



New Mexico Activities Association Student Spotlight

Hondo Valley's Devine is an Eagle Through and Through

By Tyler Dunkel, Sports Information Director, NMAA

An "All-American country boy" is how you might describe Hondo Valley senior Jake Devine. His dedication to the community he grew up in and his high school is beyond measure.

"It wasn't until I started my senior year of high school that it hit me how much Hondo Valley really means to me," Devine said. "It's the last time you get to put on that practice jersey or play in a state football championship game. Everything means so much more to me and I've really enjoyed my final year so far."

Devine has been involved in all areas of Hondo Valley, from playing football to manager of the boys' basketball team to the Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter.

"Being involved in so many activities at Hondo Valley has shaped me into a person of good character and morals," Devine said. "My family has raised me to be a Christian and I have been truly blessed with my experience not only in high school but in the community of Hondo."

He was a member of the football team for the last four years, helping the Eagles win the 6-man state championship in 2014 and 2015 and runners-up in 2012 and 2013. While playing for the Eagles, Devine was a part of three district championships and was named an All-State and All-District offensive lineman.

"Growing up in Hondo since I was three years old, I have watched a lot of teams over the years," he said. "When I saw the 2008 team win the state championship it really fueled me and my teammates to pursue that same goal. Finally, my junior year we won the state title, which was an experience of a lifetime. But this year, I would say I am more proud of this team because of the adversities we had to overcome."

He also played junior varsity basketball and was a manager for the varsity team the past three years as part of the 2012 and 2013 State Championship and the 2014 state runner-up basketball teams.

"I played junior varsity basketball for three years but never had the opportunity to wear a varsity jersey," he said. "But I wanted to try and help the varsity team in any way I could so I asked coach if there was anything I could do to help and he made me a manager. So, I carried basketballs and did the filming for the team. It didn't matter to me, I just wanted to be a part of the team and help them be successful."

Devine's real passion lies in his involvement in the FFA. He has been the chapter president for the last four years, served as the District V Secretary in 2015 and is the District V President/State Vice-President this year.

"I've been around and involved in FFA and agriculture since I was three, when we first moved to Hondo, hanging out with my dad up at the agriculture shop at school," Devine said. "The FFA really teaches you about American agriculture. I



credit agriculture with everything in our daily lives. A lot of people don't understand how much agriculture is a part of our lives from the food on your table to the medicine you take when you're sick. It all comes back to agriculture."

Through FFA Devine has shown pigs and lambs at the county fair and competes in various events such as livestock judging and extemporaneous speech.

"Showing livestock isn't just about the shows themselves," he explained. "It is really more about learning responsibility skills. You have to be responsible for getting up every morning to feed them, then working with them in the pen and feeding them again at night. It is a ton of responsibility but it prepares you for life and how to be a responsible adult."

He is the Hondo 4H Club president and has served as the Lincoln County 4H parliamentarian, president and treasurer respectively and is very active in 4H shooting sports competing in shotgun and muzzleloader. Over the last two years, Devine has placed sixth at the state shooting competition.

"My family has always been big into hunting and hunting with a muzzleloader," Devine stated. "When I figured out I was pretty good shot, I decided to try shooting competitively and so far it has worked out pretty well for me. Shooting competitions are something I really enjoy."

Devine also does community service for Hondo Valley by maintaining and updating the school's marquee on a weekly basis.

"I like helping out my school and giving back in any way I can," he said. "Putting the letters up on the marquee is my way of giving back to a school and teachers that work hard every day to make sure I get a good education."

Devine plans to attend New Mexico State University in the fall of 2016 and wants to be an agriculture teacher and football coach like his father, Brandon Devine, the current head football coach at Hondo Valley.