



Craig Thurber '91 set the standard for Greenville wrestling in the early 1990's amassing 102 career wins. He was a three-time qualifier for the state tournament, finishing runner-up in 1990 and as State Champ in 1991, both in 171-pound weight class. In football, Thurber was a two-way starter for the 1990 Northwest Conference Champs playing linebacker and running back. He was nominated for the Big 33 Game as a senior and was an outstanding ball carrier in his own right when not blocking for fellow GHS Hall of Famer Andy Blatt.

Following graduation, Craig had a stellar wrestling career at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ), winning three NCAA Eastern Regional Titles and earning NCAA Division II All-American honors three times. He joined Head Coach Pat Pecora's starting line-up as a true freshman in the 1991-92 season and was a mainstay at 177 pounds for the remainder of his career.

As a sophomore, Thurber posted a 30-4 record and secured his first NCAA Division II All-America honor with a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish at the national tournament. He went 31-3 as a junior, again garnering All-America status with a 6<sup>th</sup> place finish. During his senior campaign, Craig recorded 38 wins which remains a UPJ record at the 177-pound weight class. He was named the Most Outstanding Wrestler of the Eastern Regional Tournament before finishing runner-up at the NCAA Championships and earning a third All-American honor. Three falls in 10:51 at the NCAA's earned Thurber the 1995 Gorriaran Award for most falls in the least amount of time and helped UPJ to a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish overall, the program's highest to that point. 120 career victories tied him for 6<sup>th</sup> on the UPJ All-Time Wins List and his .857 win percentage (120-20-0) is 8<sup>th</sup> all-time in Mountain Cat history.

While at UPJ, Thurber was a four-time individual champion at the Thiel College Invitational (1992-95) and a three-time champion at the West Liberty (WV) College Tournament (1993-95). As an assistant coach for UPJ in 1996, Craig was part of the Mountain Cats' 1996 Division II National Championship team. He was honored with induction into the UPJ Hall of Fame in 2023.

Thurber earned a BA degree in Sociology at UPJ, then obtained a bachelor's degree in Health and Physical Education from Slippery Rock University. While there, he was an assistant to former head coach Steve Roberts and tutored Derek Delporto, a Division I All-American in 1999.

Craig worked for Keystone Charter School for three years prior to being named head wrestling coach at Thiel College in 2003. He continues in that role today having led the Tomcats to 11 Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) Championships and a 167-123 record (.737 win percentage) over 21 years at the helm. Craig has coached multiple All Americans and NCAA Scholar Athletes and has been named the PAC Coach of the Year nine times. His teams have finished in the Top-25 academically seven times.

Craig and his wife Kristin, have three children – Keetin, a sophomore at Penn State University, Karis and Cael, both students at GHS. He enjoys Sunday night dinners with his family and appreciates his parents' support and presence at every football game and wrestling match throughout his career.