

Memorial Fund For Dean Thomas Children Started

Pocatello — Establishment of a Dean Thomas Memorial Fund to benefit the children of the deceased Idaho State University wrestling and assistant football coach was announced Saturday by Gerald W. Olson, president of the Bengal Gridiron Club.

Olson said the trust fund, which will help finance future college scholarships for Thomas' four children, is being established following suggestions from ISU football coach I. J. (Babe) Caccia, and friends of the late Bengal coach.

Thomas, a member of the Idaho State University athletic staff since 1957, died here Christmas morning from injuries suffered in an automobile accident December 23rd.

"We hope to secure financial pledges from all Gridiron Club members, local businessmen, former ISU football lettermen and alumni," Olson said, "and will also welcome contributions from any friend of the university."

John Vesser, ISU director of athletics, also announced scheduling of a benefit wrestling meet here Feb. 19th against Utah State University at 7:30 p.m. in the Bengal gymnasium.

"Although it has not been our practice in the past to charge admission to our wrestling bouts, in this instance we feel it will be a worthy endeavor to turn over all proceeds to the memorial scholarship fund," Vesser said.

Thomas was born and reared in Malad and received his bachelor's degree from Idaho State University in 1953 after playing on ISU's first undefeated, untied football team in 1952. He received his Master's degree from Idaho State in 1957.

Thomas is survived by his widow, Joyce, and children Vivian, age 16; Danny, 14; Debra Jean, 9, and Troy Dean, 3. The family resides at 331 North Fourteenth.

Olson urges persons donating to the trust fund to address their contributions as follows: Dean Thomas Memorial Fund, c/o Idaho Bank and Trust Co., Box 1788, Pocatello, Idaho.

ISU Grid Aide Dies of Hurts

POCATELLO (UPI)—Assistant Idaho State University football Coach Dean Thomas died this morning at a hospital here.

He died from injuries he received in an auto accident here last Wednesday night, according to Coroner Burton Johns.

Thomas had played on ISU's first undefeated, untied football team in 1952. He was a native of Malad, Idaho, and graduated from ISU in 1953.

He was married and the father of four children.

Working under Coach Babe Caccia, Thomas helped the ISU Bengals cinch the first year of the Big Sky Football Conference crown last season.