

New Mexico Activities Association Student-Athlete Spotlight

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Friedt's Drive will take him Far

By Tyler Dunkel, NMAA Sports Information Director

Small town life is common in New Mexico and is the case for students living in or around Cimarron. Most think that smaller communities don't offer the same opportunities as bigger cities. In some ways, that may be true but, in other ways, it is the exact opposite. Just ask Cimarron High School senior Dylan Friedt and he will tell you all about his experiences in a small town.

Friedt has lived in the Cimarron area his entire life and says the small town living has given him more opportunities than one might think.

"Living in a small town I think I have been allotted more opportunities than if I was living in a large city. For example, I get a chance to play varsity basketball at a smaller school, whereas, if I were in Albuquerque, I might be one of 200 students trying to make the team."

He continued by saying, "You get to know everyone in a small town and build really solid friendships that will hopefully last a lifetime."

Friedt plays basketball and runs track for the Rams. His first passion is basketball and he says he has enjoyed the challenge of his high school career.

"I started playing basketball at four-years-old. I have always enjoyed the competition. Playing basketball at Cimarron has been challenging at times but very rewarding as well. We had a few coaching changes early in my career but I think we have a solid foundation to hopefully make some noise this year at State."

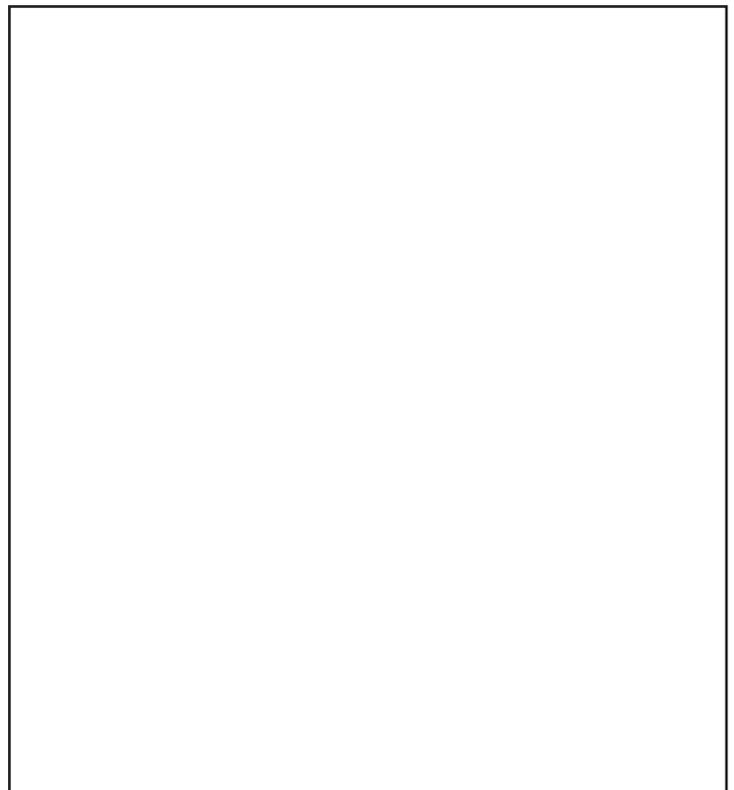
He has enjoyed the feeling of earning state championships during his high school years but the one state title Friedt holds most dear is the State Concert Band Championship he helped Cimarron win in 2015.

"Winning a state championship in both Concert Band and Track was very gratifying. It proved that with hard work and dedication even kids from a small school like Cimarron can hold that blue trophy high and be proud of their accomplishments."

A trombone player, Friedt says the unique instrument has always been intriguing to him.

"I picked up the trombone in sixth grade. I guess I was drawn to the trombone because it is so different from any other instrument. It has the slide element to it, which makes it unique."

Most kids follow in the footsteps of parents or older siblings but Friedt's parents never played sports or an instrument. He said that he really had to self-motivate to get himself involved.



“Neither of my parents played any sports growing up, nor did they play an instrument. I really had to motivate myself to be involved. Regardless, my parents have always supported me in whatever I have wanted to do.”

A National Honor Society student, Friedt has dreams of playing Division-I basketball but knows his education will be his key to success in life.

“Academics are extremely important especially because I want to further my education in college. I plan to apply for academic scholarships to help with that but I’m also hoping for an opportunity to play college basketball somewhere. My dream is to play for the Lobos but if not I’d be happy with just the opportunity to continue to play.”

He continued by saying, “After college, I still want to be around sports so I’m thinking about becoming an athletic trainer. I think it would give me a good opportunity to continue to be involved in sports even if I’m not playing.”

Wherever life may take Friedt, his self-motivation and drive will carry him a long way.