



CHEER WINS STATE

Cheerleaders dominating season continues with two regional titles and a state championship

Robert Butler

The Rebels Small Varsity Cheer team won the KHSAA State Championship, Dec. 14, at All Tech Arena in Lexington, KY.

The Rebels posted a final score of 96.1 and beat second place Pikeville by more than six points.

This win highlights the Rebels dominant run so far this season. Before winning state, they had already won two regional tournaments and a state wide tournament.

Head coach Michelle Schuster says that there is a lot of pressure being reigning national champs. She hopes that after their state championship they can place top three at nationals later this season.

"I am proud of how this team has handled the pressure. They continue to be humble and persevere," Schuster said.

Seniors Ashtyn Fangman, Lanie Fangman, and Madi Monroe all recognize the pressure that comes with winning the national championship, but they say that their team possesses a unique drive and work ethic that allows them to outperform their opponents.

"The best part of being a part of the varsity team this year is that we have a team that is willing to do anything to succeed," Lanie Fangman said. "I've never seen a team have as much determination and drive as this one."

"At competitions, we all know that the person standing to the left and right to us are going to be able to do their job in our routine. We have a focused, driven mentality," she said.

That was one thing Monroe could get behind when describing the team's success this season.

"No one on the team wants it more than the next. All 12 of us



The Rebel small varsity squad emerges for their routine at the KHSAA Region 5 Championship at Boone County High School on Nov. 23. They eventually went on to win the regional championship that secured their spot in the state tournament.

give it our all every time our music turns on," Monroe said.

Ashtyn said the amount of talent on this team is "crazy", and that this team has the most talent out of any team she's ever been on.

"We all breathe cheerleading, and we are all so dedicated to be the best at what we can do," Ashtyn Fangman said. "The skill we have is one thing, but the drive and dedication we have is rare to find in a lot of teams, and I think that's why we have been successful so far."

This is the first time a team sport at Boone has won at state since the 1971 wrestling team.

They also mentioned that their bond with their teammates has also been a big part of their historic run. After years of cheering together, they've grown closer and closer to each other.

"I thought after last year I would never be as close to a team I was, but I was wrong," Monroe said. "These girls are my best friends. They all have the same

drive which makes cheering four days a week worth it."

Ashtyn Fangman said that every person on the team cares about each other and they treat each other like family.

"We've been dreaming of having a team like this together since 6th grade," Ashtyn said. "I've grown so close to these girls and growing the Boone legacy with them has been a dream."

The Rebels haven't lost a competition since last season and

with a young group of talented underclassmen and senior leadership they could make even more history down in Orlando later this season.

The junior varsity team won their division at two different regional tournaments this season before getting ninth at state.

"We all work so hard and we don't make excuses for anything. We want to go back-to-back together and we are willing to go the extra mile to do it," Ashtyn Fangman said.

After 12 years in charge, superintendent to retire June 30

Career Highlights



1985

Dr. Randy Poe



Present Day

Coaching jobs at Boone: Soccer & tennis

Achievements: NKU Outstanding Alumnus Award, KASA Superintendent of the Year Award, NKYEC Spirit of the Region Award

Years working for Boone County: 37 years

Kaiden Huber

The superintendent for Boone County Schools is planning to retire in 2020 after working in Boone County for 37 years, leading them for the last 12 years. Dr. Randy Poe announced to the Boone County School Board on Nov. 14 that his retirement will take effect on June 30, 2020.

He has worked as a teacher and coach at Boone; assistant principal at Conner Middle School; principal at R. A. Jones Middle School; Executive Director of Research, Data, and Technology; assistant superintendent; deputy superintendent and is ending his career as the superintendent of the district.

"Upon my student teaching, which was here at Boone County, I decided that I really enjoyed teaching and that (it) was a passion," Poe said.

Boone principal Bill Baker asked Poe to teach introduction to marketing, retail management, and entrepreneurship.

While teaching at Boone, Poe also coached the soccer and tennis teams, had multiple players go into the state semifinals, and was inducted into the Northern Kentucky Soccer Coach Hall of Fame. While coaching, his soccer team won the Northern Kentucky Athletic Conference.

He said one goal of his when he first started as superintendent was to make sure all of the students were "career, col-

lege, and life ready." According to Poe, Boone County was the first district in Kentucky to say life ready. Most districts only say career and college ready, but Boone wanted their students to be ready for all aspects of their lives after high school.

Poe has won several awards including the 2012 NKU Outstanding Alumnus Award, the 2013 KASA Superintendent of the Year Award, and the most recent being the 2019 NKYEC Spirit of the Region Award along with several other awards.

"For the last 37, years the Boone County School District has been my second home," Poe said in a letter to Boone County schools families.

For the past eight years, Boone County Schools has had an average composite ACT score of 20 or above, and Poe has helped with that by supporting giving students more opportunities to be in college classes and adding college readiness assessments. Boone County's ACT scores have increased to give Boone County the title of the highest performing diverse public school district in Kentucky according to the Northern Kentucky Tribune.

After retiring, he said he plans on spending more time with his grandchildren and taking more opportunities to play golf, which he enjoys. For his career after retirement, he will be working in the region as the executive director of the Northern Kentucky Education Council, continuing his passion for working with kids.