



From left, Morgan Walker, Mellissa Rodriguez and Haley McCoy lead the crowd in a cheer while held aloft by the rest of their teammates. Two members of the Salida squad, Natalie Kreski and Demi Vanatta, were named to the All Conference team.

Cheerleaders win coed team division competition

by Brian McCabe
Mail Staff Writer

The Salida Spartans cheerleading team hosted the Tri-Peaks League Cheer Competition Thursday and won the coed team division.

Salida also had two girls named to the All Conference team, sophomore Natalie Kreski and junior Demi Vanatta.

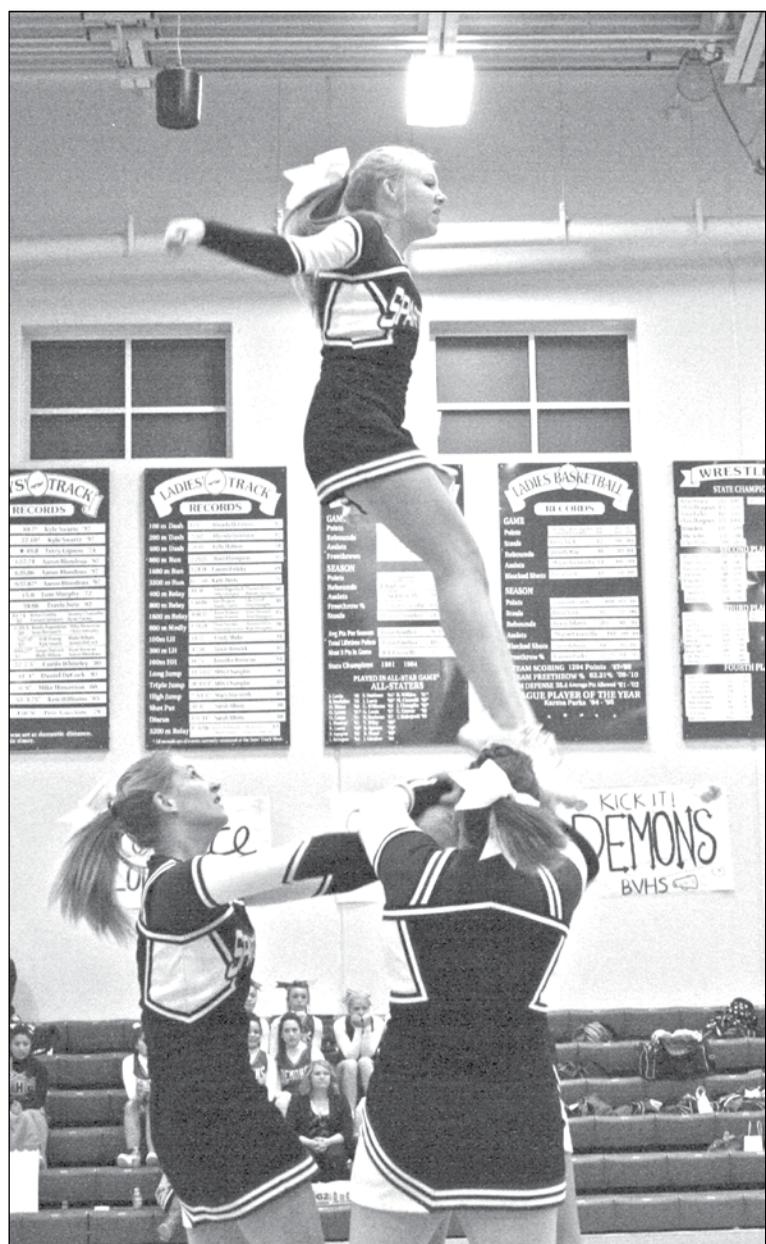
"The girls did an amazing job," said head coach Kathy Davis-Peter. "They hit everything they needed to hit tonight. We still have some work to do before state, but tonight they did a really great job."

St. Mary's High School from Colorado Springs won the all-girls team competition.

Also competing were Buena Vista High School, who had a lot of support in the crowd, Florence High School, Lamar High School, Manitou Springs High School and Dolores Huerfano Preparatory High School.

"We had a really great turnout tonight," Davis-Peter said. "The community was really out tonight, and all of the parents who traveled as well. It was great to see all the support."

The Salida cheerleaders cheer for and support other athletic teams all year-round and will participate in their next formal competition Dec. 6-7, when they travel to Denver for the state meet.



Photos by Brian McCabe

Spartan flyer Morgan Walker is tossed into the air by her teammates during the Tri-Peaks League Cheer Competition Thursday at Salida High School. Salida won the coed division.



Courtesy photo

Darren Bachand, left, stands with son Garrett before one of Garrett's races earlier this year. Garrett said if everything goes well for him next year when he moves up to the A division, he will start racing professionally.

Dirt bike racer wraps up season

by Brian McCabe
Mail Staff Writer

Salida dirt bike racer Garrett Bachand wrapped up his season Sunday, winning his second B overall series championship race at the last round of the Colorado Off-Road Championship Series in Colorado Springs.

Bachand won the B division of the Rocky Mountain Enduro Circuit and took third overall in the Webe Racing Harescrambles Series B division, which placed him seventh overall in the Colorado Off-Road Championship Series.

"This season went really well," Bachand said. "I only had one DNF (did not finish), which was good. I smashed my chain guard at the Webe Powderhorn race and lost my chain."

Bachand competed in more than 20 races in four states this year.

Later this month he will train with pro Destry Abbott to prepare for next year's races, which will include some national enduro races and the Rocky Mountain Enduro Circuit, the Colorado Off-Road Champion-

ship Series and the Webe Series, plus some nationally televised endurocross series races.

"Endurocross is on a much smaller track, with lots of rocks and logs," Bachand said. "The smaller track makes it easier for the crowd to watch, and you can see it on X-Games."

His new season will start in February and will be a big year for Bachand.

"Next year I'll be racing A class, and hopefully after that, if all goes well and I don't suffer any injuries, I'll be going pro."

Bachand said he really wants to thank his sponsors, Gunnison Motorsports, Fly Racing, Kenda Tires, FAF Printing, BRP, TBT Racing, C&J Automotive, Destry Abbott DA8 Training, Rekluse, Colorado2Day, Enduro Spec, Acerbit, Sidi and X-Brand. He said he also looks forward to racing with a new team next year, Singletrack Syndicate.

"Most of all though, I want to thank my dad," Bachand said. "I wouldn't be able to do any of this without him. He is a big help and support for me."

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