

Cheerleaders Oppose Proposal

Whirlie Whispers

By Sherri Phillips

"WE ARE GRIMSLEY! WE ARE GRIMSLEY!" sounds the huge vocal support issuing from the crowd and cheerleaders as the players take the floor. As everyone takes notice of the basketball teams their stars, they seem to forget the 12 young women who spark enthusiasm in support of these teams.

Whether labeled as such or not, cheerleading holds many parallels to a sport and plays an instrumental part in athletics. Senior cheerleader Mary Jane Hankins feels the main responsibility of a cheerleader is "to get the team excited." The best way to do that is through the crowd (when there is one). What the cheerleaders do and how they project themselves is the key to pulling

the fans into the game which, in turn, may get the adrenalin flowing even more in the players. The fans can sometimes be the sixth man and give the team an edge.

Recently, Superintendent Kenneth Newbold proposed to ban "unsafe" cheerleading practices, "unsafe" meaning activities which could cause accidents such as regular stunts, flip stunts, and partner stunts. To whose discretion should be left the judging of a stunt "unsafe?" Who can better judge their ability than the cheerleaders themselves?

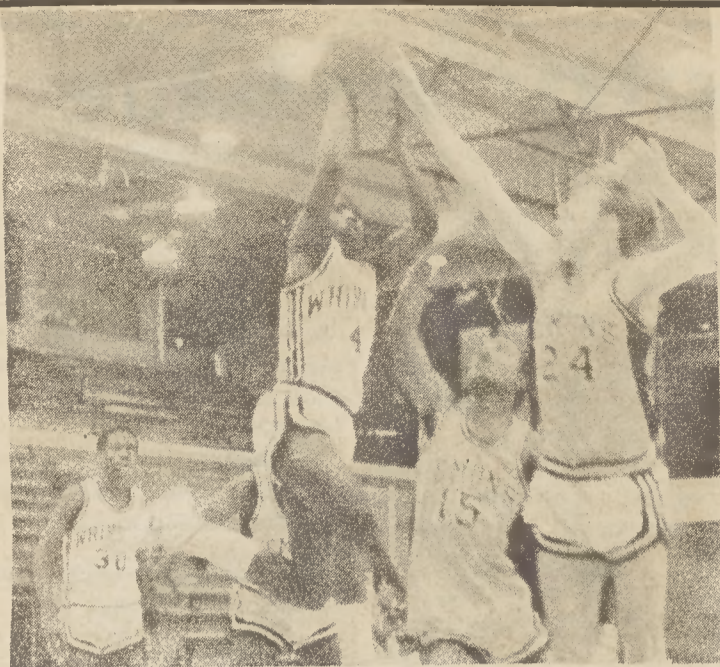
The flip stunt in which Mereth McCreedy, a gymnast since the age of eight, flips backwards from two tiers high has been labeled "unsafe." Mereth notes, "It can be unsafe if it's done improperly; but it's done right! If I didn't have the

ability to do it, I wouldn't do it."

It only seems logical that the cheerleaders would not try stunts they could not execute; they would not take unnecessary risks.

"It's like telling a football player not to tackle hard because they may get hurt," stated McCreedy. She also spoke of the ruling as discriminatory and of the quietude felt by the cheerleaders over the proposal. Indeed, precautions are taken and each stunt is practiced with a spotter. Cheerleader Jennifer Black sees the stunts as "a challenge and a way to perfection."

Will this dilemma take away from the sport of cheerleading? How much effect will this have on the crowd? Only time will tell.



Fred Dupree drives to the hoop. (Carpenter photo)

Jayvees Enduring Slumps

By Brian Hoagland

After a fast start of 3-1, Grimsley's junior varsity boys team has fallen upon hard times. Losing eight out of their next nine games, the team dropped to a 4-9 record.

Coach Bill Chambers, a former All-American basketball player at Grimsley, kept re-arranging the starting lineup but the changes were to no avail. Due to a lack or non-use of depth, the team kept losing.

The squad also suffered internal turmoil. One player quit the team. No doubt it was because of a lack of playing time. In Chambers' virtually no start-no play situation, many of the team's players are finding themselves on the bench.

Recently though, the squad has begun to show signs of a good outfit, winning two games in a row. The Whirlies beat the Titans of West Forsyth and the Red Raiders of High Point Andrews, to raise their record to 6-9.

Many of the players pin their hopes on the Division 7 conference tournament, a way to salvage an otherwise disappointing season.

* * *

In the meantime, the junior varsity girls are currently 4-6. The team started slowly

with a 1-4 mark, but have recently won three of their last five games.

The squad, coached by Glenn Ellis, has defeated Page twice. In the rivals' first contest the Whirlies exhibited a balanced scoring attack to win in a thriller, 22-20. A week later they met again and Grimsley came away victorious with a 28-24 win. Berina Jones, the team's leading scorer with an 8.9 per game average, pumped in eleven to lead the Whirlies.

The two teams met once again ten days later, this time the Whirlies bowing 28-26. Jones was spectacular though, netting seventeen points for her season-high. She also pulled down eight rebounds in a superb all-around performance.

The JV squads will have to play well to finish their respective seasons successfully. However, good coaching and hard work make it an attainable task.

Swimmers Continue Winning

By Tom Albanese

Grimsley's boys and girls swimming teams captured four wins in as many tries to raise the record to an undefeated 11-0 for the boys, and a 9-1-1 record for the girls. Each meet was won by a wide margin.

In these meets the boys defeated High Point Central 95 to 78, and took victories in nine of the 11 events. In the following meet they downed Smith, refusing to allow them a victory in a single event. While using the team's depth, the Whirlies captured eight of the 11 events in a contest against Rockingham County, 53-27. Taking seven victories, they also soundly defeated High

Point Andrews, 117-42.

The girls were also victorious over these teams, outscoring Central 101-63, and taking seven victories. They claimed ten out of the 11 events against Smith. Against Rockingham County, the girls also used their depth, defeating them 48-30 with five wins. At Andrews the team really showed its

power by claiming 11 first places and scoring 141-18.

Both the boys and girls teams have improved greatly from the beginning of the season. The boys team has been led by a few outstanding swimmers such as Rick Musgrove, Sean Daily, Richard Wells, David Breece, and the diving of Robert Kletter.

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