

# NEWS OF SPORTS

## There's No Cheerleading In Baseball

(NAPS)—Baseball may be America's pastime, but it's the only one of the "big three" professional sports (football and basketball being the other two) that doesn't have cheerleaders—and a number of people think it's about time that pom-poms became standard equipment at the ballpark.

Surprisingly, cheerleading has a history nearly as old as the great game itself. School-age students began cheering at competitive sporting events in Great Britain in 1860. The first cheer club followed at Princeton University five years later and, by 1889, the first "official" cheerleader made his debut at the University of Minnesota.

Educators have found that being a part of a cheerleading squad has a positive effect on a student's self-esteem, participation and academic record. Eighty-three percent of young women (97 percent of all cheerleaders are female) have a B average or better; the same number hold leadership positions in school organizations.

Another surprising fact about cheerleading is that, by the dictionary definition, it qualifies as a sport: "an athletic activity requiring skill or physical prowess and often of a competitive nature." Not only that, but during a typical 3½ hour football game, the players get numerous breaks; the cheerleaders go flat out the entire time.

Celebrities who've strutted their stuff on the sidelines include Kim Basinger, Sandra Bullock, Cameron Diaz, Calista Flockhart, Lauren Hill, Ashley Judd, Madonna, Meryl Streep and Sela Ward, to just name a few.

Last summer, competitive cheerleading got a boost with the release



**Something to cheer about: The hit film *Bring It On*, which looks at competitive cheerleading, is now available on VHS and DVD.**

of the film *Bring It On*, a rousing comedy in which two rival squads find themselves in a face-off for the national cheerleading crown. The fun-filled, witty flick recently debuted on DVD and VHS from Universal Studios Home Video.

The Collector's Edition DVD offers "*Did You Know That?* Universal's Animated Anecdotes," a feature where pop-up windows appear on-screen with more than 270 factoids about the film, its cast, crew and the sport of competitive cheerleading.

Additional bonus material includes the theatrical trailer, 10 deleted scenes, three extended scenes and never-before-seen "home movies" of the car wash scene, shot by the director during production.

The Collector's Edition DVD is priced at \$26.98 and is available wherever movies are sold.