



AMBER CAMPBELL-MOORE

written by Ken Sickenger

Amber Campbell-Moore's athletic talents have shown brightly all over the United States and the around the world. The first glimpse appeared in New Mexico.

Born in Cincinnati in 1981, Amber went on to establish herself as one of the world's top throwers in track and field. She is a three-time Olympian (2008, 2012, 2016) and owns 11 national championships in the hammer throw. She established American Olympic Trials and Olympic hammer throw records.

Amber Campbell's name is well-known in collegiate and international track-and-field circles. She is the most decorated athlete to compete at Coastal Carolina University, where she was a five-time NCAA All-American in hammer and weight throw.

It might have been hard to see Amber's stellar athletic career coming in the mid-1990s when she was an eighth grader at Tucumcari High School. Still, that is where it started, with Amber qualifying for New Mexico's Class 3A state meet in shot put and discus.

Some 30 years later, Amber is married and a mother of three children. She did not expect to be inducted into the New Mexico Sports Hall of Fame but was delighted to be chosen as part of the 50th induction class in 2024.

"I'm so grateful for this honor and to be part of this group," she said. "I'm really excited to get back to New Mexico for the induction ceremony to see everyone. I can't wait."

Amber completed her high school career in Indianapolis, where she competed in volleyball, basketball, and track at Pike High School.

But her athletic career blossomed at Coastal Carolina, where Amber became one of the nation's top competitors in throwing events.

Her laundry list of accomplishments includes 16 combined Big South championships in weight throw, hammer throw, shot put and discus. She set American collegiate records in hammer and weight throw and was named Big South Track & Field Most Outstanding Athlete six times. The conference twice selected Amber as its overall Athlete of the Year.

Amber served as a volunteer assistant coach at Coastal Carolina during her amateur career, working with the school's throwers. During that time, she excelled representing the United States on the international stage, she twice medaled at the Pan American Games and five times competed for Team USA at the Track & Field World Championships.

Amber earned spots on the U.S. Olympic Team in 2008 and 2012 but, her high point as an Olympian came in 2016, when she set a personal best of 74.03 meters in hammer throw at the Olympic Trials in Eugene, Oregon, setting a new American record.

She went on to qualify for the finals at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics and at age 35 finished sixth – the best-ever finish for an American woman in hammer throw. But Amber could not match her personal best mark and her top throw of 72.74 meters fell less than two meters short of a bronze medal.

"It's awesome," she told the Indianapolis Star, "and frustrating, all at the same time."