



Skip Townsend – Argyle High School

A graduate of Graford High School and East Texas State University, Skip Townsend began his 44-year coaching career at Slidell, Texas. He made stops along the way at Giddings, Gordon, (where he coached, served as Athletic Director and K-12 Principal), Eastland, Waelder, and Merkel. While at Merkel, Skip married Sammye Bowles, a HSU graduate, and together they moved to Copperas Cove, where they coached and taught for 14 years. While at Copperas Cove, Townsend's team made the playoffs 12 times, including 4 regional tournament appearances and a Final Four. From Copperas Cove, Skip moved his family to Brock High School where 9 regional tournaments and six Final Fours resulted in 6 State Titles. His final stop was at Argyle HS, where he spent his last 6 seasons, making 4 State Final appearances, and winning his last 3. After 44 years of coaching and teaching, Townsend's record stands at 1081-395, 19 regionals, 11 Final Fours, and 9 State Championships.

Townsend owes a great deal to his high school coach, Warren Pruitt, and college coach, Jim Gudger for inspiring him to choose coaching and helping him become the coach he is today. They instilled in him work ethic, commitment, and created in him a passion to get the most out of his players. That passion teamed with his ability to motivate athletes is one thing that contributed to his success as a coach.

Highlights of Townsend's teams included an appearance at the highly touted Nike Tournament of Champions in 1997. This event attracted many of the preseason top twenty teams in the United States each year and was heralded by the national news media as "unparalleled" and "staggering" by USA Today and ESPN. There his Copperas Cove team took home the title, knocking off four of the nation's top ten teams in the USA Today "Super 25" poll and Townsend was awarded Outstanding Coach of the tournament. That tournament win skyrocketed them to the #1 ranking in the USA Today poll. A personal highlight of his career was helping Brock win their first ever state championship in any sport and sharing his first state title with his oldest daughter, Halsey, and wife, Sammye, as assistant coach. Brock went on to win 5 more State titles, and both daughters, Halsey and Lyssa, played roles in helping

Brock bring home those titles. In his ten years at Brock High School, Townsend's program was known as "A Decade of Dynasty". To date, Townsend has had eight teams nationally ranked in the top 20.

Skip Townsend finished his career at Argyle High School, serving as the Head Girls' Basketball Coach and Athletic Coordinator. On February 3, 2015, Skip recorded his 1000th victory playing rival, Sanger. He was named the 4A Coach of the Year three times and was also selected as a recipient of the UIL Sponsor Excellence Award, awarded to 15 of the best UIL Sponsors in Texas. The award was created to identify and recognize outstanding sponsors who enable students to develop and refine their extracurricular talents to the highest degree possible within the educational system. Townsend was also inducted into the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in May of last year.

Skip Townsend has dedicated a total of 44 years to coaching several sports in 9 different schools and all UIL divisions. He also served as a volleyball official for over 15 years as member of the Abilene, Temple, and Fort Worth chapters. He has served as TABC All Star Coach, TGCA All Star Coach, and Texas-Oklahoma All Star Coach. He has been named WBCA Coach of the Year Southern Region, Texas Sportswriters Coach of the Year 6 times, TABC and TGCA Girls Coach of the Year, and awarded the Bobby Fox Outstanding Alumni Award from Texas A&M Commerce. In his 36 years as a girls' basketball coach, he has won 9 State Titles, coached 19 All State players, 4 High School All Americans, and 3 players who went on to become professional athletes.

Skip contributes his success to lifelong learning of the game, his ability to motivate players to reach their highest potential, and the staff and players who have helped him be who he is today.