

joining the GREEN & BLACK

Senior transfers to Millard West for an opportunity to be on varsity cheer

BY Madelyn Augustine

Shouts of "Roll Storm" vanished as chants of "Go Wildcats" took their place. Senior HANNAH GREEN traded in her navy and blue poms for sparkly, green and black new ones.

After Millard West's cheer program caught Green's eye during the 2017-2018 school year, she made the decision to transfer from Elkhorn South to the home of the Wildcats. Wanting to continue her cheer career after high school, she needed a school that would push her to be her best; Millard West provided Green with this challenge.

"Cheer is a huge part of my life," Green said. "I knew some of the girls from West from competition cheer at Elite and they all love the school. Also I wanted the chance to experience Nationals my senior year."

Going into tryouts, Green was at a disadvantage due to the fact that most of the girls who make varsity have been a part of the program before. For most, tryouts were a refresher course, but Green had to learn over 50 cheers in a week. Luckily, she had teammates, like senior KAMRY RASMUSSEN, there to help.

"I was so excited when I found out Hannah was joining our cheer team because she is so talented," Rasmussen said. "She works really hard every day and always does her best. We're all very happy to have such a great talent on the team."

Before making her final decision, Green contacted head cheer coach KELSEY CHASTAIN to let her know that she was interested in joining the Wildcat program. Chastain encouraged Green to attend tryouts. Her athleticism was one of her biggest strengths that helped Green land a spot on the team.

"Coming in senior year, bonding with the rest of the squad was probably her biggest challenge because everyone else has been together for multiple years," Chastain said. "I wish we could have her for more than one year because she's so bubbly, positive and such a fun girl to have on the squad."

By the time Green's first school year as a Wildcat rolled around, she had already grown close with all of her teammates, since they began practices back in May, and made several new friends. Looking back on her final decision, Green doesn't regret anything.

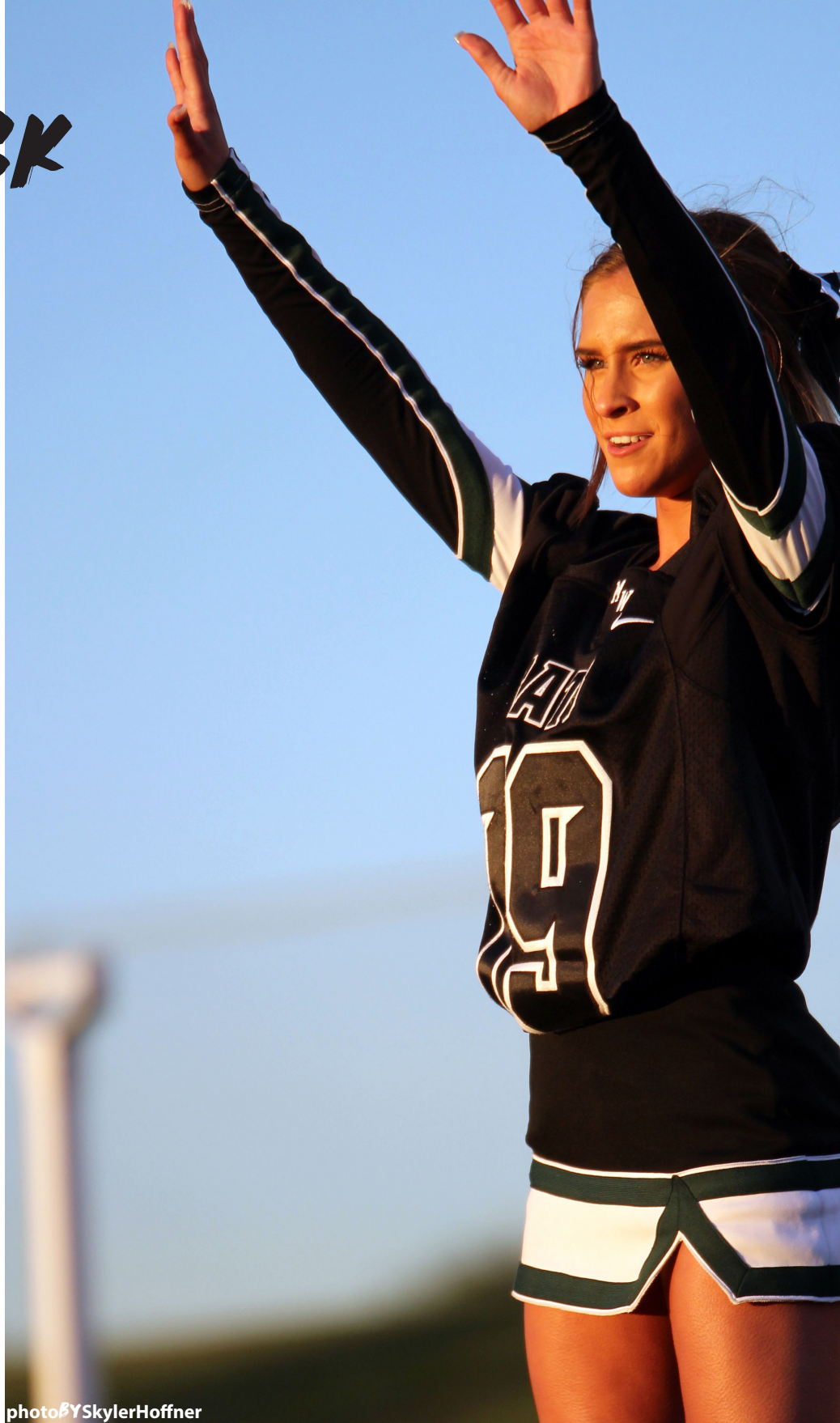


photo BY Skyler Hoffner

CHEERS to the years Senior cheer captains reflect on their time spent on the squad

photo by Madelyn Augustine



"The best part about being on the cheer team is all of the girls on the team. Cheering is so fun, but the girls make it the best. Even when we don't have big crowds, the games are still a blast."
-Tess Ray '19

photo by Skyler Hoffner



"The best thing about being on the cheer team is going to the summer UCA camp. We get to really bond as a team for a whole week and become closer to each other before the season even starts."
-Hannah Menicucci '19

photo by Skyler Hoffner



"I wanted to be a captain as a junior and this year all nine of the seniors are captains. Every game our responsibilities are to lead stretches and tell the team which cheer we're going to do next."
-Megan Stevens '19

photo by Madelyn Augustine



"Most of the people I consider to be my best friends, I made while being on the cheer team. It completely changed my whole life around. Being able to make all new friends is my favorite part."
-Grace Risley '19

photo by Skyler Hoffner



"My most memorable memory is from our Christmas team bonding last season. We all wore Christmas pajamas, drank hot chocolate, played white elephant and watched the Grinch movie together."
-Elli Young '19

POMS AWAY Focused on the crowd, senior **HANNAH GREEN** holds her position as a flyer. Although Green was new to the Millard West cheer program this year, she was still chosen as a flyer for the team. "Being a flyer can be nerve-racking because all eyes are on you," Green said. "It's a lot of fun cheering for such a big student section though."



photo by Skyler Hoffner

photo by Madelyn Augustine

POM-PIT UP Poms in hand and arm raised high, junior **SARAH TRACY** tries to use her contagious team spirit to pump-up the crowd. For the cheerleaders, football season is a special time of the year because it's the only sport that the whole team can cheer together and get the crowd hyped up fairly easily. "Representing Millard West as a cheerleader is so much fun because of all our school spirit," Tracy said. "I only started cheering when I was a freshman, but I knew I wanted to be apart of the team when I saw other cheerleaders cheering on the sidelines when I was in middle school."



GO BIG GREEN In sync with her fellow teammates, sophomore **DELANEY CUTLER** helps lead the crowd in a cheer. Cutler was a gymnast, but for her freshman year she gave cheer a try instead. "I thought cheer would be something new and fun to try, but still related to gymnastics," Cutler said. "I love being able to have a front row view at all the games."

SCREAM & SHOUT During the fourth quarter of the Homecoming football game, sophomore **MACY ROBB** celebrates a game saving play. Having done dance and soccer her whole life, Robb desired to try something new her freshman year of high school and went out for the cheer team. "I'm so glad that I decided to give cheer a try last year," Robb said. "The best part is being with people who can always put a smile on my face."



photo by Madelyn Augustine

PRE-GRAM POSTS

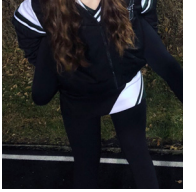
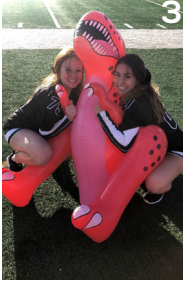
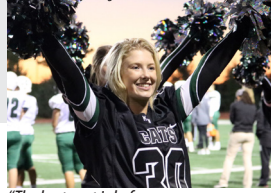
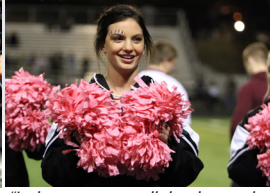


photo by Madelyn Augustine



"The best part is before every game we do a team dinner and we get to do each others hair and makeup. Also, before games, the seniors take pictures on timer camera and I'll always remember that."
-Kamry Rasmussen '19

photo by Skyler Hoffner



"In the summer on really hot days we do water aerobics for conditioning and it is really fun and something totally different. I'm proud of how much I've grown as a leader and how involved I've been."
-Taylor Evans '19

photo by Taylor Hoffbauer



"My proudest moment from all four years is making the varsity sideline cheer team my sophomore year. I love all the friendships I've made and being able to cheer at all of the sports games."
-Mackenzie Ulness '19

photo by Madelyn Augustine



"I've definitely grown really close with all the girls on the cheer team since I was able to spend a lot of time with them during the summer. I know that I can always talk to them about anything."
-Hannah Green '19

1. Brynn Vanis, Delaney Cutler, Grace Karloff, Jasmine Hermosillo-Padilla, Macy Robb, Cassidy Kugler, Brooklyn Miller
2. Elli Young, Kamry Rasmussen, Hannah Mennicucci
3. Brynn Vanis, Cassidy Kugler
4. Dorothy Leppke, Clare Schinzel, Grace Gunhus, Marissa Wilken, Morgan McDonnell, Sarah Tracy, Jessica Plummer, Madison Baier
5. Marissa Wilken, Taylor Evan, Kenzie Ulness
6. Cassidy Kugler, Grace Karloff
7. Clare Schinzel, Marissa Wilken
8. Jessica Plummer, Jasmine Hermosillo-Padilla
9. Brooklyn Miller, Brynn Vanis
10. Morgan McDonnell, Cassidy Kugler