



Cheerleaders Leave it All in Grand Rapids

By: Haley Fortuna
Features Co-Editor

Their hearts were all beating in sync with adrenaline. They had one heart beat as they all approached the bright-blue, carpeted mat where they would leave everything they had on the floor.

On March 5, the Richmond Varsity Competitive Cheer team competed at State Finals. After nine months of preparation, the Blue Devils were able to run off that mat after round three feeling an overwhelming sense of accomplishment.

During these long months of hard work the girls grew into stronger competitors.

Kaleigh Taylor, a junior, said, "After our competitions we watched all of our rounds and critiqued ourselves. Then we would go back to practice and fix any mistakes we found."

With the goal of perfecting all three rounds, the competitive cheer team faced many obstacles.

"Stunting as a whole was the biggest obstacle for my stunt group this season. We really focused and practiced hard to make sure we were ready for States," said Taylor.

After becoming state-runners up

last year, the team was left with determination and motivation to improve not only as individuals but as a team.

Jessica Hatcher, a senior said, "I really feel like all of our rounds were strong. I can't think of one strongest point we had because every one was strong."

Their performance at States reflected all of their hard work throughout this year, as well as their 11-4 record this season does.

Their preparation started in the summer long before football season. They were prohibited from working on any competition material before November. However, this did not stop them from building their endurance and strength before their season began.

"In the summer me and a few of the other girls woke up at about 5:30 am every morning to run several miles," Lauren Duche, a junior, said, "During this time our motto was: 'you have to want something more than you want to breathe, so then our whole team's motto became: 'you have to want it more than you want to sleep' because we were up so early."

When the big day finally came all of the girls were fully prepared to cheer their hearts out.

"When we arrived in Grand Rapids I was so hype. We were so

excited because we were ready to do what we had been working on for nine months," Hatcher said.

When the team woke up the next day they were ready to compete.

Round 1 finished and the team felt unstoppable. Everyone was in sync.

...
Round 2 finished and the team did not fall short of their round 1 performance. Everything stuck.

...
Round 3 finished and the team knew they had done their very best. It was seemingly flawless.

But when the scores were announced the girls did not hear what they were expecting.

Richmond Varsity Competitive Cheer team had taken 2nd place at states.

The girls did not only leave this competition with silver medals but with a feeling of pride in their hearts that they had given their all, improved greatly from the start of the season, and did their absolute best.

Duche, said, "We're really proud of what we've accomplished this entire season. Regardless of the scoring, we did the best we could."

Girls Bowling Rolls On

By: Brandon Furtaw
Assistant Sports Editor

Not many bowling teams can say they were a state qualifier in Division 3 with no seniors. Or in any sport for that matter.

Teams fail without great leadership and experience but that's not the case for the RHS girls bowlers. The underclassmen heavy team made it to the division 3 state finals at Airport Lanes in Jackson, MI.

Qualifying 2nd out of their region behind Cros-Lex the team had high hopes for the state tournament the following weekend on March 5th.

"Overall this team exceeded my expectations this year. I'm expecting a lot more at states," said Coach Chuck Scheuer.

When asked how to describe this year's team in a word Scheuer simply said:

"Surprising. This team was a big surprise this year. The last game (regionals) was the biggest game they shot as a team, when they needed it most they came through and that was the surprise."

This was possibly Scheuer's last year as a coach for the bowling team. Although he has not decided on whether he will return, the tremendous coach affectionately known "Chucky Ducky" is a truly valuable part of the girls' success.

Regardless of Scheuer's return the show must go on. Junior captain Kacie Conner believes the team will have the same success next year.

"If we keep the same team we had this last year we will definitely," said Conner.

Confidence is a major part of a team's success and this team certainly has an awful lot of just that.

The sport of bowling is weird. You can do everything right, everything perfect, from your steps to your timing to your release. But all that perfection doesn't mean you will get a strike. That's what makes it unique.

However easy you think it is ask Junior Jessica Niebauer about just how hard it is.

"The hardest part is being unlucky. You put in work and not getting the good results is what hurts the most," she said.

Not to be overshadowed by the team aspect the RHS bowling squad sent 5 individual bowlers to the state tournament.

These bowlers were Jessica Niebauer, Amy Theume, and Kacie Conner for the girls. Damon Garan, and Brandon Saikowski also qualified individually.

Wrestlers Take on the Palace for Individual States

By: Cameron Barrett
Staff writer

Richmond sends nine wrestlers to the Palace for individual state wrestling.

The boys who consider themselves a "family" and created a brother hood have supported each other a lot this year.

Six of the nine people who were qualified, placed.

Blood, sweat, and tears got them to be the best of the best this season.

Hunter Seguin 103

This wrestling season has been more than just a normal wrestling season for Hunter Seguin. "A learning experience." Said Seguin about his freshman year of wrestling.

Seguin looked up to Aaron and Cody this year because they always set good examples for him. Seguin strives to follow in their footsteps and work as hard as them.

Losing at states, Seguin said "I had no feelings during my match. I

was just trying to win." Seguin was mentally prepared for his match, but was sadly defeated.

Throughout the season Seguin has learned a lot. Many things that will help him later on in life. "I have learned that no matter what the outcome of your match is step up to the line and shake the other kid's hand." Said Seguin. This is one that will always impact him for the rest of his wrestling career.

Losing also always helps a person become more motivated too; and this is what Seguin learned from his loss at the Palace. Seguin said, "It's motivated me to keep working hard and never give up."

Overall, this wrestling season has impacted Seguin for both the good and the worst. It's helped in many different ways. "It's impacted my decisions. But also it has made me appreciate food."

Roy Costello 112

Roy had one goal in mind heading into state finals; proving everyone wrong.

Placing fourth at individuals, he did just that.

Beating the number one ranked kid who was suppose smother him, was one of his greatest accomplishments from States. This was also Costello's closest match at individual states.

"I was wrestling the kid and I beat him. It was a 2-1 match, and it felt great to beat him." He said.

Costello has had many people who have supported and helped him through his years of wrestling, and two people stood out the most.

"My papa has inspired me to work hard and always give my best." Said Costello. Costello looked up to Aaron Kilburn as well throughout his years of wrestling as well.

To Costello, wrestling at the Palace for individuals isn't like team states but still finds it a great accomplishment to be there.

"To get myself prepared for states, I just mentally prepare myself. I tell myself no one is better than me." Said Costello.

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Wrestling

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Costello has one more year to keep up his high expectations for wrestling. Talking about what his expectations were, Costello said "It's a mindset kind of thing."

Costello has one year left to accomplish everything he has hoped for.

Alec Ziza 119

Alec Ziza was supposed to wrestle at 119 at individual states.

Unfortunately, Ziza ended up getting sick a few days before they were supposed to go to the Palace, making him ineligible to wrestle.

Ziza practiced every day to get ready for states. Knowing he could do well, he put his best foot forward and worked hard in practice. Even when he was sick, he put time into wrestling and continued to show up.

"The night before we had to leave I went to practice. It was honestly the worst thing ever. I was so sick I knew I would not be able to wrestle the next day at states," said Ziza.

Although he was ill at states, he excelled at the regional tournament placing fourth.

Ziza said, "My most memorable moment from regionals is that I beat the kid who beat me previously in the blood rounds. It was an amazing feeling doing that."

Ziza's season was not a total loss. He plans on making it to states next year and returning stronger than ever.

Cody Keller 119

Cody Keller brings home a seventh place state title at wrestling individuals.

Keller is a senior at RHS. Wrestling is more than just a sport to him.

Coach Day has really affected Keller's feelings toward wrestling; but Coach Day has also affected his feelings towards life.

"Coach Day has helped me love the sport, and to make sure I give it my all in everything I do." Said Keller.

Wrestling has impacted Keller's life a lot. "It's helped me as a person because it makes everything in life so much easier after you have wrestled," said Keller.

Keller's biggest accomplishment, was not one just about himself; it was about the whole team. Keller said, "My biggest accomplishment was winning a team state title."

Through his years of wrestling, people have pushed him to make sure he was always wrestling to his fullest potential. Keller said, "My coach and family has pushed me the most."

As his senior year comes to an end, Keller has made many good memories with the wrestling team.

"The most memorable moment would be just going out there one last time with all the guys," said Keller. The team is considered a family, and the boys are like brother. Keller has helped the younger wrestlers; his mark will always be left on this school.

Aaron Kilburn 125

Aaron Kilburn who has been wrestling since he was eight years old took first place at individual states

Kilburn plans to wrestle in college. By wrestling, this has opened many doors for him. "Wrestling has given me opportunities I may not have had if I did not wrestle," said Kilburn.

Wrestling taught Kilburn that hard work pays off: and if you push yourselves hard enough you can achieve

your goals. "I have learned that nothing in life is easy and you must work hard to accomplish your goals," said Kilburn.

Wrestling has been Kilburn's main focus for many years; thus causing Kilburn's life to be impacted by the sport.

"Coach Day is the best coach. He has been a great teacher and leader for me and the rest of the team. I owe him so much and am so thankful for all he has done for me," said Kilburn. Coach Day has been one of Kilburn's biggest motivations. Kilburn's family has also been a big motivation by supporting him the most.

Breaking his finger the Monday before states was an obstacle to face before going to states.

"Walking in the parade of champions was my most memorable moment," said Kilburn. Kilburn was so happy and relieved when he won. But, he was also a little sad because he knew it was his last high school match wrestling for Richmond.

Kilburn has won before at states as well. "The first time I won I was excited," said Kilburn. "This time I was still excited and a bit relieved because I knew I had accomplished my goal and anything else would have been disappointing."

Kilburn said, "My emotions at States, I approached it as any other wrestling tournament. It is a cool atmosphere but I did not want to get too excited and have pressure affect my performance."

Kilburn took all his emotions and put them aside till he won.

Coach Day has really impacted Kilburn and his wrestling career. Coach supported and pushed Kilburn every day, and he has helped Kilburn through the years.

Kilburn ended his season with a

bang.

He walked taking first place at 125, and will have that memory forever.

Graham Barton 130

Graham Barton, who has been his own biggest motivator this wrestling season, took sixth place at wrestling individuals.

With help from Coach Day, Barton has been able to accomplish many things throughout his high school career, like taking sixth in individuals.

"Wrestling is a huge part of my life so without it, my life is pretty empty," said Barton.

Although Barton has faced many health problems throughout wrestling, wrestling has brought him the joy of winning at the same time.

Barton, who has looked up to Draymond Green, realized what wrestling has taught him all his years, "It's taught me hard work and perseverance. Pushing through injuries and tuning out pain," said Barton.

Wrestling at the Palace seems like there would be a lot of pressure, but Barton says different. Barton said "I did not feel any pressure at all. I do not get nervous, and we have wrestled in bigger environments before."

While wrestling there, Barton was really excited and said there was tons of energy. It was a great experience for him.

Barton's most memorable moment will stick with him for a while. Barton said "My most memorable moment was winning my blood round match and realizing I was and All-State."

Forever sticking with him is the lessons on how to succeed in life; this is one of the many things that Barton is taking away from his wrestling career in Richmond High School.

Alex Roberts 140

Alex Roberts brings home a fourth place win at the Palace, but had some mixed feelings. "It felt good as a sophomore, but I am not satisfied." Said Roberts. Although, he is very proud of becoming an All-State wrestler, he is still left wanting more.

Throughout the whole wrestling season, his mother had been his biggest motivator.

Roberts said, "My biggest motivation was my mom because I knew she was thinking of me."

One thing happened at individual states that Roberts will remember for a long time.

"It was when I won my blood round match to place. Once I won, I pointed at the crowd," said Roberts.

Placing in states was his proudest moment of the season; after all it takes tons of hard work and dedication to make it that far. Wrestling impacted Roberts's life in numerous ways. "Wrestling has made me a stronger. It also has made me more mentally tuff," said Roberts.

Roberts was taught through his wrestling career to not take things for granted.

Through blood, sweat, and tears... Roberts has becoming an All-State wrestler and he still has two more

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GRACE DANIEL

Nickname: G, GD

Age: 17

Grade: Senior

Sport(s): Volleyball and Basketball

Favorite Athlete: Juj Foster

Favorite class: Psychology

Star Athletes

ZACH ROBERTS

Nickname: ZRobs

Age: 18

Grade: Senior

Sport(s): Football and Wrestling

Favorite Athlete: Jose Iglesias

Favorite Class: English

