

DEBORAH CABE 'DEBBIE' POPE



Don't ever try to tell Ledford cheerleading coach Debbie Pope that cheerleading is not a sport.

The time and effort that go into supporting a team are seemingly endless and requires as much energy and focus as a football team trying to run a shotgun offense.

Consequently, Pope has created a model of excellence at Ledford where the Panthers consistently win cheerleading competitions.

Witness: under Pope's guidance, the Panthers have won five national titles;

North Carolina High School Athletic Association championships in 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016; 3-A state championships in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2016; and 2-A state titles in 1996, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Furthermore, the Panthers have won the Carolina Cup title in 2010 and 2014.

Pope, who is a member of the North Carolina Cheerleading Coaches Association, was named coach of the year in 1994 and was the East/West all-state cheerleading coach 1993-1997.

She also serves as a judge since 2000.

Pope and her husband, Randy, live in Lexington.

