

# Robert E. Thorn

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## *Class of 1916*

Robert E. Thorn contributed much to Grove City College as a student, teacher and adviser. He was one of the Wolverines' early four-letter men, earning his "G" in football, basketball, baseball and tennis.

From 1916 until 1920, Thorn taught science and mathematics in Franklin, Pa., and Lima, Ohio. Wearing two hats, he also served as director of athletics at both schools. His Lima basketball team won the district championship.

Returning to Grove City in 1920, Thorn was named director of athletics at his alma mater. During the next 36 years, he served as assistant football coach, head football coach, basketball coach, tennis coach and soccer coach. His teams earned many championships and laurels. His basketball teams won District Class B Championships for eight consecutive years and the Tri-State Championship three times. The 1921 team went undefeated. In soccer, Thorn had three undefeated teams in his last nine years of coaching.

Thorn was held in high esteem by his Grove City colleagues. He was named dean of men in 1944 and held this post until 1955. He held sports association posts including the National Soccer Coaches Association, past president of the Tri-State Association for the Selection of Athletic Officials, and first president of the Grove City Recreation Council. He helped organize the Grove City Chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa. In winter 1963, Thorn was honored by the Mercer County Old Timers Sports Association for his contribution to athletics.

Thorn served on the Grove City College Alumni Council. He was also inducted to the Athletic Hall of Fame for both Men's Soccer and All Sports. The Grove City College football and track facility is named Robert E. Thorn Field in his honor. The College later re-dedicated Robert E. Thorn Field on September 9, 2006.

He passed away April 13, 1983.

