



# TWISTED NEWS

Maryland Twisters Newsletter

January 2019

## January's Athlete of the Month

### Hanover: Makayla Stafford - Reign

#### How have you seen Makayla grow as a Twister?

Makayla came to the program with a lot of raw talent, eager to learn. She has blossomed into a confident base and a consistent elite tumbler!

#### What does she contribute to Reign?

Makayla is a Swiss Army knife in the form of an athlete. Makayla can base, fly, and tumble! She's always willing to do what's best for the team and has really stepped up her tumbling difficulty.

#### What would her teammates say about her?

I think her team would say she's a hard worker. She throws extra tumbling throughout practice without being asked by her coaches and Makayla always leads by example.

#### What can we expect to see from Makayla this season?

Everyone should expect to see a SHOW when you watch Makayla. She's an electric performer and you can't help but smile when you watch her compete.

Coach Matt G, Matt T, and Michelle

### Sterling: Karsen Werts - Forecast

#### How have you seen Karsen improve this season?

Karsen has taken the role of a leader this year, despite being a 1st year MDT. She has improved her communication skills with her teammates and recently has demonstrated leadership qualities through her displays of hard work at practice.

#### What does she contribute to her team?

Karsen shines during her performance on stage and in full outs at practice. This not only contributes to the team on an individual level, but she inspires others to perform as well in her endeavors, thus contributing to the team on a larger scale.

#### How does Karsen stand out on Forecast?

Karsen is not only an excellent tumbler and stunter but she has the ability to push past what she previously thought she could do. We see this behavior in her when she performs on stage.

#### What advice can you give her for the rest of the season?

Karsen, there is a saying that goes "Be who you are, and be that well." I hope you continue to let your talents shine and inspire those around you to be who they are and be that well. If you continue on this path, there are great things for you in your future.

Coach Benito, Andi, and Chardae

## In This Issue

- January Athlete of the Month Winners!  
Hanover: Makayla Stafford of Reign  
Sterling: Karsen Werts of Forecast
- Happy Birthday to You!
- Club Zero Leaders
- Upcoming Events
- January AOTM Nominees
- Competition Totals
- Most Wanted Coaches



*"Karsen has a presence on the team like no other. She commits to herself and her teammates consistently without waiver and shows them what it means to be a hard working cheerleader. Karsen has improved not only herself but those teammates around her that she works with. Even as a first year member of our program, she portrays the mindset and skills of someone who has been a part of MDT for years. We are very proud of Karsen and excited to see what she continues to do during her time here at MDT. It is a pleasure everyday that we get to coach her."* ~Coach Benito

*"Makayla has been putting in extra work in the gym this entire month and it shows! Her tumbling consistency has improved immensely and she takes it upon herself to throw extra reps during practice to make sure all of her skills are rock solid. On top of her dedication to the team, Makayla is an awesome performer and we always enjoy watching her in the routine. Keep up the hard work!"*

~ Coach Matt G.

# Happy Birthday to YOU!

Madeline Baker, Emma Biegler, Madison Boucher, Jaden Carter, Brielle Culbreath, Kailib Czelusniak, Morgan Davis, Kayla Dick, Kennedy Dosik, Kamryn Edmonds, Ava Foks, Taylor Goines, Caroline Hanna, Lauren Hertel, Jordyn Holmes, Amber Kane, Leighton Knapp, Elijah O'Hara, Jocelyn Ortega, Ava Ortiz, Claudia Osborne, Jasmin Palmer, Jelani Parker, Brittany Pearson, Alexis Pierce, Skylar Radtke, Elisia Randall, Alana-Jean Reed, Delaney Retchless, Lily Reynolds, Anastasia Torres, Erick Veliz, Dailynn Walker, Kayden Weaver, Karsen Werts, Brooke West, Alexis Weston

## Club Zero Leaders

**First place ~ Radar, Fierce Winds, Sirens, Smoke ~ 40 points**

**Second place ~ Weathergirls, Forecast, Velocity ~ 30 points**

**Third place ~ Flurries, Sidewinders ~ 25 points**

## Upcoming Events:

### American Masters - Baltimore, MD

February 2nd-3rd

MD: Storm, Level 3s, and 4s

VA: Level 3s and 4s

### Cheer Starz - Glen Burnie, MD

February 16th

MD: Winter Cheer Teams

VA: Winter Cheer Teams

### Mid Atlantic Open - Richmond, VA

February 9th

MD: Level 1s and 2s

VA: Level 1s and 2s

February 9th-10th

MD: Reign and F5

VA: Ice

### School's Out Clinic

February 18th

MD and VA! Register online today!

# January's AOTM Nominees



**Kayla Rucker - Ice**

"Kayla has improved a lot since this time last season. She went from level 4, to one of the most elite tumblers on Ice. She carries herself with confidence and always gives 100%."

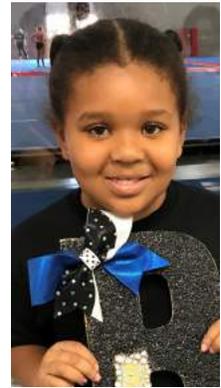
~ Coach Becky



**Kendall Plude - Sirens**

"Kendall comes to practice with a positive attitude. She's willing to do what's necessary for the success of the team. Kendall offers support to the younger kids on the team and acts as nurturing ear. She's an amazing base who fights to make sure her stunt hits!!"

~ Coach Shonte



**Farhana Ritter - Breeze**

"Farhana is a consistent, quiet, hard worker! She is always attentive at practice and leads by example. She is always the first one back from break and can be counted on to know every single count of the routine! We are excited to see what is in Farhana's future as she grows throughout the Program!"

~ Coach Kristen M.



**Clare Cox - Surge**

"Clare's positive attitude at practice is what sets her aside from other athletes. She constantly pushes herself to be a better athlete, and is always willing to step up and take on more if we need her to!"

~ Coach Delaney



**Harper Wilson - Lady T's**

"Harper is an absolute joy to have at practice. She has such an encouraging attitude, is completely dedicated to her team and is hard worker 100% of the time. Harper a leader for her team, and always pushes them to keep going and we are happy to have her!"

~ Coach Kristin K.



**Rowan Vessey - Thunder**

"Rowan has been a huge asset to Thunder this season, both physically and with her positive attitude! This month Thunder got a new second stunt sequence and Rowan, who normally bases, was quick to try and nail the challenge of flying in it! Rowan's pure love for the sport shows as she is always setting a new goal for herself with tumbling, continues to work on her jumps outside of practice, and will try anything that's asked of her!"

~ Coach Anna

# January's AOTM Nominees



## Tenley Lilly - Smoke

"Sometimes athletes make an impact off the mat as much as they do on it. Tenley has given her heart and soul to Smoke for the past two seasons. At showcase she landed a beautiful full but the rest didn't go as planned. Tenley had ACL surgery in early January. She has been at nearly every practice. Screaming her head encouraging her teammates every step of the way. She has stepped in and started working with the Weatherbugs while she is on her road to recovery. Tenley's positive attitude is infectious. She is our athlete of the month."

~ Coach Mitchell

## Leah Monahan - Dew Drops



"Leah began the season brand new to Twisters and it has been amazing seeing her fall in love with the sport. Not only is Leah extremely hard working during practice, but she is constantly in the gym working and pushing herself to gain skills. She is an amazing friend to all of her teammates and truly embodies the team player mentality. There isn't a thing that Leah isn't willing to do or try!"

~ Coach Jessica

## Autumn Bowman - Eye of the Storm

"Autumn has the level of joy and excitement for cheerleading, and for Eye of the Storm specifically, that we would love to see in all of our athletes! She completes her homework package of conditioning, motions and dance every week and does it very well. Autumn listens very carefully at practice and works hard to make the corrections given. She can always be relied upon to work very hard during the whole practice and is very eager to expand her skill set. Autumn is a calm leader to whom her teammates feel like they can turn when they are confused, stressed or are simply having a rough day. She is a nurturing soul and her positive attitude is infectious. Finally she is fun to coach! Her unbridled glee when she gets a new skill right or when her stunt group performs well makes our "jobs" so easy and makes practices fly by. She is tremendously deserving to be honored as the Maryland Twisters' Athlete of the Month."

~ Mr. Kevin

## Jordan Battenfeld - Cold Front



"It has been amazing to see the transformation and exponential growth made by Jordan. In just a short period of time, she has truly increased her confidence with flying and tumbling. She has shown immense dedication by consistently attending flight school and tumbling privates. What is most appreciated by her coaches is her ability to quickly make corrections and perform them well in practice. Her bubbly personality, determination, and positivity adds to her value as a teammate. We are so proud of Jordan and all that she has accomplished this season. Look out for her amazing showmanship while soaring through the air at competitions. Congratulations Jordan! You have truly earned this merit!"

~ Coach Brittany L.

## Taryn Crawford - Little Winds

"Taryn is one of the most hard working kids I have ever met. She is always willing to step in and do whatever we need her to do. Seeing Taryn grow up in this program has been such a joy and we cannot wait to see where her hard work and determination takes her in the future!"

~ Coach Paige



# Competition Totals

Third Place finishes: 7

Second Place finishes: 17

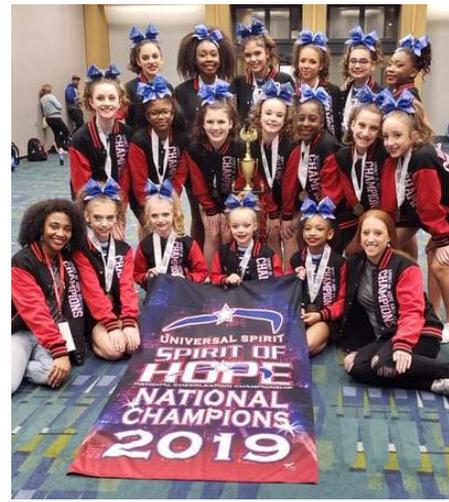
First Place finishes: 30

Grand Champions: 4

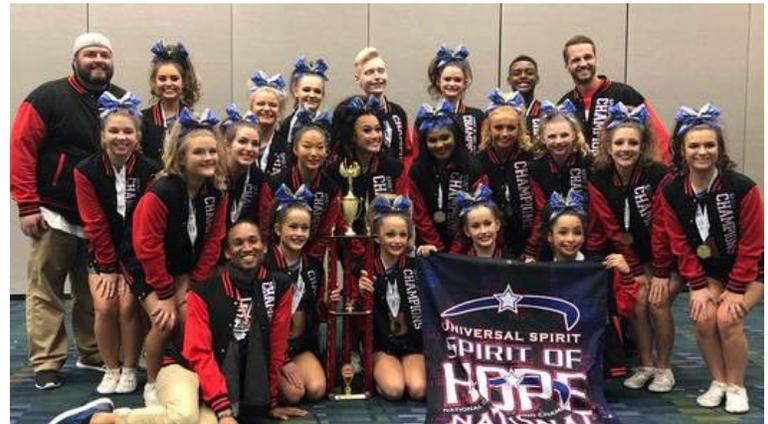
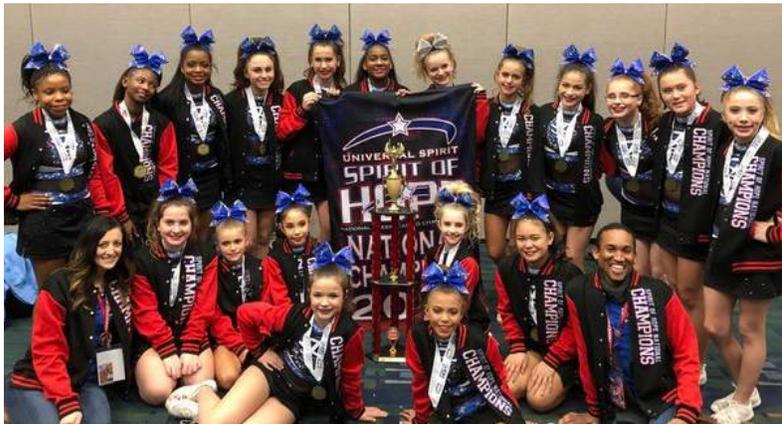
Wild Card Summit Bids: 2

At Large Summit Bids: 4

At Large Worlds Bids: 1



Congratulations to our January National Champions!  
Weathergirls, Cold Front, Fierce Winds, and Smoke!





# MOST WANTED COACHES!

**CONGRATULATIONS  
COACH SHONTE,  
COACH BRITTANY,  
COACH MITCHELL,  
AND COACH TRAVIS!**

