

WE ARE THE HAWKS- COULDN'T BE PROUDER!

WEST DELAWARE'S STUDENT SECTION BRINGS THE HEAT

By Ella Oakleaf

West Delaware's football and volleyball student sections aren't just places for students to sit. In fact, most students do everything but.

Through choreographed chants and dances such as squeezing the orange, peeling the banana, and riding the roller-coaster, student section participants are constantly making themselves heard.

Students enjoy dressing according to the planned theme and keeping the players' spirits up. "I think it promotes unity and energy and makes it a great environment to be a part of," said volleyball coach Brett Mather. "They become a part of what's going on on the court and on the field."

Junior Marshall McCarty said, "Student sections are important because

they rattle the other team along with cheering on our own team."

The students themselves pick the theme for each game. Senior Maddy Klosterman runs a Twitter page that lets students know what outfits to wear, usually the day before the event. "People can Direct Message me and tell me what they want the theme to be," said Klosterman.

Some of this year's themes included Beach, 'Merica, and color themes such as black-out and pink-out. Props include floaties and sunglasses for beach theme, bandanas and flag patterns for 'Merica, and face paint, which goes with almost any theme.

Senior Isabelle Breitfelder said, "I like the different colors like black out and white out because it's easy to do and

everyone can do it."

Freshman Macy Loecke said, "My favorite theme was the beach theme because it was hot out that game, so it matched perfectly."

When it comes to finding costumes and outfits, Dollar General and Walmart are go-tos for students. Junior Morgan Lee said she likes to buy from these places because they're cheap and have what people need. "It's only for one night, so you don't want it to be expensive," said Lee.

An eye-catcher in West Delaware's student section is the 1957 papier mâché Hawk head, worn by senior Clayton Larsen. Larsen said, "I think it shows school spirit, which obviously West Delaware's pretty good at."



1



2



3



4

1. Seniors Megan Downs, Maddy Klosterman, Kaylar Recker, Kielyn Tutton, and Janna Utter cheer on the Hawks during a beach-themed game against Maquoketa. "When we have cheer-offs against the other team's sections, it's fun when they participate, because then our whole section wants to be better than theirs," said Recker. 2. Kenzy MacDonald (11), Kinzie Recker (11), Rikki Million (12), and Ryan Fangmann (10) cheer on the girls' volleyball team in a game against Central DeWitt, during which Million matched Jenna Utter's Princess Peach costume by dressing as Mario, and MacDonald dressed as a ballerina. MacDonald said, "I hope next year our grade is able to keep up with the cheers and stay really involved like this year's seniors are." 3. Seniors Max Ridenour and Brett Rausch dress as Dumb and Dumber characters for a costume theme at the volleyball game against Central DeWitt. 4. The entire West Delaware student section throws cups of flour into the air at the beginning of the game against Charles City.