

Grand champs

Pompon team qualifies for nationals

THE GRAND champion pompon squad from Farmington High School thought they would be enjoying fun in the sun this winter at the first Mid-American Pompon National Invitational.

The 17-member squad had made plans to go to Orlando, Fla., and have spent all fall raising money to earn the several thousand dollars needed for the trip, according to coach Karen Johnson.

Several weeks ago, the group, which had qualified for the invitational at a summer pompon camp, were told the Mid-American group had to cancel its national competition because only eight teams were planning to attend.

Organizers, who are based in Farmington Hills, told the team they were relying on many more teams

attending; they had invited 2,500. Apparently, the \$5,000 cost, plus liability concerns by some school districts, had prompted the low turnout.

FARMINGTON HIGH's squad placed first each night of their summer camp, brought home the Grand Championship trophy, and were looking forward to representing their school at a national competition, they said.

Despite the letdown and disappointment, the girls are continuing to practice their routines and develop new ones for upcoming events, Johnson said.

"They've worked really hard," she added. "The girls have done exceptionally well."

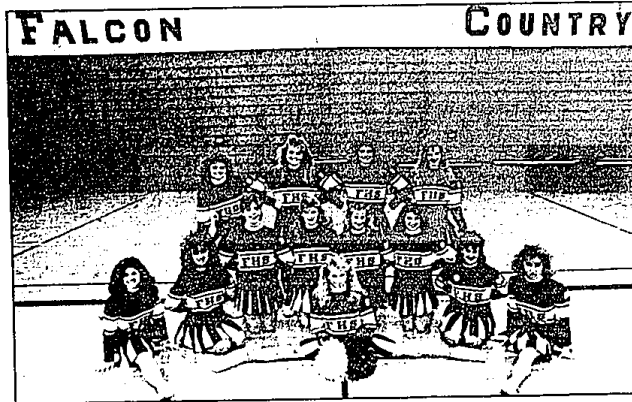
Although not active during the entire school football season, the FHS

pompon squad appears at basketball games, and special events such as Homecoming football games.

In addition, four members are on the Pompon All Star team and will participate in activities at Walt Disney World in Orlando, the Thanksgiving Parade in Detroit and will perform at a Detroit Pistons basketball game in the Pontiac Silverdome.

These members include: Holley Wells, Cheryl Kipping, Stacey Shoemaker and Linda Monge.

To be on the Farmington High squad, each member had to get two recommendations from faculty members. They prepare all of their own routines, which take about 20 hours to perfect, and take turns leading the group, Johnson said. This year's team co-captains include Wells and Dawn Syriah.



RANDY BORSI/Staff photographer

Front, doing splits: Cheryl Kipping, junior. Middle row: Linda Monge, senior, Helena Contro-neio, junior, Lisa Runey, sophomore, Paula Gerard, junior, Linda Deering, junior, Tina Taube, senior, Heather McNichols, junior, Lauren Mistor, senior. Back row: Holly Wells, sen-

ior, Wendy Oller, junior, Stacy Swanderaki, senior, Stacey Shoemaker, junior. Not pictured: Dawn Syriah, senior, Alicia Mazza, sophomore, Denise Balcerzak, senior, Kelly Kramer, senior.

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