

Rod Thorn - 2020 Hall of Fame Class



Rod Thorn

Basketball/Baseball

West Virginia (1960-63)

Bio

A two-time SoCon Male Athlete of the Year in the early 1960s, Rod Thorn was part of a West Virginia dynasty in the era, helping the Mountaineers to a combined 70-18 record from 1960-63 that included a 34-4 SoCon mark. Thorn helped WVU to three SoCon regular-season titles and two tournament crowns, claiming MVP honors twice, and helped the squad to a run to the NCAA regional semifinals (later known as the Sweet Sixteen) in 1963.

Thorn averaged 21.8 points and 11.1 rebounds per game in his career, which rank fourth and third in program history, respectively. One of just three players in program history to have his number retired, Thorn established six school records and finished with 1,785 points in three seasons, good for third at the end of his career. Thorn also played baseball for the Mountaineers, helping the squad to a 66-21 mark and three SoCon titles with three NCAA appearances, and was inducted into West Virginia's athletics Hall of Fame in 1992.

The No. 2 overall pick in the 1963 NBA Draft, Thorn enjoyed an eight-year playing career in the league before transitioning to coaching and then the front office. The 2002 NBA Executive of the Year, Thorn enjoyed a lengthy career serving as a general manager and team president and working in the league office and was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame as an executive and a contributor in 2018.

Thorn says:

"I really am appreciative. Playing in the Southern Conference was a great thrill for me as a part of those West Virginia teams. To be recognized by the conference is a tremendous honor for me and I appreciate those that are responsible for it."

Gallery: (6-10-2020) Rod Thorn HOF gallery

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