



WNLR Distance Runner Scholarship Award Recipients Class of 2023

Thanks to the generous donations from our club members, from Granite Construction, and from Big Sur Marathon Foundation, WNLR provided \$10,000 in scholarship awards this spring to outstanding track and cross country student-athletes in Monterey County's High School Graduating Class of 2023. This brings the total scholarship money awarded to Monterey County High School Seniors since the inception of this program to a whopping \$175,375. To receive this award, eligible student-athletes must have some of the most competitive track and cross country times in Monterey County, must have a GPA of at least 3.0, must demonstrate good character and leadership qualities as described in a letter of recommendation by a coach and in an interview, must be actively involved in community service, and may demonstrate financial need. Eligible students are assessed on their personal-best times for the 3-mile cross country distance, and for the 3200m, 1600m, and 800m track distances. Demonstrated improvement and dedication to the sport is crucial, and candidates must also intend to continue their running careers at the collegiate level.

This year, twelve winners were chosen from a county-wide pool of eligible student-athletes. Many of these student-athletes you may soon find running local races.

<u>High School</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
Alisal	Harry Ordiano
Everett Alvarez	Roselyn Olivo
Monterey	Alana Gamino
Monterey	Sara Millette
Monterey	Timothy Robbins
North Monterey County	Gael Godinez
North Monterey County	Irineo Navarro
North Monterey County	Miguel Alvarado
Rancho San Juan	Nathan Emerson
Soledad	Elijah Melchor
Trinity Christian	Caleb Bouwens
York	Zola Hoffmeister

Alisal High School

Harry Ordiano

Harry Ordiano is Alisal High School's top distance runner in the class of 2023 and is also a competitive wrestler! His running coach was eager to point out that he is one of the hardest working student-athletes he's ever worked with, especially during distance learning. Harry's records include a 16:40 3-mile time and a 10:23 3200m time... and that's with only two years training as a track and cross country athlete! Moreover, his work ethic and leadership skills helped lead his team to their first league championship in 35 years. This fall, Harry will attend either UC Berkeley or UC Davis.



Everett Alvarez High School

Roselyn Olivo



With a 4.3 GPA, a bevy of awards from both her academic and athletic accomplishments, status as a National Honor Society scholar, and a robust resume of volunteer activities, Roselyn Olivo is hard to beat. As if that wasn't enough, Roselyn will also graduate from Everett Alvarez High School as its second-best distance runner ever! Despite her running career being interrupted by Covid, she qualified for CCS every available year and has three All League patches in cross country. Roselyn is the fastest female runner for this class of scholarship recipients, and she will continue her education at Hartnell College this fall.

Monterey High School



Alana Gamino

This multitalented young woman excels not just on the cross country course and on the track, but also in the classroom, as a team captain, as an artist with the Youth Arts Collective, on the trails as a mountain biker, and as a community volunteer. Alana got her start in running with the Big Sur Marathon Foundation's Just Run program and stuck with the sport even through covid. Her personal best times include a 2:45 in the 800m and a 22:13 in the 3mi, demonstrating versatility across a range of distances. This fall, you can find Alana running with her classmate at MPC before she transfers to a four-year university.

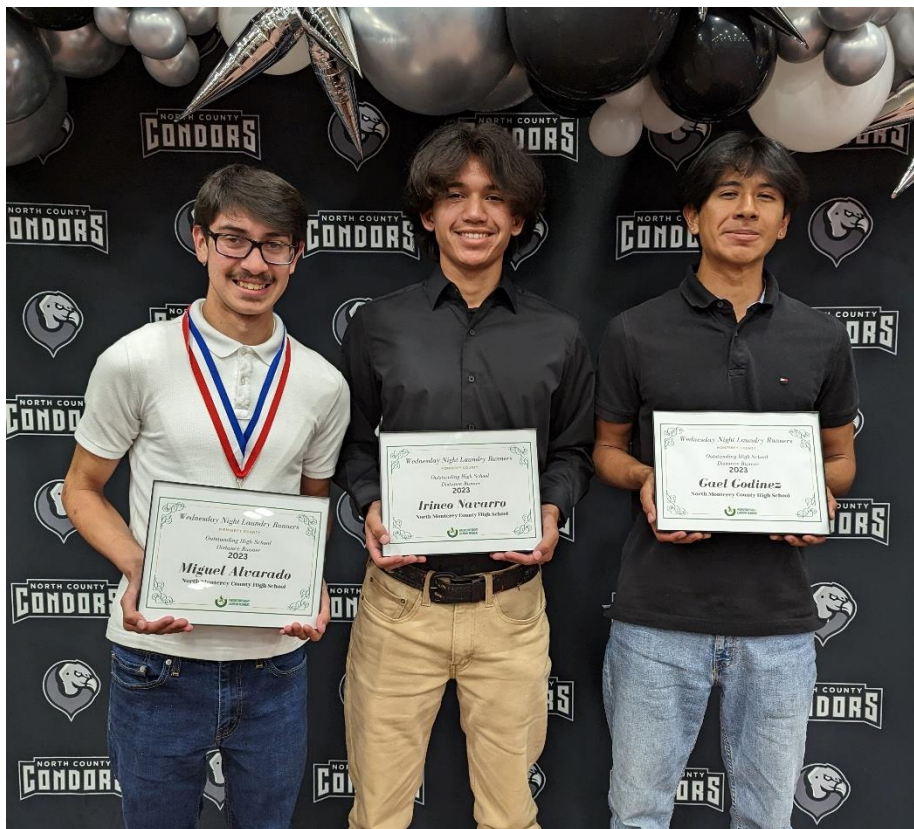
Sara Millette

A talented scholar, Sara also shines on the track and on the trails. She effortlessly balances her impressive academic workload with leading team workouts, volunteering with her church, and mastering anything else she puts her mind to. Her speedy 2:36 in the 800m is impressive, but her real goal is to run a sub-6-minute mile before the end of the year. Go get it, Sara! This fall, you can find Sara running with the classmate at MPC before she transfers to a four-year university.

Timothy Robbins

Timothy has been a staple of the cross country and track team dynamics for his entire time at Monterey High School. Just this past year, he has been able to reach new heights of running by putting in extra training hours before school and by setting an example of athletic discipline for his younger teammates. This focused dedication allowed him to set new personal records nearly every week for the past year. Timothy's zippy 800m time of 2:15 is a great example of seeing those results in action! This fall, you can find Timothy running for MPC before he transfers to a four-year university.

North Monterey County High School



Gael Godinez

Gael Godinez is one of the two fastest runners in this year's class of scholarship recipients. He won a team league title in cross country in his junior year and –is that wasn't enough— earned All-League honors in cross country (and qualified for CCS) in both his junior and senior years. Moreover, he is exceptionally kind and is always willing to help others. With blisteringly-fast times of 16:27 in the 3mi, 10:15 in the 3200m, 4:38 in the 1600m, and 2:01 in the 800m, it is no surprise that few could keep up with him this season. This fall, you can find Gael running for Hartnell with Coach Zepeda. He is interested in computer science and plans to transfer to a four-year university.

Irineo Navarro

Irineo Navarro is one of the two fastest runners in this year's class of scholarship recipients. He is a team leader, a dedicated student athlete, and the anchor that helped bring his team's success in the past few years. During his high school running career, he was part of one team league title, earned All-League honors in both his junior and senior years, and also qualified for CCS in his junior and senior years. Irineo's personal best times—a 16:29 in the 3mi, a 10:10 in the 3200m, a 4:37 in the 1600m and a 2:06 in the 800m—are a testament to his work ethic and dedication to training. This fall, you can find Irineo running for Hartnell with Coach Zepeda. He would like to major in kinesiology and plans to transfer to a four-year university.

Miguel Alvarado

This team captain leads not just in athletics but in the classroom as well. With a 3.7 GPA and a competitive running schedule, Miguel still finds time to tutor his classmates and get his teammates ready during meets. In his own coach's words, Miguel "has the biggest heart on the team" and is the proud owner of a 2:05 personal best in the 800m track distance. This fall you can find him running recreationally at UC San Diego.

Rancho San Juan High School

Nathan Emerson

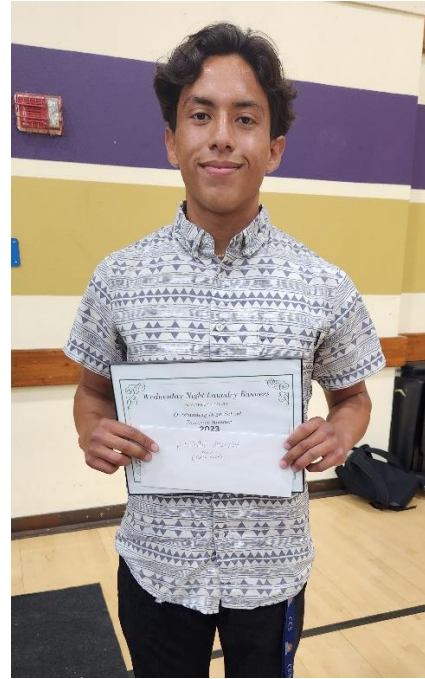
Nathan Emerson has been on Rancho San Juan's track and cross country teams since the school opened in 2019 and has been an invaluable leader throughout the hardships of the covid season(s). Academically, Nathan is one of the top three in his senior class and volunteers regularly at a local church. An avid runner who regularly runs between 50 and 60 miles per week (and the holder of a 10:26 personal best in the 3200m track event), Nathan would like to qualify for the Boston Marathon soon! This fall, Nathan is still deciding between starting at UCLA or completing his first two years at Hartnell while running for Coach Zepeda before transferring.



Soledad High School

Elijah Melchor

Elijah has been team captain at Soledad High School for two years, and it shows in his maturity, compassion for others, and dedication to the sport of running. Despite having the fastest 3mi and 1600m times in this year's group of scholarship nominees (16:22 and 4:36 respectively), Elijah carries himself with humility. When not studying or running, he works to support multiple youth recreation events in his community, he lifeguards, and he volunteers with drug prevention programs. In the fall, Elijah will run at Hartnell where he will start his academic journey towards nursing qualifications.



Trinity Christian High School

Caleb Bouwens



This multi-sport athlete dominates not just in football, soccer, and basketball, but also in running! As if that weren't enough, Caleb is an exceptional student and is also talented in the performing arts. As such, Caleb gives 100% effort to everything he does. When not studying or running, Caleb also volunteers for various programs—including preparing Thanksgiving dinners for those in need—across his community. This fall, you can find Caleb studying business at either at San Jose State University or at University of Wyoming. He looks forward to running on the club team at either of the two institutions.

York School

Zola Hoffmeister

Zola is an exceptionally gifted student athlete. With a GPA of 4.5 and a score of 33 on the ACT, she carries her intimidating courseload with ease and humility—the same way she approaches running. After moving from Ohio to California in the summer before her senior year, she quickly became an integral part of the York School community and has used this opportunity to continue to grow. In her spare time, Zola competes on the Academic Olympics team, participates in Model UN and in Latin Club (where she is also a club officer), coaches Girls on the Run, volunteers with the SPCA and with the Village Project in Seaside, and holds down a job at the cinema. Wow! This fall, Zola will be double majoring in Econ and History at UCLA to prepare for Law School.





The purpose of the WNLRL Scholarship Program is to recognize local excellence in athletic and academic achievement and to help our Monterey County student-athletes achieve broader success. We hope to continue using the WNLRL Scholarship Program to ease the financial burden of college for exceptional Monterey County student-athletes who may otherwise find college prohibitively expensive. Your donations are welcome and encouraged.

For more information about the Wednesday Night Laundry Runner Scholarship Program, please visit www.wnlr.org/scholarships

Special thanks go to Pat Brew, Lan Clayton, Emily Cole, Mike Dove, Rod MacKinlay, and Adam Roach, and all the Monterey County teachers and coaches for facilitating the nomination, interview, and decision-making process.