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NEWS RELEASE

Feb. 1, 2019

Florida State FHSAA Cheerleading Championship Results *Two ECSD Squads Bring Home Titles*

Varsity cheerleaders from Tate High School and West Florida High School traveled to Gainesville this week to compete in the 2018-2019 FHSAA State Cheerleading Championships in their respective divisions.

The squad from Tate High competed in the Class 1A Small Coed division. They took first place making them the first squad from Tate High School or Escambia County to take first place in their division since Pine Forest won that honor in the 80s. They are also the first ECSD squad to win since Cheerleading was recognized as a sport and included in the FHSAA competitions.

The squad from West Florida High School competed in the Class 1A Large Varsity category. This was the second year in a row that they qualified to compete at the state level and, for the second year in a row, they took second place!

To have two squads compete from the same school district makes the event twice as exciting for Escambia County's School Superintendent Malcolm Thomas. "Congratulations to the cheerleader athletes for representing their schools and the district," said Superintendent Thomas.

The cheerleaders from Tate returned to campus on Friday where they were greeted and cheered for by their classmates and the band. Superintendent Thomas announced that that squads, from both schools have been invited to attend the School Board meeting to be celebrated.

But first, Tate's squad will be traveling again next weekend to Orlando's Wide World of Sports to compete at the UCA High School Nationals set for Feb. 8 – 11.

"Congratulations to our Co-Ed State Champion Cheerleading Team. Coach White, Coach Wiggins, and all of the cheerleaders did an amazing job," said Tate High School's Principal Rick Shackle. "Again, congratulations on being State Champions and your immeasurable efforts."

"I'm so proud of the work these athletes have put in this year," said Coach Morgan White. "We've had many trials and hurdles they've had to endure, but their resiliency and love for their school continues to push these athletes forward. I feel incredibly blessed to be a part of the Tate High School cheer program."

Congratulations go to: Kyndell Ammons, Morgan Austin, Jonah Cass, Bailey Carter, Shelby Fleming, Isabella Floyd, Kensley Foley Hagyn Helton, Payton Herring, Madeline Hughes, Erin Johnson, Elena Lucci, Abi Manoso, Keaden Martin, Kyndal Milsted, Ashlyn NeSmith, Madelyn Ray, Emma Romero, Payton Simmons, Ariyana Wyatt, Krysanne Hagen – Co-Captain, Emilee Potter – Co-Captain, and Kennedy Bellard – captain. This year's Head Coach is Morgan White and the Assistant Coach is Annie Wiggins.

The Cheer squad from West Florida High School also traveled to the State Championships in Gainesville to compete in the Class 1A Large Varsity category and they took second place! For the second year in a row!

"We are extremely proud of our West Florida varsity cheerleaders. Their hard work and dedication is both admired and appreciated," said West Florida High School's Principal Shenna Payne.

Congratulations go to West Florida's Varsity Roster: Alyssa Albertson, Sarah Albertson Taylor Bailey, Lanie Brown. Chloe Claxton, Madison Couture, Chloe Douglas, Amanda Klemm, Saniyah Marioneaux , Jazmine Olsen, Haley Pratt, Erica Ragsdale, Nadiya Reeves, Zaniya Royster, Kalista Russell, Kaylin Russell Alexis Shaw, Alyssa Tran, Savannah Young, Destiney Larkins - Co-Captain, Jada Lee – Captain, and their Coach, Stacie Hammer

Photos are available on Facebook on the page, Escambia Schools Public Relations. Media queries about Escambia County School District topics should be directed to Kim Stefansson, at [850-393-0539](tel:850-393-0539) or 469-6219, or kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us. Like ECSD on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ecsdf. Go to the Escambia Schools Public Relations page on www.facebook.com/ecsd.public to see pictures of recent events. Visit ECSD's web page at www.escambiaschools.org
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