

It's Definitely Not Easy Being Cheery

FRUSTRATION AND DISAPPOINTMENT are etched on the faces of the varsity cheerleaders as they struggle to re-new enthusiasm after the Bears have an unsuccessful second half.

Thinking Of Being A Cheerleader? You Can Expect

Long Hours, Little Pay

This year was an interesting one for the cheerleaders at Ashley. Coach Helen Pingel had a lot of goals for the squads. She wanted to sharpen up the girls' cheering skills, stop any disagreements shown in public by the girls and heighten school spirit.

And school spirit did soar this year, to unexpected heights. These girls screamed and yelled our football and basketball teams onto winning seasons this year. But win or lose, our cheerleaders were behind the team, and they brought the school with

them.

The cheerleaders were criticized this year by some of the fans because they were "in the way." But with all of the hard work and long hours these girls put in, don't they deserve to be in front for all to see?

Many think that being a cheerleader is easy and doesn't take much time or effort. But looking at the number of new cheers and the small squads we had this year, it definitely can't be easy.

Cheerleading tryouts. Any cheerleader can tell you that they're never easy. And as Marna Polash, seventh grade cheerleader can tell you, the younger you are, the harder it is.

The first thing a potential cheerleader must do is sign up. That's the easy part. But it definitely gets harder. "You have to learn the words to the school song along with all the movements," said Marna. "Then we have to make up our own cheer and chant."

Until the names of the squad are announced, it's practice, practice, practice. The girls practice new cheers and old. Then, finally the big moment arrives.

"First, the names of the captains are read, and then the names of the girls on the team," Marna explained. When she found out that she made the team, Marna said, "I was excited! It was hard work, but I was glad I had made the team."



JV SQUAD: Janette Stehlik, Shawn Sopocy, Kelli Felton.



VARSITY SQUAD: Stephanie Melvin, Bobbi Jo Brown, Jody Felton, Sheila Keck, Amy Andersen

