



"I really enjoyed getting to make new connections with great people that I might not have hung out with outside of cheer."

- Bailey Priborsky '17



"I really enjoyed stunting and making connections with the other girls on the squad."

- Rachel Bell '17



"I really liked making friends with upperclassmen and stunting."

- Paige Zaruba '19

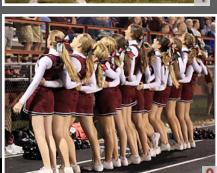




1. Freshman Abby Patten sticks her cradle during a football game. 2. Senior Delaney Dicus and junior Rachel Bell cheer on the football team during their game at Anamosa. 3. Junior Bailey Priborsky stunts during a basketball game. 4. The football cheer squad performs at half time during a football game. 5. The football cheer squad is ready for the homecoming parade. 6. The team cheers on the Cornell field Sept. 11. 7. Senior McKayla Hartl, junior Bailey Rud and freshman Abby Patten finish their stunt. 8. The football cheer squad leads the crowd in marching in Monticello. 9. Freshman Paige Zaruba cheers in a stunt during a basketball game. 10. Junior Kelsey Shady cheers during the starting lineups.











Smiling Through It All

By Kelsey Shady

Pristine white shoes laced tightly and tied in a perfect bow. Skirt buttoned and aligned. Crop put on as a second layer of skin and zipped up in back. Bow flawlessly centered on top of a perky ponytail. Eyeliner sharply winged and nails humbly basic. Although bruised, battered and tired these women stay polished and smiling. This is the uniform of the Mount Vernon Cheer soldier.

Over the last two weeks these women have gotten up for 6 a.m. practices and stayed until 6 at night rehearsing their routine to make it excellent. "Normally we learn the dance at the very beginning of the season and have the entire season to perfect it," said junior Addie Rand.

Not only did they have minimal time to memorize and perfect the routine, they also learned new stunts and the dance was almost three times longer than they had been in the past. The cheerleaders took two three hour stunt camp sessions to learn their new stunts for this routine, "My favorite stunt is the cartwheel into a half," said junior Jenna Baumler.

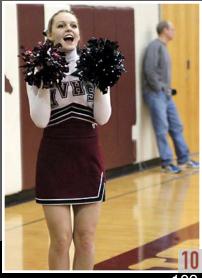
The choreography was taught in two 45-minute practices. "The choreography was hard, but it was doable," said junior Bailey Priborsky. A majority of the squad agreed that the most difficult part of the choreography was the roll, where they had to get down, roll on the ground, and get back up onto their feet gracefully in three counts.

People underestimate the sport of cheerleading more often than not. "Standing on the sideline chanting is not necessarily a sport, but throwing our teammates through the air requires just as much, if not more trust and athleticism as any other sport," said junior Bailey Rud.

The Mount Vernon Cheerleaders successfully performed their dance at halftime during the basketball game against CPU.

CHEERLEADING





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