

# Player Profile



Name: Nathan Lee Thackeray

Position: Goalkeeper

Date of Birth: 14<sup>th</sup> February 1988

Height: 6' 5 "

Weight: 220 lbs

Place of Birth: Manchester, England

## Previous Experience/Soccer Clubs – England

Age: 9 – 14

**Oldham Athletic Football Club**  
School of Excellence Player

Age 14 – 18

**Bradford City Football Club**  
14 – 16 School of Excellence Player  
16 – 18 Apprentice Soccer Player

18 – Present Time

**William Woods University**  
4 Year Soccer Scholarship  
Majoring in Communications  
Currently a junior

Having played soccer from a young age, I have been fortunate to have played at a very high standard in the UK. I have received specialist goalkeeping coaching from many of the UK top keeper coaches, namely:

Kevin Pressman – Ex premier league keeper with Sheffield United FC

Dave Watson – Ex premier league keeper at Barnsley FC and now coaching at Birmingham City FC

Simon Smith – Ex premier league coach at Newcastle United FC

Vinny Campbell – Academy keeper coach at Manchester United FC

Jim Montgomery – Professional coach at Bradford City FC

Mervin Day – Premier League Coach at West Ham FC

Andy Rhodes – Premier League Coach at Ipswich Town FC

William H “Bill” Killen – NSCAA and highly acclaimed American Soccer Coach

## **Personal Attributes**

I have worked hard over the years in developing my career as a keeper and I still have the ambition to play soccer at a professional level. However, having seen so many of my contemporaries fail to make it to professional, I took the decision to progress my academic qualifications whilst at the same time, work on my game fitness and develop my keeper skills further. William Woods University has given me this opportunity.

Prior to leaving for America, I had played over 20 consecutive games for Bradford City Reserves, which I believe to be quite an achievement for a goalkeeper at such a young age of 17 to 18 where my opposing players were of a professional standard.

Whilst at William Woods University I have been the starting goalkeeper for my first three years. I was named captain at the end of my sophomore year and captained the team throughout the 2008 season. We achieved and recorded our best season for 8 years.

I believe that each squad that I have played for has benefited from my enthusiasm and commitment. On the field, I feel that I have a big physical presence and an ability to command my area and support my team.

## **Soccer Achievements**

- Youngest goalkeeper to play for the Bradford City reserve team age 15+.
- Signed two year professional scholarship with Bradford City FC at age 16.
- Won the European youth cup with Bradford City FC.
- Named captain of William Woods University for 2008 season.
- Recognised as the AMC soccer defensive player of the week.
- Invited for trials at Manchester United FC.

## **Contact Details**

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An extract taken from the American Midwest Conference website – October 14, 2008

## AMC Tabs Piotrowski, Thackeray for Men's Soccer Honors

Posted by Scott Cummings - Tue, Oct 14, 2008 - [ Men's Soccer ]



Nate Thackeray was the winning goalkeeper in all three William Woods victories last week

**(LEBANON, Ill., Oct. 14)**--Jakub Piotrowski from the University of Illinois at Springfield and Nate Thackeray from William Woods University have been recognized for their performances on the soccer field last week by the American Midwest Conference.

Piotrowski was selected as the AMC Men's Soccer Offensive Player of the Week, while Thackeray earned AMC Men's Soccer Defensive Player of the Week accolades. The honors were announced Monday afternoon by the league office.

Piotrowski, a senior forward from Harwood Heights, Ill., was a big factor in the Prairie Stars' 3-2 upset victory on the road against Hannibal-LaGrange College, the No. 3-ranked team in the NAIA. Piotrowski scored two goals, including the game-winner, despite a strong defensive effort from the Trojans. The three goals scored by UIS were the first three of the season allowed by Hannibal-LaGrange, which had won its first 11 matches of the season by shutout.

Through 12 matches in 2008, Piotrowski (*right*) has recorded 12 goals with two assists for 26 total points. He currently leads the AMC in both goals and points scored. This is the second AMC Player of the Week award this season for Piotrowski, who was the 2007 AMC Newcomer of the Year.

Thackeray, a junior goalkeeper from Manchester, United Kingdom, won all three of his starts last week, including a 2-1, double-overtime victory at home against AMC foe the University of Illinois at Springfield. Thackeray combined to make nine saves in his three wins. The 3-0 week posted by Thackeray enabled the Owls to reach the .500 mark on the season at 6-6-1.

**OTHERS NOMINATED FOR OCT. 13:** Eric Ooton from William Woods University (Offensive) and Drew Rynders from the University of Illinois at Springfield (Defensive).

<http://www.amcsportsonline.com/article/200.php>

