

# A top tier team

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It's finally soccer season, a pleasure we all missed out on last year because of the global pandemic. The last season the Marion girls soccer team had, back in 2019, they won the WAMAC title. Now, two years later with a lot of change, they were the defenders of the WAMAC. According to Mr. Erik Trilk, the head coach of the Marion girls soccer team, said, "There were no champions crowned last season; we just sort of pretend it never happened."

This year, however, was real. Real tough

opponents and real hard work being put in by the players on the Marion team. There are currently six girls on the varsity team left from the team that won two years ago. Grace Coates, Jeralyn Wessel, Stacey Sloan, Gabby Foster, Ana Schuttloffel, and Morgan Hangartner. Hangartner has been playing soccer for 14 years, and now plays varsity defense and occasionally keeper. Soccer has always held an important place in Hangartner's heart. "It's always been the one thing in my life that's stayed the same. It's a consistency thing. It's therapy," said Hangartner. She will

continue to fight her way to the top her senior year and will continue to play in college at Coe next year. The biggest opponent she had to face this season was Mt. Vernon.

Two years ago when the team won WAMAC it was

against Mt. Vernon. They are a tough team and are very good this year. According to Trilk, the two toughest schools the team had to play this year are Mt. Vernon and Beckman. The team beat Beckman April 20th, 3-1, But sadly lost to Mt. Vernon May 18th. However, that does ot mean the season is over. There is still a chance to go to state. They are working hard every day in practice. Not only the players but the coaches too. "Every single day I'm reading articles, watching videos, designing practices and managing all of the outside distractions that come with attempting to guide a team through a season successfully," said Trilk.

Whether the team makes it to state or not, their hard work speaks for itself and the strength of this team. Anyone who comes to watch a game can see the family dynamic and support these girls have for each other on and off the field. For Hangartner, it's her final year of Marion soccer, and she'll miss the family she's been a part of these last four years. For Trilk it's his last season with the 2021 seniors. "I've coached for a very long time, and this may be my favorite senior class ever. It's very large and full of kids that have played soccer their entire careers here at MHS. They are such strong leaders and kind people," said Trilk.



Morgan Hangartner, senior, rears her right leg up to punt the ball across the field.

# Dangers of cheer

By: Maggie McAllister @maggiee\_23

Whether it's competitive, sideline or collegiate level cheerleading, whether it truly is a sport or not, all forms of cheerleading have been recognized as one of the most dangerous activities of all time.

Gabby Foster, senior, has been cheering at Marion since her sophomore year of high school and has participated in basketball and football cheer throughout her high school cheer career. She loves stunting and flying but also thinks that stunting is the most dangerous part of cheerleading. "Stunting is probably the most dangerous part of cheer, especially when we try new stunts. Those typically can go really bad," said Foster.

Foster also says that over half of the cheerleading team at Marion experiences some type of injury during the season. Foster is in fact one of the many cheerleaders that has experienced a serious injury due to stunting during cheerleading. "Sophomore year during basketball season I got a concussion, because we were stunting and I fell backwards." Foster said. Foster was also on crutches for a week due to this injury. This is just one of the many injuries that the cheer team at Marion experiences throughout the season.

Vivian Quinn has

been coaching cheerleading for 25 years at Marion and also coached in Waverly Shellrock. From basketball to wrestling cheerleading she has seen it all, which also means she has experienced how dangerous cheerleading truly is. After cheering in high school and college, Quinn decided to take cheerleading into the next chapters of her life by becoming a coach. She loves the rewarding feeling she gets from getting to know her students outside of the classroom. Even though Quinn loves cheer, she also knows the risks and dangers there are to the sport that has always been apart of her life. "It is considered a sport, and there are many dangers involved



JV basketball cheerleaders put up McKaylee Duffy, freshman, in a stunt during a game.

and that is why we follow a protocol," said Quinn. This is exactly what the cheerleaders at Marion do. There are many steps and requirements taken during practice and games for cheerleaders to ensure to the best of their abilities that no one gets hurt. "We are so lucky to have a trainer at the school for when athletes get hurt," Quinn said.

Cheerleading has developed in indescribable ways over the years, which also means that the dangers and risks have developed as well. Just like any other sport in the school, cheerleaders put themselves at risk during every practice and every game they attend. But with a lot of trust and teamwork the cheerleading team still has so much fun and always enjoys what they do no matter what.