

Sports

"Being the only athlete to be active year round really takes a toll on them,"

Kim Reese, a cheerleading coach

It's Called Survival

Cheerleaders work hard, coaches say, to put on a solid show for fans

Niche' Vereen
Reporter

Motivated. Hard-working. Dedicated. These are just a few words that can be used to describe the WSSU Varsity Cheerleading Squad. Along with the rigors of classes, cheering year round, and practicing intensely, the members of the squad have learned the techniques needed for time management.

"Being the only athlete to be active year round really takes a toll on them," states Kim Reese, the squad's coach. Mary Bennett, also a coach says, "they really do deserve a break. I really do wish I could give it to them but I can't."

As a spectator, what you see at games is only a portion of what really goes on in a cheerleaders life. One of the biggest misconceptions about cheerleading is that cheerleaders have it easy. Being a cheerleader is not an easy task. The squad practices three to four hours a day, six days a week, go to class, and incur numerous injuries. Some of them even find the time to be active in other activities on campus.

Speaking of injuries, so far this season, various members of the squad have fractured ankles, muscle spasms, knee injuries, and head injuries. Kenita Upchurch states that the majority of the girls on the squad suffer from muscle spasms.

"We have a lot of injuries. The majority of the time it comes from stomping on the ground during football season and then on the gym's floor during basketball."

Although the members of the squad are classified as athletes, they do not receive any type of financial or scholarship aid. They cheer because they love it. "I love to cheer, especially when the crowd gets into our cheers" says Latoya Lackey.

John Hooks, one of the two men on the squad, agrees with Lackey



File photo

Back row, from left: John Hooks, Kenita Upchurch, LaKeisha Williams, Talia Stewart, Tracy Foote, Portia Mitchell, Danielle Dowdell and Gerradin Robinson. Front row, from left: LaToya Lackey, Sakeenah Lambert and NeShelia Curry. Squad members Rozzie Fuller, Brandy Robbs and Deanna Mortimer are not pictured.

about crowd participation "...I like the support from the crowd especially from the football players."

The squad participated in an exhibition at the CIAA Tournament in Raleigh. The cheerleaders performed a 10 minute routine consisting of a cheer, chant, two stunts and two dances.

"We have an image to uphold," explained Tracy Foote, a member of the squad.

This image, she explains, perceives the WSSU cheerleaders as the best squad in the CIAA.

Students meet chancellor and champions at pep rally

Christina Simons
Reporter

Recently, the faculty and students of Winston-Salem State University gathered in the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium to attend one of the school's largest pep rallies - meet the chancellor and the champions.

Large red and white posters decorated the walls and red and white balloons decorated the stage. At 6 p.m. the processional of champions began.

The CIAA's "baddest" cheerleaders came in first, followed by "the best band in the land," the football, basketball and women's softball teams, and WSSU's gospel choir.

To get the crowd hyped, the band played one of WSSU's favorites, "Show Time."

The students cheered as the Varsity

Cheerleaders introduced themselves one by one, and then showed everybody why they are the best in the CIAA.

Next, the members of the women's softball team, football, and basketball teams were introduced and brought on stage. Red pompons waved frantically as students screamed for their favorite players.

The gospel choir then sang two selections, one of them being the black national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Then it was time to meet the chancellor.

Dr. Harold Martin said he listened to the students' concerns, and the first thing he is going to work to change is the lack of excitement he sees in the students as they travel on campus daily.

Test your sports trivia

Semaj Robinson
Sports Editor

What college basketball team won the most games in the past century?

a) UCLA b) Kansas c) Kentucky d) North Carolina

When was the last year North Carolina did not play in the NCAA Men's basketball tournament?

a) 1964 b) 1969 c) 1974 d) 1979

E-mail your answers to semaj_robinson@hotmail.com. The first person to submit the correct answers, will have the opportunity to submit the trivia questions for the next issue.

Attention students! Early registration for Summer Sessions I & II and Fall 2000 will begin March 21, 2000 through April 24, 2000. See your department for schedule books.