Ernest (Ernie) Roe Thompson was born in Nampa, Idaho, at Samaritan Hospital now the Fine Arts Building on the NNU campus. He grew up in Boise, Idaho, pursuing athletics from an early age through his college career. At Borah High School, Ernie achieved all-district honors in basketball and baseball and was selected as Inspirational Athlete for the class of 1974. In that same year he was also named Baseball Player of the Year for Treasure Valley.

Ernie attended Northwest Nazarene University as did his parents, brother and sister. He participated in both intercollegiate basketball and baseball and was selected by his teammates as captain for the baseball team. Throughout his life, Ernie went out of his way to encourage young athletes to always do their best and to keep Jesus Christ first in their lives.

Ernie worked for Federal Express for ten years before starting his construction and roofing business. He thoroughly enjoyed being self-employed. After living in the Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington areas for about ten years, he returned to Boise where he met and married Terese Williams.

On April 1, 2004, Ernie learned that he had Cholangio Carcinoma - an incurable cancer - and only had a short time to live. He told his parents that if this was the Lord’s time to take him home, he was ready to go. Ernie went to be with his God and Savior on June 24, 2004.

Rev. Darrell Wiseman, Ernie’s pastor, spent several hours going through Ernie’s Bibles preparing comments for the memorial service. He stated, “Ernie was truly a man of the Word. It impacted me beyond belief as I walked through the pages of his Bibles. There could be no better way to celebrate Ernie’s life than to fall in love with the Bible the way he modeled for us.”

**Criteria for the Award**

1. Recipients are to be students who meet general scholastic requirements and show potential for academic success and degree completion.
2. Recipients are to be involved in intercollegiate athletics with preference given to baseball.
3. Financial need shall be a consideration in the awarding of this scholarship.
4. Recipients may receive the award in successive years, not to exceed four years.
5. Nominations for this award are to be made by the baseball coaches through the Athletic Director and the Office of Financial Aid.