

# Tears, Sweat, and Joy; This is What Cheer is Made of

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by Zoe Cosato

It all began with a passion for sweating, the need to master a butt roll, and the desire to perform the perfect twist down. The season kicked off with three-year competition cheer veteran and senior Billie Moeller excitedly encouraging all eleven of her teammates through each of the one and half to eight hour long practices for thirteen demanding weeks.



“I knew this was my last year and being the most experienced on the team, I had to step up and be a leader. I needed to set examples for the younger girls. Overall, I absolutely wouldn’t have changed anything about this year. The girls made everything easy because they were really good listeners. Our coach (Michelle Schmitt) did different things throughout the year, and she even asked us what she could do to better the team.”

Despite the Competition Cheer team’s long record of successes this season, they managed to have more than a little fun. In fact, more than a few of the girls speak fondly of the bus rides, the “b-dubs” trip, the visit to a haunted house, and all the other moments they spent together.

On Friday, October 24, the girls made their way to Watertown for what would be the grand finale to a great season at the South Dakota High School Athletic Association State Cheer and Dance Competition. The girls performed a difficult routine, the perfect mashup of song, dance and cheer. They placed second in the small and large non-tumbling division out of five teams. They received a score of 189, their best all season.

“Seeing our score from state compared to previous meets, you can see there was a big improvement. We really came together as a team to preform and I’ve never felt this close as a team before,” sophomore Kesha Arthurs said.

The Competition Cheer team would have placed first, if not for a ten point deduction. The team consisted of seniors Billie Moeller, Sidnee Davis, Leah Lunstrum, Cierra George; junior Brooklyn Rohlf; sophomores Kesha

Arthurs, Kaley Schweitzer; freshmen Kelsey Anderson, Kara DeYoung; eighth grader Olivia Shantz; and seventh grader Sarah Kastner.

## Time to Fly

Sophomore Kesha Arthurs, is tossed into the air by teammates Billie Moeller, Kelsey Anderson, and Kaley Schweitzer to perform a toe basket. This is considered a moderately difficult stunt.