

Katy's COLLEGIATE CHEERLEADERS

These former Katy-area, high school spirit leaders made their sport a lifestyle and did everything it takes to achieve their dream

Cheerleading at the college level takes blood, sweat, tears, a ton of hours, and an enormous amount of dedication. They work their whole life, and pour their soul into being the best. These girls were raised and trained at local competitive cheer gyms, many while balancing high school cheerleading, to reach their ultimate goal: becoming a collegiate athlete.

Madison Barnard

Oklahoma University - Coed

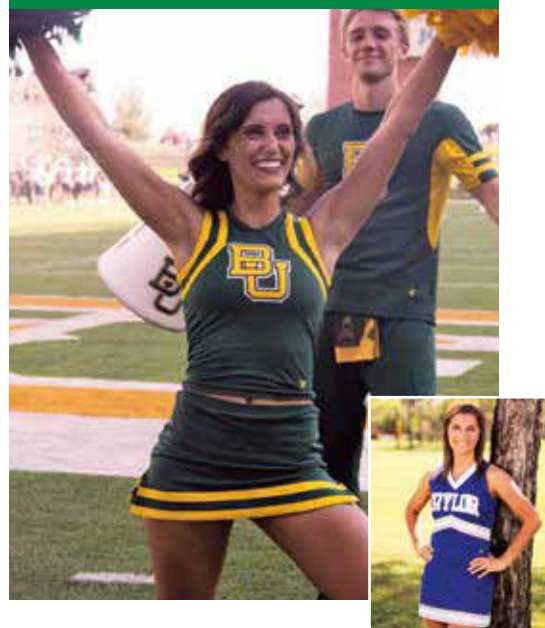


Madison Barnard started cheering competitively when she was 12 years old. "The longer I cheered, the more I wanted to become a collegiate cheerleader," says Barnard. Now as the only senior cheerleader on the coed team at Oklahoma University (OU), she helps run the team with the coaches. She has had the opportunity to compete at ESPN World Wide Sports and at UCA Nationals. "What I love most is being an ambassador for the university, and being a role model for little girls."

**"The love I have for this sport grows every day and I thank God that He allows me to shine His light through cheerleading."
- Madison Barnard**

Emma Wilson

Baylor University - Coed



Emma Wilson first cheered when she was 5 years old. She has competed at UCA Nationals and Cheerleading Worlds competitively. "At the end of my junior year in high school I decided that I would try out in college, so I took private lessons to learn elite partner stunts," says Wilson. She has served as captain of her team in both high school and college. "I have learned some of life's biggest lessons from being in that leadership role," says Wilson.

**"When you've cheered for 15 years, you really love every aspect of it; the crowd leading, ambassadorship, entertainment, and athleticism."
- Emma Wilson**

Shannon Woolsey

Oklahoma State University - Coed



Shannon Woolsey started cheerleading when she was 6 years old at CheerNation. Over the years she has won NCA Nationals and The Majors twice. She has been to Worlds championship five times where her team placed in the top 10. Woolsey already knew she wanted to attend OSU, and after taking part in their cheer clinic, she felt even more at home. What she loves most about cheerleading are the friendships she has made. "The amount of people that will forever have an impact on me is amazing," she says.

"Once I got to experience OSU's amazing cheer program, I knew that it was the place I wanted to spend the next four years of my life." - Shannon Woolsey

Taylor Freetage

Texas Christian University - All Girl



Taylor Freetage was 4 years old when she started cheering competitively. "Being able to cheer on the Horned Frogs is my biggest cheerleading accomplishment. Having that dream come true has been the most exciting journey of my life," says Freetage. Some of her favorite moments have been cheering at the Alamo Bowl against Oregon and competing with Seven Lakes High School at UCA Nationals.

"Being a cheerleader means serving your community, and being a part of something bigger than yourself." - Taylor Freetage

Danielle Cruz

Texas State University - All Girl

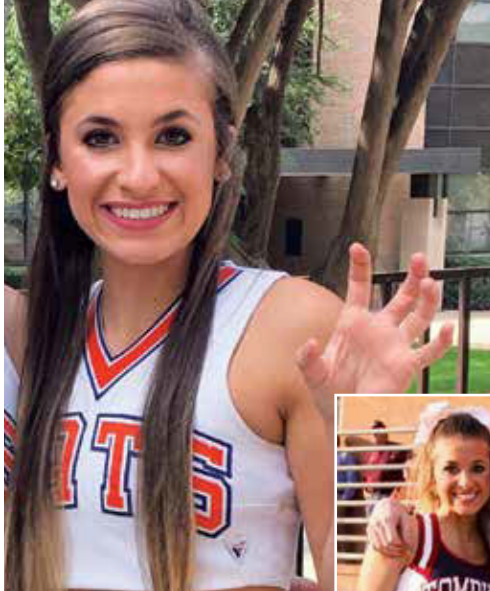


Danielle Cruz started cheering at CheerNation when she was 10 years old. Over the years, she has become an All American Cheerleader and has competed in and won Worlds twice. "I know that I am more than blessed and fortunate with the talent that has been bestowed upon me," says Cruz. She chose Texas State University because of their phenomenal education program and has always dreamed of becoming a college cheerleader. Apart from watching the joy in her coaches' faces after hitting a routine, "The thing I love most about cheerleading is the bond you create not only with your teammates, who become lifelong friends, but also the new friends you make." She also loves being a spirit ambassador for Texas State.

"Cheerleading has always been a huge part of my life and has helped mold me into the person that I am today." - Danielle Cruz

Tara Cullins

Sam Houston State University - Coed



Before Tara Cullins became a Sam Houston State cheerleader, she cheered competitively for 12 years, starting at age 6. Cullins won NCA four times and says that her biggest accomplishment to date is winning Worlds. Some of her favorite moments have been making her coaches proud by hitting her routines, and making memories with the people she has met along the way. Cheerleading for Cullins is much more than a sport; it is a lifestyle. "We sacrifice a lot of things in order to do what we do, but in the end it's worth it. I'll carry the things I've learned through cheerleading with me throughout my life," she says. **KM**

"I wish others knew how challenging of a sport cheerleading really is mentally and physically. Cheerleading is more than just a hobby or a sport, it truly is a lifestyle." - Tara Cullins



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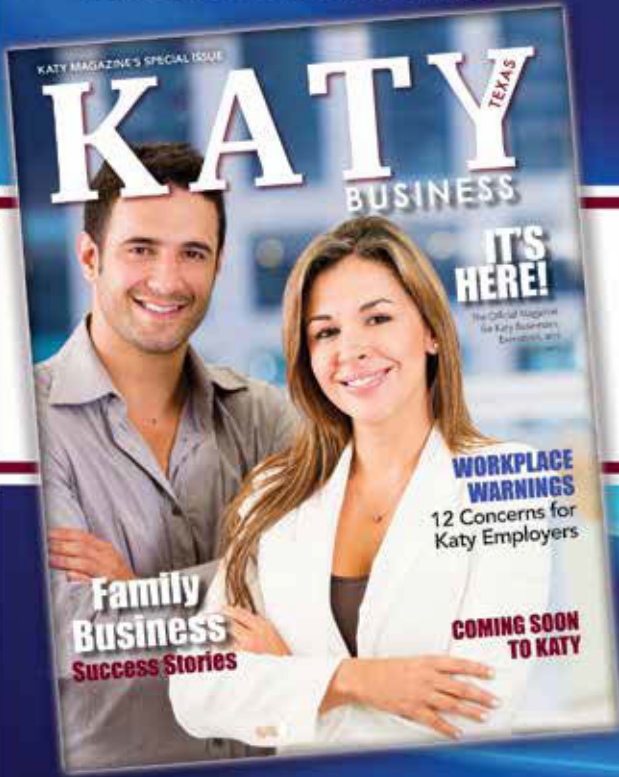
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