



CLASS OF 2021 INDUCTEE



CAROLYN THOMPSON



Carolyn Thompson is one of the greatest players in both Texas Tech women's basketball and New Mexico high school sports history. And one of the greatest athletes, period. She proved that time and time again while growing up in the place in which she takes so much pride – Hobbs.

"It's almost a rite of passage," she says of playing sports and being a Hobbs native. She excelled in three sports: basketball, volleyball and track and field.

The records that Carolyn set at Hobbs High and Texas Tech will be hard to ever match. She was so phenomenal in all three sports at Hobbs, that it was volleyball – not basketball – that originally took her to Texas Tech.

She also won a high school state title in the high jump as a senior and was the Lady Eagles' leading scorer in basketball as a junior and senior. She led the team to the semifinals of the state tournament in her final year.

Carolyn is Texas Tech's all-time leading scorer. When she graduated in 1984, she was the fourth-leading scorer of all time in women's college basketball. She currently ranks 28th. She set 18 school records at Tech and led the Red Raiders to a 23-7 record and the first Division I tournament appearance in school history. She was a three-time All-American.

She said her greatest thrills at Tech were to lead the Red Raiders to be a "better-than-ever competitive team" and being "the first female athlete at Texas Tech to have my number retired." She was her team's MVP all four years at Tech, made all-Southwest Conference for three years, from 1982-1984, and was the league's MVP her senior year.

In 1992, Carolyn was named the Southwest Conference Player of the Decade and in 1996 was named the Southwest Conference "all-time player."

Carolyn has been inducted into the Texas Tech Hall of Honor, the Southwest Conference Hall of Fame and the Texas Tech Lady Raider Ring of Honor.

Carolyn has been a head coach at Lubbock Estacado for 10 years. She has been a school administrator for her entire career since graduating from Texas Tech and is principal at an alternative school in Lubbock.

Carolyn's philosophy as an educator is "every day that I come through the door, I say to myself that I am going to do something to change a student's life for the better."