

Denver Bronco Cheerleader Audition Finals

Formidable competition to enhance your Pro Football fan experience

by Dave Gibson

A week and a half ago, over two hundred rather attractive young ladies converged upon Sports Authority Field with dreams of becoming a Bronco Cheerleader. Most had backgrounds in cheerleading or dance, although many did not and came equipped with just the talent they were born with and a burning ambition. Vying for a mere 26 roster spots, the competition was formidable and before the first day had ended, all but 100 hopefuls were sent home, not surviving the cut. Just like in life and the game of pro football, there are few guarantees and even veteran Bronco Cheerleaders, like Tara with four years of experience, had to try out.

The rest of the first day and following three days were spent in workshops learning and practicing choreography and Bronco Cheerleader moves. Interviewed and evaluated every step of the way during the grueling process, the women were required be at least 21 years of age by July 15th,



DAVE GIBSON

2013, and hold a high school diploma, although over half were pursuing higher education or possessed college degrees. With the dreaded "Football Knowledge Test" behind them, the girls were required to be hard-working, of high morale character, and above all had to exhibit "Bronco Spirit." Being pretty and a good dancer was also a plus, one would think.

Down to 58 finalists for the April 21st final audition at Colorado Heights University Theater, with a dramatic entrance from the back of the auditorium, the aspiring cheerleaders opened the show with a

crowd-pleasing kick line reminiscent of the Rockettes. The panel of judges, made up of former cheerleaders, a current Denver Bronco player, and 9News's Amelia Earhart, occupied the first two center rows. After each of the girls introduced themselves and shared their own particular interests, a rapid-fire routine followed where the applicants individually showcased their skills. Each had about 30 seconds to sufficiently sway the judges in their favor. Going for broke and giving it everything they had, some were strong on gymnastics, while others had great bodies

and smiles. Still others exuded an effusion of wild, unbridled energy, and some were just drop-dead gorgeous. The judges' decision would be a difficult one.

During intermission behind closed doors, 32 women who poured weeks, months, and even years, into the dream were given the bad news - they wouldn't become Bronco Cheerleaders this year. A mix of returnees and rookies would comprise 2013's squad,

which skipped onto the stage proudly outfitted in Bronco orange. The heartfelt ensuing closing number was their initial performance as a team, complete with tears and hugs afterward. Making the grade for the second time in a row, Kisato and other cheerleaders accepted roses from the audience. The new Bronco Cheerleaders' job began right away as they posed for pictures with fans.



DAVE GIBSON



DAVE GIBSON

Your 2013 Denver Bronco's Cheerleading squad!