

What gets you pumped to cheer?



"I like to cheer because I like to wear my good luck singlet."
- Brandon Wolrab `14

"The two S's: Silly String."
- Mallory Roudabush `17



"I cheer because I would want them to do the same for me."
- Marquis Dew `16

"I like to cheer because it brings all of the students closer together and motivates the athletes."
- Courtney Maddocks `15



Mitch Wirfs paints Chase Younggreen's mustache red before the football game, Aug. 30. Photo by Hannah Wieditz.

The school year of spirit revival

By Hannah Wieditz

The Mustang's football stadium was packed with eager teenagers who were prepared to scream and yell until their throats could no longer handle the pain. Countless cans of silly string were diffused among the crowd, creating a pastel mess of excited fans, ready for the next touchdown. This year was the year of true American school spirit.

The Mustang athletes were among the first to notice this year's increasing excitement at the games. Senior **Trey Ryan**, running back and linebacker, said, "We definitely had more school spirit this year, and it definitely helped during the games. Students were banded

together by the fire of the Mustang Nation."

"I thought school spirit increased a lot from last year, and the theme nights were the best," said senior quarterback **Jake Pisarik**. "There is nothing cooler than looking up into the stands when the whole student section is decked out in neon."

These fun theme nights were coordinated by a group of seniors throughout the football season. When they had an idea, like Neon Night, America Night, or White-out Night, it was announced over the intercom all week so that all of the students could be involved.

One of the head seniors of the spirit movement, **Mitch Wirfs**, said, "I think that seniors in the past didn't do a very good job of showing their school spirit at sporting events, because not all of students were invested in the games. There weren't very many cheers and if there was a theme night, it wasn't very well communicated throughout the school. I kind of wanted to change things up and bring back school spirit and have each grade participate in theme nights. The parents like to see students committed to the game, and I think we all did that this year."

The spirit movement ideas were successfully carried out in a year that seemed more "cheerful" than any other.



1. The neon student section enthusiastically cheers, "We got spirit! Yes, we do! We got spirit! How about you?" across the volleyball court to the Kuemper Catholic student section on Nov. 14. The Mount Vernon volleyball team lost to the Knights in 3 sets.

2. Senior Amanda Grunder throws her hands up in celebration of a touchdown against the Dyersville Beckman Blazers, Sept. 13.

3. Seniors Ashley Ruden, Maddy Ebel, and Miranda Chapman cheer on the volleyball team as they battle against the Solon Spartans, Oct. 8.

4. The student section gets festive for Halloween at a volleyball game against Camanche.

5. Seniors help balance Brandon Wolrab on top of Charlie Babcock in the Think Pink-themed volleyball game against West Delaware, Oct. 1.

6. Senior Eric Dunford cheers through a megaphone at the American-themed football game against Solon, Aug. 30. Eric was under strict supervision since his megaphone was the property of the Mount Vernon Cheerleaders.

7. On Sept. 6, students chuck up the "#1" finger while posing with principal Mr. Brand. The football game against West Liberty was white-out themed.



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SPRIT

TRIM LINE TRIM LINE

TRIM LINE TRIM LINE

THEME NIGHTS: AN INCOMPLETE GUIDE

AMERICA



BLACKOUT

THINK PINK



NEON OUT



5



6



7

13