

# ABBEY FLECK

## Go, Fight, And Succeed: Balancing NFL Cheerleading and Schooling

Graduate: Class of 2006    Occupation: Colts Cheerleader/Student.

A small town girl growing up in Dubois County had immense dreams when she graduated near the top of her class in 2006. Because she wanted to help other people and make a difference, Abbey decided to enter the field of dental hygiene. Another dream also came true: every other Sunday, during football season, she cheers for the Indianapolis Colts.

Abbey grew up in Dubois County--living in a relatively sheltered life style. However, within Forest Park, she was well know. Not only a well rounded student getting good grades, she also involved herself in sports. As an important part of the dance team, Abbey received the NDA Leadership Award. Along with dancing, she also cheered for three years. She cheered as a part of history at the boy's basketball state championship her junior year. Along with cheering and dancing, Abbey tried color guard and soccer for one year. All her hard work paid off when she graduated with the academic honors diploma--and the qualities necessary for future success.

Now out of high school, Abbey has moved on to college to pursue her dreams. In her freshman year, she attended Indiana University before transferring to IUPUI in Indianapolis. Only one of fifty students to be accepted in dental hygiene school, she has one year remaining. Abbey has been on the dean's list every semester of her college years. Enrolled in college for three years now, Abbey has noticed many differences between college and high school. Abbey stated, "I usually studied the night before tests; however, in college you have to allow yourself much more time to study and prepare."

Living in Indianapolis, she has really had to grow up and make decisions on her own. To keep herself busy out of school, Abbey decided to try out for the NFL Colts Cheerleading squad for the 2008-2009 season. During the process, she made sure she was healthy, physically fit, and motivated enough to go out for the squad. Out of thirty-eight girls, she was chosen. All of her accomplishments have made me extremely proud.

Living life in Abbey's shoes can become awfully stressful. In a typical day, Abbey gets up every morning for a work out before she attends school and dance practice at night. In between this time, she has to cook, clean, do laundry, and study for school.

In her free time, Abbey has several interests: listening to music, shopping, exercising, dancing, and visiting different universities.

In the future, Abbey has decided to remain in the city. Planning to pursue more of her dreams, she wants to attend a cosmetology school someday and travel around the world. For now, though, her plans lie within dental hygiene. She wants to promote confidence by improving their smiles. She says, “Don't sweat the small stuff. Everything always works itself out. It's silly to worry about everything.” Abbey has always been given that boost of confidence from her mother--the person she calls her hero.