

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

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All-American cheerleader heading to London for New Year's Day Parade

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FREMONT - This summer, Ross sophomore Aniya Urias was named a UCA All-American Cheerleader. Not only does this grant her one of the highest awards a cheerleader can achieve, but it also will give her the opportunity to travel to England to perform with other All-American Cheerleaders in the London's New Year's Day Parade. Aniya is the first cheerleader in Ross history to represent the school overseas.

"It's a big achievement. It's my biggest achievement yet. I'm really proud of myself," Aniya said. "I practiced a lot. It was a lot of work. I applied myself and tried my hardest, and I made it."

That hard work isn't over yet. She is awaiting the arrival of her own All-American cheerleading uniform and a DVD that will explain the cheer routine she must master before she leaves for



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London in late December.

Ross cheer coach Melissa Frizzell-Joerg wasn't surprised Urias made All-American. "She is a very strong cheerleader," Frizzell-Joerg said. "She always has a smile on her face. She draws your attention when she's cheering, and her jumps are amazing. I'm not surprised she impressed the judges enough to make it."

Aniya's success is made even more impressive by the fact this is only her second year cheering.

"I think she just has a lot of raw, natural talent, and she's an extremely hard worker. When she puts her mind to something, she works for it," Frizzell-Joerg said. "As a sophomore, I'm excited to have her around for the next few years. She's just a kid you want on your team."

Aniya's parents, Eric and Amber Urias, have recognized that strong work ethic in her, as well.

"She works so hard at everything she does. She's so dedicated and committed," Eric said.

Although Aniya's parents are proud of their daughter's accomplishment and are excited that she has been given the opportunity to travel to London, their excitement has come from different angles. For Eric, the decision to let Aniya take the trip didn't come easily.

"I'm floored. I love it, but it's somewhat bittersweet. She's never been away from us that far," Eric said.

As soon as Amber got the news, she did everything in her power to make the trip happen for Aniya.

"I'm super excited. I was all for it as soon as I heard about it," she said.

Amber was the driving force behind a fundraising campaign that raised the \$4,000 fee for the trip. She enlisted the help of family and friends and used social media to gain support.

"Amber made it all happen," Eric said.

The Urias family expressed deep satisfaction for the community support Aniya received. In just a few hours of seeking donations outside the Ballville E-Z Shop, Aniya raised about \$130.

"It really helped out. They were really supportive of me," she said.

Although Eric is nervous about sending his daughter overseas, he is proud that she has the courage to experience something so different from anything she's ever done.

"That's her. She's always been the outgoing, adventurous type. She's everything I want to be," he said.

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