

Dean Thomas

1930-1964

BY JOE RICHMOND
Sports Publicity Director
(as printed in the Bengal)

“Perhaps the one thing persons will remember about the late Dean Thomas, ISU wrestling and assistant football coach, will be his youthful anticipation and eagerness toward the task at hand, whether it be in athletics or any other endeavor.

“Mr. Thomas, whose untimely death came Christmas morning following injuries suffered in an automobile accident the night of December 23, was a credit to his profession and to the intricate world of football and wrestling.

“In his eight years as a member of the Bengals’ athletic staff he proved his versatility, personality and leadership qualifications by serving in no less than five different capacities, all of them vastly important in operating a major intercollegiate program.

“While working towards his master’s degree in 1956-57 he had the job of boss of the training room and caring for injured athletes. Next, after being offered a full-time coaching position by ISU, he also began handling the duties of varsity end coach in football, scouting opposing teams, helping to recruit new athletes and establishing a major varsity wrestling program at Idaho State....”

Mr. Thomas was a football star at Malad High School and at Idaho State. He coached at Shelley High for five years before he joined the ISU staff in 1958.

Dean Thomas was born August 31, 1930, to Warren and Verda Thomas. He married Joyce Weaver May 1, 1948, in Evanston, Wyoming. Survivors include his widow, four children, a brother, Lt. Ammon Brent Thomas, and a grandmother, Mrs. A. A. Sorensen.