



Freshman Basketball--Front Row: R. Hoffman, D. Isaac, K. McVay. **Middle Row:** L. Reese, K. Butcher. **Back Row:** T. Frank, L. Crayden, W. Frystak.

Not Just Glamour

A bit of advice - Don't ask any one of the 24 varsity, JV, or freshmen football cheerleaders whether cheerleading is a sport. It is almost an insult to consider them as a club. Varsity cheerleader Amy Keeter said, "We are athletes and we get athletic points. We do as much physical activity as any other sport."

For all of these girls, the season began in May, and they practiced continuously throughout the summer. "Summer camp was a great learning experience. Each girl is individually evaluated in order to correct all her flaws," said varsity cheerleader Stacy Walter.

Once the season began, the cheerleaders had to practice eight to ten hours a week, drum up spirit during the week, and do their best to get a crowd enthusiastic during the football games. Sophomore Kelly Worley, a junior varsity cheerleader said, "It's very time-consuming. Not only do we have practices and games, we are counted on to bring spirit to the school."

Jenna Hasselo, a cheerleader for four years (both football and basketball), thinks that the work that they put in is taken for granted by most of the school. "I believe that a lot more time is put into cheerleading than most people think. There are

extra practices for competition, pep rallies, the Homecoming game, and summer camp. We have been practicing continuously since June."

All of the hard work paid off as Sycamore's spirit soared. Normal events were enhanced by the work of the cheerleaders. For example, an ordinary bus ride to Lima turned into one of the highlights of the season.

Hasselo said, "The highlight of the season was when we went to Lima and two bus loads of seniors cheered with us. They were extremely spirited, and we even brought home a victory."

Even with all the good times, things got very frustrating and tiring. Sophomore Amy Moeddel said, "We are athletes, and just like any other athlete, we get really frustrated. Since we're busy so much, it can also get tiring."

So when you are talking with a cheerleader, do not make the mistake of telling a cheerleader that the squad is not considered a sport. It seems that only the girls themselves realize how much work is really done. Gina Contardi put it best when she said, "Cheerleading is not just glamour; we work extremely hard, but it really pays off."

by Benjamin Tolchinsky



"We've got what . . . SPIRIT!" Varsity cheerleaders Melissa McVey and Veronica Proctor lead the crowd in a rousing cheer. Although the Varsity Aves basketball team had a tough season, the cheerleaders continued their support throughout the winter.

Varsity cheerleaders Gina Contardi, Veronica Proctor, Stacy Walter, Jenna Hasselo, and Stephanie Cable anxiously await the traditional kiss and carnation presented at the Homecoming bonfire.

