

Tenet California featured two Team to Win student athletes during Latino Heritage Month



Edith Najera

**Team to Win
Edith Najera
Centinela Hospital
Medical Center**

17-Year-old Lawndale High soccer star Edith Najera enjoys the rough and tumble of competitive sports on the field, but may have been sidelined from the game permanently following a serious head injury two years ago.

Najera, diving to block a goal, slammed her head into a goal post during a team practice. Badly hurt, her teammates and coach rushed to her assistance and provided what emergency services they could.

Thankfully, Najera was able to walk off the field but required prompt medical attention. Without any medical insurance, Najera's coach referred the family to Team To Win, a high school sports-injury program at Centinela Hospital Medical Center that provides insurance to student athletes so they can play competitive sports and treats injured athletes regardless of income. At Centinela Hospital Medical Center, Najera underwent a complete head scan which showed she had suffered a hard impact, but no permanent damage. She returned to the field in a matter of days and resumed competition.

The oldest of six siblings, Najera started playing recreational soccer with her parents at age seven, and by the time she entered high school, she advanced to the varsity team as a goalie. "My life revolves around soccer," she says. "If I don't go professional I want to be involved in the sport either as a coach or through sports medicine."

During her junior year at Lawndale, Najera was injured again and suffered broken bones and a dislocated ankle. Taking advantage of Team To Win, Najera underwent surgery and post-op therapy at Centinela Hospital Medical Center, which also provided her with crutches and a walking cast and boot.

A gifted student and athlete, Najera plans to apply to college this year and hopes to earn a sports scholarship. While she doesn't know what career path will open before her, Najera knows that soccer will always be an integral part of her life. "The competition is what drives me, but the camaraderie and friendship with my teammates has been one of my best memories of high school."

For her spirit and talent, Tenet California is proud to acknowledge Edith Najera and the extraordinary services of Centinela Hospital Medical Center's Team To Win.

Founded in 1994 by Orthopedic Surgeon, Keith S. Feder, MD and certified Athletic Trainer, Jill Sleight, ATC, the goal of Team to Win at Centinela Hospital Medical Center is to reduce the incidence of athletic injuries in local high schools and to treat injuries on-site in order to return the student athlete to competition.



Evelyn Lopez

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18-Year old cross country and track star athlete Evelyn Lopez dreams of one day turning her fast maneuvers on the track into a rapidly successful small business after college.

Based on her strong academic record, sports accomplishments and good character, Lopez was recently nominated and chosen as 'Scholar Athlete' by Team To Win, a high school sports-injury program funded and operated by Centinela Hospital Medical Center that provides insurance to student athletes so they can play competitive sports and treats injured athletes regardless of income.

The award program, which selects one male and one female student from high schools in the South Bay area of Los Angeles, aims to acknowledge the athletic and academic merits of regional high school students.

As a Scholar Athlete, Lopez attended a gala banquet ceremony held in a downtown Los Angeles hotel with the other winners. In addition to her certificate of recognition, she also received free Dodger tickets, 150 trading cards featuring her picture and sports statistics, and a free Nike watch to help her keep accurate time on the track.

Lopez, who graduated in June, now attends El Camino College where she is completing her general education requirements and competes in the school's cross country and track programs. In a year, Lopez hopes to earn a sports scholarship to an Ivy League school where she plans to pursue an undergraduate business degree.

Despite her busy academic and sports schedule, Evelyn finds time to volunteer in the youth program at St. Catherine Catholic Church, where she helps prepare other young people for the confirmation sacrament.

"Sports is a big part of my life and has given me the confidence to know I can accomplish anything I set my mind to," Lopez says. "The award was a little scary because I knew that I was being recognized for being a mentor to other students. That's a big burden." After college Lopez dreams of establishing her own small business.

For her accomplishment and spirit of dedication, Tenet California is proud to pay tribute to Evelyn Lopez and Centinela Hospital Medical Center's Team To Win program.

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