

Dawn Royster

Basketball, Track, 1979-1983

Dawn Royster was one of the most successful athletes in Nyack's history. She was the star on a girls' basketball team that dominated the Rockland PSAL. Royster was also a decorated track star, setting several records and winning numerous honors. Her achievements in high school earned her impressive collegiate and professional athletic opportunities.

On the basketball court, Dawn was a vital component of one of the best teams in the county and the state. With her standing 62-1 3/4", Royster dominated inside, Nyack went undefeated in the Rockland PSAL in 1982 and 1983. In her most dominant playing season, senior year, 1983, Royster averaged an astonishing 22.5 points, 13 rebounds, and 7 blocked shots per game and led the team to 23 straight wins before they fell in the Class B state semifinals. Royster scored in double figures in all but two of the 64 varsity games she played in. She finished with 1,214 points in her varsity career, setting the Nyack High scoring record.

Among her many accolades, she was twice named first-team All County, and was named second-team All-State in 1983. She was also named Rockland Player of the Year in 1983, and was voted the best female athlete in Nyack High School history in a 1988 Journal News opinion poll of readers. In 1983, she was selected as a Converse High School All-American.

Royster also enjoyed a memorable track career. She set the Rockland County record in the pentathlon at the 1981 spring New York State Championships, helping Section 9 win a team title. She also set a county record of 5'7" in the high jump that was later broken, but which still stands as one of the best jumps in Rockland history. Royster finished first in the high jump and 400 hurdles at the Section 9 Class B meet her sophomore year. She holds numerous Nyack High School records, including in the 100 and 400-meter hurdles, the high jump, the pentathlon, and in several relay events. Dawn was named All-County three times and was selected Rockland Athlete of the Season in 1982.

After her incredible high school career, Royster continued her athletic excellence as a member of the University of North Carolina's Women's Basketball team. After being named ACC Rookie of the Year, she went on to set school records for rebounds and blocked shots in a game, and blocked shots in a season. She helped UNC win an ACC title, set a school record for blocked shots, and was named first-team All-ACC twice.

Her accomplished athletic career did not end there, as Dawn played four years of professional basketball in Europe. She played a year in Italy before earning All-Star awards during a three-year stint in Spain. Royster was inducted into the Rock land County Sports Hall of Fame twice for her achievements in both track and basketball. She was also a proud cheerleader who was named squad MVP her senior year of high school.

After returning from Europe, where she had a four year career as a professional basketball player in Spain and Italy, Dawn worked for AT&T for 15 years and three years at Hewlett Packard as an IT Manager. Currently, she is the Vice President of Geronimo Electrical Contractors, Inc.; a company she and her husband started eight years ago.