



Matt Bendig'84 followed the long line of Bendig field athletes for Coach John Kokoski. All six Bendig brothers and sister Annie were Trojan throwers. Tom and Dave placed in the javelin at states, while sister, Annie was a three-time place winner in the shot put. Not to be outdone by his older siblings, Matt reached the PIAA track pinnacle in 1984 with a gold medal javelin throw of 207'1". He qualified for the state meet finishing 1st in the discus and 2nd in the javelin at Districts that year.

Bendig earned four varsity letters in track and is proud to be a key point winner for the 1983 PIAA State Champion Team when he finished 4th in the javelin. He owned the GHS discus record, finished 2nd in the javelin at the Keystone State Games Scholastic Division, and was named the GHS Outstanding Field Athlete to round out his senior year.

In football, Matt was a two-way starter as a junior and was named to the All-Northwest Conference second team as an offensive tackle. As a senior, he co-captained the first 10-0 team in GHS history. In an age before state playoffs, the Trojans capped off an undefeated Northwest Conference season with a victory over the Farrell Steelers. Often described as Greenville's version of the "Snow Bowl", the Trojans knocked off the Keystone Football Conference champions 7-6 to earn local bragging rights. Following his senior season, Matt earned first team All-Northwest Conference honors at both offensive and defensive tackle positions.

Post graduation, Bendig matriculated to Westminster College where he spent four years with the football program and two years with the track and field team.

A four-year letter winner and a three-year starter, Matt was a key contributor for the 1987 football team that finished 9-2 and was an NAIA Division II National Semi-Finalist. The defensive end was named to the Pittsburgh Press All-District Second Team following the 1987 season after posting 55 tackles and five pass breakups. He had 282 career tackles and helped the program post a 25-11-1 record.

In track and field, Bendig competed in the javelin for the Titans, qualifying for the NAIA National Championships in 1985. He was unable to compete, however, due to injury.

Bendig graduated from Westminster in 1988 majoring in History. He was inducted into the Titan Hall of Fame in 2023 for both his football and track accomplishments. Matt and his wife, Natalie (Taylor) '85, have two children, Stephen and wife Emily and Samantha and husband Cory Woods. They have one granddaughter named Stevie Grace. Odds are she will someday join the long line of Bendig throwers.