

EL DORADO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Three District Students Among the Best and the Brightest Receive CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Scholarship

Three El Dorado Union High School District students were among the “*best of the best*” student-athletes to receive an A. Dale Lacky/GMC Scholarship award.

These impressive awards honor those student-athletes whose academic and athletic performance are exemplary. Awards were presented on April 18 at the *6th Annual A. Dale Lacky / GMC Scholarship and Model Coach Awards Breakfast* sponsored by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Sac-Joaquin Section and GMC. This year, the Section had the very difficult task of selecting 10 award winners who would each receive a \$1,000 scholarship and 38 winners who would each receive a \$600 scholarship. The CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Board of Managers believes this is one of the most outstanding programs that is offered statewide, and with the additional help of GMC's sponsorship this year, total scholarships topped \$32,000.

**Deborah Maier**, a Ponderosa High School student, was recipient of a \$600 scholarship. She participated at the varsity level in soccer, softball, cross-country, and track and field. As captain of her cross-country team for the last 2 years, Deborah helped lead her team to three Section titles, receiving individual recognition for her efforts along the way. Deborah is also involved in other extracurricular activities as the Interact Club, Link Crew, Youth Group, mission trips, service projects, and CSF. Deborah has maintained a 4.27 GPA, which included several AP courses. She is interested in studying biology and physical therapy in hopes of becoming a physical therapist. She plans to continue her running career by competing in cross-country and track and field at the college level.

**Gianna Zappettini**, an El Dorado High School student, has competed in several sports, lettering in soccer, basketball, and track, and also participating on the varsity tennis team in her freshman year. She earned the basketball team's Coach's Award twice and placed second in the 4x4 relays at the league championships. Gianna is involved in a variety of extracurricular activities. She has been a 4th grade teaching assistant, shelved the books at the public library, participated in theater, volunteered for El Dorado's Food Bank Christmas Project, and has been a member of CSF. She has also been involved in student government as president, vice president, and publicity director. Gianna has maintained a 4.24 GPA and has been on the principal's honor roll each year as well as received many impressive scholastic awards. She hopes to major in education or business. Gianna is recipient of a \$600 scholarship.

**Feross Aboukhadijeh**, recipient of a \$600 scholarship, is an Oak Ridge High School student. He has lettered in track and field for 3 years, in cross-country for 2 years, and was a member of the basketball team as a freshman and sophomore. This year, he served as cross-country team captain and helped his team advance to the State Cross-Country Championships the past 2 years. He has given numerous hours of his time to community service projects and served in leadership roles for the Key Club, the Oak Ridge Web Team, and the Robotics Club. Feross has maintained a 4.37 GPA and is planning to pursue a career in engineering or business. He plans to continue participating in cross-country and track and field.

At the inception of the scholarship program in 1993, only one male and one female student-athlete were honored with a scholarship. Today the program has expanded to 48 deserving students as a result of the “foundation games.” This concept allows the member schools to play one extra girls volleyball game and an extra boys and girls basketball game, with 50 percent of the gate receipts given to the Section's scholarship program. Since 1993, the Section has awarded 275 scholarships totaling more than \$190,000.