

2005 Sportsmanship Recipients

Class A: Student

Leslie Barmann (Cimarron High School)

Leslie is a Junior at Cimarron High School where she excels in multiple sports and activities. Leslie has been described by one of her coaches as being in a “league of her own.” She constantly takes pride in everything she does and stays committed to accomplishing her goals.



Class A: Student

Miguel Apodaca (Cliff High School)

As a starter on the Cliff boy’s basketball team and a 2004 State Track & Field qualifier, Miguel Apodaca embodies the qualities of good sportsmanship. Miguel possesses a mature attitude and a desire to do well in everything he does. As a senior, Miguel continues to be a quiet leader, who always strives to do the right thing.

Class A: Adult

Carson & Dorothy Creecy (Cimarron High School)

In 1950 Carson and Dorothy Creecy graduated from Cimarron High School. Fifty five years later, the Creecy’s continue to attend every Cimarron basketball game in their red sweaters. They demonstrate good sportsmanship, which can be seen in their sportsmanship annual award to one boy and girl at Cimarron. A boys varsity basketball player once said “They traveled to Des Moines in horrible weather... my parents weren’t even there! I really appreciate that.”



Class A: Adult

Joel Wood (Fort Sumner High School)

Joel Wood is a highly regarded member of the faculty at Fort Sumner High School. Coach Wood’s love of sports and students can be seen in all that he does. He is an outstanding role model in and out of the classroom. He constantly attends a wide range of school related functions, and makes it a point to praise students for their efforts and accomplishments. He finds a way to make each child feel special and successful.

Class A: Adult

Bill & Ursula Candelaria (Quemado High School)

The Candelaria's have always been loyal supporters of Quemado athletics and activities. It has not mattered whether their children or grandchildren are participating; Bill and Ursula have always gotten involved. As owners of a transportation company, they have loaned their buses to transport students to various competitions and contests. The Candelaria's continue to model good sportsmanship for the students at Quemado High School.



Class A: Team

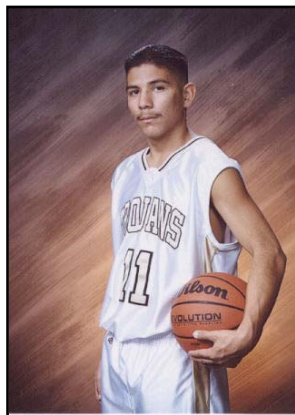
Cimarron Cross Country Team

The Cimarron Cross Country team does more than just log miles and miles of training. The Ram Cross Country team does an excellent job of representing the community of Cimarron by serving as positive examples of good sportsmanship. Next time the Cimarron cross country squad competes, be sure to watch for the red and white uniforms cross the finish line and quickly return to the course to cheer on fellow competitors.

Class AA: Student

Ashley Littlejohn (Texico High School)

As a senior at Texico High School, Ashley Littlejohn, demonstrates incredible maturity and leadership each and everyday. Ashley participates on the Texico volleyball team, is an active member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes and currently holds the position of secretary in the National Honor Society. Texico principal, Buddy Little, says "Ashley represents sportsmanship in the truest sense of the word."



Class AA: Student

Kris Martinez (Mesa Vista High School)

Kris Martinez excels in the classroom and on the basketball court as a senior at Mesa Vista High School. Kris maintains a 3.6 GPA and as an athlete Kris is the acknowledged leader of his basketball team. He has recognized that being a part of a team is much more important than personal success. One of Kris' teachers said that he "has an excellent rapport with people of all ages. He is an intelligent, resourceful and energetic student, who has favorably impressed all of his teachers at Mesa Vista."

Class AA: Adult

Derry Moore (Dexter)

Derry Moore retired from his position as Dexter athletic director in 2003; where he was instrumental in promoting sportsmanship with students and fans. Derry was also active in Fellowship of Christian Athletes while he was athletic director, not only locally, but throughout the state. He has served as a member of the NMAA Junior High Committee and has currently been working as a member of the NMAA Bylaws Committee. It would be difficult to find a more generous, dedicated man to the students of New Mexico.



Class AA: Adult

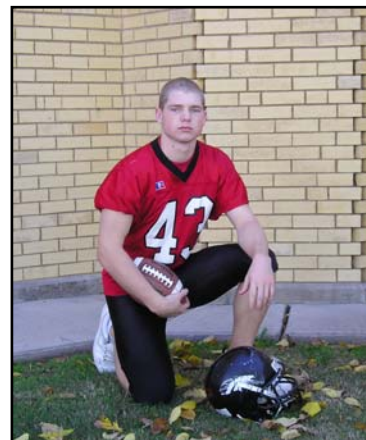
Jim Murphy (Hope Christian)

Over the last twenty three years, Jim Murphy has been coaching basketball at Hope Christian High School and has never received a technical foul. As a terrific coach and motivator, Coach Murphy continues to have a profound impact on the lives of young people. Sportsmanship and gentlemanlike behavior is one of his most important priorities. His players not only learn about the game of basketball, but also learn what it takes to succeed in life.

Class AAA: Student

Jason Thomas (NMMI)

A teacher at New Mexico Military Institute said “Jason truly defines what it means to be a sportsman in every thing he tackles. Whether in the classroom or out on the field of competition he constantly strives for success.” Jason has maintained a 3.80 GPA and has dreams of attending the Air Force Academy. Jason serves his community through numerous hours of community service and was recently named Chavez County Character Counts Football Player of the Year. Jason has been selected to be a member of the 2005 Class 3A All-Star football team and has qualified for the state track & field championships for the past two years.



Class AAA: Student

Jessica Armijo (Las Vegas Robertson)

Jessica Armijo is a senior at Robertson High School and a member of the girl’s basketball team. As a team leader, she represents her team, school and community in the highest possible manner. Jessica expresses a full commitment to basketball participation, respects the rules of the game and those who officiate. An official once remarked that “Jessica undoubtedly displays one of the best attitudes in the state.” She continues to be an excellent role model for her teammates and has the qualities to be a great success in life.



Class AAA: Adult

Ritual Staff of Ballut Temple Shrine

For the past four years, James Sampson and his Masonic group have worked as volunteers at the Thoreau High School Track & Field Invitational. These men take time off from work and drive from Albuquerque to Thoreau to help work at the track meet. It is not often that you find such a giving and caring group of individuals. Thoreau High School has benefited greatly from the gracious actions of James Sampson and his group.

Class AAA: Team

Ruidoso Volleyball Team

The senior members of the 2004 Ruidoso Volleyball team accomplished a goal they established as seventh graders- win a State Championship before graduating. Their goal became a reality at the 2004 State Volleyball Tournament. The Ruidoso team claimed a state title while representing their school, families, and community in a positive manner. The entire team worked hard without complaining and the efforts of teammates were consistently recognized, praised and appreciated. The Ruidoso team embodies the truest qualities of sportsmanship on and off the court.



Class AAAA: Student

Lorenzo Garcia (Piedra Vista)

As a member of the Piedra Vista Panther boy's basketball team, Lorenzo Garcia is a fine example of a student athlete. He stands out academically as well as athletically. He has worked his way up from the C-team to be one of the top players on the varsity squad and has displayed a strong academic work ethic in the classroom. His coach says "He is the heart and soul of my team." Lorenzo is also referred to as "coach" from the fifth grade basketball players he coaches at the Farmington Boys and Girls Club.

Class AAAA: Student

Michael Dominguez (Capital High School)

As a member of the Jaguar basketball and tennis team, Michael Dominguez exhibits the attitude and mind-set of sportsmanship. Michael has always been positive towards officials, opponents and teammates while on the court, regardless of the score. His teachers say he is an absolute joy to have in class, where he excels with a 4.0 GPA. As a member of the 2004 Class 4A Championship basketball team, Michael continues to be modest and places the success of the Jaguars on a "true team effort."





Class AAAA: Adult

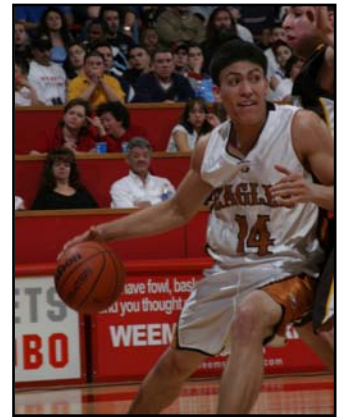
Mike Ellis (Deming High School)

Mike Ellis serves at the Athletic Director at Deming High School. He is often the first one to the game, opening the doors and gates; and the last to leave once the clocks expires. He is completely dedicated to the students and community of Deming. The athletic program at Deming has a long tradition of success; however Coach Ellis has added a new dimension with his positive leadership style and desire to accomplish incredible goals. The community of Deming truly appreciates his hard work and commitment to achievement.

Class AAAAA: Student

Bryce Burkholder (Eldorado High School)

Bryce Burkholder is a member of the Eldorado Eagle basketball team and has been described as the Eagle's silent leader. He is often the first player to dive for a loose ball or jump into the wall to keep a ball in play. Bryce is the heart and soul of his basketball team. He exhibits the leadership qualities and dependability that teachers and coaches enjoying seeing. He is an excellent player who contributes to his team's success without a thought of personal acknowledgment or recognition.



Class AAAAA: Student

Shannon Watkins (Hobbs High School)

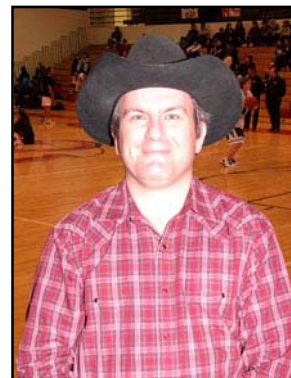
Shannon Watkins has not let her heart condition prevent her from participating in athletics. She has been a vital part of the Hobbs Athletic Department while serving as a student manager. She goes far above and beyond the duties of a manager. She has served as the manager for the volleyball, track & field teams and is currently the manager for the boy's varsity basketball team. In addition to her managerial duties, Shannon is also an outstanding student, maintaining a 4.0 GPA. She takes volunteering in her community just as seriously as being a manager. Shannon is a member of the Red Cross, participates in the Adopt an Angel program and volunteers at the local Human Society.



Class AAAAA: Adult

Dale Goar (Rio Rancho High School)

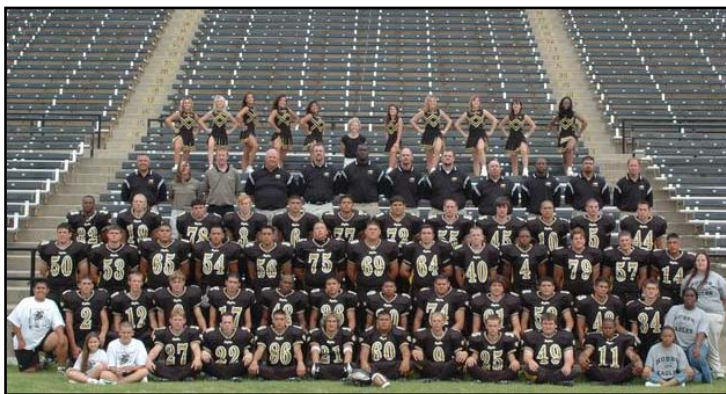
Often described as the "perfect fan" Dale Goar attends Rio Rancho athletic events without fail. He is always cheerful, positive and genuine to players, coaches, officials and other fans. He contributes to the Ram athletic department in a variety of ways, but his largest contribution lies in his loyalty and support. He is a fan who models good sportsmanship at every event. Rio Rancho High School is fortunate to have the "perfect fan" in Dale Goar.



Class AAAAA: Team

Hobbs Eagles Football Team

The Hobbs Eagles Football Team, under the leadership of Coach Phillip Roybal, has become a perfect example of sportsmanship on and off the field. The Eagles football team not only plays together, but volunteers together. The team can be seen supporting the community of Hobbs that supports them nearly everyday. They have volunteered their time to work with Habitat for Humanity, annual trash clean ups, and various Thanksgiving and Christmas activities. These young men go above and beyond sportsmanship on the field; they are living proof that sportsmanship is any everyday thing.



Class AAAAA: Team

Gallup High School JROTC

The Gallup High School JROTC has become an integral part of the school and community. One of their most significant contributions to the community is their continued commitment to the presentation of the colors at athletic contests. The instructors and students have had a tremendous impact on the manner with which respect is shown to the National Anthem and United States flag. In addition to attending nearly every athletic event throughout the year, these students are active in the community.



Class AAAAA: Spirit

Manzano Spirit Squad

The Manzano Spirit Squad consists of both the Majestix Dance Team and the Manzano Cheerleaders. These girls have successfully found a way to work together in support of one another as well as in support of the entire Manzano student body. They have managed to become united as one positive group, to promote school spirit, support athletic events and provide community service. Their community and school participation demonstrates a dedication to making a difference in our society.