

Danielle Thomas was named 1st team all-state in softball by the Texas Girls Coaches Association as a junior and senior and was voted Belton's top female athlete as a senior in 2000 after starring in volleyball, basketball and softball. She received a softball scholarship to Oklahoma State where she started on the varsity as a freshman in 2001 & later played at UMHB.

Danielle Thomas was born on March 8, 1982, in Ft. Hood TX to Willie Russell and Vada Thomas. She and her siblings, Dontrell Thomas-McCraney, Dominick Thomas, and Jordon Russell were raised in Belton and Danielle attended Central Elementary School, Belton Jr. H.S. and Belton H.S., graduating in 2000. As a senior in 1979-80 her father was voted the Tiger's top back and was regional champion in the 100 and 200 yard dashes leading (with Ricky Sanders) Belton to the regional track title in 1980. Her mother was honorable mention all-district in basketball in 1980 and her uncle, Booker Russell, played football at Belton in 1971-73 and later in the NFL.

Danielle's sports career started at the age of 3 when she played on the boys' T-ball baseball team coached by her father. She began playing softball at the age of 5 and played on select (i.e., all-star) Central Texas teams thru the age of 15. Her 18-and-under ASA team, the "Babes," won back-to-back state titles in 2000 and 2001 and finished 4th in the national tournament in 2000 and 4th in 2001. Danielle was named MV of the 2001 state tournament.

At only 5'3" Danielle was a two-year letterman on the Tiger varsity volleyball team as an "outside hitter." The Lady Tigers won district in her junior year and were 3rd in district in her senior year under Coach Tina Vaughn. Thomas was also a four-year starter at point guard for the Lady Tiger basketball team under Coach Randy Bell. She averaged 8 points, 1 assist and 2 steals per game as a soph in 1998; 10 points, 2 assists and 2 steals as a junior in 1999 and 16 points, 4 assists and 3 steals as a senior in 2000.

Danielle was also a four-year starter on Coach Mariann DeShazer's Lady Tigers girls softball team which won the District championship for four straight years (with a combined 42-0 district record). As a soph in 1998 she was 1st team all-district in 13-5A and team MVP after hitting .337, with 23 RBIs and stealing 29 bases in 31 attempts and had a fielding percentage of .914 at shortstop. In her junior year of 1999 the team was 23-7 on the year and advanced to the area round of the playoffs. Danielle hit .369 with 7 HRs (winning the team "Big Stick" award) and had a fielding percentage of .979 (winning the team "Golden Glove" award) and was voted MVP of the district and 1st team all-state by the Texas Girls Coaches Association. She and soph Audrey Puckett, who also was all-state in 1999, became the second and third Belton girls to make all-state in softball (after Jennifer Beach in 1997).

In her senior year of 2000 the Lady Tigers were 27-5 (12-0) and beat Hays Consolidated in the Area Game before losing to Smithson Valley in the Regional. Danielle hit .429 on the year with 17 RBIs and 30 stolen bases in 31 attempts and had a fielding percentage of .959. She shared the Golden Glove award and was the co-MVP of the team and was again voted (with Audrey Puckett) MVP of the district and again named 1st team all-state by the Texas

Girls Coaches Association. She was also named a Texas Girls Coaches Association all-star for 2000.

Thomas was recruited by Oklahoma State, Iowa State, Oklahoma, St. Edwards and Centenary and signed with Oklahoma State. In 2001 she was the starting centerfielder as a freshman on Oklahoma State's varsity team which finished 5th in the Big 12 and runner-up in the Big 12 tournament to champion Oklahoma. Danielle led the team in two categories, triples (2) and stolen bases (14 in 16 attempts) and hit .234 (29 hits in 124 at bats) on the year with an on base percentage of .354 and a slugging percentage of .315. She had 6 RBIs, 1 HR, 3 doubles, 2 triples, and 17 runs. She played at Temple College in 2003 and then from 2004-05 at UMHB where she was a two-time All-ASC player with a school record average of .451 in 2005.

In 2009 Danielle Thomas, 27, lived in Belton and worked at a day care center.