

FORT TOWSON — The Fort Towson Tigers received a wonderful sendoff Wednesday as they headed to the state playoffs for the first time in 37 years.

The day began with a downright giddy dancing performance by Drake King as he carried his bags onto the bus. Once the entire student body arrived, the Tigers' cheerleaders started the pep-rally with a cheer.

Then it was time for the basketball team to get loud. Seniors Zack Samaha and Phillip Clark chanted with the crowd. As Samaha yelled out "black," the entire student body surrounding him, and holding black and gold ballons, would yell back, "gold" representative of their school colors. Clark would get everyone riled up and then it was Samaha's turn again. Next, the cheerleaders got involved in some back and forth chants with the crowd.

After the chants were over, Superintendent Gary Parris invited the crowd to all gather around the boys team as they stood around the base of the flagpole. As hundreds of students surrounded the boys, Parris joyously commanded everyone to release the balloons and the sky turned into a momentary view of black and gold.

The players scurried onto the bus, opened the windows and leaned out as students and parents took turns high-fiving them.

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