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## Young Cheerleaders Steal the Show



Young cheerleaders pose at last Friday's game Photo Doug Kohen

If you couldn't make it to the Miramonte High School varsity football game last Friday, you missed what may have been the cutest show on earth. No, not the players, good-looking guys though they may be; the cuteness was on the sidelines Friday evening.

About forty young cheerleaders, drawn largely from the Orinda elementary schools, had the opportunity to join the Miramonte Cheerleaders during the game and to perform a dance at half-time. The girls were participants in last week's Cheer Camp run by the cheerleaders.

The cheerleaders have offered camps in prior years, usually as fundraisers, but this year turned out to be more of a challenge than they anticipated. Varsity head cheerleaders Brenna Casey and Claire Rottici found themselves without the benefit of their coach, who fell very ill in September. "The cheerleaders had to organize and teach the younger girls all by themselves," said Brenna's mother, Susan Casey.

Brenna said there were forty one little girls in the camp, taught by twenty Miramonte Varsity and JV cheerleaders. "Claire and I met many times to make a 'schedule' of how everything was going to work," Brenna explained. "It has been really hard without (our coach)...but there was no doubt that we were going to follow through with our Kids Camp. Because both Claire and I are Associated Student Body officers for Miramonte as well, it made it a lot easier to talk to the administration in order to work out the logistics. All of the parents of the cheerleaders on our squad have been really helpful as well."

How much more exciting does it get than to be on the field, pom-poms in

hand, cheering with the "pros?" It's the best, according to seven year old Sally: "Do you know what I'm going to be when I grow up? I'm going to be Miramonte Cheerleader!" she announced.

"This experience is a great thing for our squad," says Brenna, " it really makes us realize another aspect of what cheerleading is all about: increasing spirit for our school, but also serving as role models for young girls. It is such a wonderful community bonding event and the little girls look up to us so much. Unlike prior years, our goal for the week was not to fundraise, but to create a cute, community event for the younger population of our city."

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