

Sophomore Audrey Puckett and junior Danielle Thomas became the second and third Belton girls to make all-state in softball (after Jennifer Beach in 1997) when they were selected to the Texas Girls Coaches Association all-state team in 1999. As a senior Puckett was MVP of the District and 1st team SuperCentex after leading the team in hitting, pitching two perfect games and ending the season with a 0.33 ERA.

Audrey Puckett was born on Feb. 1, 1983, in Bryan TX to Larry and Donna Puckett (her father played football at Belton H.S. in 1976-77). The Puckett family has been in Belton since around 1900. Audrey was raised in Belton and attended Miller Heights Elementary School, Belton Jr. H.S. and Belton H.S., graduating in 2001. Audrey was on the softball, volleyball, basketball and track teams in high school, was one of the Belles of Belton, and was active in the Student Council (serving as class VP as a soph). She played on the BHS softball team for four years; the volleyball team for three years, the basketball team for one year and the track team for one year (running the 220-yd dash and the 880-yd dash).

Audrey's softball career started at the age of four when she played "pre-T-Ball" on a boys' team. She progressed to girls' fastpitch softball by the age of nine and played on three Belton girls' teams (coached by her father) when she was 11, 12, & 13 that won the state championship in the Texas Teenage League in 1994, 1995 and 1996. She was invited to play on junior U.S. national teams that played in Holland and Australia and made it to the last of a three-stage selection process in Ft. Worth for the 1998 U.S.A. Olympic team.

Audrey's high school athletic career began as a freshman in 1998 when she was a starter on the softball team and was named "newcomer of the year" in Belton's 5-A District. As a soph in 1999 she was 12-3 as a pitcher & hit over .300 for the Lady Tigers who were undefeated in their 5-A District and were 23-7 on the season. Audrey (and teammate Danielle Thomas) was named 1st team all-district and all-state by the Texas Girls Coaches Association.

In her junior year of 2000 she was 19-5 as pitcher with 167 SO's and a 0.29 ERA and hit .464 with 20 RBIs in Belton's 4-A District. She was named the team MVP, District Defensive Player of the Year; Super Centex 2nd team by the Waco Tribune-Herald; and honorable mention all-state by the Texas Girls Coaches Association. During the summer after her junior year she pitched 3 innings against the goal medal winning U.S. Olympic Team shutting them out for the first two innings and allowing four hits and two runs in three innings of an exhibition game at Ft. Hood. Her pitching repertoire included a 68 mph fastball as well as a screwball, rise, drop, and slider.

As a senior, the 5'8" 130 lb. Puckett was 15-4 as a pitcher and pitched back-to-back perfect games against Georgetown and Lampasas. She had 187 SO's and an 0.33 ERA and hit over .400 to lead the Coach Mariann DeShazer's Lady Tigers who were 23-6 on the year and beat Nederland 2-1 in an "area" playoff game 2-1 behind 18 SO's by Puckett (a career high) before losing to No.9 Magnolia in the regional QF's. Belton was undefeated in District in Audrey's first three years and was 9-1 in her senior year for a 4-year District record of 41-1. Puckett was the team and District MVP; won the team's "Big

Stick” and “Golden Arm” awards; and was named 1st team SuperCentex by the Waco Tribune-Herald.

Puckett was recruited by the University of Connecticut, University of Arkansas, Marshall University, Long Island University, and Colgate University before signing with the University of Texas at Arlington where she enrolled and played for part of her Fr year before leaving school to get married. In 2009, Audrey Puckett Gray lived in Blacksoot (near Palestine) TX with her husband, Jody Gray, and children, Alexis, 7, and Jacob, 3. Her husband is a manager of Wal Mart distribution.