



Marla Burleson

Marla Burleson began her coaching career in 1986 spending many of her 37+ years coaching alongside her husband, Stuart Burleson.

Before they together coached many successful athletic programs, Marla, the daughter of Melvin and Martha Henkes, graduated from Hamilton High School in 1982 where she was a standout athlete, and graduated from Angelo State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1986

She began her coaching career at Brownwood ISD, followed by Schulenburg Isd, alongside Larry Tidwell, before eventually landing and coaching at Rocksprings.

Rocksprings High School was where her most prominent coaching accomplishments were obtained: four back to back Girls State Cross Country Team titles with three years of different individual and runner up runners as well, a clean sweep of the Girls and Boys State Cross Country Team titles in '96 with 2 back to back Girls Track State Team Championship titles with numerous state gold medal runners plus another Runner Up State Team title as well; TGCA All Star Coach, TGCA Track Coach of the Year and more

After 8 years of success in Rocksprings the Burleson coaching duo spent many years creating and contributing to many other successful athletic programs as well, throughout all parts of the state of Texas, among them, Corpus Christi Carroll, Rockport, Comanche, Freer, SG Academy Kingsville, Falfurrias, and Riviera to name a few.

Through her coaching career she and her husband were blessed to also have opportunities to coach their two standout athletic daughters, Hannah and Haley Burleson, as well.

Marla's coaching accomplishments include:

Texas Girls Coaches Association Track Coach of the Year- 1997
Texas Girls Coaches Association All Star Track Coach- 1997
Fox Sports Extra "Coach who makes a Difference"- 1998
All West Texas Track Coach of the Year- 1996, 1997
Coastal Bend 5A Track Coach of the Year- 2000
Citgo Winningest Cross Country Coach Award- 1999
Chatter Allen Winningest Track Coach Award- 2000
Longhorn Classic Winningest Volleyball Coach Award 2015
Southwestern Bell Excellence in Education Award Nominee- 1997, 1998
UIL State Champion Girls Track Team- 1996, 1997
UIL State Champion Girls Cross Country Team- 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997
UIL State Champion Boys Cross Country Team- 1996, 1998
"Texas Cross Country Sweep" State Girls and Boys Team Champions- 1996
UIL State Champion Girls Individual Cross Country Champion 1994, 1995, 1996,
(Each year a different runner!)
UIL State Silver Medalist Girls Individual Cross Country 1995, 1996
UIL State Runner-up Girls Track Team- 1998
State Cross Country Team Record Holder: Lowest CC State Meet Score:
21 points- 1995 (1994- 28 pts.; 1996- 23 pts.)
All State Girls Cross Country Runners- 2/1993; 5/1994; 5/1995; 5/1996; 7/1997;
3/1998; 1/1999
All State Boys Cross Country Runners- 3/1996; 2/1997; 3/1998
TGCA All State Girls Track Runners-1996, 1997, 1998, 1999
Texas Track and Field News All State Girls Track Runners- 1996, 1997, 1998
TGCA Girls Cross Country All-Stars- 1995, 1996, 1997

TGCA Girls Track All-Stars- 1997, 1998
TGCA Girls Track Academic All-State- 1997
TGCA Girls Volleyball Academic All-State- 2014, 2015
Individual State Champions Girls Cross Country- 1994, 1995, 1996
Individual State Medalists Girls Cross Country- 1995, 1996
Individual State Medalists Boys Cross Country- 1998
Individual State Champions Girls Track- 1600 m relay: 1996, 1997
800 m run: 1996, 1997, 1998
3200 m run: 1997
400 m dash: 1997, 1998,
Shot put: 1996, 1997
Individual State Medalists Girls Track- Silver: 400m (1996)(2012), Discus (1997),
3200 m run (1998)
Bronze: Long Jump (1996), 3200 m run (1997), 1600 m relay (1998)
Shot put (2000)
All-West Texas Girls Track Team members- 1996, 1997, 1998
Regional Champions Girls Cross Country- 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998

Numerous Individual Regional Champions & Qualifiers
Regional Champions Girls Track- 1995, 1996, 1997
Regional Champions Boys Cross Country- 1997, 1998
Numerous Individual Regional Champions a & Qualifiers
Regional Runner-up Girls Track- 1998
Numerous Individual Regional Champions & Qualifiers
District Champions Girls Cross Country 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999
Numerous Individual District Champions
District Champions Girls Track- 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2019
Numerous Individual District Champions
District Champions Boys Cross Country- 1997, 1998
Numerous Individual District Champions
Bi-District Champions Girls Volleyball- 1988, 2015, 2020
Bi-District Qualifier Girls Volleyball – 2014, 2015
Bi-District Champions Girls Basketball- 1989, 1998
Bi-District Qualifier Girls Basketball 2020
District Champion Girls Volleyball- 1988
District Champion Girls Basketball- 1989, 1996
All- District MVP's Basketball- 1989, 1996
All-District Basketball Players- 1989, 1996
All-District MVP's Volleyball- 2015
All- District Volleyball Players- 2014, 2015

Marla retired from education in 2024 at 60 years of age. She and her husband Stuart, who retired from coaching in 2015, spent 20 years on the Texas Coast, living and enjoying the last 15 years on Baffin Bay.

They recently returned to and now live in their favorite coaching home, Rocksprings, and are enjoying retirement time and 40 years of marriage; spending most of their time with their daughters, sons in law and four wonderful grand kids, who of course, have lives revolving around sports!