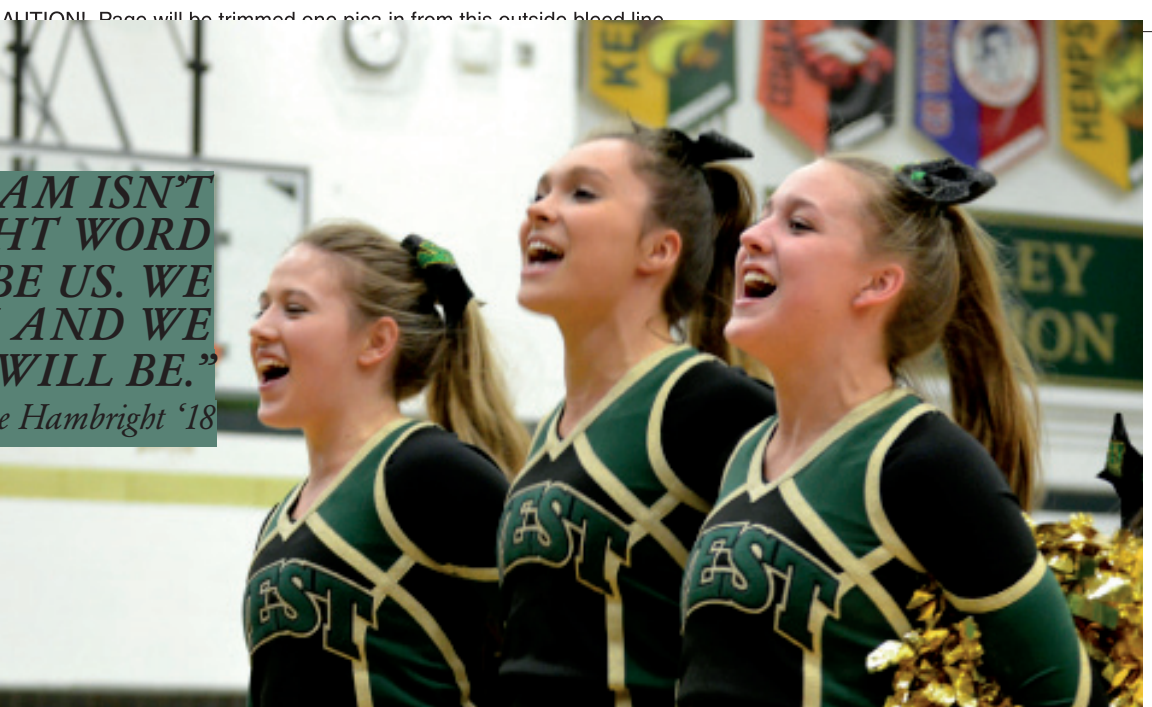


OH SAY CAN YOU SEE

The cheerleaders stand for the national anthem before the football game against City High on Sept. 16. "We got to end football season cheering at State," Natalie Trout '17 said. "It was an amazing experience."

"TEAM ISN'T THE RIGHT WORD TO DESCRIBE US. WE ARE A FAMILY, AND WE ALWAYS WILL BE."
-Allie Hambricht '18

LET ME HEAR THAT TROJAN SPIRIT Juniors Ella Gibson, Brittan Gregoire and Megan Herring cheer at the boys basketball game against Marion Catholic (IL) on Dec. 2. "I like cheering at basketball games this year because both teams are doing really well," Gibson said.



ALL ONE TEAM

missed out on State competition, so the JV and varsity squads never got to show how hard they worked on their routines.

"We could have done really well. Both teams were full of talent," Megan Herring '18 said. "And everybody worked so hard to get where we were."

The girls were upset after learning the news, even a little sad.

"We had so much potential and [were] disappointed that's the way things [had] to be," Kaitlynn Hamers '20 said.

When they thought nothing else could go wrong, the coach resigned near the end of football season. The girls were left to finish the season coachless.

"I thought [that] would bring us apart, but if anything, it brought us together," Chloe Stence '20 said.

Not having a coach was a challenge, but the team refused to let it get in the way of pumping up the student section.

"Not having a coach has given us more freedom and ways to explore our own ideas," Brittan Gregoire '18 said. "We had to become more mature."

Although disappointed to miss cheerleading State, they did get to cheer in a football state championship for the first time since 1999.

"Even though a lot of stuff went down with State and the coach," Anna Buckingham '18 said, "it has been my favorite year cheering because I get to do it with my favorite people who always make me laugh a lot."

-By Allie Hambricht

Team. To some it's just a word, to others merely a sliver of their life. But to a few, it's their whole world.

To Austyn Goodale '20, being part of a team means "working together to accomplish things that you dream of."

"The girls are more than just my team members," Megan Herring '18 said. "If anything happened to them, I don't know where I would be."

Freshmen made up almost half the varsity squad, so the girls didn't know what to expect going into the season.

"Freshmen don't normally become such good friends with the upperclassmen," Kayle Cheney '20 said. "But everybody just bonded right away."

The skills the newcomers brought changed things up, creating endless possibilities for new stunts and pyramids.

"[The] variety of talent on this squad opened doors for skills we are lucky to do," Jenna Starr '20 said.

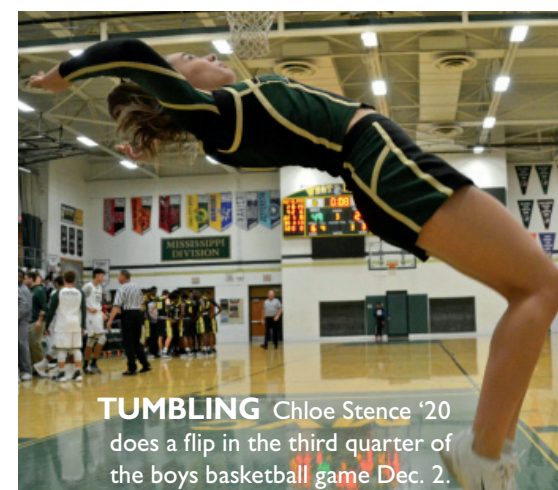
From waking at 5:30 a.m. Tuesdays for practice, to staying after school before cheering at Friday football games, the girls prepared for State.

"I think that's what helped us bond the most," Goodale said. "We spent so much time together. Even though our ages were different, after time you couldn't tell."

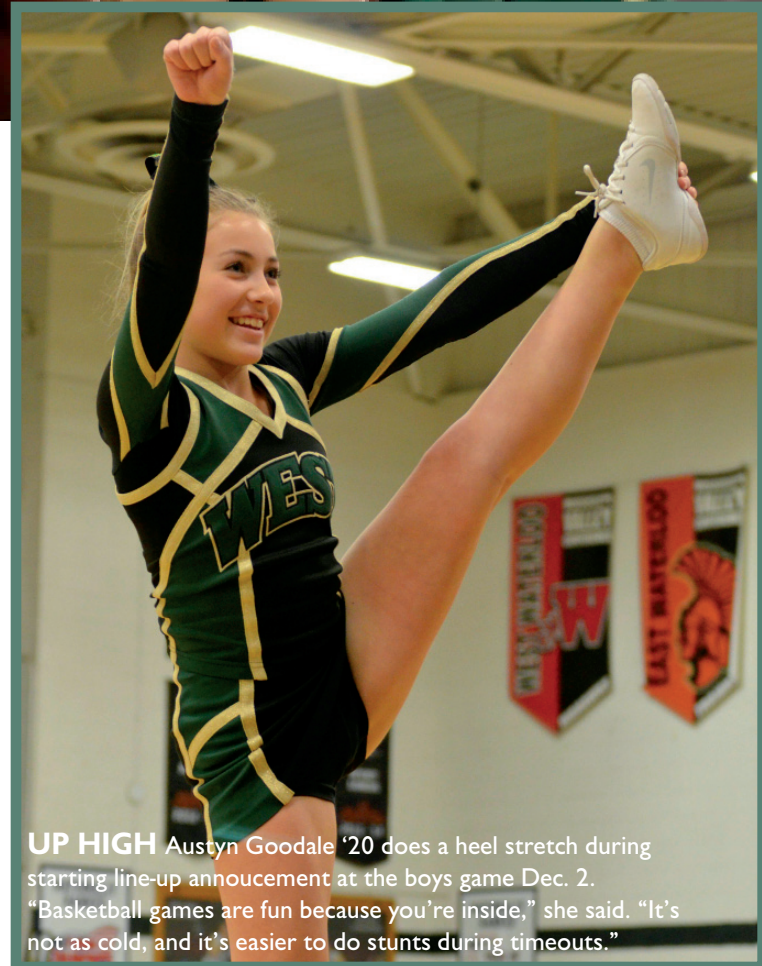
Due to miscommunication, the teams



ON THE MAT Brittan Gregoire '18, Allie Hambricht '18 and the rest of the squad cheer on Guy Snow '18 at a wrestling meet against City High on Dec. 15.



TUMBLING Chloe Stence '20 does a flip in the third quarter of the boys basketball game Dec. 2.



UP HIGH Austyn Goodale '20 does a heel stretch during starting line-up announcement at the boys game Dec. 2. "Basketball games are fun because you're inside," she said. "It's not as cold, and it's easier to do stunts during timeouts."

ALL PHOTOS BY ALLY BAUER



STACKED ON TOP Cheerleaders hold a banner as the football team runs onto the field before the game against Burlington on Sept. 30.

2 TIMES 4 IS HALF OF 16 Ella Gibson '18 and Austyn Goodale '20 cheer during a timeout at a boys basketball game Dec. 2.



9 **COLOR** Run Prepare for Submission for Color ID information. Job No. 005712 Page No. 86 (even pages)

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