



Saint Viator's State Champion Cheerleaders Honored at Arlington Heights Village Board Meeting

April 13, 2011



Arlington Heights Mayor Arlene Mulder congratulates Saint Viator's varsity cheerleaders on their ICCA state championship.

Arlington Heights Mayor Arlene Mulder declared the varsity cheerleaders from Saint Viator High School had made their hometown proud. After competing in the Illinois Cheerleading Coaches' Association (ICCA) championships in Springfield, they came home with a state title.

Mulder recognized the squad as one of the most successful in the school's history before the start of the Arlington Heights village board meeting, which was televised live.

Before introducing the team, Mulder gave the audience a brief recap of their season, describing their first place

finish among large varsity squads and first place for best stunt, as well.

The team, coached by sisters Chrissy and Tara Palumbo, both Saint Viator alumnae, also earned its second straight top 10 finish at the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) state championships held in Peoria.

"Your efforts are an example to everyone of what can be achieved through practice, endurance and commitment," Mulder said. "You've made your hometown proud."

With that, Mulder turned to the audience and asked if any of them had watched competitive cheerleading lately.

"The talent and skill necessary are second to no other athletic activity," said Mulder, a former high school physical education teacher. "Cheerleading really is a sport."

Saint Viator's varsity squad includes: Morgan Anderson of Long Grove, Lauren Biernacki, Stefanie Ferrari and Caitlin Poltzer of Prospect Heights; Tara Burns, Anna Cirone, Kathleen Darling, Ciara Gaffney, Anna Malapanes, Megan McCollum, Katie Naughton, Allison Stepuszek and Breanna St. Pierre, all of Arlington Heights; Taylor Carlson of Inverness; Jaclyn Catanese of Schaumburg; Alexandra Tuccori of Des Plaines; Lauren Luthringshausen of Kildeer; Suzanna Faycurry, Kathryn Holsworth, Tara Kane, Mary Ann McAndrews and Jenna Shaxted of Barrington; and Maggie Dickey of Elk Grove Village.

Their season included sideline cheering at basketball and football games before undertaking their competitive season and their march through regional and sectional competitions before advancing to the state championship series.

"It really was fun," said senior co-captain Stefanie Ferrari of Prospect Heights. "We worked hard and it all paid off."