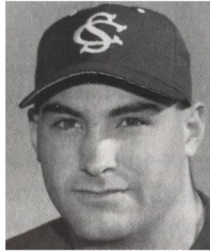


Matthew T. Thompson
Class of 1992



Matthew T. Thompson is a graduate of the Class of 1992. At Columbia, he was a member of the National Honor Society and an acclaimed three-sport athlete (baseball, soccer, and basketball) who lettered seven times and earned the Robert D. Chipp Memorial Award for Athletics and Citizenship and the Stuart Pitcher Memorial Award. After graduation, he attended Montgomery Junior College before transferring for his final two years to the University of South Carolina, where he was a perennial Dean's List student who graduated with a degree in Sport Administration in 1997. He played baseball throughout his collegiate years.

Regarded by coaches from the era as one of the finest student-athletes to ever graduate from Columbia High School, Matthew was a perennial Honor Roll recipient who excelled on the court and field as well. A quiet, unassuming leader who chose to lead by example, Matthew captained three varsity teams in his senior year. Driven by a fervent desire to win, he was a model of intensity and focus for his teammates to emulate. Indeed, Matthew played soccer for two years for Coach Roger Seymour and was recognized for his contributions with a Third Team All-Suburban Council Honor.

In basketball, Matthew was a solid contributor to several of Bob Smith's highly successful teams in the early 1990s. Matthew's court sense, unselfish play and athletic ability made him a tough defender, a superior rebounder, and a consistent offensive threat as a shooter and passer. The 1991-1992 Blue Devils were an offensive powerhouse, averaging 75 points per game en route to capturing the Suburban Gold Division Title and advancing to a first-ever Class A championship game. Matthew started in forty varsity games; to date, he ranks ninth in rebounds and second (only behind Hall of Famer Craig Forth) in blocked shots with 78.

In baseball, Matthew enjoyed two excellent varsity seasons under Coach Timothy Lange; he also played American Legion baseball (.410; 48 RBI in two seasons) and represented the Adirondack entry during the summer at the Empire State Games in 1990 and 1991. In his senior year with the Blue Devils, he hit .320 with 27 RBI, registered fifty-two assists defensively (a program record), and had a 1.85 ERA to lead the pitching staff. Matthew was selected to the Suburban Council All-Star First Team and was the winning pitcher in the Exceptional Senior Game in 1992.

Matthew's collegiate baseball career was quite successful, too. He attended Montgomery Junior College in Rockville, Maryland, where he hit .343 and knocked in 43 RBI, helping the team to the NCJCAA Region XX Championship. In his junior and senior years, Matthew played third base and shortstop, and pitched for the University of South Carolina Gamecocks.

Matthew works for Franklin County Metro Parks in Central Ohio, and lives in Columbus with his wife, Christine, and their daughters, Amy, Audra, and Emma. He joins his former varsity baseball coach, Timothy Lange, in this year's Athletic Hall of Fame induction class.