

# Zoe Boisvert

I held my ending pose for a couple seconds longer before running off the stage. I was done. Now I just had to wait to see what the judges thought.

It was my first competition. We had been practicing for months and it was finally time to show everyone what we'd been working so hard on. I had been dancing for about 12 years, but I had never "competed," and that was one of the things that made pom more appealing to me than taking more classes at the studio.

"I wanted to do something with the school, compete, and dance so this seemed like the perfect solution."

I love dancing for many reasons. It makes me happy and I love the people I dance with. They make practices that would otherwise be hard and frustrating, fun. These people are funny and joke around a lot but they know when to be serious.

We are going to Homecoming together and Maddie decided she was going to be our date. She told us she would get us all flowers and dance with us all.

Juliet also decided that our coach is an FBI agent because she finds out about every single thing we do. We were talking about some of our sore spots at one of the food truck nights and then we got a GroupMe from Coach about icing our bruises and using heating pads for the bad ones.

My teammates are amazing people and dancing is one of my passions, but that doesn't mean it's never been difficult or stressful.

"I'm ashamed to admit, there have been times when I wanted to quit.



One example was when I was 7 or 8 because the studio I danced at was super strict. Some dancers that went there went on to be professionals and I didn't want to do that. I ended up taking a year off because we moved and by the end of the year I was ready to go back.

There had been times during the season when I was super stressed out because I had pom and school and a whole bunch of other stuff that I was trying to balance and thought about quitting, but I reminded myself what happened last time and I kept going."

One example of that was during midterms and exams. During the midterms, I had to study for all my tests and we were getting ready for a couple big competitions and I was very stressed about it all. Then during finals, I had to study and I had tryouts for the next season. I also had a job after school a few days a week so I was thinking about not trying out. I did though and I am very happy with my decision.

