



THE ERIC AYALA AWARD - MOST FALLS IN THE LEAST TIME

Eric Ayala was a three sport athlete at Emerson Jr-Sr High School. His true love was wrestling. As a member of the class of 1994, Eric was District and Region champion in his senior year. Eric won the "Outstanding Wrestler Award" in the Region and was also selected as the "Athlete of the Week" for that.

Eric was a young man who was respected by his peers, teachers, and coaches. This enthusiasm for the sport was something Eric carried with him after high school and he was able to coach wrestling for one year at Don Bosco High School.

In January of 2000, Eric was diagnosed with Acute Lymphatic Leukemia. His bravery and determination to fight this disease was similar to the competitive drive he showed as a student-athlete. Unfortunately, in May of 2000, Eric passed away too soon at the age of 23. The Eric Ayala Memorial Foundation was formed to keep Eric's name and memory alive. Since that time the Foundation has given out over \$172,000 in scholarships and donations in Eric's name. Eric would be very proud of what his foundation has done for others in need.