

TJ Cheerleaders earn several awards at camp

Joplin, MO - The Thomas Jefferson Independent Day School Cavalier Varsity cheerleaders recently returned from a National Cheerleaders Association summer camp held at Lake of the Ozarks Country Club Spa and Resort.

The National Cheerleaders Association selects award winners at each camp it administers around the world each summer. The Thomas Jefferson Cheerleaders received several awards including the technique award.

Five of the TJ cheerleaders received nominations from the NCA instructors to become All-American nominees; Captain Elaina Reinsvold, , Martha Falls, Sara Norton, Mattie Crossland, and Cassie Zuehlke . The All-American nominees status is awarded to cheerleaders displaying superior qualities in certain aspects of cheerleading including leadership, showmanship, and technique. The National Cheerleaders Association recognized and congratulated Elaina Reinsvold, Senior and Captain of the Cavalier Squad, for outstanding accomplishments and selected her as a member of the All-American Team. Elaina is eligible to perform at the Hula Bowl All-Star Football Classic in Maui, Hawaii in January.

Thomas Jefferson's squad was also awarded THE HERKIE AWARD, named for NCA founder L.R. Herkimer and given to the team exemplifying leadership, values, and teamwork. Cavaliers Coach, Michele Dunker, was also recognized during the award's portion by receiving THE HERKIE AWARD for coaches. This award goes to the coach that realized best that team unity is the most important aspect of cheerleading.

The Thomas Jefferson Cavalier Varsity Cheerleaders completed the package by receiving Superior and Excellent Ribbons for the competitions they participated in throughout the week. They also received the camp spirit stick that is given to the team displaying the most sincere spirit and enthusiasm while at camp.

Coach Dunker boasts, "I am extremely proud of my girls, they were outstanding and worked so well as a team." Members of the squad include; Seniors, Elaina Reinsvold, Martha Falls, Sara Norton; Juniors, Alexandra Bowman, Chelsea Bruto, Mattie Crossland, Layton Jeffries; and Freshman Cassie Zuehlke.

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