

Is it an uphill battle?

Cheerleaders hope to instill spirit at York

By ALEX AHEE

This year a group of concerned people have undertaken the monumental task of instilling school spirit in the York student body.

Headed by Debbie Ritchie and Ann McCall, the group is forming a cheerleading squad composed of both men and women.

"This season we are looking for more recruits, male and female, to join our team," said Ritchie. "We are expecting to have a full complement of 20 people to travel to the football games."

In past years their has been an uphill battle. Only Nobby Wirowski has had the foresight to realize that the cheerleading team's success is closely related to the morale of the York teams.

With Wirkowski's blessing, the team will travel as often as possible to any major sport event where the York contingent needs encouragement in ranting, raving, screaming or just airing out their lungs. The girls are provided with red and white checked kilts by the athletic department. The only other required piece of equipment is a red sweater and hopefully, from a man's point of view, a pair of attractive legs.

The men need only wear a pair of jeans and a red and white checked shirt.

Last year the men were provided with track suits but have none this year. When they were sitting in Ritchie's kitchen in a green garbage bag, her father mistakenly put them out for refuse collection. He apologized and offered to replace the garb with one of his zoot suits but the girls said no thanks.

Practices will be held in the Tait McKenzie building at 7 p.m., followed by a swim or a game of basketball. After games, the team joins the football squad for any parties or pub crawling.

"First year students might take note of this, as it is a great way of meeting new people," said Ritchie.

According to Peggy Stirrett, another team member, "The only prerequisite is that one have a love of sports."

She adds "No formation cheers are done, but mostly mounts(?), chants and the occasional trick.

"This is where the guys come in because their voices can carry to the back of the stands. Also they add to the spontaneous type of atmosphere which is present at the games."

Any interested parties, male or female, can find out more about the team by phoning Debbie Ritchie at 488-1983.



Debbie Ritchie and Peggy Stirrett (left to right on top) get some support in their efforts to bring school spirit to York. They are looking for any

interested parties, both male and female, to come to their practices at 7 p.m. in the Tait McKenzie gym.

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