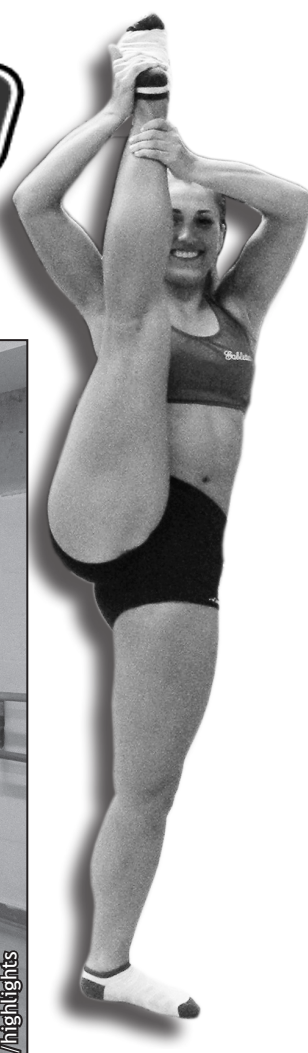
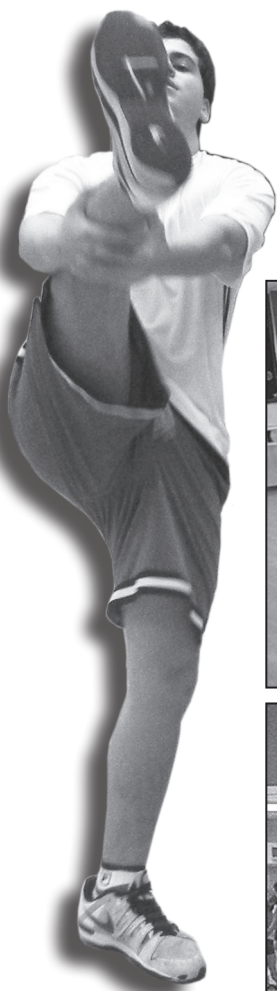


# SO CYRUS THINKS HE CAN DANCE



## Commentary by Gene Liu SPORTS EDITOR

A common brainteaser, “Is dance really a sport?” seems to be fairly prominent when speaking of athletics. Sure, the technical requirements are met, but is this discipline difficult enough to be worthy of joining the likes of soccer and basketball in this prestigious category? To find out, **highlights** sent its own Cyrus Zeledon to fend for himself in the world of competitive dance, also known throughout this school as Gablette territory.

My only requests for the suspiciously excited Mo Marmesh, Gablette head coach, were “the fewer splits, the better” and “not to break him”. Other than that, Zeledon was at their mercy.

I asked senior Elizabeth Harley, Gablette captain, what young, innocent Zeledon would need to avoid embarrassment, to which she replied “flexibility and muscle.”

“Most people don’t realize the physical strength required for dancing,” said Harley.

Naturally, I did not warn him of the demanding physical requirements; the possible amusement from an unsuspecting

participant (or victim, rather) was too great. This trial practice had the potential to be very interesting.

All athletes are familiar with pre-practice warm-ups and stretching, but the Gablette version of stretching was more of a superhuman art form than normal exercising precautions. Cryus, on the other hand, was not as spectacular. Despite all the encouragement and guidance from multiple Gablettes, he just couldn’t manage to maneuver himself into those contortionist-like positions.

“His form definitely needed work, but his stamina was there,” said Marmesh.

Following this poor display of flexibility, the actual skills portion started. There wasn’t much improvement Cyrus-wise. During these 30 or so minutes, he did, or at least attempted, straight kicks and leaps, pirouettes, tilt jumps, and alisicone turns. It was almost like watching a baby giraffe learning how to use its legs. Out of respect, I’ll skip the finer details of what I witnessed. Now that Zeledon ‘perfected’ his technique, we could transition to the core of the practice, the dancing.

It quickly became clear he couldn’t figure out what he was supposed to do, and that was only during the formations. After running through the choreography step-by-step multiple times,

an unsure Zeledon asked if he should join the true Gablettes during an actual dance, music and all. Marmesh responded affirmatively and added the suggestion to “fake it ‘til you make it” as he clearly could not match her Gablettes. He most certainly did ‘fake it’.

I could not have asked for a better two minutes. If I had to describe Zeledon’s enthusiastic yet lacking performance with one word, it would be ‘confusion’. The dance was simply too difficult for him to keep up, much less stay on rhythm.

The recurring theme here is that dance is, in fact, difficult. Sure, everyone can move while music is playing, but there is an elite few who can match the pageantry.

With hundreds of burned calories, probable muscle soreness, and a sticker symbolizing his valiant effort, Zeledon ended his career as a Gablette and left the sport of dance.

“Cyrus represented the ‘Co’ of Gablettes & Co well. He fully dedicated himself until the very end when he helped clean instead of just leaving; it was very admirable,” said Marmesh.

Students will have an opportunity to support and watch these athletes perform alongside other Gables athletes during varsity football games, and solo at Fall Frolics and the Gablette Revue on Nov. 20 and Apr. 25, respectively.

## Silver lining in Palmetto loss



**LOCKDOWN:** The Varsity Cav Football team prepares to defend against the Palmetto High Panthers offensive line during their away game at Tropical Park on Sept. 8. The Cavavaliers would go on to lose 28 to 14.

## By Nicolas Rivero OPINION EDITOR

For a young, reenergized Cavalier football team and its new head coach, Roger Pollard, the early season 28-14 loss to the Palmetto Panthers contained a glimmer of hope. Following a 14-0 loss to the Jackson Generals in a one-sided preseason game and a one 42-6 rout at the hands of Southridge in the first game of the season, the Cavaliers took an early lead and remained competitive throughout the entire game against Palmetto.

The Cavaliers wasted no time in putting themselves on top, forcing the Panthers to punt on their first drive and returning the kick for a touchdown. Following a successful extra point conversion, the lead was 7-0.

Palmetto, however, responded quickly. After blocking a punt on a subsequent Cavalier possession, the Panthers had great field position to start a drive that eventually led them to the end zone and a tie game. Over the course of the half, the Panthers converted two more touchdowns while a stagnant Cavalier

offense struggled to score. At halftime, Gables trailed 21-14.

With Palmetto at the goal line in the third quarter, threatening to take a 14 point lead, the Cavalier defense held its ground, eventually forcing and recovering a fumble on third-down to regain possession. On the resulting drive, the Cavaliers appeared to have tied the game with a touchdown pass, but the play was called back on an illegal shift penalty. The drive and the Cavaliers’ momentum stalled and Panthers scored on their next possession, setting up the final score of the game, 28-14.

Head Coach Roger Pollard was unfazed by his team’s slow start to the season, saying that his athletes have played tremendously well and continued to work hard on the practice field. “Success is about effort,” he said. “Before long, everybody is going to see just how good this team really is.”

Two weeks later, the team took the field at G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School and came away with their first win, a 21-0 victory featuring a Cavalier team playing at its full potential for the first time this season.

## Lacrossed out

### Rachel Ellis STAFF WRITER

The school offers a wide range of sports that are readily available for aspiring athletes, but there are always a number of students who do not participate in a school sport because their passions are not an option. Lacrosse, a sport played at two other public schools in this district, is one of a few team sports the school does not offer. Last school year, a group of students have attempted to start a boy’s lacrosse team. The students created a petition calling for a new team; it has approximately 350 signatures.

“I signed the petition last year and I was wondering what happened with it. It was definitely a good idea,” said senior Nicholas Johnson.

Adding another sport may be beneficial for some, but budget cuts have already impacted the way money is spent for sports and related equipment.

“They have been trying to make a lacrosse team for a while and it is conceivably financially impossible. I will have to cut a sport to make a sport, and that is just one of the many obstacles I will have to overcome,” said athletic director Louis Romero.

Petition signees understand that it would be hard to fulfill due to the expenses of the sport, but they said they are willing to support the team through their own personal finances. Shortly after the signees found out that the school would not support a lacrosse team, they worked towards making a lacrosse club.

“I had a sponsor but the school didn’t put forth any effort to make the club,” said junior and petition initiator Sebastian Courtier.

However, according to Romero the school cannot establish a club that competes with other schools’ official teams. Despite difficulty with fulfilling requests, students are still permitted and encouraged to sign any petitions helping school.