

JOE THOMAS

Brookfield Central High School: 1999-2003

Although Joe Thomas was an exceptional multiple-sport athlete in high school with many athletic accomplishments, his legacy will be that of the greatest football player in the history of BCHS.

Thomas concentrated on three sports throughout high school. He was an accomplished shot put/discus man on the track team, winning the State Championship in both events at the 2003 State Track and Field Championships. A four-year starter on the basketball team, Thomas was named All-Conference all four years and led his team to an appearance in the State Tournament in 2002-2003. In football, he personally earned All-State honors his junior and senior years and led his team to the State Division II Championship game, finishing second.

Thomas accepted a full-ride scholarship to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he again excelled in multiple sports for the Badgers. He set a school record in the indoor shot put event and finished second at the Big Ten Track and Field Championships. Concentrating on football, he was twice named All-American, in his junior and senior year, and led his team to a school-record 12 wins and a victory in the Rose Bowl.

In the 2007 NFL Draft, Thomas was the No. 3 selection, drafted by the Cleveland Browns. He has started at left tackle, one of the most demanding and critical positions in the league, every game since being drafted. Thomas has earned All-Pro Honors three years and been named to the Pro Bowl four years.

In 2012, Thomas was one of three finalists for one of the NFL's most prestigious honors: The Walter Payton Humanitarian Award, which honors those players who make a difference in society off the field of play.