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Clear Lake Falcons Football

Eight Falcon Cheerleaders to Perform in China

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From the Clear Lake Citizen

by Eric Ervin

Sixteen area high school cheerleaders will perform in China next month for the grand opening of a soccer stadium and other events.

Members of the cheerleader group Air Force I will leave Bush Intercontinental Airport July 30 on their way to China.

They include Lauren Gremillion, Christina Harris, Katie Dougherty, Cara Mills, Lindsay Vogel, Kendal O'Sullivan and Rachel Hammack of Clear Creek High School; Ashley Ray, Cassie Theissen, Alex Parks, Lauren Moore, Sarah Grant, Sarah Jachimiec, Lyndsey Blythe, and Nicole Richard of Clear Lake High School; and Jessica Gullede of Friendswood High School.

They will perform at a event marking the completion of the Suzhou Sports Center in Suzhou China.

The group is a special team of girls put together by University Cheer and Dance Company of Houston.

They were narrowed down from a list of about 100 girls, said Nicole Leago, owner of the cheerleader business for 12 years and a graduate of Clear Lake High School.

"These are a great group of kids," Leago said. "It was a hard choice to make."

Ping Ping Lin, who saw them perform at a UCA National Championship at Disney World in Orlando, Fla., last year, is responsible for bringing the group to China.

The competition was aired nationally on the ESPN television sports network.

Lin, president of USA Parapet, a Houston-based company, serves on the board of directors for the new stadium in China.

She pushed to get the girls to perform at the stadium opening. Lin feels the trip will give the group an opportunity to promote American sports and culture in China, while allowing them to experience some of the Chinese traditions and culture.

"We're a little nervous because of the cultural difference, but we're excited," Leago said.

Also, the girls will perform at local schools and other events.

While in China, members of the group will go sight seeing in Zhouzhuang, which is often described as the Venice of China, and Shanghai.

Leago believes the girls will remember the trip for many years to come.

"It a once in a lifetime deal," she said.

Other members of the group include Ryann McMinn of Crosby High School, Jaci Knowles of Baytown Lee High School and Roya Bailey of Bellaire High School.



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