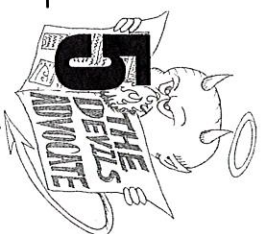


Sports



Richmond Cheer's Road to States

By: Ally Oddo

Staff Writer

Richmond Cheer has a long reputation of being on top of their game and giving a learning experience that each cheerleader will carry with them as they prosper and grow into young adults.

This year, in the 2016-2017 competition season, there are 37 girls in total. There are 12 freshmen, 9 sophomores, 5 juniors, and 11 seniors. The astonishing 37 cheerleaders is most Richmond has ever had!

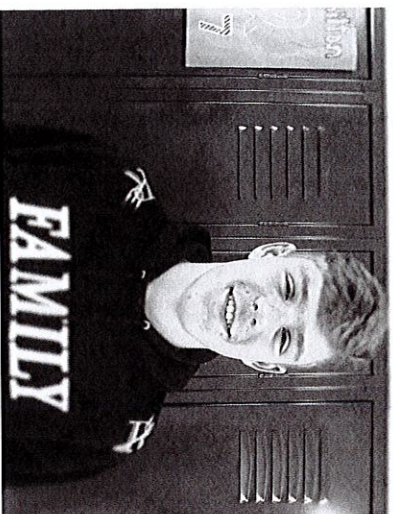
Although there are a lot more cheerleaders than normal, each one of them has the same goal in mind. That goal is to take back their title of being state champs.

"It's so important because you feel accomplished, like that all your hard work paid off. It's not the title that makes it so important. It's more of the feeling that overcomes you when you hear your name called for first place," said senior, Kaleigh Taylor.

As of last week, Richmond cheer has won their twelfth consecutive BWAC Championship Title. This is just the beginning of the end of the season.

"This year is different from most. I feel like we are more together and more prepared, but everyone getting sick is a major problem," said sophomore, Kendal Valentine.

February 17 fans can see the cheer team at their hometown in Richmond to compete for the District Title. Then, on February 25 they will be at Flint Kearsley yelling for the Regional Title. Finally, at the Delaplex Arena in Grand Rapids Michigan on Saturday March 4 the cheer team will be



LUKE DAVIS

Age— 15

Grade— Freshman

Sports— Football and wrestling

Favorite class— Physical science

Future Goals— Be a college athlete

Favorite Athlete— David Taylor

competing for the State Title.

This year, however, has been a challenge for the team and their coach. Surprisingly it wasn't injuries that challenged the team. It was sickness, but they stuck through it together. "Like any team we have had a few injuries that have taken their toll but honestly, this flu and sickness in the last two weeks is the worst I have seen in 27 years of coaching. We are still battling it so we just need to get healthy and we will be fine," said Coach Matthes in an email.

Coach Matthes has also impacted the girls in ways that builds them as an athlete and as an individual. "She really pushes us past our limits to build stamina and never lets us give up and is always encouraging us," said Taylor.

To be prepared for States their coach, Coach Matthes, has prepared the cheerleaders mentally, physically, and emotionally to focus on their goal. The girls have also done some preparing themselves, staying up-beat and positive, along with pushing through the sickness, has kept this team together since the before the season.

Along with their coach, the team has driven themselves and pushed through other competitions. At Algonac this year, the Richmond team scored a monstrous 784. This score is particularly high because all teams do three "rounds" or cheers within a competition and it is scored out of 798. "When they announced the score we were all a little shocked because that was the highest score we have gotten this year," said Valentine

This competition season hasn't been all medals and cheer bows for

this team though. At a competition

hosted by Stony Creek High School, the team placed second with a .76 score differential behind Notre Dame Prep. That didn't stop this freight train though. Just a week later the team came in second behind a Division 1 school, Stevenson, and placed three places above NDP.

As states is approaching the rivalry with Notre Dame Prep has also been raising to keep their fire going. NDP has won the State Title the past three years, but the RHS team is hoping to freeze their streak and start their own. Still focused on themselves as a team, Richmond is hoping to take the State Title this year with their biggest team ever.

"We aren't out to go after NDP because it distracts us from the competition and our goal. We focus on us as a whole and getting everyone and everything where they need to be. We only have one goal in mind though and that is to reach the state title," said Taylor. With the biggest team Coach Matthes has ever had, this team is striving to be their best this competition season.

So, in a week and a half the Richmond Cheer team will be competing against all other teams in the district to move on to regionals and then hopefully win the State competition. "States is so important to us as a whole because we want to keep up the reputation of Richmond Cheer. Plus, with the biggest cheer team we have ever had it would basically be awesome to get the state title with that many girls and with all the obstacles we overcame this year," said Valentine.

Striking to Perfection

By: Brandon Furtaw

Sports Co-Editor

300. No, not the 2006 Fantasy/Action movie with Gerard Butler.

300 is a perfect game in the sport of bowling. There has not been a 300 game this season for the Blue Devils. However, with between the guys and girls teams, there have been very consistent scorers with multiple 200+ games throughout the season.

These games were scored at very opportune times during big tournaments or close league matches. In the bowling world, two pins can be the difference between first place and third place.

There can be little margin for error and the pressure can be almost similar to a buzzer-beating three pointer.

So far this season for both bowling teams, it has been a little less than normal. For starters long time boys head coach John Essemacher stepped down at the end of last year along with girls coach Chuck Scheuer. This ushered in a new era of RHS bowling. The 2016-17 season has been led by Mr. Germain and Sam Conner.

Mr. Germain, a math and science teacher, is training the guys' bowling team at Strikers to be the best they can be. On the girls side, Conner (Kacie Conner's oldest sister and former RHS bowler) keeps pushing the girls' team to be better and better every week.

So far the transition between coaches has gone smooth according to sophomore Emma Chalton, "Yeah it was a change [from last year]. But, the drills that they implemented are helping improve our overall game."

And with seniors Jessica Niebauer and Brandon Saikowski looking to extend their bowling careers into college and beyond, this season has been exciting to say the least.

"Right now I have an offer to bowl at Adrian College and then from there, hopefully, one day participate in professional tournaments," said Saikowski about his bowling future.

Multiple top-10 finishes in area tournaments for both teams, an undefeated BWAC record for the girls, and a one loss league record for the boys has taken the team to an unexpected level.

Both teams are peaking at the right time in the season. With a huge league match between Armada and regional qualifying just around the corner the teams are trying to keep their momentum to 'roll' into states.

But, no team is perfect in the least; there are strengths and weaknesses on every team but identifying and working to improve those weaknesses are what makes a great team. Chalton said, "As a team, our strengths are picking each other up when we don't make our spares and our weakness would be our attitudes if we were behind in a match."

And it is much of the same for the boys, "Once we get rolling we can all keep it up, but when we miss spares we get down on ourselves," said Saikowski.

Although it seems like a lot of pressure, most players from both teams have been to the state competition previously as both teams qualified last season as well as several individuals. A low finish for the girls and a runner up position for the boys hasn't been sitting well for the past year.

Senior Athletes

EMILY MIKOLASIK

Age— 14

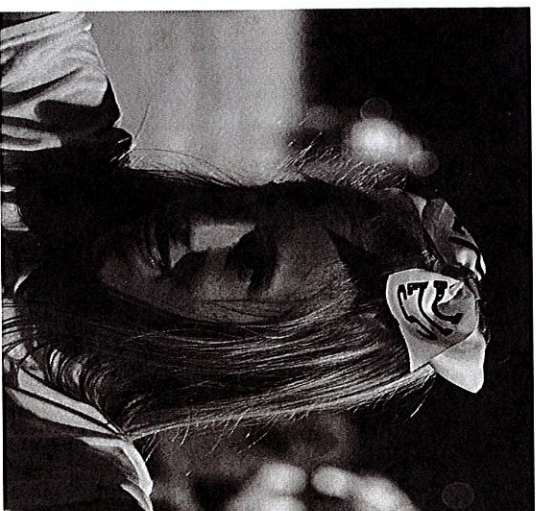
Grade— Freshman

Sports— Cheer

Favorite class— Basic design

Future Goals— Win cheer states

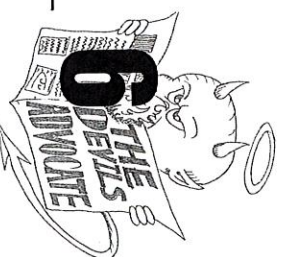
Favorite Athlete— Kaleigh Taylor



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The Passion Problem — What Should You Pursue?

By: Jenna Stafford
Features Co-Editor

You're eighteen-years-old. You're a graduating senior, and as soon as you toss your cap, it seems as though real-life has begun.

In a few short months, you'll be walking through a foreign campus in a different city, a freshman once again. However, the difference is the excitement you feel because in these next four years, you will be obtaining a degree for a career of your choice.

But, what is this career going to be?

The biggest problem students encounter when trying to make this transition is their career choice.

They are often paralyzed with fear. Nobody wants to be the starving art student who has a four-year degree but never lands a job. Likewise, they dread the thought of being the businessman dragging his feet to do the same work he hates every day.

There's no right answer to the dilemma. Those who pick an unusual and typically unattainable career field must be more motivated and ultimately, the best at what they do. Those who pick a job for the paycheck must be able to say that the money will overall make them happy.

Is there a middle ground?
There is. It's just fleeing and hard to find.

The first step to finding the perfect career is identifying their passions and talents.

They have to decide what jobs are available that coincide with these passions and talents.

They need to analyze these careers and decide if they are capable of doing them.

For example, if a student's passions are watching football and playing video games, and the only careers that come to mind are being a professional football player or a professional video-game tester, they may need to evaluate whether their talents can sustain themselves in such a competitive field.

If it doesn't seem that their talents are outstanding enough, they need to find a career that they can enjoy *and* capitalize on.

A better idea for a person with those interests would be to identify more profitable talents of theirs.

While watching football and playing video games might be their favorite pastimes, they aren't likely to amount to good careers.

Instead, they should contemplate things employers might look for. It might be strong communication skills or organizational talent.

In combination with this, they might want to identify careers with a growing job outlook that also catch their interest.

For example, if a student wants to have a job that's involved in art and creativity, a major in career fields like graphic design or marketing may be more favorable than a degree in the history of European art. As a graduating senior, I find myself in the same situation.

In the end, the most important thing is to find a career that you're good at, interested in and can make a good salary. Work to live, don't live to work.

A Nugget of Wisdom

Daniel Seguin
Web Editor

Remember Super-Size Me? The best movie that you watched in health class? Possibly the best movie you've ever seen in school? Well, for those of you who don't remember, Super-Size Me was about this guy named Morgan Spurlock. Morgan Spurlock ate only McDonald's for a month. This weekend, I took a leaf out of Morgan Spurlock's book.

It was Sunday. Super Bowl Sunday.

I'm sitting on my couch, eating a chicken delight. I'm full. Oh so full. And I do not feel oh so good about myself.

Oftentimes, on a Sunday, I will have this melancholy feeling looming over me that lasts until... always. I can say it's just on Sundays, but it lasts all week, all the time. So now, I'm sitting there, and the dread is setting in. I'm feeling bad. The chicken delight served to stave it off for just a few minutes.

Just then, I get a phone call from my friends. JP Severini and Noah Schroeder. McDonald's is having this Super Bowl deal. 20 nuggets. 10 free. With the app. So, we get the app. And we roll out.

We're at a McDonald's in Chesterfield. I order thirty nuggets. JP orders 30. Noah orders 30. I start to feel good about the world. We continue.

We're at a new McDonald's. This golden arches shares a location with a Marathon. I order 30. JP orders 30. Noah tries to get the discount, but the phone isn't working, and he ends up paying full price for 30 nuggets. Hah. We look at him and laugh. "What a loser," we think, "paying full price for 30 nuggets."

We then go to New Baltimore's Mickey D's. Noah goes first. He has some trouble again. The cashier is mean to him, but they appear to know each other. JP goes, and then I go. "I apologize for my friend," I say to the cashier, "he's a little slow on the uptake."

Now we're back in JP's car. 170 nuggets between us. One final stop: The McDonald's in Richmond. Just one more order, and we'll have an even 300. We go through the drive through, the car is bursting with bags of McDonald's. We add one more to the fold. 300. Success. I feel great. I feel like I'm on top of the world. I measure my worth in amount of nuggets, and right now I'm the king of the world.

thing would happen. It's sad — I get it. But, we need to be cautious when out in a public place where anything can happen.

Now, you're probably thinking that this was an act of terrorism — it wasn't. The investigators tracked nothing to terrorism. Just an uncivil act. Why he did it? I do not know.

What I do know is that we cannot always think that there aren't bad people out there who aren't involved in terrorism. Anyone is able to do anything for any reason.

It's scary — I get it. However, we cannot live in fear. We may want to but we can't. Living in fear means we've beaten ourselves. For whatever reason sick people decide to do this is not our concern. Our concern is being aware, never taking a moment for granted, and standing our own.

As Americans, we need to continue out our daily life and not be scared of what could happen. As difficult as life may seem when these events happen, we cannot be afraid to live our lives.

Crisis at Terminal 2

By Sydney Black
Staff writer

January 6, 2017, Fort Lauderdale — Hollywood International Airport, 12:55 p.m., terminal 2.

Many people, including yourself, were innocently proceeding to their daily airport routine, gathering their luggage, or perhaps meeting a loved one traveling home. But now the unthinkable happens. Suddenly you, and everyone else, is running for their lives — literally, as horrific as it may sound. You aren't sure what to do, with the sound of the gun shots and the traumatic yells all around you, along with your thoughts, which can't process but only tell you to react; you just keep running. You see the nearest exit. Outside, sirens and men rush in. You absorb everything that has happened and realize that you're alive — but what about the others?

A mass shooting occurred near the baggage claim in Terminal 2 at the Fort Lauderdale International Airport; five died, six were injured because of the shooting, and around 36 were harmed through the panic. The suspect: Esteban Santiago-Ruiz — a 26 year old military veteran who was arrested immediately after the shooting. He used a Walther PPS 9mm semi-automatic pistol to commit this crime. Esteban Santiago-Ruiz — a 26 year old military veteran who was arrested immediately after the shooting. He used a Walther PPS 9mm semi-automatic pistol to commit this crime. The 80-second nightmare not only caused physical damage but mental damage as well.

This is serious. As people, who live in such a diverse world as we do, we should be more aware of these acts — as sad as it may sound — because that's just the kind of world we live in now. Not being able to leave home and wonder what could happen at any spur of the moment is the depressing part of our society.

This should open our eyes. We all should understand that bad things do and can happen. Take this as a sign to live life to the fullest — because I'm more than sure that those innocent people never would have thought such a

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