

WHO'S THAT GIRL?

Bob Jones HS cheerleader Marcy Smith shows us she's not your cookie-cutter teen.

by Brittany Geragotelis

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Her name might be common, but Marcy Smith is anything but. Sure, she has naturally good looks and the accent of a southern belle, she's polite to the extreme and has a happy-go-lucky 'tude. But take a closer look at this cheerleader from Bob Jones HS in Madison, AL, and you'll see that there's so much more to her than meets the eye.

For starters, she's fiercely competitive, which makes her a perfect fit for the five-time national championship squad (three titles were won on her watch). As a senior, Marcy's determined to keep the tradition alive by helping her team snag its sixth consecutive win. She's also no stranger to hard work in the classroom (she's got a 4.0!), and her idea of a fun time is volunteering for the less fortunate.

But even all this doesn't begin to describe the 19-year-old Alabama girl. To get a look at all the sides of Marcy, we had to delve deeper and get her to reveal who she *really* is. And what we found might surprise you.

THE SUPER FAN

"I must have cheerleading in my blood," Marcy says. And we have to agree with her. Marcy started to turn her world upside down at the age of two, when she insisted that her dad teach her how to do a cartwheel. By the time she was three, she'd already started her cheer career as the mascot for her older brother's football team. "I had my own uniform and everything," she says.

Her love of cheer was solidified when she began hanging out with her brother's friends (he's 10 years her senior). "They were cheerleaders, and when they were over, I'd pretend I was a cheerleader, too," says Marcy. "They always made me feel special. For years, I looked up to them and always hoped that one day I'd also be able to set a good example for those younger than me."

Now, as a BJHS cheerleader, Marcy is the one on the sidelines, supporting her school's teams to victory. Each fall, she looks forward to hearing the roar of the crowd on Friday nights. "I love leading BJHS supporters," she says.

THE STUDENT

Based on her grades and scholastic achievements, you'd think Marcy does nothing *but* study. With a GPA that ranges between a 3.98 and 4.0 and having landed herself in the National Society of High School Scholars three years in a row, Marcy makes it clear that being a successful student-athlete means acing the student part, too.

"I have a strong work ethic, and academics are a priority for me," she says. And does it show! She's also a part of National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society and Science Honor Society. Despite meetings before school, cheer practices, activities and classes, this scholar manages to ace

it all.

THE DANCER

It's no surprise that Marcy's favorite part of cheerleading is dance. After all, she's trained in ballet, jazz, tap and hip-hop for more than 15 years. "When I'm not at cheerleading practice, you can probably find me at dance class," she says.

Her strong dancer's legs and talent on her toes have no doubt contributed to her cheerleading abilities and are two of the reasons she's such a valuable member of the BJHS squad. "She's one of those girls who draws you in when you're watching an entire group, because she has a natural performance ability," says Coach Tara Murphy. In fact, Marcy says all you have to do is put on some music and watch her go! "Dancing is natural for me," Marcy says. "I love expressing that side of myself on the mat."

THE ROLE MODEL

Marcy recognizes that once she picks up her poms, she becomes an instant role model. "I believe we send messages not just by what we say, but also by what we do," says Marcy. "As a senior this year, I'm trying to lead by example, keep a smile on my face, do my best, be a good listener and offer encouragement."

It appears that these goals are always at the forefront of everything Marcy does. She describes herself as a loyal friend and a diligent student. She loves people, enjoys volunteering and works hard to be the best she can. "Cheerleaders are looked up to as leaders, and I always try to remember that," she says.



Can you guess which is the real Marcy?



ON MARCY: T-SHIRT BY OLD NAVY; NECKLACE BY SHOPTHELOOK.NET; SHOPTHETHELOOK.NET; JEANS ARE MARCY'S OWN