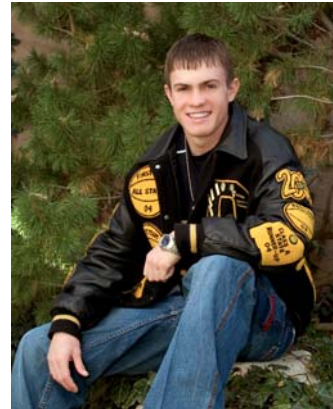


2006 Sportsmanship Award Winners

Benjamin Doherty- Des Moines (Class A Student)

As a senior and four year starter on the Des Moines Demon varsity basketball team, Ben Doherty values and understands good character. On the court, Ben recognizes that winning is important, however he has learned that learning to lose with dignity and grace are qualities that create a great teammate. He believes in the motto “if you give it your best, you’re always a winner.”



Not only is Ben a standout on the basketball court, he is also excels as a student. With a GPA of over 3.85, he serves as president of his class and actively participates in Future Farmers of America, Business Professional of America, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and numerous community service projects. Ben is also a member of the National Honor Society.

Ben focuses on the positive features of people and activities and has a gift for looking beyond his own accomplishments and celebrating the achievements of others.

Brock Graham- Melrose (Class A Student)

More than being an exceptional athlete and student, Brock Graham is an incredible role model for the younger students within the Melrose community. When he participates in athletic contests he always abides by the rules and accepts victory and defeat graciously. His strong belief in the sportsmanship standards established by the Melrose High School administration is evident in all that he does.



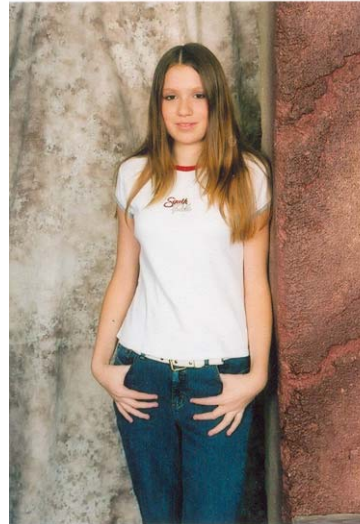
As the team captain on the football and basketball teams since his freshmen year, Brock embodies the qualities of a true teammate and participant. One of Brock’s teachers recently stated “if you look up the definition of ‘sportsmanship’ Brock Graham should be listed in bold letters.” During a game Brock constantly displays that he respects the integrity and judgment of game officials and realizes that the officials are doing their best to promote the game.

Brock is a member of the National Honors Society and also proudly serves as president of his senior class.

Stephanie Shea- Lake Arthur (Class A Student)

As a sophomore on the Lake Arthur volleyball and basketball teams, Stephanie's Shea not only plays with a lot of heart and dedication, she leads the team in sportsmanship. Some athletes have the opportunity to score points, grab rebounds, provide assists; Stephanie excels in being an incredible teammate and quality opponent.

Her nomination for the Sportsmanship Award came from an opposing coach in Lake Arthur's district, serving as evidence that she values and understands the true meaning of "sportsmanship." Stephanie is often the first player to congratulate her opponents. She has always displayed a high degree of integrity, responsibility and ambition.



She was recently described by one of her coaches as being a leader rather than a follower, which is evident in her actions on and off the court. No matter the score or the outcome, Stephanie has a winning attitude and ability to keep her teammates' spirits up.

Camila Friedman-Gerlicz- Santa Fe Prep (Class AA Student)

During her junior season as the starting goalkeeper for the Santa Fe Prep girls' varsity soccer team, Camila Friedman-Gerlicz had to be carried off of the soccer field when she tore her ACL. Camila refused to leave the facility until her team had finished the game, Camila wasn't just the goalkeeper, she was a "teammate."

After her season-ending knee injury occurred, Camila still assisted her teammates from the sideline. She failed to miss a practice or a game for the remainder of the year and was dedicated to helping coach her replacement. When the basketball season started, Camila attended every practice and game, putting her team first, even though she could not compete.



Nearly a year after her injury occurred, Camila led her team to their second Class A-AAA State Soccer Championship in three years. Her ability to support her teammates, while being injured truly displays her level of sportsmanship and dedication to being a quality person. Her uncompromised consideration for others and desire to see her team succeed makes Camila a true leader.

Clay Geronimo- Mescalero Apache School (Class AA Student)

Clay Geronimo was described by Mescalero Apache School's head football coach as being an excellent student, a dedicated athlete and a role model for other players and students. He went to say that Clay is the model of what every high school student athlete should be.



Clay has participated and lettered in football all four years of his high school career. As a senior and team captain on the football team, Clay received All-District First Team honors on offense, the All District Academic Award and helped his team receive the district sportsmanship award. His ability to treat opponents, officials and teammates fairly and respectfully truly displays his level of commitment to being a quality sport.

Off the field Clay always seems to have a bright smile upon his face and is one of the top students in his class. He is an active member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and also participates in the New Mexico High School Bull Riding Association.

Amanda Herrera- Tularosa (Class AA Student)

Amanda Herrera, a Tularosa Junior and member of the Wildcat volleyball and track teams, realizes that being a good sport is of utmost importance. She is the first to greet opposing teams and players as they enter the gymnasium before a game.



Amanda's attitude towards officials is one of great admiration and respect. She has never disrespected an official by questioning a close call, realizing that officials are doing their very best to create a positive environment for the student athletes participating.

Her consideration and appreciation for her fellow competitors is most evident in the sport of track and field. Once Amanda completes her race, she often turns around and waits for the remaining runners to finish, congratulating them on their performance.

An opposing coach was recently quoted as saying "Amanda's sportsmanship is above and beyond the norm." Amanda's ability to put her team first makes her a role model and a leader within the Tularosa community.

Adam Martinez- Robertson (Class AAA Student)

Only eight individuals have won four state wrestling titles in New Mexico, Adam Martinez became a member of that prestigious group last month. Adam, a senior at Robertson High School, excels in four sports (football, wrestling, track and baseball) as well as in the classroom. With a GPA of 4.0 his academic focus parallels his athletic commitment.



Adam's attitude and ability to direct his attention to doing his very best, makes him an outstanding student, teammate and role model. Robertson's athletic director, Mike Yara, has said "Adam is the type of person you want your own children to look up to."

His other extracurricular activities include being a member of the National Honor Society, MESA (Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement) association and YAPP (Youth Alcohol Prevention Program) organization.

As an active member of the Las Vegas community, Adam has participated in various service projects, showing his dedication to being a leader within his community.

Samantha Lawrence- Goddard (Class AAAA Student)

As a senior at Goddard High School, Samantha Lawrence seems to be at the center of all activities that occur on campus. Her commitment and dedication to being a loyal and dependable teammate helps to make Samantha an obvious choice for the sportsmanship award.



She has served as a team captain and a leader on the dance, basketball, softball and soccer teams during the past four years. Samantha has received All-District honors in the three sports she has played, as well as a soccer scholarship to Eastern New Mexico University in Portales.

Her devotion in sports parallels her dedication to academics. In the classroom Samantha holds a GPA which exceeds 3.70 and has elected to enroll in more difficult courses to have the best preparation possible before entering college.

Whether on the field of competition or within the field of study, Samantha always finds time to help others and elevate herself to another level.

Ashley Sandoval- Deming (Class AAAA Student)

Ashley Sandoval is respected within the Deming community because of the leadership characteristics she exhibits each and everyday. She is the captain of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, is a member of the girl's basketball team, plays an active role in student council and continues to be in the top ten of her class.



As a member of the Deming Wildcat girl's varsity basketball team, her commitment to her team and coaches is one in which Ashley takes very seriously. Whether be in practice at the beginning of the season or the district championship game near the end, Ashley's strong work ethic and appreciation for being part of a team is evident. Her devotion to winning as a team and working toward a common goal is constantly apparent. The Wildcats currently have three freshmen on the varsity team; Ashley is often seen encouraging these teammates to do their very best.

Amber Jojola- Los Lunas (Class AAAAA Student)

As a member of the Los Lunas High School girl's varsity basketball team and the JROTC leadership corps, Amber Jojola exceeds expectations. She excels academically ranking 11th in her senior class with a GPR of 4.35. She has earned the starting point guard position on the basketball court; and she has proven to be one of Los Lunas' most talented, disciplined and motivated cadets.



Amber is said to be a true role model for sportsmanship. She shows respect for everyone with whom she interacts. Her deep connection to her culture and community allow Amber to positively impact those around her.

During the 2005 basketball season, Amber suffered a broken hand. She managed to get back onto the court in time to help her team through the district playoffs and eventually the first round of state. Prior to getting back into the lineup Amber assumed a leadership role on the bench, helping her teammates in any way that she could.

Jennifer Armstrong- Magdalena (Adult)

Jennifer Armstrong works as an instructional aide in the kindergarten class at Magdalena's elementary school. She does a remarkable job working with kids, with her greatest attribute being her ability to recognize that everyone has a defined role to play in the promotion of positive sportsmanship.



Mrs. Armstrong has always taken on additional responsibilities to ensure that tournaments and events are positive experiences for the student-athletes competing; she always seems to find a way to help. Most recently, she delegated herself to organizing and coordinating the hospitality room for a girl's basketball tournament. She has also been known to remind fans that disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

Magdalena High School is filled with school spirit and much of that spirit is credited to Mrs. Armstrong's dedicated efforts. She is truly a person who exemplifies sportsmanship by welcoming opposing teams and fans to Magdalena High School.

Carm Chavez- Quemado (Adult)

The role of an athletic director is often busy and hectic one. After thirty-one years in education, Carm Chavez continues to serve as Quemado's Athletic Director and the District 6A Chairperson. While being fiercely supportive of the Quemado athletic programs, she nonetheless offers support and assistance to all the district schools.



Throughout her distinguished career she has modeled and taught the importance of positive sportsmanship. Carm serves a true example of sportsmanship for the students and communities members of Quemado. During basketball games Carm is always the first one to ensure that the officials have drinks and snacks in their locker room. She also makes it a point to greet the opposing teams at all events, guarantying that they feel welcomed and supported. Her dictation to promoting qualities characteristics in the students and fans is unparallel throughout the state of New Mexico.

Harold and Irene Daniels- Roy (Adults)

Supporting teams and athletic programs is not always an easy task for a couple that manages a family ranch full time; however Harold and Irene Daniels always seem to find the time to show their support for Roy athletics.



The Daniels' never miss an athletic event and are always respectful of coaches, officials and opposing teams. They constantly find new ways to support and encourage every student who is participating. Every year during the State Track and Field Championships the Daniels take the entire team out to dinner in Albuquerque. Their desire to give and support with no expectation of receiving anything in return makes the Daniels deserving candidates for the sportsmanship award. They have been known to donate their suburban, gas and funding for various programs throughout the Roy community.

A student recently said that the Daniels are the most supportive and generous people she knows. She went to say that they have attended all of her games since she was playing in the pee wee division.

Jerry Willis- Fort Sumner (Adult)

For the past three decades Jerry Willis has served as a phenomenal educator and supporter of students and athletics in Fort Sumner. During the workday he is a teacher and a coach, however he never allows the final bell at the end of the day to slow him down or end his time at school.



His dedication to supporting and helping students is evident in all that Jerry does. During volleyball season he comes to every single game and runs the clock and scoreboard. The same can be said for the football and basketball seasons. He also works at every track & field meet held on campus, especially the Fox/Vixen Relays.

No year has passed without Jerry's capable organization and implementation of the school Spelling Bee where he serves as Master of Ceremonies. Every game, event and contest is important to him, just as every child's dream of success is his main focus.