

# New Mexico Activities Association Student-Athlete Spotlight



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## Velasco Comes from a Long Line of Tigers

By Tyler Dunkel, NMAA Sports Information Director

In most towns in New Mexico, especially outside the Albuquerque metro area, families have a tradition of generation after generation of attending the same high school. This is true for Alamogordo senior Scotti Velasco.

Following in his parents' footsteps, Velasco will graduate from Alamogordo High School in May of 2017 and become a proud Tiger alumnus, just like most of his family before him.

"To be an Alamogordo Tiger means a lot to me personally. I was born here in Alamogordo, my brothers and sisters graduated from here. My parents, aunts and uncles graduated from here. Alamogordo High School has been a huge part of me since I was young."

Over the last three years, Velasco has taken full advantage of his high school experience, participating in football, basketball and baseball. He is the Tigers' starting defensive end and is slated to see time at linebacker this year as well. On the court, Velasco plays both the power and small forward positions, in addition to playing first base and outfield for the Tigers' baseball team.

Velasco commented on his full competition schedule during the year, "It takes a lot of patience on my part because really I have no break. All summer long I'm working out with the football team. Then after the season, I jump right into basketball and by the time basketball is over, baseball has already started so I hit the diamond. You have to really dial in, especially with school work but I have really enjoyed my time so far."

He follows a long line of successful athletes, as his father Saul played basketball and baseball for Alamogordo, while his uncle was a Golden Helmet Award winner for the Tigers on the offensive line.

"My father was a basketball and baseball player here at Alamogordo and growing up, those were the sports I always played. Just recently, I started to really love the game of football. It's where my heart is."

During the 2016-17 school year, Velasco will also be involved in the newly formed NMAA Student Leadership Advisory Council. The Council is comprised of 15 students representing the NMAA's member high schools and its structure mirrors that of the NMAA Board of Directors. The NMAA's SLAC gives high school students a hands-on experience with the Association and provides them a direct line of communication to the staff. In addition, the SLAC is a vehicle for the promotion of the Compete with Class initiative on a peer-to-peer level.

Being a part of the council is something Velasco is extremely excited about, "Our athletic director Jarrett Perry told me about the Council and said he thought I should apply. I wanted



to show others that not only am I a leader here at Alamogordo High School but a leader in the state of New Mexico. I have pride in my school, my state and I'm proud to be a New Mexican. This is a great opportunity and I look forward to making a difference and giving all New Mexico students a voice."

"One goal I have as a member of the Council is to try and get other students involved, to help groom other leaders not just at Alamogordo High School but around the state. I want to get other students to step up and get involved."

Velasco hopes that after he graduates that others can look at the example he set and continue to make not only Alamogordo High School a better place but the state of New Mexico as well. "When I'm gone from Alamogordo, I hope people think of me as a leader, someone who cared for others, gave all he had on the field and in the classroom. A role model for other students to follow and an example of a person who did the right things and was successful."

Currently, Velasco carries a 3.0 GPA and says his education is the number one priority, not only to him but to his parents also, "My parents have always told me that my grades and school come before anything else. In order for me to play sports, I have to take care of business in the classroom."

Velasco will attend college next year and wants to become a UNM Lobo. "After high school, I obviously want to go to college. I would like to attend the University of New Mexico and earn a business degree and go into business for myself."