Basketball players, wrestlers recognized by school board

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While many school basketball tournaments and other spring sporting events were either canceled or played behind closed doors without fans due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Gallup-McKinley County Schools Board of Education recognized players from those sports during their May 11 meeting.

Ben Chavez, athletic director for GMCS, spoke for the players, none of whom were able to attend the meeting due to the shelter-in-place orders.

Chavez called the efforts of the district's athletes one of many positive developments to come out of GMCS in uncertain times.

"We know how much time the coaches, the students, and even the parents and fans put into these events," he said.

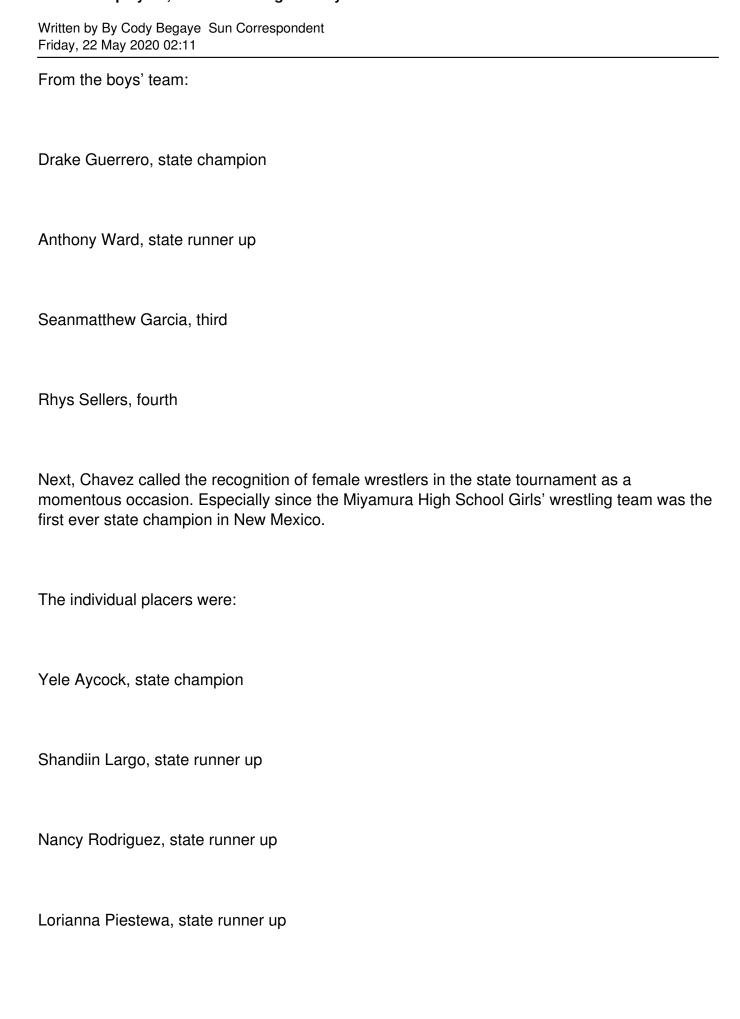
First to be recognized was the Tohatchi Lady Cougars basketball team, which finished state runner up in the New Mexico 3A Girls tournament.

"They were playing in the midst of when the pandemic started and actually had to play the last couple games without any fans," Chavez said. "We know what great supporters our fans are, so who knows what could have happened if fans from Tohatchi and McKinley County were in the stands."

Each member of the team will receive a recognition plaque from the board, Chavez said.

The next athletes recognized were both the boys and girls wrestling teams from Miyamura High School. This was the second year females were able to compete at the state tournaments, but this was the first year the tournaments had placings and rankings, Chavez added.

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