∨ Hunter Reifschneider and Colton Forster, both '15, and Myles Bach, '18, lead the beginning of the boys' varsity portion of the cross country meet.

Underclassmen for the victory

∧ Skye Reece, '18, jumps up against the net in an attempt to block the ball being hit by the Linn-Mar player.

"I feel we played really well for our first game. We lost both but not by a lot. We need to work on a couple things like communication, but we work really well as a team."
-Allison Lupkes, '18

"The team played really hard. We had small mistakes we could fix. I had fun with my teammates, and I love being on the field with my boys."
-Seth Tuetken, '17

∧ Madison Bach, '16, leads for the varsity girls' cross country team.

Hayden Meister, Derek Smith, and Austin Brown, all '15, and Dakota Timmerman and Junior West, both '16, hold hands as the National Anthem plays in the first game at Mt. Vernon.

> Cody Alberts, '15, leads Red Nation in a cheer at the varsity football game against Mt. Vernon.

∧ Skylar Dede, '18, Ellie Conzett, '16, and Sydney Brase, '17, run side by side for the varsity girls' cross country meet at Prairie High School on Saturday.

Stats for the underclassmen

- The sophomore boys' football team scored 32-0 against Mt. Vernon at Mt. Vernon on Friday, August 29th.

- The freshmen girls' volleyball lost 24-26 against Linn-Mar at Linn-Mar on Thursday, August 28th.

- Skylar Dede, '18, and Sydney Brase, '17, are the only two underclassmen on the girls' varsity cross country team.

- Myles Bach, '18, is the only freshmen to run for the boys' varsity cross country team this year.

August 25-29

First fall for freshies

The summer heat didn't stop the freshmen nerves from ominously creeping into cheer practice and reminding Macey Lovell, freshman, of the roaring crowd and intense atmosphere of Friday night lights. "I'm super nervous, but also super excited because I feel it will be bigger and better than middle school games," Lovell said.

The cheer team was hard at work preparing

"We realized we're going to be together all season, so we put our differences aside and came together as one."
-Macey Lovell, '18

for the first game. All summer they worked out. Lovell got to experience the offseason work for the first time, and it started out a little rough, just like most sports do. "Physically, we all started out of shape, but Coach Quinn made us run and lift a lot. Not all of us got along and there were differences, but at cheer camp we realized we're

going to be together all season, so we put our differences aside and came together as one." Coach Vivian Quinn was very excited about the JV squad and had some high praise for the girls, "This JV squad is one of the most talented I've ever had."

The sun shone as storm clouds started to roll in from the distance while the Marion sophomore football boys crushed the Mount Vernon Mustangs. Lovell smiled and cheered through the humidity, making sure Red Nation was hyped up during the Indian's victory.

On the Monday after the game she reminisced and thought it went well, "Friday was really fun and it was a great first experience. It will be a game to remember," Lovell stated. Not only did she enjoy making memories during the season opener, but she foresees more great memories in the future. "It will be a memorable year because our cheer team is close and (the football team) are close and that makes it more fun."

< Owen Carstensen, '17, runs the ball hard against Mt. Vernon during the sophomore football game in the season opener.

< Macey Lovell, '18, Melanie Noble and Darian Brandt, both '17, pose for a picture at the sophomore football game against Mount Vernon.