

# ALWAYS EARNED

Senior Ethan Laman explains his past in cheer, and how he received an athletic scholarship

Captain of varsity cheer senior Ethan Laman is getting ready. Having received a full ride scholarship from Midland University, Laman's years of hard work paid off in the form of an athletic scholarship. This accomplishment stems from years of commitment and hard work.

This season, Laman has spent hours each week in the commons for practice, in the gym for weight training, and attending open gyms for tumbling. These extra hours spent working to improve his cheering have paid off for Laman.

"This year, I've put in a lot of work outside of practice. Even though our practice time and competitions are very limited because of COVID-19, I want to be as successful as possible in my last year of high school cheer," Laman said,

Currently in his third year on the varsity cheer team, Laman stepped in the doors of Castle View with no expectation of becoming a male cheerleader. After discovering the types of scholarships male cheerleaders receive, Laman decided to give cheerleading a shot, and soon he decided cheer is the sport for him.

"The opportunity for college sparked my interest in cheer. I made varsity my sophomore year, and finally signing feels awesome. I wasn't expecting it at all," Laman said.

Every year, college athletic programs look for the best of the best to recruit for their athletic teams. For many people who participate in high school sports, this is what sparks their interest. Although most athletes work for the chance to play at a collegiate level, very few get the chance.

"Cheer was able to give me the motivation to make myself proud that nobody else or nothing else ever could," Laman said.

With less than four months left in the school year and

"I'M GOING TO MISS MY TEAM THE MOST, BUT I'M REALLY EXCITED FOR THE TRAVELING AND COMPETITIONS I'M GOING TO DO WITH MY NEW TEAM."

competition season swiftly approaching, Laman is determined to finish his three year highschool cheerleading journey with a state win for his team.

"I have to keep my first two seasons in the back of my head through this season. I just have to keep thinking about the feeling you get when you step on the mat. I'm still in shock that high school is so close to being over. The past four years have shaped me into the person I am, and the person I am still to become. It's kind of a sigh of relief but at the same time, I'm sad that it's almost over," Laman said.

Three years of hard work and endless effort are finally becoming worth it for Laman. In the months ahead, he plans to graduate and leave for college in early August. Although his time at Castle View is coming to an end, Laman is ready to finish his senior year stronger than ever before, and hopefully a state trophy.

*written by Macy Key and photo courtesy of Ethan Laman*



**GETTING GEARED UP:** Ethan Laman signing his commitment papers to the Midland University Cheer team. Excited for his next four years, Laman was accompanied by friends and family for the signing.