



Dennis Michael Stephens

Dennis “Denny” M. Stephens '76 was a three-sport standout at Greenville High School, earning letters in football, wrestling and track before continuing his athletic career at Thiel College and dedicating more than three decades of service to the Greenville community in law enforcement.

At Greenville, Denny competed in football, wrestling and track and field in grades 7 through 12. On the gridiron, he was a two-year varsity starter at running back and defensive back and also handled kickoff and punt return duties. He combined for over 1,500 rushing yards during his 11th and 12th grade seasons and scored 52 points his senior year, earning First Team All-Northwest Conference and All-Western honors, as well as recognition as a Big 33 nominee.

On the wrestling mat, Denny was a two-year letter winner with a 26-10 career record. He was a District Qualifier both years and received the Ambassador Award. In track and field, he was a four-year letter winner and four-time state qualifier. As a senior, he placed third at the District 10 meet in the 220 and sixth at the state meet in the 880 relay, and was a district finalist in the 100.

After graduation, Denny went on to Thiel College, where he was a four-year football participant and a three-year starter at tailback, while also returning kicks and punts. As a senior, he helped lead the Tomcats to the conference championship game against Carnegie Mellon. Denny also spent his freshman year on the wrestling team, capping the season with a fourth-place PAC finish — one win shy of qualifying for Nationals.

Following college, Denny pursued a career in law enforcement. Hired as a Greenville Police Officer in 1981, he served the department for 34 years, the last 10 as Chief of Police. He also served Greenville School District as a School Resource Officer (2001-2004) and as a District Police Officer (2014-2019). Off duty, Denny coached GHS wrestling for 17 seasons under Head Coach Jim Miller. During this period, the Trojan grapplers posted three individual state titles, three state place winners, 12 state qualifiers and seven 100+ win wrestlers. Denny also coached junior high football for 9 seasons, continuing his service to the school district.

Denny and his wife of 44 years, Grace, reside in Greenville. They are the proud parents of sons Michael (Ashley) and Christopher (Sarah), and grandparents to Patrick, Max and Terra. Denny is the son of Gaye Stephens and the late David Stephens, and brother to Bob and Dave Stephens.