



Half-timers invigorated by new members

By Dena Jarrar

Smoke Signal Art Director

Riverdale knows them as the Halftimers. The dance team comes in during the midst of a pep-rally and excites the crowd just as much or maybe even more so as the cheerleaders do. A lot of work goes into every one of their dance rehearsals. Former Halftimer member Tra Norwood, senior, and current member Patrick Rathamon, senior, gives us their thoughts and experiences of being a part of the team.

“I was a member for three years,” Norwood says. “I got the opportunity to showcase my talents to people. It also allowed me to do what I love, which is to dance”

Rathamon shares similar feelings about the team. “Dancing is my passion, and I love showing everyone how much it means to me every time they see me perform. I’m known for my facial expressions; especially my tongue. I was also co-captain last year as a junior, and since I have been on the Halftimers, the co-captains were always seniors. I love performing for the whole school at pep rallies. I also love the basketball games because we get to show the other schools that we’re the best around here.”

The members like to put variety into their moves and music choice for every show they throw at the audience. The team always has fresh new dance moves put to hit songs, according to the dancers. “Our choreographers pick our music most of the time, but if we have suggestions, they may consider using them,” Rathamon says.

“The ‘Beef It Up’ is a new dance that originated in Atlanta and it’s like a shoulder bounce move, but it’s legit! The music we all dance to is pretty up-to-date, too,” says Norwood.

New members of the dance crew throw undiscovered talent and a new flair into the year. “We have a few new members and I’m excited to work and perform with them this year,” Rathamon says.

With this hyped-up group full of skilled performers with a passion for dancing, this year should be a very promising one for the RHS Halftimers.

Members of the 2011-12 team are: seniors Patrick Rathamon, Indasia Marshall, Taylor Alsup, Chase Prater, and Njera Howe; juniors Dontre Perry, TJ Patient, and Igolo Obi; and sophomores Teresa Sy, Sabastian Soumpholphakdy, Andrew Vongchanh, DeJah Sherri, Alyndria Carroll, and Joy Frierson.