



New Mexico Activities Association 2008 Association Sportsmanship Award Winners

*Presented by the NMAA Foundation
and
Farmers Insurance Group®*

The New Mexico Activities Association has been giving annual sportsmanship awards to students across New Mexico since 2005. Over the years, part of this award has become the Pursuing Victory With Honor Scholarship which helps aid these students financially while attending college. In 2007, the NMAA began a Corporate Partnership with Farmers Insurance Group which now acts as the presenting sponsor of all New Mexico High School State Championship Athletic and Activity Events. Farmers Insurance has also chosen to designate some of their sponsorship funds directly to the NMAA Foundation, which in turn awards these yearly PVWH Scholarships. In 2008, with the gracious help of Farmers Insurance, the NMAA Foundation was able to give out \$15,000 in scholarship money to 12 different students across the state. Ten \$1,000 and two \$2,500 scholarships were awarded to these students during the 2008 State Basketball Championships.

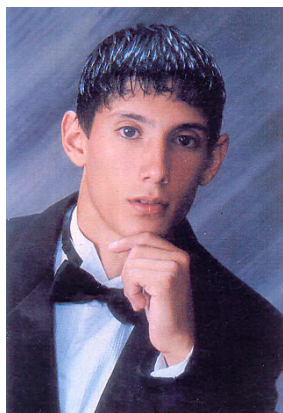
Please see the following pages to view the complete list of Sportsmanship Award Winners for 2008.

On behalf of this year's scholarship winners, the NMAA would like to thank Farmers Insurance Group for their support of high school athletics and activities in New Mexico.



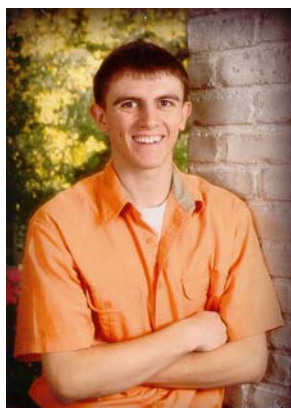
FARMERS®

2008 Sportsmanship Award Winners



Robert Arellano- Springer (Class A- Student)

The honor roll at Robert's school has become his own private playground. The Red Devils senior has been on the academic achievement list in every grading period during his prep career. But that's just the tip of the iceberg. He is active in his church, volunteers with the local Little League and helps out at a nursing home. If that's not enough, he's on the student council and serves on his home town's economic development council. Then there's his list of athletic achievements, which include all-district honors in football, basketball and track. Coaches love his team-first mentality and teammates gravitate toward his ideals of achieving common goals. Adopted into the Arellano family as a child, all Robert has done since his youth is become a pillar of the community in more ways than athletics and academics can provide.



Wesley Gilmore- Elida (Class A- Student)

Even in a class of just nine graduating seniors, Wesley still manages to stand out at Elida. He carries a perfect 4.0 grade point average and is involved in several off-campus projects, including local food drives, assisting elderly neighbors and promoting town development. On campus he participates in peer tutoring and the Big Brother/Big Sister program, as well as just about anything else he has time for. On the athletic front he is a five-year letter winner in basketball, baseball and track. His list of academic achievements is virtually endless. That includes his impressive 32 on the ACT. Teachers, coaches and even administrators rank him among the best students ever to walk the halls of Elida High because of his endearing personality that calls for community spirit and respect for others.



John Payne- Reserve (Class A- Adult)

A veteran coach who was asked to lead the Mountaineers' girls basketball program before the season, John exemplifies the essence of the NMAA's motto of Pursuing Victory with Honor. Although the team failed to qualify for the state tournament, Payne showed that there's more to athletics than wins and losses. To him, playing the game the right way is what participation is all about. His friendly nature and positive attitude are contagious. Fans, players and even officials are instantly taken aback by his never-say-die demeanor. Even in games in which his team was losing by double figures, he maintained a level of class seldom seen from coaches. In fact, of all the nomination letters sent, most were by referees who complimented his leadership skills. "If all coaches followed his example, the NMAA would never have a coaching behavioral complaint to deal with and our student-athletes would be the beneficiaries," one game official wrote.



Brooke Bailey- Texico (Class AA- Student)

Volleyball fanatics will best remember Brooke as the team captain of an undefeated state champion during her senior year. That team completed back-to-back state titles. She also competes in basketball and track, helping to maintain a tradition of sports excellence for the Wolverines. Aside from that she has been a part of numerous student groups, including the FCA and FFA. Her 4.061 grade point average is a tribute to her dedication to getting better. During her youth she was said to have a mild learning disability, a label she has shaken through determination and insurmountable work ethic. Those challenges have helped her mature to a level beyond her years. She greets every elder with a “yes sir,” “no sir,” demeanor and she treats peers with the respect and kindness she hopes to receive herself.



Megan Lawrence- Clayton (Class AA- Student)

Megan’s drive and determination recently earned her the designation of “most likely to succeed” by her classmates. Considering her resume, that’s not surprising. A 4.12 student and president of the senior class, she has done everything she can to raise school spirit through four years of participation with Clayton’s dance team and marching band. She embodies school spirit, but beyond that she strives to make those around her better by promoting the values she displays every day. Among her greatest characteristics are trustworthiness and integrity. Around town she promotes a drug-free environment for kids through the local Youth United in Controlling Chemical Abuse team. In short, she’s the kind of student teachers can depend on and the kind of citizen the community of Clayton can take pride in.



Jan Nakotte- Pojoaque (Class AAA- Student)

A starter for the school’s boys basketball team, Jan leads by example in more ways than one. When not suiting up for the Elks in soccer, track and cross country, he remains strictly adhered to his academic responsibilities. Along the way he has maintained a 3.54 grade point average. Just as he does on the court, Jan – who was born in Germany and relocated to the U.S. when he was 3 years old – keeps a positive attitude in the classroom. Teachers enjoy his positive attitude, one that doesn’t allow him to shirk his commitment to the books. “I have even witnessed Jan on away games doing homework on the bus or at the other team’s gym and/or locker room,” one coach said. Jan’s father is a physics professor at New Mexico State University, meaning Jan is often seen as the man of the house much of the time. “A teenage boy may take a situation like that and take advantage of that, but not Jan,” one teacher wrote.



Bethany Self-Portales (Class AAA- Student)

A laundry list of adjectives were used to describe this senior's attributes during the nomination process, but two consistently kept popping up: character and integrity. Coaches raved about her knack for maintaining a level head in the heat of competition. Time and again she has shown her desire to do things the right way in leading the Rams to state dominance in volleyball, basketball and tennis. She burst onto the scene several years ago as an unproven underclassman, cultivating a prep career that has seen her become one of the state's more decorated senior athletes. All the while she has maintained a 4.12 grade point average while taking a number of concurrent enrollment classes with Eastern New Mexico University. Of course, that doesn't include her participation in such non-athletic endeavors as the student council, National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Rotary Youth Leadership of America.



Jacki Bailey-Moriarty (Class AAAA- Student)

A three-sport star for the Pintos, this Moriarty senior has demonstrated an innate ability to make those around her feel better about themselves while dedicating herself to a team-first work ethic. Perhaps her best attribute is putting others before herself. That was never more apparent than the past few months when she assumed the role of team leader after suffering what appeared to be a career-ending knee injury. Rather than wallowing in self pity as her playing time in volleyball was drastically reduced, she rallied around her teammates as the Pintos won the Class 4A state title in November. She has since helped the basketball team reach the state tournament and plans to compete in track and field this spring. When not playing, Jacki volunteers time with local charge groups and youth organizations. She also serves as the basketball program's manager for the C-team. Opposing players and coaches are naturally drawn to her spirit of sportsmanship.



Matt Billups- Los Lunas (Class AAAA—Student)

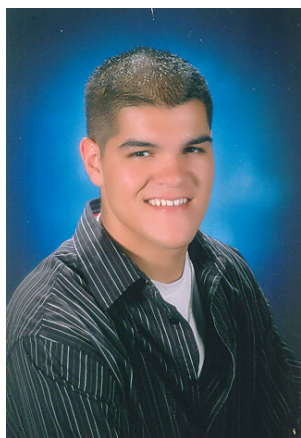
Overcoming adversity has become a way of life for this extremely talented basketball player. In the days leading into the Tigers' season opener, Matt's father passed away after a long battle with cancer. Matt chose to go on, dedicating his season to his father while displaying the kind of quiet work ethic that has come to define him as a team, school and community role model. Matt has enjoyed a fine statistical year – he ranked among 5A's scoring leaders – but that's only part of the story. In the classroom he has maintained a 3.9 grade point average and kept his sights set on a graduation ceremony his father will be able to attend only in spirit. It is Matt's dedication to his academics that assures a bright future. Although he has plans to continue his playing days at the next level, it is apparent to one and all that life's tough lessons have allowed others to see Billups for the compassionate person he really is.



Christopher Lopez- Taos (Class AAAA- Student)

Chris has tried his hand at four sports during his time with the Tigers and fared well in them all. He has participated in baseball, basketball, wrestling and football, earning all-district honors on the gridiron. Aside from that he has been involved in student government and numerous community relations groups. Of all the experiences gained, it's those off the field that matter the most to him. He has volunteered as a referee and statistician. In doing so, he has combined the sense of sportsmanship instilled in him by his parents with his ability to view the big picture. He realizes that sports can serve as a springboard to success later in life. To achieve his goals, he has set his sights on a solid academic background. His 4.23 grade point average has placed

him in the top 10 percent of his class, setting the standard for what promises to be a bright future for a student-athlete dedicated to promoting the best in others.



Marc Moulton- Capital (Class AAAA- Student)

To many in Santa Fe, Marc is known solely as the rifle-armed quarterback who guided his football team to an unlikely district title as a senior, as well as a dangerous hitter for a baseball team that is among northern New Mexico's most consistent winners. To those at school, however, Moulton is a leader and a model student who others can look for inspiration. Over the years he has balanced his hectic three-sport schedule with a busy work load in the classroom. He has maintained an exemplary grade point average while taking several advanced placement classes. Known for his dedication time management, he has won the confidence of his teachers by never using sports as an excuse for taking a day off from his studies. As one teacher wrote, "There have been times when others have tempted Marc to do the wrong thing or

take the easy way out of situations, but Marc always chose the right path."



Mayra Hernandez- Gadsden (Class AAAAA- Student)

In some respects, Mayra is the face of the Gadsden boys basketball program. She is the smiling face standing curb-side to greet opposing coaches and administrators before games. She is the one the Panthers turn to in times of need. All she asks for in return is the chance to do her job. As the team's manager, she has done that job better than anyone in the program could have hoped for. She has held the position for three years, turning the role into an art form. "She often is responsible for greeting (opposing teams) and showing them the great hospitality that we feel all visiting teams deserve," wrote one Panthers assistant coach. In truth, no one asked Mayra to do the things she does.

She has assumed those responsibilities herself, embodying the true essence of what it means to be a team leader and first-class school representative. "She works just as hard as our players do for competition," another coach said.



Tarin Trujillo- Manzano (Class AAAAA- Student)

Typically it's the athletes who garner most of the attention in high school sports. In this case, it's the person who helps out from the sidelines who has earned the limelight. A four-year cheerleader for the Monarchs, Tarin has mastered the art of the year-round activity that is the spirit squad. While most athletes seamlessly shift from one season to the other, cheerleaders must maintain a steady dedication from one end of the school year to the other. Therefore, it is not surprising to see that most of Tarin's teammates from her freshman year are no longer part of the spirit squad. The reason is simple – it's not easy to balance that much work with the time commitment required in the classroom. In that respect, Tarin is an expert. She has maintained a top-level GPA while taking a number of honors and advanced placement courses. To top it off, she has adhered to her faith through the school's Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

2008 Sportsmanship Award
Finalist, Nominees and Recipients

CLASS	Final	FIRST	LAST	SCHOOL
5A	Finalist	Isaac	Aragon	Rio Rancho
2A	F	John	Brock	Cloudcroft
4A	F	Megan	Burditt	Los Alamos
5A	F	Luis	Castañeda	Gadsden
4A	F	Dynette	Cordova	Taos
2A	F	Kinsey	Durham	Bosque
4A	F	Joshua	Garcia	Belen
2A	F	Amanda	Hernandez	McCurdy
1A	F	Timothy	Holecek	Quemado
1A	F	Casey	Jackson	Animas
4A	F	Eddie	Lopez	Grants
4A	F	Samantha	Merrion	Farmington
1A	F	Dustin	Moulder	NM School for the Deaf
5A	F	Decidero	Perez	Cibola
5A	F	Talisa	Puentes	Rio Rancho
1A	F	Bianca	Ramirez	Animas
5A	F	Aaron	Schuetze	Cibola
1A	F	Bill	Squire	Hagerman
5A	F	Layne	Strebeck	Clovis
5A	F	Trevor	Tixier	La Cueva
5A	F	Rachel	Velarde	Eldorado
2A	F	Monique	Visarraga	Penasco
1A	F	Brandon	Whitten	Cimarron
4A	F	Curtis	Young	Farmington

F= Finalist
N= Nominee
R= Recipient

2008 Sportsmanship Award
Finalist, Nominees and Recipients

CLASS	Final	FIRST	LAST	SCHOOL
1A	Nominee	Justin	Archibeque	Vaughn
2A	N	Christian	Arellano	Questa
4A	N	Santiago	Armijo	Taos
3A	N	Kristal	Banda	Dexter
3A	N	Lauren	Bridgeforth	Lovington
4A	N	Tory	Burnett	Artesia
5A	N	Austin	Cantwell	Eldorado
2A	N	Manuel	Chavez, Jr.	McCurdy
1A	N	Nick	Cherniske	Moreno Valley
1A	N	Jake	Colenda	Moreno Valley
2A	N	Casey	Crist	Texico
3A	N	Andrea	Cruz	Pojoaque
3A	N	Kim	Cruz-Carrillo	Robertson
5A	N	Kitt	Davidson	Valley
1A	N	Cass	Dimitroff	Fort Sumner
3A	N	Corey	Douma	Laguna Acoma
4A	N	Britney	Fletcher	Artesia
	N	Vanessa	Frank	Pinehill
1A	N	Christopher	Galli	Maxwell
1A	N	Carlos	Garcia	Evangel Christian
1A	N	Amanda	Gomez	Hondo Valley
1A	N	Janis	Gonzales	Hondo Valley
1A	N	Nadia	Gonzales	Moreno Valley
1A	N	Patrick	Gonzales	Hondo Valley
2A	N	Gabrielle	Gonzales	Penasco
1A	N	Kyle	Hazen	Roy
1A	N	Chad	Helmerts	Evangel Christian
4A	N	Joshua	Hensley	Taos
5A	N	Bobby	Herrera	Gadsden
4A	N	Sahara	Howard	Artesia
5A	N	Laura	Lipkow	Alamogordo
5A	N	Leticia	Lopez	Mayfield
2A	N	Courtland	Luscombe	Texico
2A	N	Faith	Martin	Texico
2A	N	Katie Bryn	Mayfield	Texico
5A	N	Thomas	Mayfield	Los Lunas
5A	N	Shon	Mitchell	Hobbs
3A	N	Sam	Mondragon	Raton
2A	N	Claudia	Navarrette	Jal
5A	N	Dallas	Norman	Highland
5A	N	Derrek	Peterson	Hobbs
1A	N	Alex	Romo	Animas
3A	N	Kyle	Sandoval	Cuba

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5A	N	Anju	Shah	Cibola
4A	N	Eric	Sleuth	Del Norte
3A	N	Tylanceson	Smith	Newcomb
1A	N	Janice	Taylor	Elida
4A	N	Ryan	Trujillo	Taos
2A	N	Amanda	Vigil	Penasco
5A	N	Jacob	Viramontes	Mayfield

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2008 Sportsmanship Award
Finalist, Nominees and Recipients

CLASS	Final	FIRST	LAST	SCHOOL
1A	ADULT RECIPIENT	John	Payne	Reserve
1A	Recipient	Robert	Arellano	Springer
2A	R	Brooke	Bailey	Texico
4A	R	Jacki	Bailey	Moriarty
5A	R	Matthew	Billups	Los Lunas
1A	R	Wesley	Gilmore	Elida
5A	R	Mayra	Hernandez	Gadsden
2A	R	Megan	Lawrence	Clayton
4A	R	Christopher	Lopez	Taos
4A	R	Marc	Moulton	Capital
3A	R	Jan	Nakotte	Pojoaque
3A	R	Bethany	Self	Portales
5A	R	Tarin	Trujillo	Manzano

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