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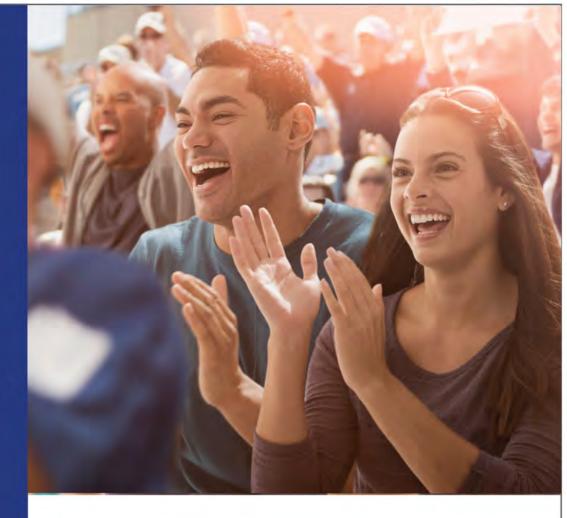
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Sally Marquez NMAA Executive Director

It is funny how certain seemingly insignificant moments in our lives come rushing back to us from time to time. As I sat down to craft this letter, I remembered my high school days, sitting in History class, learning about the Spanish Flu. My teacher for that class was a coach, so I, of course, was deeply engaged and sitting in the front row. I can vividly remember him bringing in a mask to demonstrate how society lived and managed during that time and the measures they took to stay safe. It was the first time I had ever heard the word "pandemic."

Honestly, those memories were washed into the far corners of my mind, as they likely were for most of my classmates, as we considered it history and not something that would have any relevance in our lives. Fast forward over 40 years and the voice of my teacher and his lessons of the Spanish Flu have come back to me, as though my days in his class were just yesterday.

I had always wanted to be an educator. My teachers and coaches became my role models, so knowing what I wanted to study in college came at an early age. As educators, we are taught how to manage a classroom, how to deliver the curriculum in several different manners, how to write lesson plans, and how to communicate with our students. As administrators, we are taught how to evaluate teachers, how to ensure we are following both Federal and State standards, how to manage a budget, and how to

communicate with parents, the community and any other parties within our reach.

Of all of the lessons we were taught and the tools in our proverbial toolboxes, we were never taught how to handle a pandemic! We may have learned about crisis management or how to deal with stressful situations in our classrooms and our schools, but the management of a pandemic was never a lesson taught to or learned by any of us.

However, through our education, experiences, and backgrounds, we learned how to see the light through darkness and how to find the silver lining in the gloomiest and most dismal looking clouds.

"I will love the light for it shows me the way, yet I will endure the darkness for it shows me the stars." - Og Mandino

We learned how to endure difficult, treacherous and uncertain times.

"I ask not for a lighter burden, but for broader shoulders." - Jewish Proverb

We learned how to find success in the midst of our most challenging adversities.

"Tough times never last, but tough people do."- Robert Schuller

Most of all, we learned how to achieve, no matter the circumstances.

"Things turn out the best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out." - John Wooden

We are all in this together. The membership of the NMAA will persevere and overcome, fueled by the knowledge that what we do matters and is important to the students we serve and to the communities from every part of the Land of Enchantment. Our country endured and overcame the 1918 Pandemic, and we, too, will persist and reemerge from the 2020 pandemic stronger than we were before.

"I learned there are troubles of more than one kind. Some come from ahead, others come from behind. But I've bought a big bat. I'm all ready, you see. Now my troubles are going to have trouble with me." – Dr. Seuss

Let us all carry an attitude of positivity and success forward knowing that how we handle today will affect future generations.

Sally Marquez

Sally Marquez Executive Director





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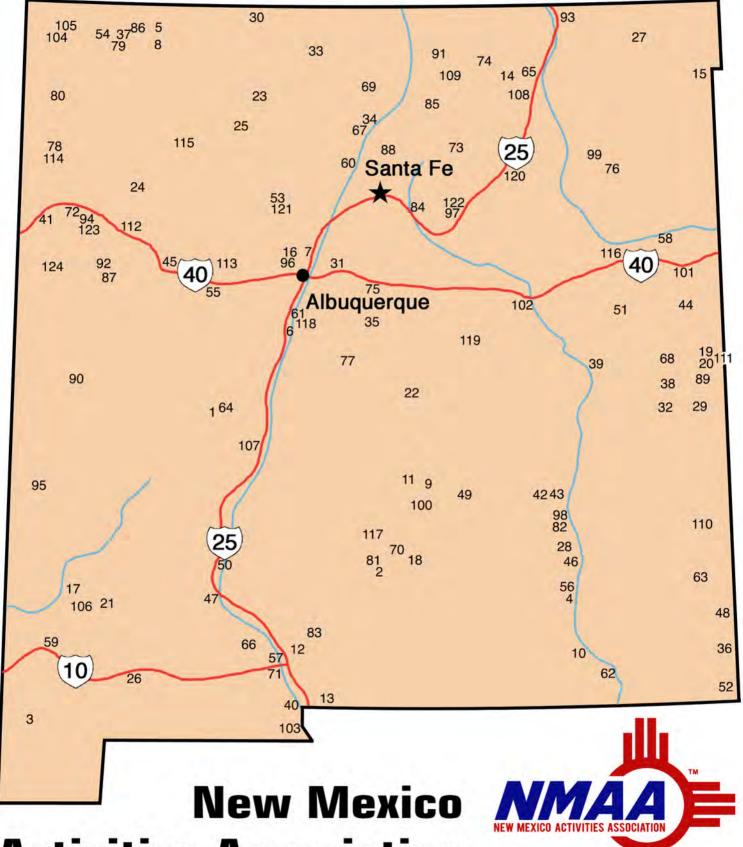
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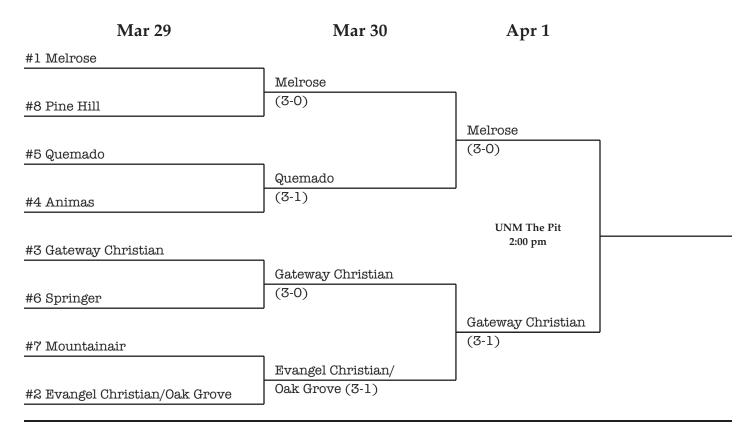
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2A State Championship Bracket

Mar 29	Mar 31	Apr 2	
#1 Texico			
	Texico		
#8 Estancia	(3-0)		
		Texico	
#5 Hagerman		(3-0)	
	Mescalero Apache		
#4 Mescalero Apache	(3-0)		
		UNM The Pit	
#3 Mora		11:00 am	
	Eunice		
#6 Eunice	(3-0)		
		Cloudcroft	J
#7 Rehoboth Christian	1	(3-0)	
	Cloudcroft	J	
#2 Cloudcroft	(3-0)		



MGR	ANIMAS PANTHERS Player Camrynn Betschart Janaye Eddy Rachel Estrada Ariani Hernandez Cody Wright Addy Offutt Angaleena Jarvis Helena Ramirez Jolie Ybarra Susana Alvarez Naomi Kimble Shauna Espinosa LeeOra Jarvis	Yr. Jr. Sr. Jr. So. Sr. Jr. Jr. So. So.	EVANGEL CHRISTIAN/ OAK GROVE CLASSICAL EAGLESNo.Player2Samantha Olguin4Ariana Khader15Aislyn Grebe19Teresa Collins23Gracyn Rush25Onica Kazensky29Esther Heyer32Laya Martinez33Eliana WinnHead Coach: Leah Rush	Yr. Jr. Jr. Sr. Sr. Jr. So.	GATEWAY CHRISTIAN WARRIORSNo.Player3Hannah Martin4Sarah Lilley5Hannah Lilley7MJ Stephens8Amelia Tenorio10Courtney Gohres11-LDallye Burge12McKayla Fox13Kylie Breedyk14Avery Pirtle15Lauren Hunter18Kayli Reeves20Rachel Ellis6/1-LKira BalokHead Coach: Kerri Pirtle	Yr. Sr. Jr. So.r. Jr. Sr. So. Jr. Sr. Sr. Sr.
No. 1 2 3 4 6 7 8 10 11 12 13 15 20 21 Head	MELROSE BUFFALOES Player Pyper Belcher Graci Odom Hailey Martin Johanna Roybal Anjalina Sanchez Lacy Lesly Paitynn Nicholson Rylee Roberts Tenley Trollinger Jayda Brittenum Isabelle Sena Sorrell Alan April Arenivar Kye Ward I Coach: Casey Jackson	Yr. Sr. Sr. Sr. So. So. So. So. So. So. So. So. So. So	MOUNTAINAIR MUSTANGSNo.Player2Alyssa Bargas3Lee Ann Padilla4Sara Jo Griego5Jasmine Everett6Zoey Brown7Caytlyn Ross10Anna Everett11Aniston Roberts12Zoey Brazil14Alyson Dew15Hannah LumpkinHead Coach: Sheldon Roberts	5 Yr. Sr. Jr. So. Fr. So. Sr. Jr. So. Fr. So. Fr. So. Fr.	PINE HILL WARRIORSNo.Player2Ashanti John3Alissa John5Virances Martinez6Tylaine Edsitty7Pauline Martinez8Bailey Nez13Maurie Daniels15Katriel Jim18Persayise Martine20Tenisha AlonzoHead Coach: Carlett Daniels	Yr. Sr. Sr. Jr. Jr. Sr. Sr. So.
No. 2 4 5 6 7 8 10 11 16 17 Head	QUEMADO EAGLES Player Katelyn Orthman Luz Vargas Sterling Fowler Jintry Albin Tori Hood Chloe Bright Kirshawna Cohoe Kolbee Orona Lexi Hood Rosie Martinez	Yr. Fr. So. So. So. Sr. Sr. 8th Sr.	SPRINGER RED DEVILSNo.Player1Kesley Armstrong3Kirsten Gurule4Naomi Rivera5Valeria Balderrana6Neveah Garcia8Ayanalisa Mendoza9Kamaro Shubert10Shylow Saenz23Lorelai Tafoya-Perez32Adrianna CruzHead Coach: Ashley DeHerrera	Yr. Fr. Jr. Fr. 8th Jr. Sr. 8th Sr.		

MMA 2A Volleyball State Qualifiers

No. 1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9 10 11 12 15 22 24 Head	CLOUDCROFT BEARS Player Ajia Hughes Kyah Gilliam Taylor Batte Hailey Lockner Aubree Lockner Maelynn Douglas Jayden Hughes Kaylee Hickman Kylie Adams Micah Gutierrez Jordin Taylor Ellie Beug Kyla Aguilar Savannah Cummings	Yr. Sr. Sr. Jr. 8th Fr. Sr. 8th r. 8th r. 8th r. Fr.	ESTANCIA BEARSNo.PlayerCheyenne Woodford1Jenna Fastnacht2Bianca Rivera-Noblitt3Sophia Sedillo4Kaydence Sisneroz5Kimber Perkins10Samantha Valencia11Olivia Anaya12Samantha Hernandez13Daniela Ponce14Sydney Chavez18Martina Lucero	Yr. Sr. So. Jr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr.	EUNICE CARDINALSNo.Player0Kendra Caballero1Kiki Parker2Arissa Frazier3Faith Hobbs4Denise Rangel6Isabella Garrett8Clarissa Patron15Yolanda Granados23Kaitlyn GallantMgrAngelica CarrascoMgrKyla ColbornHead Coach: Robbie Robinson	Yr. So. Sr. Jr. So. So. Fr. Sr. Sr.
No. 1 2 3 4 7 8 10 11 13 14 15 17 Head	HAGERMAN BOBCATS Player Yamile Ortiz Eileen Gomez Isabel Flores Shaeleigh Gonzales Andrea Tarango Natalie Gomez Carlise Villa Ariel Tarango Melissa Chandler Kristal Olivas Nevaeh Gonzales Zayvah Diaz	Yr. Sr. Sr. Jr. So. Fr. Sr. So. Jr. So. So.	MESCALERO APACHE CHIRNo.Player1Tunte Baca2Pearl Pike3Tyler Hiles5Bianca Artiaga10Brynn Martinez13Malorie Shields14Haozinne Francis15Samantha Kazhe16Madisyn Yuzos17Ivonna BurgessHead Coach: Alice Velasquez	EFS Yr. Sr. Jr. So. Jr. Sr. Sr. Sr. So.	MORA RANGERETTESNo.Player4Angelica Leyba6Marisol Pacheco7Jocelin Gold10Chrissy Cordova15Amaria Garza16Marisol Martinez21Janiya Gold28Jazmine GuruleMRGKaylee SanchezMRGReyanna TrujilloHead Coach: Jacquelyn Sánchez	Yr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Jr. So. Fr. Jr.
No. 1 2 3 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 17 18	EHOBOTH CHRISTIAN LYI Player Shaundeen Manygoats Kaylee Becenti Natalia Sabal Jordyn Holtsoi-Henry Emma Egan Eden Sun Marina Clah Kari Kallestewa Tambrey Tso Jessica Triplett Ashley Skeets Francisco Raynique Coach: Charlene Chapman	YX So. Fr. So. So. Sr. Jr. Sr. Sr. Sr.	TEXICO WOLVERINESNo.Player0Grace McDaniel1Rachel Phipps2Lizzy Corley3Avery Pipkin4Jalissa Harrison6Emma Wahlen7Cassidy Haakma8Sydnee Muse9Riley Rohrbach10Claire McDaniel11Skyler Schaap12Jackie Posada13Ella Collins14Anneke DoumaJazmine ColmeneroLibby Douma	Yr. Sr. So. Jr. Jr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr.		

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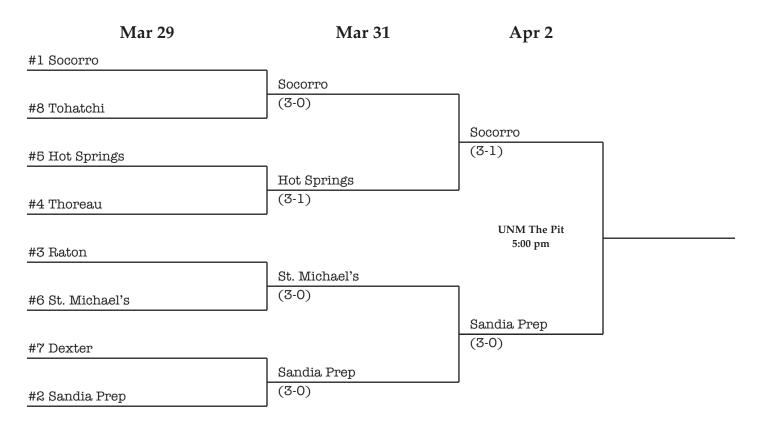
SONIC



MAA 3A Volleyball State Qualifiers

No. 1 2 3 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 Head	Aaliya AguilarFYsabel GomezFNayeli CobosGChelsea TorresGAnahi MendozaGMackenzi ContrerasGDiana CruzGAryana MunozGJazmin DuranSZoey StewartGIrene CruzGDanique BlankvoortG	r. r. r. r. r. r. r.	1Arianna AlanizI2Carina ApodacaS3Hannah HawkinsI4Elisha AriolaS5Alison WasilowskiS6Brooklynn GarciaS7Aubrie CarterS8Ava HarrelsonI9Logan WoodsS10Nevada SeguraS11Mahela HernandezI12Tazhia BilyeuI13Madison GreenI	Yr. F.S.F.S.J.S.S.F.S.S.F.F.J.J.	No. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 Head	RATON TIGERS Player Madisyn Mileta Taylor Aragon Anna Acosta Kira Medina Sevin Garcia Breanna Martinez Autumn Martinez Sophie Medina Reyna Marquez Aliana Garcia Riley Hopper Giana Marez Abigail Phillips Jimmie Mascarenas	Yr. Sr. Jr. Sr. Jr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Jr. Sr. Sr.
No. 1 3 4 5 7 9 10 11 12 13 15 17 18	Carley GravelSAlana OvertonFCeciliana RuizFRhegan GlidewellGJayla MartinezSAneesa UlibarriSMaya Pino8Alex StringerSKianna DurrSRebekah BagwellFEstrella DeLoraS). r. r. r. h).). r. r. r.	SANDIA PREP SUNDEVILSNo.PlayerNo.1Kirschtin KinbergerS2Abigail HanoshS3Amelie MartinezS6Hannah SingletonS7Janelle BacaS8Averie RiordanF9Maryah BurrellS10Haley FeuerherdS12Lauren StaplesF	Yr. Sr. ሪ. ቴት Sr. ሪ. Fr. Sr. Jr. Jr.	No. 2 4 5 8 9 10 12 14 16 20	SOCORRO WARRIORS Player Alex Peralta Jazlynn Armijo Jayden Van Winkle Garee Celine Apodaca Analyz Alderete Lucy Stuteville Marysa Ocampo Marissa Herrera Andri Peralta Taelene Fowler	Yr. Jr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Jr. Jr. Jr.
No. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Head	Malika SamSamAshleigh SamKora JonesKora JonesSamJalena BegaySamMalorie HallowaySamMaria CalladittoSamDiamond CalladittoSamAdela SenaSamCrystal MartinezSamModesa WillieSam	r. r. r.).). r. r. r. r.	4NizhoniBah Martin7Erin Bitsoi8Aurelia Lowe10Kali Brewer11Kaitlyn Pino15Alisha Jarvison16Lala Chato	Yr. Jr. Sr. Sr. Jr. So. Jr.			

MMA 3A State Championship Bracket





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Life Lessons Sports Teaches Us



Now more than ever, we are reminded how many life lessons can be taught by participating in sports. Coaches are teachers that can lead others in lessons such as how to stay positive, how to overcome adversity, how to work together for a common purpose, how to be resilient and how to be there for others. Achieving goals and overcoming obstacles can help teens persevere in uncertain times like these. Students can find a sense of belonging and accomplishment through individual sports and team dynamics.

Sports are symbolic of life. Life requires teamwork, discipline, resiliency, respect, compassion, and character. Sports can develop those skills to apply on the playing field and in their life.

We recently spoke with several different coaches from all over New Mexico, in a variety of sports, about the importance of sports and the lessons it can teach.

COMMITMENT

For coaches, sports are an extension of the classroom. They encourage their athletes to always do their best on the field, in the classroom, and in life. Champions can be determined by their commitment to goals.

"I remember a conversation with a former athlete of mine and they were contemplating dropping out of college. Then this person told me, 'Coach, I thought to myself that is not who I am. I never quit! I will fight to the end!' I was never more proud as a coach and, yes, he graduated!" -Ryan Galindo, Carlsbad High School Tennis

SELF-DISCIPLINE

Tough times don't last, but tough people do. It's a saying coaches are used to preaching. Get up when you get knocked

down. The self-discipline taught in sports allows a person to thrive in life with a work ethic to improve. Self-discipline spills over into every aspect of life and is a highly common trait among successful people.

"For me, the example that resonates over and over is that of the kid with a less than optimal home life. A kid that doesn't have the nice clothes, fancy shoes, or even a car to drive to school. This specific kid has every excuse to 'not make it' and no one would judge him for that. Yet, he decides to get involved in sports and realizes that dreams can come true through hard work and determination. Through the experiences and lessons learned in sports, new things are possible and maybe even attainable with the right mindset. Goals can be reached regardless of where you begin. Success can be achieved at any level if the proper selfdiscipline and work ethic are put in place. This example happens very often. A player falls in love with a sport, a coach, or a program and it drastically changes their attitude towards life and propels them to seek a future that once wasn't an option for them. I guess this life lesson can be summed up in one word that sports can provide... HOPE. Players need HOPE." -Heath Ridenour, Sue V. Cleveland High School Football

MENTAL TOUGHNESS

Sports can teach a person to be strong in body and mind. Athletes learn to push their bodies beyond what they ever believed they could to achieve their goal. Whether it's in practice or competition, a person can learn to overcome adversity they may not have faced without sports.

"The life-lesson I learned through volleyball came my Junior season in college when I tore my ACL & MCL during a spring workout. Volleyball was my life, my days revolved around the game and my teammates. I was devastated. However, through this injury and set back I learned what mental and physical toughness truly meant. My rehab took 9 months, many hours a day, was very painful and caused separation from my teammates. Nevertheless, it taught me so much about what I was really made of. The injury helped me develop a stronger faith in God, established new friends outside the game and led me to other passions as well as volleyball. I came back to the game stronger and a more complete player. I now use my injury every time a player in our program is injured...because, I lived it as well."-Kristen Scanlan, Texico High School Volleyball

LEARNING TO WORK WITH OTHERS

Everyone doesn't come from the same place. Everyone has different skills and talents to contribute, but everyone has value. Athletes learn quickly that a team can achieve success when everyone contributes. Through collective hard work, kids learn to contribute to a greater good.

"I had a young lady from our program who authored 'How to Survive Piedra Vista Softball: A guide by the 2016 Varsity Team'. I opened it up and read it again and, as always, got choked up on some of the things the girls wrote." -Kevin Werth, Piedra Vista High School Softball

SAMPLE FROM THE GUIDE

"I want everyone in this program to know the joy of a hardfought win, and also learn how to be gracious in defeat. I want everyone in the program to understand that adversity is inevitable, but that doesn't mean you still can't kick its butt. I want everyone in the program to believe in themselves and each other."-Haley Parson

"Probably just knowing that there's going to be a next pitch coming, there's going to be another day to come, that things are going to get better no matter what." – Katie Jensen

"Try to gain respect by giving respect the best you can, and love your teammates." – **Tyra Garcia**

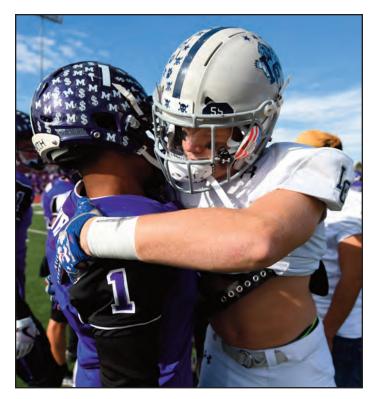
TEAMWORK

Sacrificing one's personal gain for the better of the group is a lesson taught in all team sports. Athletes understand how they can best contribute using their strengths. Together Everyone Achieves More (T.E.A.M.). Players learn quickly that their best chance at success will be through cooperation with the teammates.

"I had a young man back in 2001 by the name of Phil Sakala who had won the 800 meters and 1600 meters at the State Track Meet. He was favored to win the 3200 meters the next day and become one the first distance runners to sweep all three distance events. My 800-meter anchor leg, Frank Hemingway, in the Medley Relay developed a stress fracture in the prelims and could not run the Medley in the finals the next day. I spoke with Phil that night explaining to him that I know he has a chance of becoming a state champion in all three distance events, but we really need him to anchor our Medley since we had no other backup 800-meter runner. The next day, Phil sacrificed his personal individual 3200-meter opportunity for the principle of teamwork and he anchored our Medley relay to a state champion finish. Phil was quoted in our local paper as saying 'I just helped three of my best friends win a state title'. Phil went on to attend and graduate from the West Point Academy where today he carries a rank of Major continuing to apply the concept of teamwork, leading soldiers in military endeavors." – David Nunez, Onate High School Track and Field

HANDLING FEAR AND FAILURE

Whether it's striking out, making an error, or just losing a game, failures happen in sports as well as life. Learning that not



everyone gets to win can be a valuable lesson in someone's early development. Life isn't always fair. Injuries happen, calls are missed. Players learn that getting angry or frustrated doesn't always help and can affect their performance. Losing with dignity is just as important as winning with class. A person can find success after learning from their failures.

"I try to give as many life lessons through the game of baseball. I think sports closely parallels everyday life and the lessons you learn on the field can be applied to successful living. We teach kids to deal with frustration, controlling their emotions and adjusting to change. By playing sports you can learn maturity, honesty, loyalty, and patience." -Gil Padilla, Las Cruces High School Baseball

RESILIENCE

Not everything always goes according to plan. Sometimes you get thrown a curveball at the plate, and in life. Athletes need to know how to bounce back. It's ok to make a mistake, but how you come back from the setback will define you.

"The biggest life lesson that I have learned as a coach is that the sun will come up the next day. No matter the outcome of the day, process it, learn from it and make the best of the next day that has been given to you. Bad things are going to happen as a competitor and as a coach; how you react to those bad things are ultimately going to shape and mold you into the person you are." -Evan Copeland, Cleveland High School Wrestling

GOAL SETTING

Setting a goal in place and finding a way to accomplish that goal in the face of adversity is a useful skill. After setting a goal, an athlete knows to work hard to reach it. That goal can be a motivator for improvement.

"The best example I can think of was when our golf team played in the 2017 NMAA State Championship in Roswell. Our boys team put in the work all year and gotten their brains beat in by Cleveland High School, which was the best team in the state by far. The boys played with poise and a 'no-fear' attitude and ended up winning the tournament by 8 shots...until they didn't. One of our players got disqualified for signing an incorrect scorecard and we ended up losing by 3 shots instead of winning the school's first blue trophy in boys golf. The team had to juggle an emotional roller coaster of the highest high and the lowest low and also console a devastated teammate. The boys not only handled it with grace, but also put together a plan on the bus ride home to start preparing the very next day for 2018. They named the season 'The Redemption Tour' and ended up working harder than this coach thought was possible. In 2018, they left no doubt in winning their first ever state championship at Pinon Hills Golf Course. I have never seen a group of boys handle adversity of that magnitude and then channel their emotions into a positive goal for the next year. It truly was a story of redemption and it was quite a journey as a coach...and one I will never forget!" -**Tom Yost, Piedra Vista High School Golf**

TIME MANAGEMENT

Being a successful athlete takes a lot of dedication, but it also takes a lot of time. Athletes have to juggle their time between school, practice, and sometimes a job. Being on a team can be a job in itself. Sports teaches a person how to organize, prioritize, and focus on the importance of academics. Athletes know what they need to do and when to do it.

"I had a student-athlete that wasn't living up to the expectations of our volleyball team and herself. As a result, she did not attend a week-long summer trip/team camp as an upperclassman, and it definitely sent a message to the player. Years later, and after college, the player contacted me and said 'Thank you, coach. That was an experience that changed my life for the better, I owe a lot to you coach. My path to be successful began with the expectations/discipline that you provided a young kid." -**Toby Mananares, Rio Rancho High School Volleyball**

DEDICATION

Every athletic season has a beginning and an end. Coaches preach to their kids to finish what you start. It's one of the foundations of sport. Everyone wants to quit at some point, but dedication to improvement and becoming the best you can be is what keeps the athlete going.

"Sometimes my kids don't understand why I get on them for being 'a few minutes late to practice'. But in life, 'a few minutes late' here and there can cost you a job or an opportunity. Life is about dedicating and committing yourself to something you believe in and giving yourself to that belief even when it is hard and isn't maybe always going your way. You don't quit, you keep moving and giving everything you have." -Stacy Salinas, Rio Rancho/Sue V. Cleveland Swimming

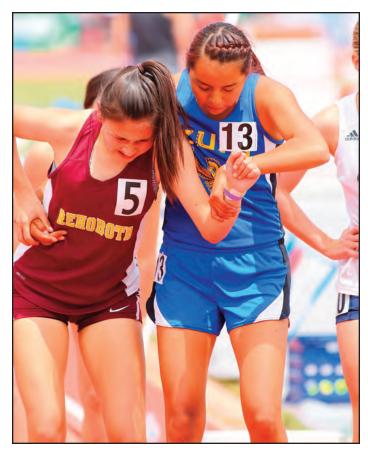
OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

In sports, there are hurdles to get over, much like in life. Sometimes things can surprise you or catch you off guard. They say life is not about what happens to you, but how you deal with it.

"I had a player who lost both his parents. He lost his mom when he was 5 and dad when he was 15. This young man had several offers from families to move in with them, but he was a very proud young man and refused. Well, he was able to find housing and remained in the school district and on the team. The year after his dad died, he had many ups and downs but fought his way through it as he had a lot of support from friends, families, and coaches. This young man ended up contributing to 3 Cross Country Championships, 1 State Track Championship, and 2 State Basketball Championships. He more than overcame his adversity!" -Ira Harge, Espanola High School Athletic Director

PERSEVERANCE

Having the tenacity and determination to accomplish some-



thing despite the level of difficulty doesn't just apply to studentathletes, sports can teach the same perseverance to coaches too. Fight through it, don't run from a situation when adversity strikes. There will be setbacks. There will be obstacles, but success doesn't happen overnight.

"There was a girl who I coached almost 15 years ago, she was a good player, and was starting at the beginning of the year. But through the end of September, she could not keep her breath and was having a hard time running. Well, she went to the doctor and they could not find out what was wrong, but she was not getting any better. She was so loval to the team, never missed practice and was at every game. Even her senior year she still was around for everything, but would get sick quite often and had a hard time playing, but we kept a great relationship through all this. She went off to college and we always would meet when she came back into town. We talked life lessons each time, and each time she said how playing soccer taught her so much. She now has a wonderful professional job in New York City and what she has learned through sports has helped her with everything she has accomplished in her professional life. She still gets sick and has a hard time with her heath, but she never gave up and always pushed forward. Sports teaches you things like that." -Amber Ashcraft, La Cueva High School Soccer

PATIENCE

Winning takes time. Championship teams aren't built overnight. In sports you have a coach and in life you have a boss. You learn to take instruction, develop patience and become a member of a team.

"I tell my players that when we do something, we do it right and we do it that way every time. I give our players and parents a booklet every year. It talks about how to perform under pressure. They understand that the role of discipline and self-sacrifice play an important part of being successful. Experiencing the pains of commitment and the thrill and joy of success is an integral part of being a basketball player; those same feelings that will be experienced in the real world." -Marty Zeller, Los Lunas High School Girls Basketball, 41 Years of Coaching

RESPECT

Athletes must respect their coaches, officials, teammates, and their opponent. It is important to recognize the worth of another.

"As an athlete, I think the biggest thing I gained was confidence to pursue. I learned how to set my sights on something and be willing to put in the work even if I had underlying doubts. It's the idea of relentlessly putting one foot in front of the other, even when things get hard. Along with that came an ability to give to and receive from others in a collective effort."-Kathy Hipwood, Los Alamos High School Cross Country

INTEGRITY

Morals and ethics come into play every day in sports. Honesty and adherence to the rules is a foundation of every game. Many coaches will tell you that with some athletes it takes time and patience for them to realize their self-worth and value, but people can develop into some of the strongest members of their team when they realize there are no short cuts.

"My suggestions are to smile when the headwind makes us work harder, laugh when we fall down bleeding, and never let anyone else control our emotions." -Tim Host, ATC Cross Country

RESPONSIBILITY

Taking accountability is a major characteristic of successful student athletes. Participating in sports brings many obligations, to your teammates, to your coach, and to your academics.

"I had a athlete that started wrestling his sophomore year with no prior experience. He was failing in school and was ineligible to compete. His junior year, he was 2.8 GPA student with a less than .500 win percentage. His senior year, he was a 3.4 GPA student and made the state finials! I believe the lessons he learned on the mat has transformed him to the man he is today, being a highly well-respected police officer." -Nate Sellers, Miyamura High School Wrestling

COMPASSION

Athletes can learn about caring for another as their coach cares for them. Young adults can witness, first hand, the sympathy and care for the suffering of others. Coaches themselves can



relate to another's pain because it's something they might have gone through themselves at one time.

"The one incident that stands out to me was a life-long lesson learned by one of my athletes that decided they were going to run away from home with their significant other as a sophomore in high school. The couple had purchased bus tickets, and this athlete informed their grandparents they were living with, that they were leaving. The athlete was begged to stay and of course did not. The grandmother called me in the middle of the night begging me to talk to this individual as the departure time was getting closer. At first I was hesitant, but then I thought – 'what if this was my kid doing this and I had the confidence in their coach to try and assist during this time of need?' So, of course, I jumped in the car and headed to the bus station. By the time I arrived, my athlete was on the bus, the grandmother was crying in the parking lot and I was thinking to myself – 'What am I going to be able to say to change their mind?' I boarded the bus, looked my athlete in the eye and explained how disappointed I was that they could disrespect their grandmother like this, disrespect themselves and let their teammates down. The responsibility/commitment they made when becoming a part of the team was just about to be broken. I cried, they cried....we talked about feelings, respect, etc., and just as the time for departure arrived, the athlete grabbed their belongings and got off the bus. At this point, I don't know who cried more ... me, the athlete or the grandmother. This event that happened was unfortunate, however, I believe the athlete learned some very valuable life lessons, as did I, having children of my own. This individual had a very successful high school career both on and off the court and went on to play at the next level on a scholarship, graduated from college, married and has 3 beautiful children. To me, this is what coaching is all about." -George Maya, Mayfield High School Girls Basketball, 37 Years of Coaching

DREAM BIG, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

At all levels, sports have given us memorable moments when we say 'I can't believe that just happened!' Athletes think about what they want and forget all the reasons why it can't become a reality. They work hard to make their dreams come true. If you believe it, you can achieve it.

"I had a student athlete who happened to have down syndrome. She was on the dance team all 4 years of high school. She participated in everything but competition. Every year she would put on her uniform and get hair and makeup done for State. She would join me up front and cheer on the team. Her senior year, this young lady got to do the one thing left undone. She walked down the ramp and this time her teammates joined me upfront and cheered her on as she performed on the PIT floor in front of 15,000 people. I hope the lesson learned by my team and others, is that nothing is impossible. We can all achieve our dreams, and maybe help someone else achieve theirs." -Nicole List, Cheer/Dance Coach

All of those lessons we learn from competing. We haven't even touched on how sports can teach loyalty, leadership, and maturity. Sometimes self-improvement can't be measured in wins, losses, time or distance. Self-improvement is connected to one's determination in the face of unexpected obstacles.

I'd like to finish with this thought. Adversity is a part of life. Never quit. That's the lesson **Heath Ridenour** says sports taught him, both as a player and a coach. *"Find the light amidst the darkness," he reminds others. "Overwhelm the negative thought with a positive action. Choose to wake up and win every single day. This applies to athletics, but it is 100% relevant in every aspect of life as well."*

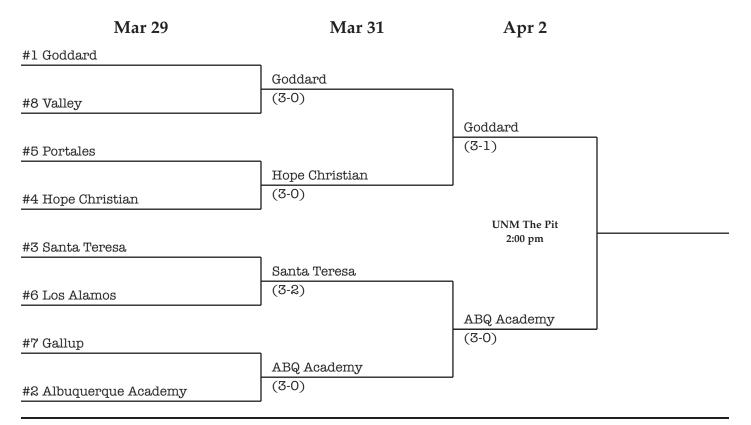
Spoken like a true coach.



Drunk driving? Game over.



A State Championship Bracket



5A State Championship Bracket

Mar 30	Apr 1	Apr 3	
#1 Santa Fe			
	Santa Fe (3-1)	1	
#8 Clovis			
#5 Cleveland	_]
	Cleveland		
#4 Piedra Vista	(3-2)	-	
#3 La Cueva	_	UNM The Pit 5:00 pm	
	La Cueva		
#6 Las Cruces	(3-1)		
#7 Albuquerque	~		J
	Centennial		
#2 Centennial	(3-0)	-	

A Volleyball State Qualifiers

No. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 10 11 12 13 14	Riley FordeSJulia SavageSLauren KellerTaylor CapertonZoe FosterGrace JorgensonPortia BryceLiana ValenciaSophie VanecekSIona NelsonSSofia BritoElizabeth Pederson	Yr. So. Sr. Sr. Sr. Jr. So. Sr. Jr. So. Sr. Jr. So.	GALLUP BENGALSNo.Player1Daliyah Morris2Miranda Begay3S.J. Haines4Chaylee Becenti6Aniya Dahozy8Lynda Mike11Jordan Joe13MiKaela McCraith14Cheyenne John15Honey Dawes17Jasmine Tsosie20Hailey LongHead Coach: LaRena Morris	Yr. So. 8th Fr. Jr. Jr. Jr. Sr. Jr. Sr. Jr.	GODDARD ROCKETSNo.Player1Kaitlin Blankney2Maribel Sanchez4Mireya Armendariz5Hannah Roe6Sidney Bills7Kathryn De La Cerda9Sophia Valdez10Talor Mendoza12Alissa Benavides14Lacie Schooley20Kiara RamirezMGRMadison DictsonMGRJuliet HernandezHead Coach: Dewayne Roberts	Yr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Jr.
No. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 14 15 16	Kaitlyn Holley Ashley Hammer Victoria Martinez Elizabeth Cheshire Jaylee Gonzales Serenity Reynolds Ryder Abigail Tamra Medina Emma Villalpando Jenni Taylor Logan Mcpherson Jolene Sanchez Alila Allen Kiersten Cobos	Yr. So.r. Jr. So.o. So.h. So.d.r. So.d.r. So.d.r. So.d.r. So.d.r.	 7 Ashley Hammond 8 Michaela Gonzales 9 Myella Krantz 11 Angelina Passalacqua 12 Selonno Thollioz 	RS Yr. Sr. Jr. Sr. So. Sr. So. Fr. So. Jr. Jr. So. Jr. Jr. So. Jr. So. Jr. So. Jr. So. Jr. So. Jr. So. Jr. So. Jr. So. Sr. So. Jr. So. So. Jr. So. So. Jr. So. Jr. So. Jr. So. Jr. So. Jr. So. Jr. So. Jr. So. Jr. So. Jr. So. Jr. So. Jr. So. Jr. So. Jr. So. So. So. So. So. So. So. So	PORTALES RAMSNo.Player1Mattison Blakey2Kinzie Davis4Angelina Maestes5Teagan Faust6Taris Rippee7Rheagan Courtney9Haley Disney10Riley Shillings11Kylyie Paden12Emma Long13Rebekah Courtney14Adrianna GarciaHead Coach: Ruth Chavez	Yr. Sr. Jr. Jr. So. Jr. So. Jr. Jr. Jr.
No. 1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 Head	Alexia SaenzSaenzKarime CorralRilen GarciaAshlyn EspinozaLisa ChavezAnastasia EnriquezDestanie O'NealAmerica PrietoKaitlyn HernandezKaylee CorralAshley LugoTabitha UlloaVictoria Rodriguez	Yr. Sor. Jr. So. So. So. Jr. Jr. Jr. Jr. Jr. Jr. Jr. Jr. Jr. Jr	VALLEY VIKINGSNo.Player1Marisa Sanchez2Milani Armijo3Jaylyn Kelly4Mariahna Vazquez5Kaitlyn Gunn6Saige Guilez7Makayla Chavez9Triana Chavira11Annabelle Lopez12Grace Mestas13Samantha Montoya14Mykala Debassige15Samantha TorresHead Coach: Arlene Anglada	Yr. So. Fr. Fr. So. Fr. Fr. Fr. Jr. Sr. Sr.		

SA Volleyball State Qualifiers

No. 1 2 3 4 5 6 8	Mireya Dominguez Ming Reu Aurora Martinez Teagan Vandermey Monique Rubalcava Hannah Houlihan Alyssa Carlisle	Yr. Sr. Jr. Jr. Jr. Sr. Fr.	No. 1 2 3 4 5 7 8	CENTENNIAL HAWKS Player Tess Fuqua Alexie Stiles Alannah Green Jazlynn Escudero Kayla Hernandez Eliana Benavidez Lauren Merigo	Yr. So. Sr. Sr. Fr. Fr.	No. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	CLEVELAND STORM Player Madelyn Del Greco Emi Nakasone Analysiah Rodriguez Kendra Frazier Marian Hatch Kyndall Altamirano Zeriah Humelsine	l So. Sr. So. So. Fr. Jr. Sr.
9 10 11 12 13 14 16 Head	Adriana Deming Mya Yannoni Sophia Houlihan Giada Sigala MC Curtis Jayden Gonzalez Eva Mueller	Fr. Jr. So. Jr. Sr. Jr. Sr.	9 10 11 12 13 19 20 Head	Bella Castro Brooke Maynez Kayla Crespin Halene Parra Anjolina Perez Sara Benge Cora Dubois	So. Sr. Sr. Jr. Sr. Sr.	8 10 11 12 13 14 15	Nadine Tibbets Baylee Savage Maegann Peace Arianna Jamerson Sophia Maurer Lylah Moreno Kennedy Ulmer	So. Fr. So. Sr. Jr. So. Jr.
						Head	Coach: Charity Gomez	
No. 1 2 3 5 6 7 9 11 12 14 15 18 20 Head	Tabatha Gallegos Allison Arias Milia Ratledge Hannah Gallegos Cady Ratledge	Yr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Jr. Jr. So.	No. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 12 13 14 15 Head	LA CUEVA BEARS Player Marina Kalajdzic Layla Padgett Erin Jones Jenna Sandoval Angelyse Gonzales-Sanchez Maalese Wallace Tea Kalajdzic Sidney McIntosh Ava Alvarado Isabella Harrison Morgan Johnson Teagan Algarra Sophia Montes Jaelyn Werley Amesha Benson Lindsay Eckelman d Coach: Steven Archibeque	Yr. Jr. Fr. Jr. Sr. Sr. Fr. Jr. Jr. So. Jr. Jr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Jr. Jr. So. Jr. Sr. Sr. Jr. Jr. So. Jr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. S	No. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 13 14 15	AS CRUCES BULLDAW Player Heavynne Robles-Wright Mariah Gallegos Alegra Reinhold Cameron Rodriquez Mytzelth Morales Mackinzie Thurman Ashley Medina Vanessa Gloria Lina Figueroa Isabella Barrera Erin Ersinghaus Brendalyn Jackson Kiana Cox Keeyana Washington Coach: Keith Leupold	/GS Yr. Jr. Sr. Jr. Fr. Jr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Jr. Jr. So.
No. 2 3 4 5 6 8 10 11 12 17 18 19	5	Yr. Sr. Sr. So. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr. Sr.	No. 1 3 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 Head	SANTA FE DEMONS Player Marissa Benavidez Faith Bustos Sydney Pino-Pacheco Laila Bernardino Alyssa Sanchez Rebekah Duda Larissa Scott Belicia Esquivias Isabella Melton Jorja Chambers Eliza Fowler Angelina Geissinger Ariana Anaya Mariah Martinez	Yr. Jr. Sr. So. So. Sr. Jr. Sr. Sr. So. Fr. So.			



YEAR	CLASS	WINNING TEAM	HEAD COACH		HEAD COACH	SCORE
	AAAAA			Centennial (24-3)		
				Albuquerque Academy (17-1		
				St. Michael's (19-8)		
	AA	Iexico (19-6)	Kristen Scanian	Mescalero Apache (21-6) Melrose (22-1)	Alice velasquez	3-2
				Sandia (19-3)		
				Sandia Prep (20-5)		
				Dulce (21-4)	2	
				Centennial (23-2)		
	AAAAA	Los Lunas (21-4)	Amy Bell	St. Pius X (20-3)	Jordan Russell	3-2
	AAAA	Sandia Prep (22-2)	Audra Gentry	Robertson (21-3)	Stacy Fulgenzi	3-0
	AAA	Texico (21-4)	Kristen Scanlan	Santa Rosa (18-7)	Breezy Gutierrez	3-0
	AA	Logan (21-3)	Robert Young	Ramah (20-3)	Alejandro Rivera	3-2
				Elida (23-3)		
				Las Cruces (18-11)		
				Goddard (12-13)		
				Robertson (17-9)		
				Dexter (18-6)		
				Melrose (17-8)		
			•	Cleveland (14-11)		
				Centennial (22-4) Hope Christian (14-11)		
				Eunice (21-6)		
				Ft. Sumner/House (13-12)		
				Springer (17-6)		
				Rio Rancho (16-10)		
				Piedra Vista (20-4)		
				Sandia Prep (17-7)		
				Navajo Prep (20-3)		
	A	Elida (25-0)	Darrell Chenault	Carrizozo (18-7)	Lvnn Lindblad	3-0
				Cleveland (12-12)		
				Piedra Vista (21-3)		
	AAA	Pojoaque (20-4)	Eric Zamora	Ruidoso (13-12)	Bernadette Garcia	3-1
	AA	Hatch Valley (20-5)	Kelly Weiler	Bosque (19-5)	Ben Curry	3-1
				Tatum (17-6)		
				Carrizozo (22-2)		
				La Cueva (19-4)		
				Piedra Vista (22-2)		
				Ruidoso (13-13)		
				Fort Sumner (20-4)		
				Carrizozo (21-4)		
				Cleveland (17-6) St. Pius (21-3)		
•••••	AAAA AAA			Portales (16-9)		
	AA			Bosque (18-7)		
				Carrizozo (20-4)		
				Cleveland (20-2)		
	AAAA			St. Pius (19-5)		
				Portales (15-9)		
	AA			Tularosa (18-6)		
	A			Fort Sumner (20-2)		
	B			Grady (19-4)		
2009	AAAAA			La Cueva (20-4)		
	AAAA	Goddard (23-1)	Sheri Gibson	St. Pius (17-7)	Diana Strickland	3-2
				Portales (16-8)		
				Tularosa (21-4)		
				Fort Sumner (20-4)		
	AAAAA	,		Rio Rancho (19-5)	2	
		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		St. Pius (20-4)	2	
				Robertson (16-10)		
				Navajo Prep (17-7)		
				Animas (22-3)		
				La Cueva (23-3)		
	AAAA			Roswell (15-9) Robertson (16-9)		



YEAR	CLASS		HEAD COACH	RUNNERUP TEAM	HEAD COACH	SCORE
		. ,	Michael Littlejohn		, i	
			Charles Richardson			
			Toby Manzanares			
			Brian MasseBrian Ainsworth			
			Michael Littlejohn			
			Lisa McMath			
			Toby Manzanares			
			Gerald Hekekia			
			Ruth Chavez			
			Amy Hyatt			
	A	Tatum (27-0)	Mike Majors	Jal (21-6)	Robert Young	3-2
			Michael Sautter			
			Gerald Hekekia			
			Maria Cruz-Bennett			
	AA	Sandia Prep (20-7)	May Dene Body	Hatch Valley (22-4)	Jed Duggan	3-2
			Lisa McMath			
			Toby Manzanares			
		St. Pius (23-0)	Ryan Sakamoto		Eric Zamora	3-1
•••••	AAA	Portales (14-10)	Ruth Chavez	Lovington (16-10)		
	AA	Hope Unristian (21-5)	Jerry Salmon Joey Montoya		Mike Majore	3-1 o +
 2002	ΔΔΛΛΛ	Des WOILLES (23-U)	Toby Manzanares	Eldorado (20-2)	Cindy Chayoz	ວ- າ -
			Ryan Sakamoto			
			Chela Butler			
			Sherry Gowen			
			Joey Montoya			
			Keith Leupold			
			Bobby Bates			
			Ruth Chavez			
			Michael Littlejohn			
			Kirk Mann			
			Keith Leupold			
	AAAA	Goddard (17-7)	Bobby Bates	Kirtland Central (21-2)	Jeff Parker	3-1
			Brenda Stockton			
	AA	Fort Sumner (22-3)	Lisa McMath	McCurdy (22-3)	Brian Ainsworth	3-2
			Charles Richardson			
			Bobby Bates			
	AAA	St. Pius (22-1)	Holly Olsen	Moriarty (16-9)	Lynne Vandermey	3-1
	AA	Animas (22-4)	Charles Richardson	Dexter (22-4)	Sally Knight	3-1
			Steven Crosno			
			Keith Leupold			
			-5)Jon Marr			
	AA	Dexter (19-8)	Sally Knight Raynee Gerhart-Cornay	Hagarman (10, 7)		2-3 م د
			Keith Leupold			
			Holly Olsen			
			Kelly McEachran			
			Tara Trujillo			
			Mike Thompson			
			Sally Shockey	J ()		
			Robbie Robinson			
			Lisa McMath			
1995	AAAA	Las Cruces (21-0)	Keith Leupold	Santa Fe (20-1)	Mike Thompson	3-1
	AAA	Los Alamos (18-2)	Sally Shockey	Silver (15-4)	Lydia Sierra	3-2
	AA	Hope Christian (22-0)	Kelly McEachran	Hatch (15-5)	John Henry	3-1
	A	Tatum (23-0)	Mike Majors	Roy (21-2)	Ray Henderson	3-0
1994	AAAA	Santa Fe (19-4)	Mike Thompson	West Mesa (15-8)	Marc Swindel	3-1
		. ,	Toby Manzanares	· · · · · ·		
			Kelly McEachran			
			Mike Majors			
			Flo Valdez	. ,		
		0	Vincent Stallard		3	
			Maria L. Cruz			
			Richard Hazen	•		
			Stephanie Vierra			
			Anna Straus			
			Maria L. Cruz			
			Richard Hazen			
1001		vvcsi iviesa (20-0)	Charlie Guess		io valuez	ð-2



YEAR 1991	CLASS AA	WINNING TEAM	HEAD COACH	RUNNERUP TEAM	HEAD COACH	SCORE 3-2
	A			Capitan		
1990				Cibola (16-5)		
				Deming		
				Animas		
	A	Elida	Bobby Bates	Capitan	Pam Allen	3-0
989	AAAA	West Mesa (20-0)	Charlie Guess	Cibola (18-3)	La Verne Alter	3-0
	AAA	Goddard (17-5)	Judy Smyth	Portales (17-3)	Brenda Stockton	3-2
				Animas (15-8)		
				Texico (18-8)		
				Los Alamos (16-5)		
				Portales (17-3)		
				Hatch (16-6)		
	A	Capitan (20-2)	Pam Allen	Floyd (16-7)	Kay Holdridge	3-1
				West Mesa (19-1)		
				Portales (18-3)		
	AA	Hot Springs (21-0)	Maria L. Cruz	Crownpoint (19-2)	Sheri Moore	
		Tatum (19-3)	TL Brooks	Texico (19-5)	Michael Littleiohn	3-1
986	ΔΔΔΔ	Alamogordo (18-3)	Carmen Boss	West Mesa (18-2)		
				Portales (20-7)		
	AA			McCurdy (21-2)		
			Jesse Pane		Bryan Masse	۱-۵ ۲-۵
				Santa Fe (12-18)		
				Jal (15-6)		
				Highland (14-9)		
				Hot Springs (16-3)		
				Estancia		
				Roswell (15-5)		
				Hot Springs		
				Estancia (19-1)		
				Alamogordo (18-2)		
				Artesia		
				Moriarty		
				Tatum		
1981	AAAA	Cibola (20-0)	Laverne Atler	Highland	Robert Baca	2-0
				Hot Springs		
				Moriarty		
				Texico (16-6)		
1980	AAAA	Goddard	Pam Allen	Alamogordo	Debbie Exom	2-0
				Artesia		
	AA			Jal		2-0
				Melrose		2-1
1979	AAAA	Alamogordo	Debbie Exom	Eldorado	Roberta Moorehouse.	2-0
	AAA	Los Lunas	Julie Castillo	Aztec	Carol Winter	2-0
	AA	Animas	Charles Richardson	Questa	Margaret Gonzales	2-0
				Mountainair		
		2		Roswell	0	
				Portales		
			0	Dexter		
				Maxwell		
				Manzano (19-4)		
				Los Lunas		
				Dexter		
				Mayfield		
				Deming		
				Ruidoso		
				Animas		
				Cibola (23-4)		
				Estancia		
				Hobbs		
				Dora		
1072		Sandia	Weegle Poston	Rio Grande	Sandra Hockwell	2-1

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Nate Acosta Assistant to Commissioner of Officials



Mindy Ioane Graphic Designer/ Special Events Coordinator



Alissa Wesbrook Assistant to Executive Director



Logan Wins 1A Volleyball Title



For the third year in a row, Logan sat atop the volleyball world. The Longhorns claimed the 2019 Rudy's Real Texas Bar-B-Q Class A State Volleyball Championship. Logan swept their rival, Melrose, in three sets in the championship final.

Previously unbeaten Melrose had beaten Logan four times during the regular season, but the fifth meeting proved to be the one for Logan. The Longhorns won the first set 25-16 and never looked back, claiming the next two with identical 25-20 scores.

"We've been fighting with them all season and we're like, 'This is our chance, this is our time!'," said senior Karli Webb. "So, we went out with good tempo and good attitudes and just played our little hearts out and we took it."

"All year, they've beaten us, but today we came and proved what we really are," said senior Jordan Hines.

Logan didn't lose a set in the 2019 tournament, sweeping Des Moines, Pine Hill, Tatum and Melrose along their path to claiming the blue trophy. "We got back from school last year after volleyball and these seniors came up to me and said 'We're going to get a threepeat'," recalled head coach Robert Young. "They were determined and we did it."

Logan ended the year with a 22-4 record.

Texico Earns Sixth Straight Blue Trophy



Six straight! That is how many state championships the Texico volleyball program has claimed over the past six seasons. The Wolverines picked up their sixth straight title in 2019 with a 3-2 victory in the Class 2A final against Mescalero Apache.

Even though Texico did not lose a set before reaching the final, it wasn't an easy road to lifting the blue trophy. Texico dropped a hard-fought opening set to Mescalero, with a score of 23-25. The Wolverines answered in set two with a final count of 25-19. The two teams would exchange winning scores in the next two sets (24-26 and 25-12), forcing a decisive fifth set. In the final set, Texico pulled away to win it 15-11.

"I think we just really showed our grit and battled for everybody that's come before us," said junior Riley Rohrbach.

"I felt like our seniors really stepped up," said head coach Kristen Scanlan, who now has 10 New Mexico state championships to her name.



Robertson Hoists First Blue Trophy in Volleyball



2019 is a season to remember for the Robertson volleyball team. The Cardinals claimed their first ever state title in volleyball with a 3-2 victory over St. Michael's in the Class 3A final of the Rudy's Real Teas Bar-B-Q State Volleyball Championships.

Robertson entered the tournament as the #2 seed and racked up early round wins against Navajo Prep and Hatch Valley, both sweeps. The Cardinals would face Navajo Prep again in the semifinals and sweep the Eagles for a second time to reach the Class 3A final and face their district rival. Robertson dropped set one by a score of 20-25. The Cardinals would take the next two sets by a count of 25-18 and 25-23. Robertson couldn't close it out in four, as the Lady Horsemen forced a decisive set five. Senior Tessa Ortiz pounded the last point of the game with one of her 22-kills, as Robertson won with a score of 15-8 in the final set. "It feels unreal and amazing," described senior Ortiz.

Her teammates shared her excitement. "It feels amazing to end my senior year like this, I couldn't have asked for a better team," added senior Dominique Ortega.

Robertson ended their championship season with a 21-5 record.

St. Pius X Back on Top of the Volleyball World



For the first time since 2016, the St. Pius X volleyball team is back on top. The Sartans won the Class 4A title at the Rudy's Real Texas Bar-B-Q State Volleyball Championships. St. Pius X beat longtime rival Albuquerque Academy 3-0 in the championship final.

It was not smooth sailing for the Sartans to reach the championship. The top team in Class 4A lost their second-round match against Academy, getting swept 3-0. The Sartans then had to battle back with wins against Los Lunas and Goddard to get to the final. After losing to Academy earlier in the tournament, the Sartans would not lose another set. In the championship rematch with their rival, St. Pius X won the first set against the Chargers 25-13 and set two by a score of 25-12. The third and final set was the most competitive between the two, 25-20, with St. Pius X scoring the final point.

"I'm so proud of these kids," said head coach Jordan Russell immediately following the win. "I've had three seniors with me for the past three years and this was their ultimate goal. I'm so proud of them."

"It feels great, being on varsity the past three years and not winning state for two of them, it's great to see all of our hard work pay off," said senior Kennedi Rey.

St. Pius X finished the year with a 22-3 record.

NMA 2019 State Championship Recap

La Cueva Wins Back-to-Back Championships



It was back-to-back state titles for the Bears. La Cueva ended the 2019 season the same way they finished 2018, by lifting the Class 5A blue trophy. Top-ranked La Cueva beat Centennial 3-0 in the final of the Rudy's Real Texas Bar-B-Q Class 5A State Volleyball Championships.

La Cueva ran through the 2018 season undefeated and came into this bracket with only one loss on the year. The Bears picked up early round victories against Cleveland and Volcano Vista before advancing to the semifinals against Cibola, the only team to beat the Bears in the last two years. La Cueva sent Cibola home in three sets to reach the final for the second straight year. The #2 Centennial Hawks were no strangers to the championship, having reached the final for the third time in the last four years. La Cueva won set one 25-17, but set two was one for the ages. The two squads went point for point, as La Cueva eventually won the 36-34 thriller. The Bears would close it out by a score of 25-15 in the final set.

"After last year, when we went 22-0, I felt like our first loss this year drove us to do better throughout the season and realize everyone is beatable," said junior Maalese Wallace.

"We worked so hard every day and to get a state championship feels amazing after getting winning state last year we wanted another one," said junior Sidney McIntosh.

La Cueva wrapped up their second straight championship season with a 22-1 record.









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