

Star athletes of the week

Written by Gallupsun Staff
Friday, 15 September 2023 03:55



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Ryleigh Silva

School: Miyamura High School

Name: Ryleigh Silva

Sport: Volleyball

Grade: Senior

Ryleigh is being nominated because of her play in the Aug. 31 game against Grants, where she led the team defensively. She ended up with 15 digs on the night and was the heart and soul of the team's defensive effort as the libero. Her overall hustle and determination was paramount to the team's success. Her serve receive rating of 2.4 was massive as well.

Isaac Bear Eagle

School: Thoreau High School

Name: Isaac Bear Eagle

Sport: Football

Grade: Senior

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As the quarterback, Isaac had a solid performance on Sept. 1 against Kirkland Central with over 200 yards passing. On Aug. 25 in the game against Tucumcari he also had a standout performance throwing for a touchdown and rushing for another. He is also an all-star student maintaining over a 4.0 GPA while attending the McKinley Academy.

School: Tohatchi High School

Name: Merisa Denesto

Sport: Volleyball

Grade: Senior

Marisa has a 3.7 GPA. She has been on the varsity team as a starter for four years. Last year she was first team all-district. She is the team's outside hitter and setter as well as a defensive specialist and co-captain. Overall, she has a great attitude and is extremely coachable and is a tremendous leader for the rest of her team.

Kairi Etsitty

School: Ramah High School

Name: Kairi Etsitty

Sport: Cross Country

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Grade: Senior

Kairi led the Ramah Cross Country girls team in the meet at Tohatchi on Sept. 1, completing her 5K in just over 25 minutes.

Kairi also leads the girls and boys teams in practice. She is very energetic and actively encourages all the cross country runners to work hard and push themselves. When Kairi completes her practice runs, she will run back to the next runner and run back with them pushing them to finish strong. When they finish, she will go back and get the next.

The teams look to her as a leader for encouragement and guidance.

School: Tse' Yi' Gai High School

Name: Taysen Begay

Sport: Cross Country

Grade: Freshman

Taysen repeatedly sets personal records at every meet and works hard to improve during every practice. He also achieves excellence in his academic classes. He is a great example of a Diné Warrior.