

Activity 17.2

An anatomy lesson

IV Cheerleaders

Cheering at just about every sports event and getting ready for nationals was the job of a cheerleader. Attending football, baseball, basketball, volleyball, soccer and other games, the cheerleaders did a variety of cheers and chants to pump up their favorite teams.

Sophomore Charli Smith said football games were the most fun to cheer at.

"Being at the games gives us more energy, which makes us more spirited than we already were. We get the crowd involved and the football players pepped up," Smith said.

The JV cheerleaders not only cheered at games and prepared for nationals, but they also took part at pep rallies. In addition to the high school rallies, the squad cheered at elementary schools to help the younger kids get excited about taking the TAAS Test.

At summer camp prior to the school year, the team got vocal Favorite Camp Team. Sponsor Andrea Vasek said this was quite an honor.

Preparing for Nationals was probably the most strenuous task the girls endured. Putting all their time into practicing for one performance was difficult. The girls had only one chance to make the squad look good. It wasn't like other sports that had numerous games; the girls must shine at their moment of opportunity.

"I got so tired of hearing the same words everyday. Three minutes may not seem like a long time, but I felt like I was going to die after the third eight count. But after you start, you forget about being tired," said sophomore Britney Freeman.

Sophomore Gina Gonzalez said the team got closer at Nationals. "It is so stressful and we could not handle all the pressure ourselves," she said.

When the big performance came, the girls received fifth place in the small varsity division.

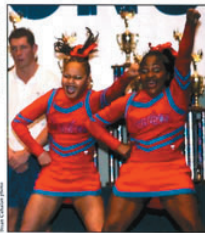
Girls take fifth place at ACA Nationals in San Antonio

BRING IT ON

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Smile big Sophomore Michonisha Turner smiles a great and gives a big smile to the judges. "I am not nervous because I am confident about what I do, and I believe these judges will know that we will catch our 11th," said Turner. Turner and Charli Smith kept their pep. The judges watched the entire time a squad was on the mat. "I didn't find it hard to smile because I was having so much fun, and there was always someone there to make me laugh," Turner said.



GO Figure

- 1 Team (Duncanville JV) awarded favorite team at summer camp
- 2:30 Total time it took to complete the Nationals routine
- 3 Days the squad spent at national competition in San Antonio
- 5 Number of months the team practiced for national competition
- 5 Place the team earned at national competition in the small varsity division
- 6 Different sports cheerleaders attended and cheered at, including football, basketball, volleyball and soccer
- 14 Number of girls on the junior varsity squad
- 17 Number of muscles in the face it takes to smile



JV Cheerleaders
Front row:
Amelia
Kathleen
Britney
Freeman, sponsor
Andrea Vasek,
Gina Gonzalez, back
row: Megan
Freeman,
Michonisha
Turner, Natalia
Kathleen, Britney
Freeman, sponsor
Andrea Vasek,
Gina Gonzalez,
Danielle Jordan,
Megan
McConnell,
Ashley Bets.



Landing the jump Sophomores Danielle Jordan, Ashley Bets and Amanda Middleton give their best effort to land the jump just right. The girls had to stick every move and motion during the performance and stay on hands to not get points deducted. "It was nervous during the routine because I didn't want to do anything wrong or up," Bets said.

5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 The entire squad must keep count in their heads, say the words to the cheer, and keep ending the whole performance number to get a perfect score. A girl could not be off one count or it would throw her out of sync with the rest of the group. She would spend the rest of the routine either ahead or behind the rest of the performance until she could get back on count.

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Duncanville High School, TX

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1. Caption
2. Content Module
3. Dominant Photo
4. Drop Cap
5. Eyeline
6. Folio/Folio Tab
7. Overline
8. Primary Headline
9. Secondary Headline
10. Story