

# Meet Jesse Thomas

*Introduction by Charley Dickey*

Jesse's ancestors were builders and carpenters, his father an electrician, his mom a long-time real estate agent – all from near Portland. Jesse was the first in his family to earn college and professional degrees. He received a Rotary Scholarship to his first year at the University of Oregon. This journalism major was the chief reporter for all things football and basketball. He squirmed a bit when I asked about his treatment of the invaders from the North, appareled in purple and gold. He assured a consistent, healthy and fearful respect, you'll learn more in a minute about why he should.



Post U of O, this Duck sports reporter took flight to the Down Under world in the Aussie outback. Two months, and having blown the suds off a few Foster's later, his career compass recalibrated. It directed him to go deeper academically, and deep he went – straight into the Northwestern University School of Journalism. There he discovered a different reporting arena – global trading. He wrote a regular item that determined the direction of Federal Reserve Interest Rate Policy based on trading volatility of Eurodollar futures. Maybe not the stuff that keeps us sleepless in Seattle, but it did fuel intellects at the Dow Jones and the Journal. He reported on derivatives, especially on those derived around the vagaries of weather - hurricane, snowfall, frost, and rainfall futures. Can't make this stuff up, but at the time, these things were selling!



Jesse had his own future interest, and that was one based on a return to the Northwest. And for the past nine years, he's ascended the management ranks at Waddell & Reed, a leading national financial advisory firm. He's their District Manager charged with overseeing a team of 15 advisors in Seattle and Bellevue. The greeting committee at the Seattle office is chaired by Autzun, Jesse's endearing black lab, affectionately named after the Duck's gridiron.

Well, Jesse! Last Saturday - birthday, today - Rotary inductee, and this Saturday – a wedding!

That Purple and Gold respect, I alluded to earlier? He'll have it by then, 'cause what's waiting for him at the end of the aisle will be sure he does! His bride-to-be, Allie, is a die-hard UW grad and one who knows a thing or two about Husky nuptials. She planned them for UW Alumni for the past 10 years, at least in between being O'Dea High School's Development Director.



Jesse's an engaging Northwesterner, a Duck worshiper AND now a Husky lover, and a Young Rotary Leader. He wants fervently to be a team player, fulfilling our Club's community service needs. We owe his proposer and seconder, Kim Moore and Doug Seto, a big thank you for onboarding him.

Along with myself, our Club President Mark, and the entire Seattle 4 membership, Jesse, we welcome you!