

Jett Thomalla rushes into a new beginning

Adalyn Jensen
Sports Editor

While his name now graces the high school record books, senior Jett Thomalla insists that individual accomplishments were never his focus. He recently reflected on a career highlight night where he set a new benchmark: becoming the new state holder of the 11-man record for career passing touchdowns.

“I guess I was just excited to get the 4 touchdowns that night and break the record,” Thomalla said.

This accolade was quickly related back to his process and mentors. He said his incredible consistency throughout the season was less about ‘focusing on records’ and more about ‘working hard and listening to coaches’ because he knew that the other achievements were just an added plus that would come with.

Like many successful athletes, Thomalla points much of his success to the unwavering support of his family as his foundation. His appreciation for their support is very clear.

“They have [Thomalla’s parents] been with me since little league, taking me places and all that stuff, and just supporting me on top of that,” Thomalla said.

Despite his position as the centerpiece of the offense, this quarterback is quick to share the spotlight, emphasizing the collective effort required for their success, which includes consistently winning by large margins.

He said he views the role of his teammates and coaches as ‘a big role.’

“I wouldn’t be here right now if I didn’t have all of them. The offensive line does a great job, receivers do a great job, and the coaches call good plays,” he said.

That championship-level mentality also fuels his drive. On staying motivated when victories are lopsided, he notes, “I mean, there is always motivation there, just because you want to, you know, win a state championship each and every year. Staying motivated is pretty easy, you know, my teammates keep me motivated. Coaches do a good job of keeping us motivated even though we, you know, win by 60 each week.”

His current focus remains firmly set on his immediate and long-term targets like ‘winning the state championship, breaking the all-class passing record, and going to Alabama and



Senior Jett Thomalla breaks a tackle to score a touchdown. He finished the night with 295 passing yards, 2 passing touchdowns, and 14 completions out of 22 attempts against the Omaha Westview Wolverines. Photo by Eastyn Munhall

having a great career there.’

Looking back on what he hopes will be a final memory to match, he said, “I mean, probably winning the state championship last year, you know, the seniors aren’t here with us anymore, so I miss a lot of them, so just winning that with them last year and having that memory is a good thing to look back on.”

As a leader and role model, Thomalla shared some parting wisdom for younger players looking to follow in his footsteps.

“Just keep on working. God has a plan for everyone and it might not be football all the time, but you could be good at other things too. So just keep on working, and if you want to be

great, put in the work to do that,” Thomalla said.

In closing, Thomalla acknowledged the significance of his journey, especially as a player from Nebraska heading to one of college football’s biggest powerhouses.

“Never forget where you came from. I’m gonna be at Alabama, pretty far away next year. Looking back on my career, it’s just something that a lot of Nebraska kids don’t do, and something that Nebraska people should be proud of, me and my team. It’s not always the case, but hopefully they’re proud of me,” Thomalla said.

Scaring season brings a famous friend

Raven Cranny
Distribution Manager

“The Terrifier movies are works of art,” senior August Yancey said.

Terrifier– and its two sequels –have been cult classic films since their release in the 2010s-2020s. In them, David Howard Thornton takes on the role of Art the Clown, the main antagonist. This past Halloween, he paid a visit to Hillside House of Hell and Bloodrush, two of Omaha’s most mainstream



Senior August Yancey and senior Tristan Mattingly pose with actor David Howard Thornton at Bloodrush. Photo courtesy of Tristan Mattingly

haunts.

“He was very, very different from his Art the Clown persona. He was so sweet,” senior Tristan Mattingly said. “He had a cup of hot cocoa and he was there with his daughter.”

While there, many got the chance to meet him, shake his hand, and get photos with him. He even answered some questions about his career and how he got started acting and scaring.

“I got into acting doing church theater– of all things –as a child, because my mom used to direct a lot of church theater productions, and I was in the children’s choir, so that’s where I started,” Thornton said.

Thornton went on to explain how he and his mother would take turns trying to scare each other around the house, and how he enjoyed it so much that he wanted to pursue it. Many students locally have had the chance to be scare actors.

“I was introduced to scare acting by a friend,” senior AJ Sullivan said. “I thought it would be cool to try something new as an actor,” he said.

Many haunts in Nebraska restrict employment to ages 18 and up, but a select few allow teens as young as 16 to be interns or make-up artists. Namely, the Shadows Edge before it closed, and now the Ranch House of Terror at Bellevue Berry Farm.

“I would love to try it again,” Sullivan said, “It’s such a cool and welcoming environment,” he said.

Thornton wanted to share some advice to those of us that want to pursue this art, and it comes from his personal experience as an actor. He explained that it was hard to find jobs as someone in his field. He spent 13 years doing odd acting jobs like what Tristan and AJ have done until he got his big break.

“Be persistent, it’s hard to get into [acting].

For every 100 no’s, you’ll get one yes,” Thornton said, “So you have to just keep on. Keep on if it’s something you enjoy.”

Overall, scare acting is becoming more popular, and it can require trial and error. As scare acting becomes more popular, many are taking the opportunity to learn from people like Thornton, which is why this became such a popular event.

“We were in line for an hour and a half, but the line was still shorter than I was expecting it to be,” Mattingly said, “But I wouldn’t have traded it for the world.”



Art by August Yancey

Artist Statement by August Yancey

I drew this in my sketchbook using a scene from Terrifier 3 as my reference. When I finished sketching it with pencil, I used Prismacolors to color it and then I scanned it and touched it up in Photoshop by adjusting the color channels to try and make it look cooler/creepier.