

Wheaties Honors Jim Thorpe

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Wheaties, The Breakfast of Champions, announced in November that the legendary Jim Thorpe will be honored on the cover of the celebrated cereal box.

"My dad had a bowl of cereal almost every day for breakfast, and of course we had Wheaties," said Jim Thorpe's daughter, Grace Thorpe, 80. "He was very modest and humble when it came to all of the attention, but he would be very honored to be recognized by The Breakfast of Champions."

Members of the Thorpe family and Pennsylvania Gov. Mark Schweiker unveiled the new Wheaties box during the ceremony at the Jim Thorpe High School football stadium and participated in a parade to celebrate the occasion. The Pennsylvania state legislature passed a resolution, "Recognizing the great athletic achievements of Jim Thorpe and celebrating his appearance on the Wheaties cereal box." Thousands of school children, many of whom are among those who wrote letters to Wheaties, also marched in the parade and participated in the ceremony.

Members of the American Indian running group Wings of America traveled from all over the United States to participate in the ceremony, along with a national spiritual leader, Orrin Lyons (Onondaga), who presided over a memorial service at Thorpe's

gravesite and monument before the parade.

The Wheaties announcement was timed to coincide with National American Indian Heritage Month.

History is filled with Jim Thorpe legends – he led his football team from the small Carlisle Indian School of Pennsylvania in victories over such powerhouses as Pitt, Syracuse, Army, Nebraska, Navy, and Penn State; he played professional baseball with the New York Giants and the Boston Braves.

But the most well known comes from when he won gold medals in both the pentathlon and the decathlon at the 1912 Olympic Games in Sweden. After Thorpe was awarded his second gold medal of the games, Sweden's King Gustav V shook his hand and said, "Sir, you are the greatest athlete in the world!"

Thorpe replied, "Thanks, King."

For years, members of the Jim Thorpe Area Sports Hall of Fame in Pennsylvania have nurtured the Jim Thorpe legacy and have been invited into schools to talk about the history of the great champion, said Jack Kmetz, the group's president. But a few years ago the newly crowned Miss Indian USA, Anna McKibben of Quapaw, Okla., started a letter-writing campaign that sparked the thousands of letters from school children sent to Wheaties in support of Jim Thorpe.

McKibben, who recently earned a journalism degree from the University of Arkansas and currently is a doctoral student at the University of Oklahoma, is a member of the Quapaw Tribe, which, like Jim Thorpe's Sac and Fox Tribe, is located in Oklahoma. She was inspired by the story of Jim Thorpe and decided to champion the cause to have him placed on the Wheaties box during her reign as Miss Indian USA 2000. She wrote to every American Indian newspaper, tribal headquarters, and Web site in more than 35 states, and the response was overwhelming.

"I've received hundreds of letters of encouragement from people who are passionate in their support of Jim Thorpe and my cause," McKibben said. "Jim Thorpe has a special place in the heart of all Native American Indians, and now Wheaties has a special place in my heart."

Wheaties began its association with sports in the mid-1930s with a sign on the left field wall at old Nicollet Park near downtown Minneapolis. General Mills' broadcast deal with the minor league Minneapolis Millers on WCCO Radio included the large signboard that Wheaties would use to introduce its new advertising slogan: "Wheaties – The Breakfast of Champions." Since then, Wheaties has built a heritage that includes many of the greatest athletes of all time.

Jim Thorpe joins a distinguished list of Wheaties champions such as Lou Gehrig, Babe Didricksen, Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson, Walter Payton, Muhammad Ali, Michael Jordan, and Tiger Woods.



Spend Part of Your Summer in Colorado

The Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (NAFWS), a non-profit organization in Broomfield, Colo., invites Native American high school students to apply for its summer program, held on July 20-30, 2002, in the Colorado mountains.

This two-week program teaches modern and traditional Native American natural resource management techniques in a camp setting with classes taught by Native American natural resource managers and Native traditionalists/elders.

Deadline for student applications is May 10, 2002. For an application, contact Sally Carufel-Williams at 303-466-1725 or visit www.nafws.org.

Diversity Scholarships Deadline Nears

At least four Diversity Scholarships are available for the 2002-2003 academic year at Lane Community College from the Wayne Shields Endowment and individual contributions. Scholarship awards are \$1,000 per year.

The Diversity Scholarships are designed to promote diversity in the student population, increase intercultural competencies, broaden cultural awareness and understanding of African American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Latino/a, and Native American/Alaska Native cultures, and enrich the educational experience for the mutual benefit of Lane students and the community. **The deadline to submit applications is April 17, 2002.**

Scholarship applications can be picked up in Career and Employment Services, the MultiCultural Center, online at <http://www.lanec.edu/afirmact/div/schol/index.htm> or by contacting Adrian Rodriguez at 541-747-4501, ext. 2870, or by e-mail at rodrigueza@lanec.edu.

Nominations Due for Presidential Awards

The Executive Office of the President of the United States has established the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) program.

The program, administered on behalf of the White House by the National Science Foundation, seeks to identify outstanding mentoring efforts/programs designed to enhance the participation of groups underrepresented in science, mathematics, and engineering.

The awardees – individuals and institutions – will serve as exemplars to their colleagues and will be leaders in the national effort to more fully develop the nation's human resources in science, mathematics, and engineering.

The deadline for nominations is May 7, 2002. The program announcement, NSF 02-63, is available electronically via NSF's online document system at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2002/nsf02063/nsf02063.html>.