

New Mexico Activities Association

Student-Athlete Spotlight

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Mora Leads at School and in the Community

By Tyler Dunkel, NMAA Sports Information Director

Do you take cream or sugar in your coffee? Visit the Three Ravens Coffee Shop in Tierra Amarilla, N.M., and that might be a question Escalante senior and coffee shop manager Rayann Mora will ask you. Mora's phenomenal customer service was not developed overnight. In fact, it was her involvement in Student Council at school that has molded her into a leader and people person.

Mora have been involved in Student Council at Escalante High School since her sophomore year, when she was elected to hold the office by her peers. Currently, she is the senior class President and Student Body Vice President.

"I first got involved in Student Council as a sophomore, going through the entire election process. I have gained a great deal through being a part of Student Council because I have learned how to run a government and about political issues that matter to the students. It has also taught be about being a good leader to my peers and how to be a problem solver."

She continued by saying, "To be elected by my peers was very special. It tells me that they look at me as a leader and have the confidence in me to help solve issues that they may have. It has been an honor to serve the students of Escalante in this way."

Mora says that balancing school, work and sports has been tough but the life lessons she has learned are invaluable.

"I'm a half-day senior so, in the mornings I go to the coffee shop and get everything ready for the day. It has been a little hard to balance school, sports and the coffee shop at times but I've had the help of my co-workers. I had worked at the coffee shop for about a year and half before our manager left and was then promoted to manager. It has been a great experience so far."

As is the case at the coffee shop or in Student Council, Mora enjoys being part of a team. She has competed in volleyball and basketball at Escalante during her years in high school and says that just being a member of the team is the best part for her.

"Volleyball is a fun sport to play. Being around the rest of my teammates, playing for each other and building those relationships has been the best part for me."

She continued by saying, "I've played basketball since I was very young. Like volleyball, I just love being around my teammates, knowing that we are playing for one another. I really have a true passion for the game of basketball. Basketball is the main sport, especially in Northern New Mexico. It is a great feeling when you step on the court, knowing you have the support from the community."

Mora says that the team is striving to win the district basketball championship and host a first round state game this sea-



son.

“Right now, we are hoping to win our district championship and host a first round game, which we have never done. I think it would mean a lot to the school and this community if we can pull it off and host that first round game.”

As a freshman, Mora ran track but decided it wasn't for her but still wanted to be involved so over the last three years she has served as the team's manager.

“I tried running track my freshman year but I didn't really care for it that much. I still wanted to be involved so I figured I would be the team manager to still do my part and be a member of the team.”

To add to her already busy schedule, Mora is also the Chief Editor of the school yearbook.

“Being a part of the yearbook has been a great experience. You learn so much about other people in your school that you might not know. Putting together something that will help others later down the line remember their friends and times in high school is a big honor and something I take very seriously.”

Following graduation in May, Mora plans to attend the University of New Mexico and become a neonatal nurse.

“I hope to work with the little babies in the neonatal section of a hospital. I like working with newborns and it is something I look forward to doing.”

Regardless of which hat she is wearing - athlete, manager, chief editor, nurse or council member - Mora is poised for success, with a smile on her face.