

James “Jim” Thrash

Born: Feb. 16, 1946. Farina, Illinois

High School: La Grove High School (Farina, Illinois) 1964

College: Thornton Junior College (IL) Associate of Arts; Eastern New Mexico Bachelor of Science in Physical Education 1969

High School

- After earning 14 varsity letters in four sports and graduating from La Grove High School in Farina (IL) i
- Leading scorer and Top rebounder in his senior year.
- Named to Midland Trail Conference All-Star Team
- High jumper on the track team, First baseman on baseball team and member of Cross Country team.

College

- Thornton Junior College (Harvey, IL) where he earned five letters in three sports. He averaged 17.5 pts. and 16.8 rebounds his sophomore season.
- Eastern New Mexico University – Played for the legendary Coach Miller on a pair of teams that won 46 of their 57 games and advanced to the NAIA National Championship finals before graduating with honors in 1969.
- Voted the “Senior Beau” by popular vote of senior class, as most popular male.
- Earned the Senior Athlete Scholastic Award, which was given each year to the senior athlete with the highest G.P.A. in all sports.

Professional

- Excellent teacher, coach and recruiter for 40 years.
- 1969-1972 P.E. teacher at Acoma, A. Montoya, and San Antonito Elementary
- 1972-1974 Assistant coach at Manzano High School (74-16) and teacher at Kennedy Junior High School.
 - Won state championships in 1973 and 1974.
 - Won district championships in 1973 and 1974.
- 1974-1977 Head coach in at Manzano High School
 - Monarchs recorded a 141-31 record.
 - Captured five district titles.
 - Two appearances in the state semifinals.
 - In Thrash’s final three seasons as the head coach, the Monarchs posted a 66-16 record while winning three district titles with two trips to the state tournament’s Final Four.
 - 1975 Albuquerque Coach of the Year.
- Co-Founded AYBL East for youth in the Manzano High School district.

- 1977 through 1983, Thrash was an assistant coach at Fresno State University
 - Bulldogs compiled a record of 133-42
 - Three NCAA tournament appearances
 - Captured four Pacific Coast Athletic Association titles.
 - 1983 National Invitational Tournament (NIT) championship, defeating UTEP, Michigan State, Oregon State, Wake Forest & DePaul.
 - Fresno State posted three consecutive 20-win seasons from 1981 to 1983, including a 27-3 record in 1982 which included an appearance in the NCAA Tournament's "Sweet 16" before losing to Georgetown.
 - As the chief recruiter for the Bulldogs, Thrash recruited four players, Rod Higgins, Ron Anderson, Bernard Thompson, and Pete Verhoeven, who went on to highly successful careers in the NBA.
- 1983 Accepted a position with Coldwell Banker Commercial Real Estate and was the leading office specialist his first year (1984). He was named Sales Manager of the office his second year (1985), and was promoted to Sr. Vice President, Managing Officer his third year (1986).
- Color analyst for UNM Lobo basketball games for television helping Hall of Famer, Connie Alexander who did the play-by-play (1985-86).
- 1996 Hired by Athletic Director, Boyd Grant, who was his boss at Fresno St. to be the head coach of the College of Southern Idaho men's junior college basketball program.
- 1996-1997 Led the Golden Eagles to an 18-12 record, where they allowed only 62.7 points per game, second-best in the nation.
- 1997-1998 Won a Scenic West Conference championship with a 28-4 mark. They were ranked #4 nationally in NJCAA at the time they lost in the semi-finals of the Region 18 tournament.
- 1998 - 2000 Assistant coach at Purdue University.
 - In the two years that Thrash was on the Purdue sideline, the Boilers compiled a 45-23 record.
 - 1998-1999 season, Purdue advanced to the Sweet 16 before losing to Temple.
 - 1999-2000, the Boilers made it to the Elite Eight before succumbing to Wisconsin.
- 2004-2007 NBA talent Scout for the Golden St. Warriors
- 2007-2015 Accepted a similar position with the Charlotte Hornets and their new owner, Michael Jordan. While with the Hornets for eight years, Jim scouted 90-110 college games per year throughout the U.S., and thoroughly enjoyed his association with the Hornets and M.J.
- 2016-18 Joined the Atlanta Hawks organization and spent two years scouting all college players west of the Mississippi.
- Still welcomes phone calls from NBA personnel regarding college prospects.

Honors

- 2009 Inducted into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame
- 2023 Eastern New Mexico University's Outstanding Alumni Award.

Community

Jim was involved as a board member from 1986-1995 at various times for the following Boards.

- Board member Rocky Mountain Adoption Exchange
- Board member Shalom Prison Ministries for Young Adults
- Board member and top fundraiser for UNM Lobo Club
- Board member and Vice President of Albuquerque Economic Development.
- Current proud supporter of ENMU, providing scholarship funds through the College of Education and helping students who could not otherwise afford college.

Family

- Wife, Denise
- Two sons, Jason and Mark. Jason and Mark both serve admirably in the field of Ministry. Jason is an Associate Pastor at Cornerstone, a large, thriving church in Marion, Illinois. Mark serves as President of NOVO, which is a missionary group with over 600 missionaries around the world and based in California.
- Jim and Denise have 5 grandchildren.