



The cheer team anxiously waits their results at the State competition. The Woodmen took home 14th place. Ben Hommell photo

Cheerleaders take home 14th

By Lizzy Metzger
photographer

The State cheer competition is the biggest cheer competition of the year. With only 15 teams making it in the large varsity division, the Woodmen was one of them.

Senior Avery Guilfoy has contributed seven years to the cheer program. She and the team had many practices to prepare for the State competition.

"I feel like we were pretty prepared. We worked really hard and had multiple morning practices and late nights that we stayed after to get reps in," Guilfoy said.

There have been multiple competitions beginning in September, each one being different. Guilfoy described just how different the State competition was.

"We haven't been to State since my freshman year. This is also our first time doing a timeout routine, so it was really cool to compete in a different division," Guilfoy said.

The girls put on one of the best performances so the awards program was nerve racking.

"It was interesting because we didn't know how we were going to place, but we did perform and put out one of our best performances yet. I feel like we should've placed higher, but even though we didn't, it was still really good," Guilfoy said.

Junior Ava Augustine has been on the team for three years, this year being her first year on a competition team. Augustine shared that she felt the team was well prepared.

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senior Avery Guilfoy

fullouts in between our submission for State as well as early morning practices. I did feel like we didn't fully think about the dynamics of the routine and how it would compete against the other big teams until State was over," Augustine said.

The competitiveness was exponentially greater. It was unlike any competition she has been to before.

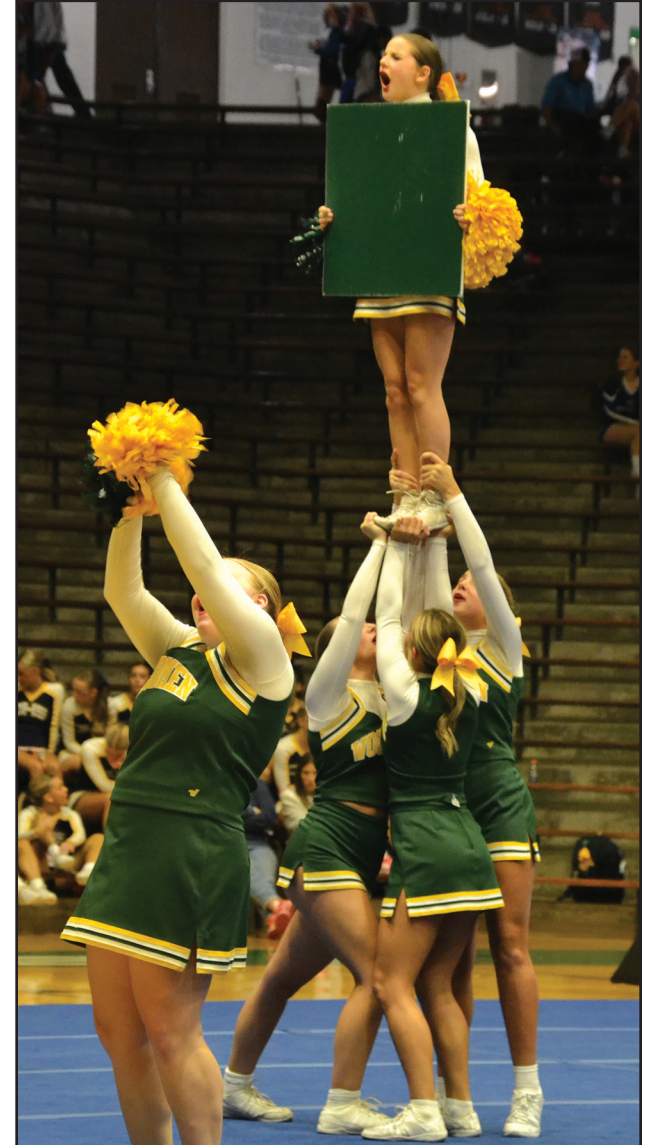
"There were a lot more teams, and the atmosphere was really different. There was a lot of competitiveness with so many teams all fighting to win first. Overall, I felt it was a really competitive atmosphere," Augustine said.

The awards part of every competition creates the most anxiety. Everyone has opinions on how they felt the placement went; Augustine said the team deserved better.

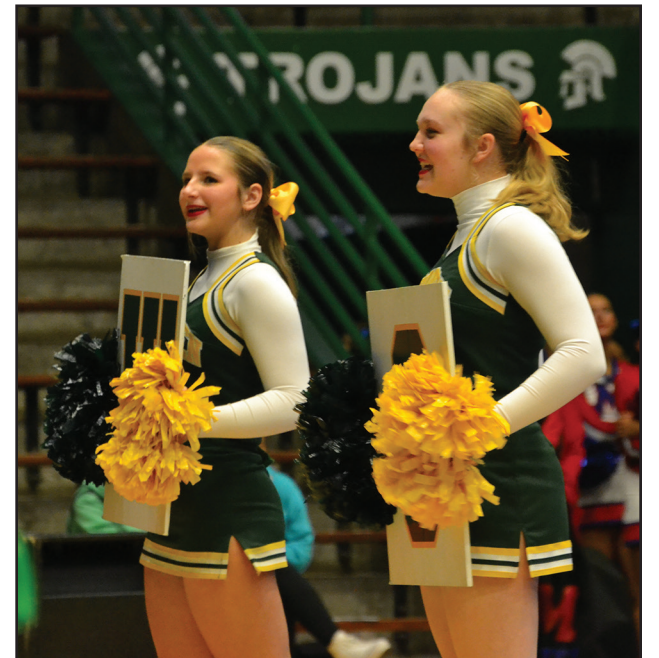
"Obviously, the results didn't go the way we planned, but I do think it's going to help us in the future to improve our routine and make it more competitive," Augustine said.

The team also had some new girls making their debut at State, like freshman Gabby Cave. The new girls helped the team's preparation and efforts going into the competition.

"I feel like we were very prepared. We practiced extremely hard for weeks before the competition. I feel how hard we worked really came into play at the competition because we performed our best routine yet," Cave said. "I think we definitely did better than we have done at other competitions. It was the best we competed for sure. Also, we were extremely excited and a lot more energetic on the mat."



The Woodmen stunt group performs an extension during their State routine. The varsity team has been perfecting this extension all season. Ben Hommell photo



Freshman Norah Bates and senior Eva Dean hype up the judges with their Woodmen chant. This chant is commonly used at athletic events to pump up the crowd. Ben Hommell photo

Takedown: boys & girls wrestling teams ready for season

By Kinsley Clark
reporter

The wrestling team is barreling into this season ready to compete.

The next boys meet will take place tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. at Jennings County High School, and the next girls' meet will take place on Dec. 7 at 9 a.m. at Monrovia Jr-Sr High School.

"I've been preparing for this season by building my self endurance up and fixing my mentality from freshman year. Freshman year was a good year, but this year should be better due to the motivation I have to go to State," sophomore Keagan Murray said.

Preparing for the season during pre-season is key.

"We have been having practice every day, making progress every day and have seen a big difference. Girls have walked in who have never wrestled. This goes for me, and we have come a long way," freshman Addisen Stephenson said.

After all the practicing during pre-season, it gets hard to predict how the season will turn out.

"It's hard to predict how the season will go so early, but I have a good feeling about it. We have had tons of kids already coming to pre-season practices, and I'm looking forward to seeing how we will perform as a team," junior Carson Andreas said.

The girls wrestling team is fairly new to GHS but is rapidly growing now that the



Coach Jay Yates demonstrates moves to his new girls wrestling team. The IHSAA has recognized girls wrestling officially. Damien Hoagland photo

girls will be wrestling other girls instead of potentially wrestling boys during meet.

"I decided to join the wrestling team because I have always wanted to wrestle. When I heard it was only girls, then that is when I wanted to start wrestling. It is a very positive environment to be around. I enjoy it, and I feel welcome," Stephenson said.

The wrestling team is looking for new members to finalize their roster.

"This season the team is going to be more prepared, and so am I. I would say almost everybody who goes to off-season practice will be wrestling when season starts. Leading into this season, we have a new coach so it's going to be interesting to see how his coaching style goes with the new team," Murray said.

The new coach has promoted the program.

"The main difference from this season and last season is the new head coach position. We have a new start to the program and have seen more kids join wrestling than ever before because of the publicity our coaches have been doing," Andreas said.

The teams, boys and girls, are ready to jump back into season and train harder than their opponents.

"I think this season is going to be memorable. We have come a long way since Day 1. We have a pretty good team with a positive mindset. We put in a lot of work. The coaches want to make the team a good team," Stephenson said.