Carleton College
Jack Thurnblad Biography Project, 2007

Please answer any or all of the questions that follow, responding in as much detail as you wish. Please return your responses to: David Lavender, dglavender@charter.net, or 1201 Sunset Court, Northfield, MN 55057. Questions: Contact David at 507-645-4265 or Becky Zrimsek in the Alumni Affairs Office at 800-729-2586.

Your Name__________________________________________ Carleton Class of___________

Contact information (email/phone)____________________________________________________

Years in which you played basketball for Jack Thurnblad___________

Would you describe the teams of your time as very successful, moderately successful, poor, or other? Why do you feel this way?

Where did basketball fall on your personal priority list at the time? How important was it, as compared to other extracurricular activities with which you were involved?

What was your personal opinion of Jack Thurnblad as a coach? If you played other sports, could you compare his coaching style to those of the other coaches?

Could you describe his style of coaching both during practice and during games?

How did he teach his teams the basics? How did he motivate you and your teammates?

How would you personally describe his philosophy and method of coaching?

Would you describe him as:
   Demanding
   Patient
   Inspirational
   Tolerant of mistakes
   Impatient with errors

What other traits or mannerism would you include in your description?

What else would you add to describe his work and manner of coaching?

If we can assume that you regarded Jack with respect and affection, what about him caused you to feel this way?

Did you feel your teams received enthusiastic and/or warm support from your fellow students, the faculty, and the administration both during games and in the daily life of the College? Why do you feel this way?

Did Carleton’s demanding curriculum and heavy work load interfere in any way with your ability to devote adequate time to basketball? If so, how?
What was it like to play at St. Olaf?

What was it like to play St. Olaf at home?

If you were here while the basketball court was still in Sayles-Hill, what was it like to play there?

Aside from the Oles, which teams did you regard as your greatest rivals?

Which schools did you most and least enjoy playing? Why?

Are there any games you remember as being particularly memorable? What makes them stand out as having been special?

Can you describe the road trips you took? Did you enjoy the travel, the time in hotels, and on other campuses? If so, what made the experience enjoyable?

To which pair of colleges did you most and least enjoy traveling? Why?

How did Jack relate to the team on these trips? Did he spend most of his time with the team?

Do you recall any happenings, adventures, mishaps or memorable events during those trips that you feel should be included in Jack’s biography?

How did you and your teammates manage to study and keep up with your assignments during the road trips?

Who were the best and most memorable players of your era? Why do you include each of them on your list?

Were you a starter or a reserve?

What did you think of Jack’s policy of never cutting a player?

If you were a reserve, do you feel you received adequate playing time?

How important was winning to you personally?

Did a close loss make you feel terrible, or didn’t it matter all that much? Why did you feel this way?

What do you think you learned from the experience of playing under Jack? What about being one of his players perhaps made you a “better person?”

Looking back on your basketball days, how would you describe them and rank them in importance to all of the other things you did at Carleton and have done since?

Did you get to know Jack’s wife Jinny while you were an undergraduate? If so, how and in what settings did you interact with her?

Did you go to Jinny’s and Jack’s post-game gatherings? If so, please discuss them.
Have you kept in touch with Jack since you graduated? If so, please describe your contacts and any observations you may have about him and his work in those ensuing years.

Is there anything else about Jack, the basketball program, and your part in it that you would like to discuss?

Jack’s biography should be available about a year from now. Do you feel you might be inclined to purchase a copy? (If your answer is affirmative, you will be under no obligation; we are just trying to estimate how large the initial press run should be.)

We send thanks in advance for your response to this questionnaire and anticipate that your comments will be most helpful to the effort.