

# ARE YOU READY TO GET STARTED?

## J.V. Cheerleaders Can't Hide That Bulldog Pride.



The gym is dark and the humming sound of the fluorescent lights can be heard by the girls lying on the floor waiting for the coach and camp instructors to arrive. Ahead of them is a day filled with long cheers, excessive chants, and strenuous stunting.

"Camp involves the most physical pain that I have ever endured, but it's worth it in the end because they taught my bases and I how to do amazing stunts that fascinated the crowd," said freshman Kara Fox.

At the beginning of August the hard work finally paid off. Football season was a time of fun-filled, action-packed games. Not only did they cheer all four quarters, they also presented a half time show.

"Cheering in front of the crowd gives me such a rush. I like to see the fans respond to our cheers," said freshman Elle Ellison.

Unlike most sports cheerleading lasted a year. After performing their duties for the football team, they began to support the basketball team through February. Then after about a month off, the cheerleaders began again with tryouts.

"Tryouts are a nerve racking experience. I was almost sure that I did not make it, but when I looked on the list and saw my number, I was thrilled. Being a J.V. cheerleader has been such a great experience," said sophomore Tikima Bowers.

Being a cheerleader had many advantages. By working so close, many friendships that may not have had the chance to grow, did.

"I don't think that Amber Shockley and I would have become as close as we have if it wasn't for cheering. I'm glad that I really got to know her," said sophomore Diamond White.

Cheerleading evolved from a "pretty girl" sport to a highly competitive sport for the twenty-first century.

-Lindsay Ackerman

**3. Cheer Me Up.** Giving the camera a sassy look, sophomore Tikima Bowers shows her spirit by wearing her bulldog jacket. "Cheerleading means hard work, working together, showing school spirit, and most of all, supporting your school," said Tikima. Many students, players, and cheerleaders expressed their spirit by wearing blue and white.

**5. Program anyone?** J.V. cheerleaders devote their Friday evenings to selling bulldog programs, stickers, and balloons at the varsity football games. Freshman Lauren Sheilly and Elle Ellison participated by selling their share of spirit items as the Bulldogs battled Beaufort in play-offs. This was the first year Lauren and Elle were j.v. cheerleaders.

