



New Mexico Activities Association Student-Athlete Spotlight

Team First for Silver's Escudero

By Tyler Dunkel, Sports Information Director at the NMAA

Analyssa Escudero, a senior at Silver High School, has enjoyed playing sports most of her life. Although she wasn't always the star or the one who received the highest accolades, it's always been more important to her to be a good teammate over anything else.

"I was always taught that you don't play for yourself, you play for a team. Everywhere you go you represent your school and your team to the best of your ability. I know if I can help the team or someone, I'm going to do what I can to help us be successful."

Duane Trewern, Silver High School's head softball coach, commented that Escudero is the best example of a good teammate. "The best way to describe Ana is that she is the 'best teammate'. Ana is a leader in a non-leader role, dedicated regardless of position, selfless, always positive and respectful. When you hear the term ALL-IN; that's Ana. She is the mold for what a student-athlete should be."

Escudero is a three-sport athlete at Silver, competing in volleyball as an outside hitter, a post player in basketball and an outfielder for the softball team. The love for team sports really surfaced during her middle school years, playing on the volleyball team, she explained. "My love for sports came in middle school when I tried volleyball for the first time. I remember looking up to the high school players and wanting to be like them. I like sports because it allows you to be involved in something bigger than yourself; you get to be a part of a team that depends on each other."

She also feels that playing on a traveling softball team in middle school allowed her great opportunities to meet other people. "My traveling softball team would go to tournaments every other weekend. We would practice three times a week. It was fun traveling to different places and meeting new people."

Escudero also credits those early years of competition for her fierce competitive side and goal setting. "One of my softball coaches told me everything is a process, you can never get frustrated because if you do, you'll get a mental block and you won't be able to play to the best of your ability. So I always told myself if I'm not doing my best, I'm letting my team down. You have to do your best and you have to have that desire and drive. I think it's that fire in me that tells me I have to do this for myself, my team and my coaches."

She continued by saying, "Every day at practice I told myself, 'you're going to work your hardest because one day you're going to be out on the field with those girls and they will need you.' I think setting goals is important because it's something to look forward to and something to feel great about when you achieve it, especially when you can share those moments with your teammates."

The Fighting Colts' girls' basketball coach, Julie Gutierrez said, "Ana is extremely talented and a fierce competitor. She makes any team she is on better."



Escudero credits her parents for instilling work ethic and the ability to be a positive example for all her teammates regardless of class. "My work ethic in both sports and the classroom has been passed down from my parents. I think it's important to lead by example both on and off the field. Underclassmen are always looking up to the upperclassmen and we want them to follow in the right footsteps. Working hard is rewarding because you feel more accomplished when you are finished, but working for your team is so much more satisfying than working for yourself."

Coach Tiana Sanchez, the Fighting Colts' head volleyball coach says, "Ana is a three-sport athlete who leads both on and off the court and field. She is in National Honor Society and has kept her goals set on collegiate aspirations. She has a positive attitude, she is kind hearted, hard-working and an all-around great student-athlete and teammate."

Over the last few years, her accolades show that her hard work is paying off for both herself as an individual and her teams. Escudero is a two-time all-District selection in volleyball and has helped her team to a 13-4 overall record and a perfect 6-0 mark in district play this season. She has earned the Fighting Heart Award and the Faith, Hope and Courage Award in basketball, while guiding her team to a district championship in 2013-14. On the softball field, Escudero helped the Fighting Colts to a state championship in 2013 and 2014, earning second team all-District honors.

Carrying a 3.8 GPA, Escudero is a member of the National Honor Society and hopes to continue her education at the University of Arizona next fall. She plans to major in physical therapy and minor in kinesiology. She believes that your work in the classroom directly correlates to your performance on the court or field.

"Grades always come before athletics. It is important to me to be a student-athlete, student coming first. If you're good in the classroom and you have the mentality to do what you're supposed to do, then I think you can go out on the field or court and get the job done because you're already in that state of mind."

Victor Oaxaca, current Athletic Director and past softball coach at Silver High School, commented about Analyssa's character. "Ana always has a smile on her face regardless of the outcome of the game or her amount of playing time. I agree with Coach Trewern; she is the best teammate you could ask for or coach. No one will ever question her heart, dedication, loyalty and spirit. Ana is an outstanding young lady who is rarely in the spotlight, but is very deserving of the recognition."