

**NEW MEXICO
ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION**



www.nmact.org

News Announcement
For Immediate Release
March 4, 2016

Contact Information:
Dusty Young
Associate Director
Phone: (505) 923-3110
Fax: (505) 923-3114

**NMAA SELECTS THE RUIDOSO BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM AS THE
"COMPETE WITH CLASS" HONOREE FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2016**

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – The New Mexico Activities Association is proud to announce that the Ruidoso High School boys basketball team has been recognized as the Compete with Class award recipient for the month of February 2016.

In mid-February, a letter was sent to the NMAA by Elizabeth Kuehne, a parent of an East Mountain High School student-athlete. The correspondence applauded Ruidoso High School's players, coaches, fans, students and administration for their actions after her son, Aidan Aragon, seriously injured his knee during a game in Ruidoso.

Kuehne stated, "Though we lost and my son's knee was already swelling and he was shaking in shock, your staff (Ruidoso) did their best to comfort and console all of us. The EMTs were called, while the athletic director, the support staff and the coaches wished us the best. Your assistant coach hugged me and then No. 4 Loren Mendez, who had scored five three-point baskets in a row, came in to see Aidan off. The concern on his face broke my heart. Not long after, your entire boys' team came to cheer Aidan on and to tell him he was in their prayers."

She continued, "I'll be honest, I wasn't overly excited about driving to Ruidoso to play, but boy, if we were going to, I wanted to beat those Warriors and I was ready to watch Aidan and his teammates do it. It didn't happen that way, but in the end, it didn't matter. My son's knee was destroyed, but your boys, your coach, your staff, and your entire program was honorable and displayed the sportsmanship qualities that I try to encourage in every kid I meet - and I appreciate that."

Sportsmanship is defined by the NMAA as the act of treating others in a respectful manner, taking personal accountability for ones actions, and responding with integrity while engaged in competition.

The NMAA would like to thank and recognize the Ruidoso High School boys basketball team for setting a great example for the state of New Mexico.

Their act of sportsmanship exemplifies the true ideals of the Compete with Class Sportsmanship Initiative - respect, integrity, and responsibility. More information regarding the "Compete with Class" sportsmanship initiative can be found on the NMAA website at www.nmact.org.

Note that the NMAA will announce a monthly honoree throughout the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year. Questions regarding this announcement can be directed to Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, at (505) 977-5385.