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Bouncing and Squealing : Cheerleading as a Sport

Would one want to watch squealing and spry cheerleaders running around when one goes to watch a basketball or football game? Even though pediatricians demand cheerleading be recognized as a sport, cheerleading is not a sport because it is based on looks, and because cheerleading does not meet all the criteria for being a sport.

To begin with, cheerleading is not a sport because cheerleading is not based on athletic ability but based on looks. Many cheerleaders think that standing on the sidelines looking cute is a sport. For example, when one goes to a basketball game, he or she is there to see a real sport. Someone running and using technique, and strategy to win a competition. It is like the cheerleaders priority to be annoying. It is irritating to watch a real sport and see cheerleaders bouncing and screaming around the court. People come to see a game not to see how pretty a girl looks in a short skirt.

Cheerleading is all about looks: "And how about the fact that it has a huge element of looks? These girls are supposed to look hot, at least they usually tend to. What sport has any basis in how you look?" ("Cheerleading Is Not A Sport"¹). Don't even tell a real sports fan that cheerleading is a sport. If it is a sport, it is a competition to see who looks the hottest, or who has their nails done to match their lipstick. Come on, really, real sports fans have all seen cheerleaders stand around smiling, flirting, and winking. Does

one think smiling is going to be in the Olympics? Thus, cheerleading is not a sport because it is based on looks and not on athletic ability.

Furthermore, cheerleading is not a sport because cheerleading does not meet all the criteria that a sport needs. Many cheerleaders and cheerleading teams do not meet all the criteria. There are 400,000 cheerleaders in the United States of America. Out of the 400,000 cheerleaders, only 123,000 cheerleaders compete. This means that more than half of the cheerleaders in the United States of America do not compete. If cheerleaders do not compete, they do not meet any of the criteria. Many Cheerleaders do not meet all the criteria that is necessary: "it must be governed by rules that explicitly define the time, space, and purpose of the contest which a winner is declared"("Lauchaire"2). But if the teams do not compete, they cannot fulfill all the requirements. Since many cheerleader to not have mats because they do not tumble they can not meet all the criteria. Therefore, cheerleading is not a sport because it does not meet all the requirements of being a sport.

Granted, opponents think cheerleading is a sport because cheerleading is dangerous. Just because flying fifteen feet in the air in a stunt with 3 people on top of each other doesn't make cheerleading a sport. For example, if a window washer is washing the burj khalifa, which is the worlds tallest building, at 2,717 feet, does that make it a sport. Isn't washing windows that are 2,717 feet in the air more dangerous then a person being stunted fifteen feet? That is a 2,702 height difference! Another example is mining. Mining is very dangerous; many people die every year because of the ground collapsing. More

people die from mining each year than cheerleading. Washing window on skyscrapers and mining are not sports because they are dangerous.

In addition, the other opponents for cheerleading say that cheerleaders practice a lot, so the cheerleading team can perfect their stunts and routines. Does this mean that when one practices something a great deal it becomes a sport? For example, if one practices spelling words or practices playing the piano a lot does this make these activities a sport? If you practice something a lot it does not make any activity a sport. In the end, cheerleading is not a sport because it is not physically athletic and practicing a lot does not make anything a sport.

In conclusion, cheerleading is not a sport because cheerleading is based on looks, and real sports requires competition. Since when does wearing makeup and screaming on the sidelines considered a sport?

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