

New Mexico Activities Association Student-Athlete Spotlight

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Warriors' Garcia Believes in Hard Work First

By Tyler Dunkel, NMAA Sports Information Director

Senior David Garcia, a senior at Gateway Christian, prides himself on his work ethic, giving his best on and off the field. His tremendous work ethic did not develop from playing sports, rather it came from working with his father in the family's landscaping business (DGM Landscaping).

"I've been working with my dad in his landscape company since I was about nine years old. At first, I wasn't too thrilled about being out in the hot sun every day, especially in the summer when my friends were off having fun, but over the years I have grown to enjoy my time working with my dad and learning the business. I really did it for the money but the longer I worked it was helpful to me because it helped me build character."

He continued by saying, "I think working alongside my dad has taught me good work ethic because it has translated over to the court or the field. It has also made me a better person."

Garcia plays football, basketball and baseball for the Warriors and has been a part of several State Championship games over his career, but it hasn't always been about the trophies for Garcia. He says the relationships are what means the most to him.

"My parents always encouraged me to be active. When I came to Gateway Christian as a freshman, joining the football, basketball and baseball teams was a natural fit for me. Being a student-athlete has been a great experience. I have learned so much about myself, how to work with others and how to deal with adversity."

"Our football team had a special bond this year. It was like a brotherhood on and off the field. To connect with a group of my peers like we did was something I had never experienced before and it's something I hope I can experience again. I look at Gateway Christian as a small school but a big family. The classes are smaller, the teachers are great and everyone here cares about you and your future. It has been the right choice for me."

In his final semester as a Warrior, Garcia hopes to bring one more blue trophy back to Gateway Christian and leave his stamp, not just as a state champion but as a role model for others, especially his younger sister, Yamileth.

"I hope when I'm gone from here after graduation, people and look at what I did as a student and think of me as a good example to follow, not necessarily because of the trophies in the case or wins on the field but that I was a good person, who treated others with respect, who was hard working and did the right thing."

He continued by commenting, "It has been nice having my sister here with me at Gateway Christian. In middle school, I was almost too cool to even talk to her but I we have gotten older,



we have become like best friends. It has been great to have her with me here. For me, it is family first.”

Garcia plans to further his education at NMSU in the Fall of 2017 with hopes of one day taking over the family business and giving back to his parents, who have sacrificed so much for him and his sister over the years.

“My plan is to attend New Mexico State University and study business management. I hope to one-day take over my dad’s business. My parents have given me everything in life. I’ve never had to go without and I want to be able to take care of them now. I feel like I owe it to them for the sacrifices they made for me.”

Regardless of where Garcia might end up, you can believe that he will be leading by example.