

Daschian and McDermott Named Cuesta's 2017 Outstanding Athletes of the Year

SAN LUIS OBISPO (May 9, 2019) – In 2003 the Cuesta Athletic Department instituted its first true Athlete of the Year Award. The coaching staff was encouraged to nominate their best athlete for the award and committee was created that would weigh performance as the highest criteria. Today Cuesta announced its Outstanding Athletes of the Year for the fifteenth time. This year's winners are star Harriers **Miranda Daschian** (Atascadero HS) and **Sean McDermott** (Kings Beach). They each won California Community College Athletic Association State Cross Country titles, both a first for a Cuesta harrier, which marks the first time in nearly 40 years that one school has claimed both the men's and women's cross country titles in the same year.

2016 CCCAA State Cross Country Champion **Miranda Daschian** (Atascadero HS) is in the midst of a season for the ages. She was undefeated all the way through cross country season and has not lost a race to a CCCAA runner, in any event from the 800-meter to the 10,000-meter runs, during track season. Daschian skipped cross country her freshman year, but easily out classed the field this Fall. She was never really challenged and won the CCCAA Regional Meet by 20 seconds and the CCCAA State Championship by a dozen ticks on the clock. She has been nearly as dominant during track season and easily reached the CCCAA State Meet for the second straight year. She has already nabbed a spot in the 10,000-meter run and is running to qualify in the 1,500 and 5,000-meter runs this week. Daschian has left the rest of the CCCAA in her dust this year and is poised to add more hardware at the 2017 CCCAA State Track & Field Meet. Coach **Brian Locher** says of his superstar, *“Miranda has been the most dominant distance runner on the JC circuit this year. She hasn't lost a single race in cross country nor in track for the 2016-17 season. She currently ranks #1 in the state in the 1,500, 3K, and, 5K events, while holding the school record in the 5K and 3K; breaking a 28-year old record. Miranda is coachable, competitive and driven in her pursuit of greatness.”*

2016 CCCAA State Cross Country Champion **Sean McDermott** (Kings Beach) earned all-State honors as a freshman, but battled through his encore performance with finishes in the teens and as low as 25th place to begin his sophomore campaign. McDermott turned his season around and hit his stride at the right time by winning the 2016 Western State Conference title and finishing second in the CCCAA Regional Meet, before knocking off previously undefeated **Luis Ortega** of San Bernardino Valley at the 2016 CCCAA State Cross Country Championship. McDermott is the only two-time

All-State Harrier in Cuesta history, as well as the program's only CCCAA State Champion. He has continued his success during track and field season and set new Cuesta records in the Steeplechase (9:12.32) and 3,000-meter run (8:31.36) this season. He has qualified for the 2017 CCCAA Track & Field State Championship in both the Steeplechase and 5,000-meter run for the second straight year and is favored to bring home a couple more state titles. Coach **Brian Locher** says of his veteran star, "*Sean currently leads the state in the 3K, Steeple and 5K races; including school records at Cuesta in the 3K and Steeple and #2 at 5K. He also won the State Cross Country title at Woodward Park in the Fall. Sean has proven to be a coachable member of the team as well as a disciplined leader on the track. Sean actively cultivates friendship with teammates and competitors, while acting as a consummate citizen too.*"

Outstanding Male Athlete of the Year

2003	David Lamar, Carpinteria, CA (Baseball)
2004	Kevin Bradley, Long Beach, CA (Water Polo, Swim)
2005	Mike Brown, Davis, CA (Baseball)
2006	Jeff Chaney, Arroyo Grande, CA (Water Polo)
2007	Michael Williams, Sutter Creek, CA (Wrestling)
2008	Quentin Cate, Cambria, CA (Baseball)
2009	Tom Schumacher, Dudelange, LUX (Basketball)
2010	Roger Guardia, Matadepera, ESP (Basketball)
2011	Eric Marsh, Arroyo Grande, CA (Water Polo)
2012	Malte Kramer, Freiburg, DEU (Basketball)
2013	Brady Moore, Santa Barbara, CA (Water Polo)
2014	Georan Meendering, Visalia, CA (Water Polo, Swim)
2015	Connor Fisher, Lake Isabella, CA (Cross Country, Track)
2016	Brendan Jenkins, Pleasanton, CA (Baseball)
2017	Sean McDermott, Kings Beach, CA (Cross Country, Track)

Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year

2003	Shanna DeMichelle, Napa, CA (Swim & Dive)
2004	Christina Reyes, Los Osos, CA (Cross Country, Track)
2005	Jessie Ritchie, Arroyo Grande, CA (Tennis)
2006	Lindsay Campana, Templeton, CA (Softball)
2007	Whitney Levicki, Santa Cruz, CA (Water Polo)
2008	Julie Coelho, Lemoore, CA (Volleyball)
2009	Chloe Redman, Morro Bay, CA (Tennis)
2010	Kelly Barmann, Cimarron, NM (Cross Country)
2011	Alexandria Bernard, Porterville, CA (Water Polo, Swim)
2012	Devon Kelsey, Atascadero, CA (Cross Country, Track)

2013 *Kryn Masutani, Honolulu, HI (Softball)*
2014 *Riley Cooks, Coarsegold, CA (Volleyball, Track)*
2015 *Rachel Gruetzmacher, Atascadero, CA (Water Polo, Swim)*
2016 *Augusta Thomason, San Diego, CA (Track)*
2017 *Miranda Daschian, Atascadero, CA (Track)*