

New Mexico Activities Association

Student-Athlete Spotlight



Presented by Subway



Graham Values the Relationships

By Tyler Dunkel, NMAA Sports Information Director

When speaking with Cathryn Graham, it is clear from the start that the Coyote senior is proud of where she is from and that her commitment to everything that is Tatum High School goes well beyond sports. To her, it has been about the relationships she has built with classmates since the second grade.

“Being able to compete and build relationships with the friends I’ve had since the second grade is an awesome experience. We are like family. We are there for each other and it is nice to know you can count on one another regardless of situation.”

Graham plays every girls’ sport offered at Tatum, including volleyball, basketball and track and has found success in most everything she has been a part of. In 2014, Graham was a member of the Coyotes state championship basketball team in Class A, helping her team to a 29-1 overall record. She was a member of the 2013 state champion volleyball team as well.

Her favorite sport, however, is track and field; the one sport in which she has not seen as much success.

“Track is my favorite sport because I like working on individual events on my own. I like team sports, don’t get me wrong, I just like track because we are outside and I’m able to control my effort and the outcome of an event with what I put into the event. You are really responsible for yourself.”

Graham was poised to find herself on the podium during the state track meet in 2016 before an injury to her foot during the first event of the meet quickly dashed her dreams.

“I was really upset when I injured my foot in the first event at State Track & Field last year. I knew I had a shot at standing on the podium for the first time and to watch that all disappear was difficult. I also knew I was going to miss summer volleyball and basketball. It made me stronger because I needed to accept the fact that I needed time to heal and I wasn’t going to just come back in a few weeks.”

This past year, Graham was elected by her peers as Student Body President, while also holding the position of president of the National Honor Society. In addition, she is a member of the FFA, yearbook committee, drama and choir. She says that being so involved has taught her great time management skills, while also sharpening her leadership skills in the process.

“You have to give up a lot of personal time in order to be involved at school. I never really go out with my friends on the weekdays. You definitely have to make sacrifices but in the end, it is all worth the effort. I’ve always considered myself to be a good leader and I guess my classmates do too because I



was voted in as student body president. It is a lot of responsibility but I'm willing to shoulder that responsibility because I care so much about this school and my classmates."

She continued by saying, "I wanted to take my last year of high school to try and do everything. It is good to be in a small school when you are involved in so much because the teachers understand the time it takes to be a part of so many things. In a small school, you almost need everyone to be a part of something in order for the sport or activity to function."

Following graduation, Graham will follow in the footsteps of her father and two older siblings and attend New Mexico State University. Although neither of her parents finished college, Graham said she wants to earn her degree for them.

"After graduation, I'll be heading to New Mexico State University to hopefully pursue a degree in Communications. My brother, sister and dad all went to NMSU, so I guess I'm continuing the family tradition. Neither of my parents finished college and to get a college degree would mean so much to me and my parents. I kind of want to earn that degree for them."

Although Graham is not quite sure where the future will take her you can bet that she will be leading the pack, while building lifelong relationship along the way.