

New Mexico Activities Association Student-Athlete Spotlight



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Callado Sets the Example at Dulce High School

By Tyler Dunkel, NMAA Sports Information Director

Anfernee Callado, a senior at Dulce High School, is proud to have grown up in Dulce, N.M. and compete for the Dulce Hawks in football, cross country, basketball and track & field, while also representing his school as the senior class president. But, more than anything, he has enjoyed the small town atmosphere that Dulce has to offer.

“Dulce is a small town with not much to do except play sports. You either play basketball or run. I like living in a small town and prefer this type of small town living over a big city. It is peaceful here in Dulce.”

Callado has competed at the state cross country championships since he was a freshman as the lone boys’ runner for the Hawks. He finished 42nd overall earlier this November and says it has been a great experience.

“I have represented Dulce High School as an individual at the state cross country meet since the time I was a freshman. It is an awesome feeling to go out and wear the uniform with Dulce across the chest and give all I have to my school and community. With this season being my last year, I wanted to go out with a bang and give everything I had. I didn’t have the best race this year because I went out too fast at the beginning of the race and couldn’t keep the pace but like I said it was great to represent Dulce.”

“Cross country has really started to become popular here in Dulce over the last few years. When we started the program it was just me and another student on the team. Now we have close to 30 runners on the team. It has grown over time.”

Although the popularity of cross country in Dulce is on the rise, basketball is still number one in the community and the Jicarilla Apache Nation. Callado says basketball is a sport all kids are taught to love at an early age.

“I’ve been playing basketball ever since I can remember. I grew up around the sport. Everyone in Dulce plays basketball, so it was natural for me to play too. I remember playing at home in the living room with my brothers on a basketball goal I had on the back of the door. Basketball is definitely a community favorite. The fans in Dulce are some of the best in the state, in my opinion, and that makes playing for the Hawks that much sweeter. Basketball is a legacy here.”

Just step into “The DAC,” the Dulce Athletic Complex, during a district game and you can immediately see the passion for the game of basketball and how supportive the community is of their beloved Hawks.

“The atmosphere in our gym is hard to describe, especially if we are making a run late in the season. I remember when we played Pecos last year, the noise was just going through the roof. You couldn’t hear yourself think or even the referee’s whistle. It is an awesome place to play. The feeling you get



when you play in front of a packed house at Dulce is indescribable. You get goosebumps and butterflies in your stomach but you have to push through it and play. To be honest, I want to experience the feeling of playing in The Pit in the state basketball championships. I've heard it's a feeling you can't describe as well."

Although sports and school are extremely important to Callado and it's something he takes great pride in, there is another aspect of his life he takes a greater responsibility in being a big brother to his four younger siblings. Callado says that he tries to set the best example he can for his brothers, pushing them to do their best or even better than he has, so they can be just as successful as him, if not more.

"I try each and every day to set a good example for my four younger brothers. I want them to see me as positive role model for them and to succeed like I have so far. In fact, I want them to do better things than I have and that drive has already started with them. They are already trying to be better than me and do greater things than I have and I'm proud to have helped set that example for them."

This past fall, Callado was also a member of the Hawks' football team, juggling time between the gridiron and the cross country course, while still finding time to keep his grades up and be a big brother.

"To play football and run cross country at the same time took some good time management on my part. I would split time between the two sports for practice. I would then go home and do my school work and then be a big brother."

This past spring, Callado was voted by his peers as the senior class president, a position in which he takes a great deal of pride.

"My peers/classmates see me as a good role model and someone that will keep us on task and on target with deadlines in regards to stuff for graduation. It's an honor to represent my peers as their class president."

Carrying a 4.0 GPA and being a member of the National Honor Society, Callado knows his education is the ticket to making his future dreams come true.

"My grades are extremely important. My counselor told me that employers look at your grades from high school and they want to see if you have a degree. It really opened up my eyes and shown me I needed to take my education very seriously. This year, I'm taking honors classes so I have really have had to buckle down."

He continued by saying, "I hoping to attend UNLV but I'm also looking at some athletic options. My plan is to study criminal justice and become a police officer or detective. I watch a lot of those television shows and it looks like a fun and fulfilling career. Someday, I also hope to come back to Dulce and be a councilman and help my reservation."