



# New Mexico Activities Association Student-Athlete Spotlight

## Lady Dons' Spalding Stays Involved in the Las Vegas Community

*By Lauren Roussel, NMAA Intern*

Kyanna Spalding exemplifies what it truly means to be a student-athlete, something her peers and the staff at West Las Vegas High School can attest. Holding a 4.15 GPA while balancing a busy schedule with athletics and extra curricular activities, it is a no brainer that Spalding's superiors look at her as a positive influence on her fellow students/teammates.

"She is a great teammate, good friend and overall has great character," Richard Tripp, West Las Vegas' Athletic Director stated.

Spalding is the student body president, a member of the girls' volleyball, basketball and track teams, Key Club treasurer and is involved in MESA (math, engineering, science & technology) all while maintaining a 4.15 GPA. "It's extremely important to be involved at my high school because they've helped me with my education. When I was younger I looked up to the students and athletes at West Las Vegas," Spalding spoke of her inspiration to stay busy.

In addition to all of her school affiliated extra curricular activities, Spalding finds time to give back to her church by teaching Confirmation classes. "I want to make the program enjoyable so the students will get out as much as they can, just like I did," she explains.

"I think it's really important to give back to the community and you should always do whatever you can to help," she said.

Through Key Club, Spalding is working with fellow students to help reiterate the importance of being environmentally conscious. "We want to open up more community service projects to the student body to get them more involved," she said. "Being from a small town, it's important we all stick together and help keep our community thriving."

This year the Key Club of West Las Vegas High School is putting together gift baskets for the troops to send during the Valentine's Day holiday. They are also partnering up with the National Honors Society to create a tutoring program for students.

Spalding started her career as a Lady Don early by taking high school courses while in middle school. She is currently enrolled in several college courses at New Mexico Highlands University. "My family has always instilled that being a student-athlete means taking your studies seriously and knowing that they always come first," she states. "They never pushed me to get straight A's but encouraged me to learn something from every



class.”

With the pressure of a successful academic career, Spalding says that playing sports and being involved with other clubs is a great outlet for her.

“Sports have always been a release for me in addition to my other extra-curricular activities. They have always kept me grounded,” she stated.

Spalding plans to attend Georgetown University and study political science/ communications with a minor in sociology. Upon graduation from college, she would like to attend an accredited law school and one day get involved in politics.

She sees herself exploring the country and world, but one day returning to her hometown of Las Vegas, N.M., to continue giving back to the community that helped her get where she is today.