

Thomas Melvin was named to the Texas H.S. Baseball Coaches Association all-state team after his senior season of 1999 in which he broke four school records, was the District MVP, and was invited to play in the Coaches' all-star game. He received national recognition at 16 when he was named all-tournament on a national champion youth team and by his selection for a national high school all-star team (Team Texas) after his senior year.

Thomas Melvin was born on Oct. 9, 1980, in Temple to Rex and Susan Melvin. His parents were divorced when he was 3 and he was raised in Belton by his father and great grandmother, Angie Sherwood, until he was 12 when his father remarried and Thomas and his step-sister, Kristy, were then raised by his father and step-mother, Tammy. Thomas attended Central Elementary School, Belton Jr. H.S. and Belton H.S., graduating in 1999. He played baseball, football, and basketball at BHS. At 5'10" & 175 lbs. he played on the freshman football and basketball teams and split time between the JV and varsity teams as a LB as a soph before a fractured vertebrae ended his football career.

Melvin's baseball career began at the age of 6 in Belton with T-ball and continued thru the Midget and Little Leagues. At 16 his Central Texas Baseball Academy "select" team, the "Dirt dogs," won the national championship at the "triple crown world series" in Steamboat Springs Colorado and Thomas, a third baseman/pitcher, was named to the all-tournament team. At 17 his Killeen area select team was 3rd at the same national tournament and Thomas was again named to the all-tournament team. At 18 (the summer before his senior year at BHS) he was again a member of the Dirt dogs who finished 2nd at the world series in Lakeland FL with Thomas being named the defensive MVP of the tournament.

Thomas' high school baseball career got off to a slow start as he played on the Tiger JV team as a soph and, as a junior on the varsity in 1998, he hit only .197 with 12 RBIs and 1 HR as a third baseman/pitcher for the 21-12 Tigers. However, he had a "breakout year" as a 5'11" 200 lb. senior in 1999 as a switch-hitting first baseman/pitcher hitting .485 (just short of the school record of Toby Rumfield in 1991), with 57 RBIs (a school record), 11 home runs (breaking the school record of 10 set by Jason Bynum in 1988) and 17 doubles (breaking the record of 12 set by Jason Regan in 1994). As a pitcher he was 8-1 with an ERA of 1.83 and struck out 81 batters. His district batting average of .581 was also a school record. His highlight game as a senior came in the first district game against Lake Travis when he pitched a no-hitter and hit a home run in a 10-0 Belton victory. He also had a 22 game hitting streak as a senior. The Tigers, under Coach David Tidwell, finished the year at 26-6, drew a bye in bi-district, and beat Fredericksburg for the Area Championship before losing to Hays Consolidated in the regional quarterfinals.

Melvin was named 1st team all-district and district MVP; All-Centex by the Austin American-Statesman; Super Centex by the Waco Tribune-Herald; and all-state by the Texas H.S. Baseball Coaches Association. Three other Belton players (B.J. Soto, Josh Harris and Kory Douglas) also made the Coaches all-state team. He was also invited to play in the Texas H.S. Coaches all-star

baseball game as a first baseman for the South team and for Team Texas in a national tournament (the Sunbelt Classic) involving high school all-star teams from 15 states. Thomas was named as one of ten finalists for the Texas High School Player of the Year by Pro-Line Hats and was introduced with the other finalists at the Coaches all-star baseball game.

Thomas was recruited by Shiner College, UMHB, McLennan County Community College, Ranger Jr. College and Temple College. He signed with Temple College and played two years (2000 & 2001) hitting .320 with 6 HRs as a soph on the Leopard team that was 28-24 on the year. He received a baseball scholarship to Texas A&M at Kingsville in 2001 to play thru the 2003 season. Thomas was named 1st team all-conference as a utility player as a Jr in 2002 and as a second baseman as a Sr in 2003. Melvin received a degree in kinesiology from A&M-Kingsville and was a teacher/coach at Houston King H.S. for 4 years before taking a similar position at Baytown Sterling in 2008. Thomas Melvin, 28, and his wife Lorisa, live in Houston with their twin daughters, Madison and Allison, 7.