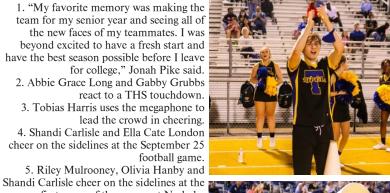


be allowed to be on the sidelines.

1. Samaryous Walker cheers on the



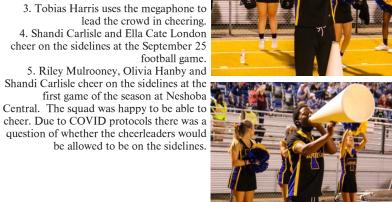




















Lead On The Co-ed cheer guys lead the football team on the field. With COVID protocols the team had to find new ways to hype up the limited crowds. "This year has been very different because there are a lot of regulations that the team had to adjust to. such as wearing masks and being aware of staying 6 feet apart when possible," Jonah Pike said.

Travel Squad

The cheer squad traveled to Olive Branch to cheer on the football team and their supporters.



Send Off

The TUPELO Boys join the Co-ed Cheer team for a special send-off before they head to state competition on December 11. The team placed 2nd in the state in Side-Line cheer.





1. "[Cheerleading] has brought in a lot more people, and the whole sport as a whole has expanded and started to thrive. People are starting to recognize us as athletes more," Lilee Rose (12) said.

. "Being involved with this group has brought me a new love and dedication to the sport. Practicing everyday and even twice a day two times a week with the same group of people has taught me compassion and a whole lot of patience like never before.," Amelia Policiccio (12) said. by Rico Morris and Bailey Armstrong Golden Wave Media

The Co-ed Cheer team had to work a little harder to keep up the spirit in the

midst of the pandemic. During this turbulent year, THS Cheer wanted some nostalgia to enlighten the mood.

"We are embracing our school colors this year with our throwback gold uniforms. This uniform has a pleated skirt that has made a major comeback at the National High School Cheerleading Championship," said Head Cheer Coach Brandee Wheeler.

This team is finally "being recognized as athletes," said Lilee Rose. These athletes put in so much hard work daily as well as their coaches.

"I don't do it for myself anymore. I do it for the people who all put in so much work and especially my coaches who take the time out of their day to be with us," said Amelia Policicchio.

Cheer has had a significant impact on the young athletes, making them feel more like family than just a team.

"Cheer has become more than just a sport to me. Competing has become more than just a win," said Policicchio.

However, the year was still hard for the team. Their size is very advantageous for them, but "the struggle that we are all facing is adjusting to the new [CDC] guidelines that are constantly coming out." said Brandee Wheeler.

The team also did not go to Orlando to compete in the national competition.

"There were many factors that played into our decision not to compete at Nationals in Orlando, FL, this year. Not only did

UCA push back the timing of Nationals to April instead of February, but we are also not allowed any overnight travel outside of the state per TPSD," said Coach Anna Claire Wallace

The team did not let this be a weakness for them.

"Our team is very dedicated on and off the field. We aren't just practicing for the sidelines, but we have a season of our own. We are constantly in the gym working to better ourselves so that we can positively represent our community of excellence at competitions," said Wheeler.