
COMPETITIVE CHEER TEAM EARNS SECOND PLACE AT AMERICA'S CUP NATIONALS



Above: Ready for competition to begin.

When people generally think about cheerleading, they often don't realize the difference between the stereotyped "sideline window dressing" and the competition squads.

If you call the first group "sideline window dressing," they might be slightly offended and turn their noses up at you, with perhaps a face slap from the more invested ones.

If you call the second group "sideline window dressing," you'll get that face slap, all right – along with dropkicks from three flyers launched from identical pyramids; head knocks from a syncopated flag corps; and possibly even a significant intentional collision from a couple of back-flipping gymnastics artists. And maybe a megaphone bonking for good measure.

In other words, the competitive bunch tends to take things a little more seriously – and Crockett County boasts one of the best around.

Over the weekend, these special Lady Cavaliers earned silver medals by placing second in their division and sixth overall of nearly 40 teams competing at the Nfinity America's Cheerleading Cup nationals at Orlando's Universal Resort. Coached by Brandi Wilson and Ellary Brewster, Crockett was national runner-up in the Extra Large Game Day Division with Saturday and Sunday performances in which no deductions were recorded.

That accomplishment would be praiseworthy enough if the time leading up to the competition afforded plenty of practices with everybody involved. Instead, the Lady Cavs had to work through illnesses from several members and two weeks out of school because of "Ice-Ageddon."

The coaches said the experience showed that this squad possessed a quality not often associated with cheering: grit.

"The definition of grit is courage and determination despite difficulty," they said after the competition. "That is exactly what this team showed this entire competition season. We battled through a lot of sickness and some crazy weather these last few weeks, but we are excited and proud of the outcome at Orlando."

Wilson and Brewster expressed their sincere appreciation to the Crockett County School District administrators and to their official sponsors: Hitachi, Evergreen Recyclers Inc., Moore Pumps Inc., Spencer/Jones Attorneys PLC, United Co-Op, Beard and Son Farms, Fincher Farming Company, Bank of Crockett, Pratt Industries, Watson Roofing, PictSweet Farms, Cherry Construction LLC, Environ Pest Service, Terry & Gwen Sellers, Alamo Liquor & Wine, King Jewelers, Crockett Spine & Sport PLC, Food Rite, Alamo Learning Academy, Volunteer Disposal West, Trends & Traditions, and Crye Leike Blue Skies Real Estate.

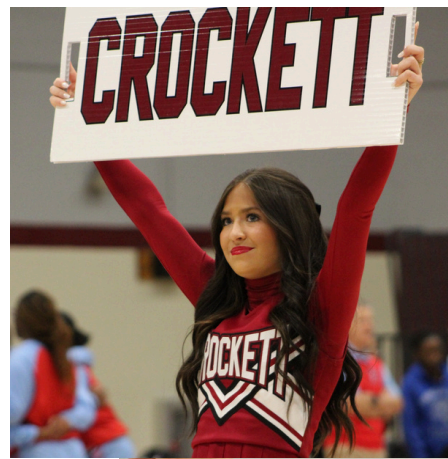
"Thank you to CCHS, fans, parents, businesses, and anyone who cheered us on or helped get us here," the coaches said. "We appreciate each and every one of you. Go CAVS Go!"

02/09/26

By Ron Barry



Above: The squad at the entrance to Universal Resort in Orlando.



Left: Cacie Jo McNeil. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Auriana Taylor stabilizes a stunt. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Football season performance. (Photo by Sandra Gonzalez)



Below: Ava North-Hall. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Allyssa Ward & Lillian Ray. (Photo by Ron Barry)



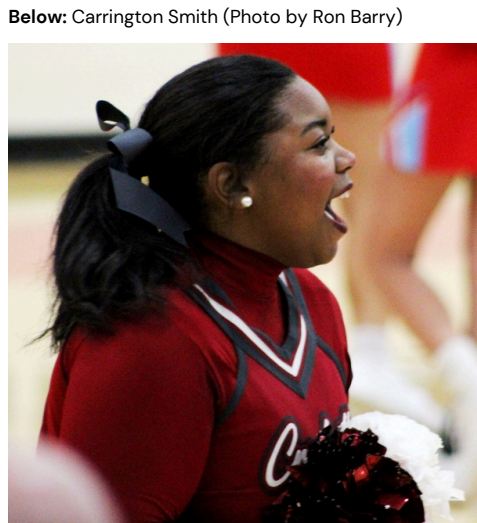
Above: Gracie Gaines. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Hadleigh McCoy. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Kennedy Henning. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Carrington Smith (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Jentry Elmore. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Kinzey Hutchison. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Lexie Beard. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Mia Simmons. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Marlee Kellough. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: During the football playoffs at Pearl-Cohn. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Makayla Murphy. (Photo by Ron Barry)