

BLOOD, SWEAT, & cheers!

Cheer squad makes history by competing in the National High School Cheerleading Championship

The Bruin varsity cheerleaders had a wild year.

The big news: The cheer squad was the first in St. Joe history to compete in the National High School Cheerleading Championship in Walt Disney World Resort. It is the most prestigious competition in the country, the Super Bowl of cheerleading.

The girls competed Friday, Feb. 8, 2018, at ESPN's Wide World of Sports Complex. The competition is nationally televised on ESPN and ESPN2 to more than 100 million homes each year.

"We have worked so hard to get where we are, and I'm looking forward to competing one last time as a St. Joe Bruin" senior captain Blaise King said before heading to Florida.

The squad had prepared for months by conditioning, practicing motion placement, and perfecting advanced stunts.

"We have been practicing nonstop for competitions, and, most importantly, nationals for a couple months now. I feel really excited for our team and think if we do our best we will have a good chance at bringing home the title," senior captain Emma Kaye Beebe said.

They first attended squad credentialing at summer camp before they competed in a regional competition. They competed at two regional competitions in December, where they received a bid to attend the national competition, and placed third in the state.

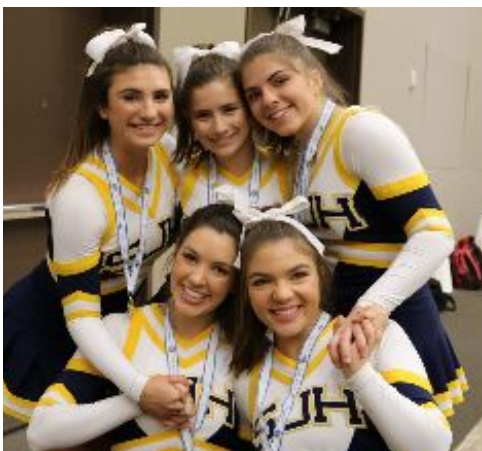
"These girls have done their best to overcome all the obstacles they've had to face this season, and are so excited to be the first cheerleading squad from St. Joe to attend the National High School Cheerleading Competition," Coach Racheal Cole said.

Last year's squad also qualified for Nationals but were unable to go. The girls were successful in Orlando, ranking 18th in the nation. Being in the top 20 in the country was a huge deal for them.

"I am so proud of their hard work and dedication while also playing other sports, being so involved in school and extracurricular activities, and keeping up their grades.

"It's hard work. I'm so proud of all that they've done," Cole said.

- Clay Blanchard



Clockwise from back left: Riley Wolf, Annalise Rome, Alexandra Ladner, Amelia Ladner and Ellie Heilman.



Luckett Nixon



Annalise Rome, left, and Clay Blanchard



Karah Potter



Clay Blanchard and Amelia Ladher



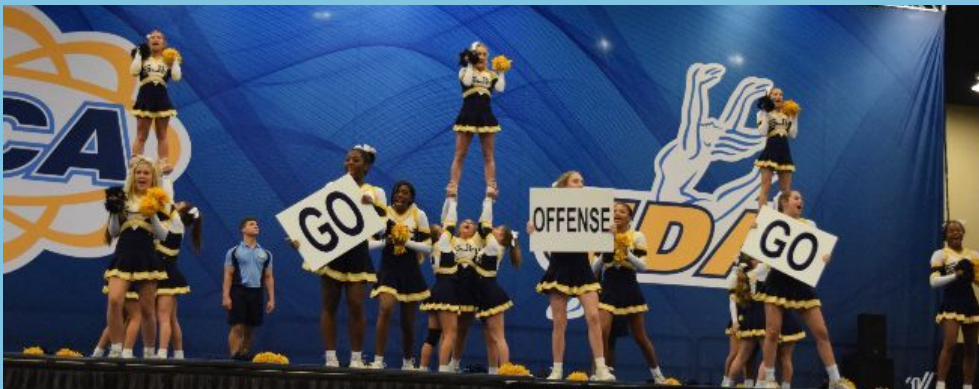
Emma Kaye Beebe



Lily Burgess and Alex Lyle



Luckett Nixon



**2018-2019 Senior Captains:
Emma Kaye Beebe, Blaise King and Luckett Nixon**

Far left: Blaise King, Katie Corkern, Tramia Rogers
Middle photo: Katie Corkern and Clare Cole
Immediate left: Bruin cheerleaders competing at their first competition of the season



Annalise Rome



Chyna Mannery, left, Katie Corkern, Tramia Rogers, Kristin Miller, Makenna Schisler



Emma Kaye Beebe, Blaise King, and Luckett Nixon