

RAMS COVERAGE

Does Spirit Matter?

Rams and Ram fans reflect on what a crowd can do to the game

Every time a sporting event comes around, teams try to get as many fans as possible to go and cheer them on.

But do fans really help, or do they actually hinder the athletes?

Sophomore Seth Hall thinks they help. Hall plays basketball.

"I think fans do help, because when the fans yell and cheer for the players, then the players get motivated and start playing harder. The feeling of someone cheering you on is an amazing feeling. The players like to have that feeling, knowing that there are people supporting them," said Hall.

Volleyball coach Kyle Neukam agrees.

"As a coach, I've realized that good crowds motivate the players, because (the players) don't want to let them down," he explained.

Crowds have a way with reaching to the players during games. By cheering the team on, you give them a confidence boost to play harder and do better.

"When it's a tight game and the crowd is loud, that gets us going. I don't want to let the fans down," said sophomore Tanner Kameda.

The audience can give a sense of acknowledgement to the athletes. They can make the players feel like they are important and give them confidence.

"When we're down, the crowd can give

us the momentum to catch back up," said freshman Lexi Fugate.

Not everyone sees fan support as such a good thing. For some athletes a crowd can bring out negative effects.

Sophomore Tristan England thinks so. He plays football and he wrestles.

"I think they distract you while you're playing," said England.

When asked about fans who boo, football coach Brian Balsmeyer had something to say. "Booing fans? That's out of line."

Fans who give negative feedback may encourage negative performance on the field.

Junior Breanna Daugherty, who is in Booster Club, says, "Booing fans hurt the players, because it could make them feel discouraged and like they did something wrong."

However, freshman Lucas Kintz disagrees.

"I think (Booing fans) help because the players know that the crowd doesn't like what they're doing, so that they can improve."

At most sporting events, fans definitely do encourage the athletes to work harder. However, there are a few occasions where it actually distracts the athletes. But without fans at sporting events, there would really be no point in playing.

Story by Ron Compton



Photo by Wes Phelps

FEATURED

Senior Alleigh Becht



What position do you play?

Post

How often do you practice?

Every day except Holy Day.

Who is the teams biggest rivals?

Brownstown and Pekin

How many weeks do you practice?

Every week from October– February.

What are your strengths this year?

As a team we're fast and we're really close.

What teams give you the most challenges?

Brownstown and Pekin

What are your weaknesses?

As a team, coach says it's a very big list.

What are your predictions for the season?

Sectional champions and Conference champions.

Photos by Breanna Daugherty

By Cohen Bostock

THE SHOT

Let's Get Fired Up!

SPORTS RECAP

Basketball:

The boys Varsity basketball team has kicked off the year with a 4-0 record with the team's latest win against Christian Academy. The team's impressive showing has already doubled the wins from last year's season total. The team heads to Austin tonight.

The girls Varsity basketball team has a record of 5-1 with their only loss coming to Dubois. In their most recent win against the North Harrison Cougars their final score was 59 to 47. The team next plays Barr-Reeve on December 22.

Wrestling:

The Varsity wrestling team has started off their season with a team score of 7-1 with their last match being at Evansville Memorial Invitational.



Photo by Breanna Daugherty

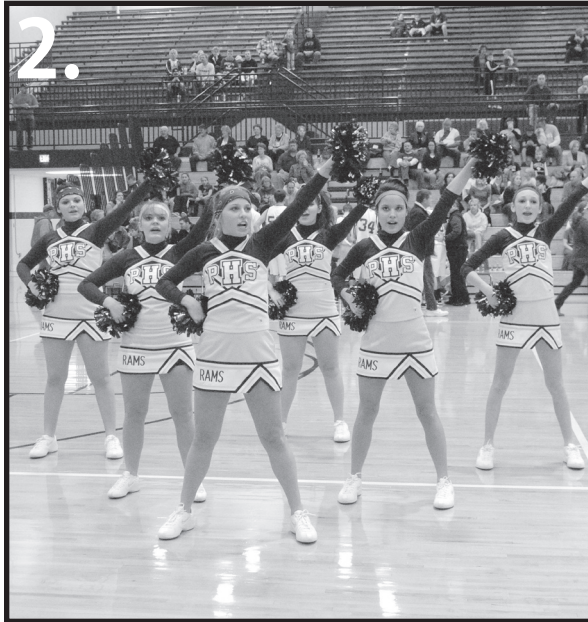


Photo by Breanna Daugherty



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1. Sophomore Devin Durbin leads the Rams to a victory over the Lanesville Eagles. "My best skills at basketball are ballin' my life away," said Durbin. 2. Junior Varsity cheerleaders cheer during a time-out. "My favorite part about cheering is going to games and having fun," said sophomore Rachael Walls. 3. Varsity and Junior Varsity cheerleaders do a stunt during a time-out. "My favorite part about cheering is stunting," said sophomore Zoe Dyer. 4. Sophomore Tanner Wroblewski passes to junior teammate senior Aaron Key during the Varsity game against the Lanesville Eagles. "My favorite part about basketball is the locker room moments," said Wroblewski.

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