydt was a 4 year member of the football team and was a lineman on both offense and defense for the Olympians. He made his mark at offensive tackle. The Olympians had a balanced offense in 2004 that scored 426 points for the season, averaging 38.7 points per game and had an average margin of victory of over 30 points per game. As an offensive tackle on that team, Heydt solidified a line that not only opened holes for Jason Figura and the other running backs but also gave quarterback Dan Flizack adequate protection when throwing the football.

Heydt was named to the 2004 Pottsville Republican & Herald's All-Area All Star Football Squad; the Reading Eagle's All-Star First Team offense and Honorable Mention on the Schuylkill County Football Coaches team .

He was named to the Times-News All-Star first team as offensive tackle and to the Allentown Morning Call's AAA Football All-Stars First Team as an offensive tackle. He received Honorable Mention for the Big 33 Team and was, eventually, named 2nd team Offensive Tackle on the PA All-State in the AAA Class.

Coach Mark Rosenberger described Heydt as being "our anchor up front". "He was physical and had great technique. He might have been one of Jim Thorpe's best lineman ever."

Heydt is married to the former Marie Melber and has one son Gabriel. He is employed by Air Products in Allentown, PA and has served as an Assistant line Coach for the Olympians football team.





First Team All-Stater, Aaron Smith, inducted in J.T.A.S.H.O.F.



Aaron Smith graduated from Jim Thorpe in 2005. He spent his senior year at Jim Thorpe after spending three years at Tamaqua H.S. where he lettered in football, basketball and baseball. Smith was very successful in all three sports at Tamaqua and continued that success with the Olympians as a member of the 2004 Anthracite 8 Football League Champions and the 2004 District XI AAA Football Runners-up

In 2004 at Jim Thorpe, Smith was honored by being named to the Associated Press Class AAA All-State First Team as a Defensive Back. He was, and still is, the only football player in Jim Thorpe history to be named to the PA. All-State First Team. He lettered for 4 years in football and was selected to the First Team Times-News All-Area football team for all of those four years.

In 2004, as a senior at Jim Thorpe, he was selected to the First Team Pottsville Republican & Herald All-Area football team and the All-Schuylkill County Team as a defensive back. Smith also played wide receiver on offense and was a two-way First Team selection on the Anthracite 8 squad, catching 28 passes, second most in the Times-News area, for 445 yards and six touchdowns while playing wide receiver.

At 6'2" and 190 pounds, Smith, on defense, lined up as a strong safety but was more like a linebacker or "monster back" and, according to coach Mark Rosenberger, "brought a sense of physicality to our defense. He was a big reason why our defense, which limited opponents to 134.6 yards per game, was so strong during the season".

Smith also starred on the baseball diamond. He had a 0.9 Earned Run Average as a pitcher and was named as the Most Valuable Player on the baseball team as a Senior.

Smith earned a scholarship to Fordham University where he attended for two years. He then transferred to Bloomsburg University to finish his college career.

He works as a Behavioral Specialist and Mobile Therapist for a counseling agency in Lancaster, PA and lives in Sinking Spring, PA with his wife Ashley. They are expecting their first child in September, 2012.





Jason Figura has outstanding multi-sport career at J.T.A.H.S.



When Jason Figura graduated in 2005, one of the most outstanding individual athletic careers in the history of Jim Thorpe High School ended.

Figura amassed 12 varsity letters in football, basketball and baseball while playing at Jim Thorpe. His accomplishments and achievements, most of them coming in football and basketball, were numerous.

In football, he was the team's offensive MVP as a sophomore and was named to the "Anthracite 8" second team as a running back. He also excelled on defense that year and was named to the Times News first team and to the Morning Call's second team as a defensive back.

In 2003 as a Junior, he led the team in rushing with 194 carries, 1038 yards gained and 11 touchdowns and again earned the award for being the offensive MVP. He was named to the "Anthracite 8" first team as a running back AND defensive back; the Times-News first team as a specialist; the "Route 209" MVP for his play against Lehigh, and he was selected to the first team as running back by the Pottsville Republican-Herald. He was named as to the Schuylkill County All-Star team as a first-team versatility back and received honorable mention as a running back by the Pennsylvania Football News.

In his senior football season in 2004, he was named team captain and for the third year in a row as the offensive MVP of the team. He added the Times-News award as Player of the Year; BRCTV Channel #13 Male Athlete of the Fall Season; first team All-Schuylkill County as a running back; first team "All Anthracite 8"; first team by the "Reading Eagle"; first team by the "Morning call"; the Wachovia North/South All Star Game MVP; the "Route 209" MVP against Lehigh; the Times-News Player of the Week against Mahanoy Area and was a nominee to the PA. All-State team. His overall statistics were impressive as he carried the football 621 times in his career for 3,403 yards (an average of 5.48 yards per carry). He scored a total of 57 touchdowns; 44 coming from carrying the ball; 3 TD receptions, and 5 TDs on defense and special teams. He even threw for 5 TDs. His best game as a senior was against Schuylkill Haven where he ran for 220 yards and 3 touchdowns on only 9 carries.

He was also very successful on the hardwoods. In his sophomore season, Figura won the Grand Theft Auto Award at JTAHS. As a Junior, he was named MVP of the basketball team after scoring 368 points for the year averaging almost 15 points per game and was also named to the Times-News Area first team in basketball.

As a senior, he was again named MVP of the basketball team and won the offensive team leader award with an average of 18.3 points per game bringing his career scoring total to 1,068 points which included a 76% average from the foul line. He was named to the Times-News First Team; the Raider Classic All-Tourney Team, and the Republican-Herald second team.

He topped off his career by receiving the 2005 Jim Thorpe Sports Hall of Fame Scholar-Athlete Award.





1935 Mauch Chunk Catholic Football Team Make Its Mark



The 1935 Mauch Chunk Catholic Football team, nicknamed the “Little Notre Damers” was one of the finest ever assembled in the community and held that place until Angie Konstas came upon the scene years later at Jim Thorpe High School and started his own legacy of winning teams.

Over a period of 3 seasons and 27 games, the “Little Notre Damers” overcame a small enrollment

to compile a record of 21 wins, 4 losses and 2 ties, but their best team was the 1935 team led by legendary coach, Larry B. Morris, who, after finishing his playing career at Gettysburg College, became a member of the East Mauch Chunk High School faculty and accepted the position as the new Head Football Coach at Mauch Chunk Catholic High School.

This team would prove to be very special. It finished with a record of 8 wins and 2 losses. They lost their first game to Phillipsburg Catholic (6-0) and later to an undefeated Lansford High School team (6-0) but they earned 8 victories against quality teams from larger schools in what was called then the Panther Valley Creek Area.

Five of their wins were shutouts: M.C. Catholic 26 Palmerton 0; M.C. Catholic 13 Mt. Carmel Catholic 0; M.C. Catholic 25 Port Carbon Catholic 0; M.C. Catholic 20 Branch Township 0; M.C. Catholic 7 alumni 0

Their other three wins were: M.C. Catholic 14 Pottsville Catholic 13; M.C. Catholic 13 Nesquehoning 12; M.C. Catholic 78 Slatington 8

Overall, they outscored their opponents; 206 to 45, and their defense was outstanding as they gave up an average of 4.5 points per game for the entire season.

Assisting Coach Morris were: Joe “Greenie” Angelovic, and Pete McHugh.

The Starting Lineup was: Ends; John Fahey and “Junie” Gallagher, Tackles; Capt. Jack Dever and “Chink” McNelis, Center; “Chickie” Conahan, Quarterback; “Hogan” Campbell, Halfbacks; Paul Turnbach and Bobby McDermott, and Fullbacks; John Turnbach and Bill Herman.

Completing the roster were: Phil Bonner, Francie Boyle, Jimmy Reidy, Jimmy Conroy, Leo Fahey, Gene Fahey, “Tank” Gallagher, Gerry Boyle, Frederick Wagner, Pete Milan, John Dugan, Norbie Ryan, Al Heany, “Shindy” Kennedy, Emory Davis, “Fish” McCauley, “Stump” McCauley, “Rocks” Boyle and the team’s good luck charm, mascot, “Mooch” McDermott.

