

Sydney Sladek receives RJ honor

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Sydney Sladek picked up an additional honor over the summer by winning the Review-Journal's athlete of the year award.

She won the prestigious award along with Devontae Boyd, a senior from Basic High School. Boyd played football and basketball and will play football for UNLV next year.

The much-celebrated Pahrump Valley athlete was surprised by the honor and her coaches were surprised it did not go to a senior. However, they are happy for Sladek and said the honor is well deserved.



Sydney Sladek

Trojans Head Track Coach Ed Kirkwood was notified by email of the award. Kirkwood was happy for Sladek on her latest accomplishment. He said she does not play for the rewards and she is a perfectionist, who works on the little things to get better.

"She is one of the most celebrated athletes in the last three years," he said. "To pick one of our kids was a surprise because the Review-Journal does not sell that many papers out here, plus she is a junior, that was a surprise, but it was a good choice."

During her junior year, her accomplishments on the field and in the classroom were numerous.

As a junior in soccer, she beat a state record for the most goals scored in one season with 78. She also tied the record for the most goals



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Sydney Sladek is seen here running the 800-meter relay at home this year. Sladek was the anchor of the team. She has the second fastest time in the state of Nevada regardless of division, at 2:13.96.

in one game. Sladek then led her team to the second state title.

In track she went to state and came out as the second fastest time in the 800-meter with a time of 2:13.96 at the state meet. She broke numerous school track records along the way.

She also was recognized nationally for her accomplishments in Sports Illustrated and received a verbal commitment from the University of Southern California to play soccer.

Sladek did all this while maintaining a 4.5 GPA and ranked within the top 10 stu-



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Sydney Sladek in action against Western going one-on-one with the goal keeper. As a junior, Sladek broke a record for goals scored in one year, 78. The record was held for 13 years by Becca Shook of Truckee High School, who scored 65 goals.



dents of her class.

Despite the fame and glory, Sladek remains a very humble hometown girl and remains reserved and focused. She is focused on what she has to do.

"My main goal for my senior year is preparing for college. That is number one on my list.

I can't think of anything else that is more important to me than doing well in college," she said.

The celebrated athlete said breaking records are not her thing, and not intentional. In fact, she was unaware of her accomplishment until someone told her.