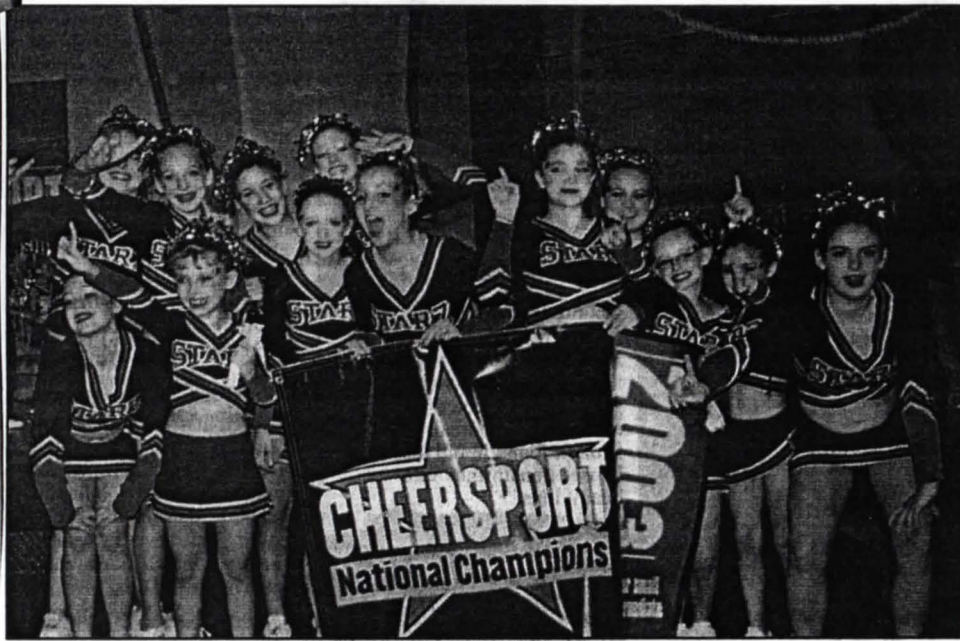




Submitted photo

The Reeves Community Center All-Star Cheerleaders, Cheer Elite STARZ who returned home with the National Championship title from Atlanta, include Isabella Gillespie, Falon Gillespie, Kelby Tate, Amber Jones, Jessica Hudson, Chelsi Hill, Megan King, Kiki McFowler, Stephanie Smith, Maggie Smith, Allie Moore, Maggie McKee, Kayla Hill, Amber Jones and Summer Glass. Their coach, not pictured, is Faye Gillespie.

Reeves cheerleaders win in Cheersports national competition

ATLANTA, Ga. — The Reeves Community Center All-Star Cheerleaders, Cheer Elite STARZ, shined in the Southeast's largest National Cheerleading Competition.

Beating out more than 700 teams, the hometown cheerleaders brought back a National Championship win. The girls returned from Atlanta with the National Championship banner, a trophy, charms, rings and National Championship jackets.

Team Coach Faye Gillespie said the National Cheersport Competition made the front page of the Sports Section of the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, proving that the sport of cheerleading has arrived along with Mount Airy's favorite Starz.

The three-day event was held at the Georgia World Congress Center in downtown Atlanta. It ran through Jan. 20. The timing of the event forced competitors to leave Mount Airy during the Jan. 16 winter storm. Determined to compete, the RCC Cheer Elite Starz proceeded with caution on their journey.

After finishing all first-round competitions, the STARZ found themselves with a remarkable 16-point lead. Gillespie hoped that the girls would focus on another day of competition and not their remarkable lead.

"With determination the STARZ delivered another flawless routine on Sunday. Judges were awed by the fact that this appeared to be a true Cinderella story.

"This is a small town All-Star cheerleading group that practices

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in the basement of a community center on half a spring floor. But I had so much confidence in the girls' abilities I felt brave enough to attempt an Atlanta appearance. They met my every expectation and more, blowing away teams from around the United States. Mount Airy parents and others were speechless with tear-filled eyes as they witnessed impressive skill and determination," remarked Gillespie.

The Cheer Elite Starz competed in the highly competitive division of Junior Small Intermediate. They defeated teams from Tennessee, Florida, Alabama, South Carolina, Michigan, Georgia, Massachusetts and other North Carolina teams.

"The team members and coaching staff believe that dreams do come true and give all glory to God. We appreciate all of the continued support for the team and Reeves Community Center," Gillespie said.

The team is hoping to make improvements to their practice facility in the upcoming future. They are also focusing on their

upcoming Florida competition. Those interested in the upcoming team try-outs should contact RCC.