

New Mexico Activities Association Student-Athlete Spotlight

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Roybal Leads Mora in 2017-18

By Tyler Dunkel, NMAA Sports Information Director

Eloy Roybal, a senior at Mora High School, has enjoyed the high school experience and has taken full advantage of the opportunities he says have molded him into the person and student he is.

"I have enjoyed my time so far in school at Mora. I like the smaller school feeling. You get more individual attention from teachers."

He continued by saying that being involved has been the main reason for his success.

"Being involved at school is an important aspect of the high school experience. I think it allows you to make a solid friend base as well as gain new experiences and leadership skills. It also looks great on your high school resume. Learning those types of skills is valuable later in life."

Roybal has been a member of both the cross-country and track teams his entire high school career. He first joined cross-country in middle school to have the opportunity to run with his older brother but after his brother stopped running to concentrate on school, Roybal had to find his own identity as a runner.

"I started running cross country in middle school. I wanted to run with my brother, which was a great time. After he decided to just focus on his academics, I continued to run but it wasn't the same. I liked having him there to push me. It took some time to get used to but I had to overcome that and push through."

"High school is when cross country got a bit more serious. I have run on the varsity all three years. I started running track as well and thought the distance events would be in my comfort zone but I found out it was much different running long distances while going around in a circle. I started running more sprints. I really enjoyed the sprints and even medaled at the state meet last year."

Now Roybal finds himself in a position of leadership on the cross country and track teams, a role he thoroughly enjoys.

"It is a great feeling to have younger students look up to you. When I was younger, obviously, I looked up to my older brother and other top runners on the team. Now that I'm in that same position I have fully embraced that role."

This past year, Roybal was elected to serve Mora as Student Body President, running unopposed. It is a great responsibility to lead his fellow students and set the example.

"It is an honor to serve my fellow students as the student body president. The way the voting went, I ran unopposed. It was an honor knowing that the students here at Mora have trust in



me to lead them. It has been a big responsibility.”

To start the year, Roybal carries a 4.0 GPA and is on pace to be Mora’s valedictorian. He plans to graduate not only with a high school degree in May of 2018 but his Associates Degree as well.

“After graduation in May, I plan to further my education in college. Currently, I’m taking college courses through the Luna Community College and UNM-Taos. I hope to graduate with my Associates Degree. From there, I plan to head off to a four-year college and study one of the sciences, in hopes of becoming a medical doctor.”

He continued by saying, “It has always been one of my goals to graduate high school as the valedictorian. My parents always said that being involved in athletics is very important but before all, my education came first. So, I have always had the mindset that I need to work twice as hard in school.”

Roybal is also involved in his church choir, something his parents and current band teacher started nearly 20 years ago.

“My family and my band teacher’s family have always been really close. When I was younger, I always went to choir practice at church and when I was old enough, I picked up the bass guitar and started singing.”

Roybal’s success has thus far been measured on the track and in the classroom but you can bet we have not heard the last of him and we look forward to great things from him the near future.

