

Jan Barker

Coach Barker graduated from Eisenhower High School, in Yakima, Washington, where she played volleyball and softball and threw the javelin. She played volleyball and softball collegiately at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon, and played on the AIAW Div. III National Runner-Up volleyball team her senior year.



After graduating from Linfield in December 1982, Barker spent three years leading a middle school volleyball team and one coaching high school basketball and track, after which she jumped at the opportunity to coach girls' sports in Amarillo.

Barker retired in November after 31 years at Amarillo High, with a record and list of accomplishments that likely won't ever be matched — not in Amarillo, not anywhere.

For her career, her dominance and her balanced sense of the big picture, Barker was named the 2017 Amarillo Globe-News Woman of the Year, the first such recipient with a sports background.

Barker won state titles in the 1980s, the 1990s and as recently as 2016. Her 1994 State Championship team had a perfect record of 37-0, followed by the 1995 regional finalist team's 33 consecutive wins for a winning record of 70-0.

She won a state crown once for every three years she coached. With her two daughters playing, Barker's teams won four in a row from 2006 to 2009, which had never been done before at the state's highest level. The most dominant four-year period in state volleyball history was capped with a record that looks like a misprint — 187-8.

When her career was completed in November after a 39-8 season, Barker's record was 1,116-175 with 14 state tournament appearances. She coached 16 All-Americans and helped send more than 100 of her players off to play college, 34 of them at the NCAA Division I level. Because of Barker, Amarillo wears the crown in the Texas high school volleyball world.

She currently resides in Amarillo, TX. She and husband, Danny, have two grown daughters – Brianne Barker-Groth, who is the head Volleyball Coach at Colleyville-Heritage High School in Colleyville, TX; and Danielle, who is the Head Volleyball Coach at Flower Mound Marcus High School in Lewisville, TX. Barker also has a grandson, Hayes Daniel Groth.