

On the international stage: Mexican cheerleading team wins bronze



The Tec's Aguascalientes Campus cheerleading team has taken third place in the Universal Cheerleaders Association's international competition.

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Courtesy of the team

The cheerleading team representing the **Tec's Aguascalientes campus** has participated in the [**Universal Cheerleaders Association's \(UCA\)**](#) international championship, held in Orlando, where they achieved third place in their category.

They took part in the **Senior Level 1 female category**, in which athletes aged 14 to 18 participate, facing international teams within their category.

According to coach Ruby Cruz, the team qualified for the international competition at the **Cheer Mexico national tournament, held in Guadalajara, where they took first place.**

*"UCA is a **very big competition in the United States** which all the best cheerleading teams in the world go to", Cruz emphasized.*

The team with the third-place championship pennant. | Photo: Courtesy of the team



International competition

The tournament lasted three days, during which the team familiarized themselves with the venue and **competed in two official presentations**, facing delegations from different countries such as the United States, Canada, and Chile.

*"We were the only team from a school, which makes it more difficult because **the girls have to maintain their school schedules, while also training** like other professional teams", Cruz reinforced.*

During the event, a panel of judges evaluated their routine, **considering technical features such as execution, difficulty of lifts, and gymnastics, using**

international standards.

*“There are established rules: the routine must last a set amount of time and include the skills required by the rules for each category, but **what you build as a choreographer also counts, such as transitions, positions, dance, and signs.***

*“It’s not just about execution, but about **taking care of how the routine is presented as a whole, the precision of each movement,** and the way the team presents itself throughout the performance”, Cruz explained.*

“UCA is a very big competition in the United States which all the best cheerleading teams in the world go to” .- Ruby Cruz.

María José Zapata, a member of the team, mentioned that **the experience fostered discipline and generated unity** among the different aged team members.

*“Despite the initial nervousness, **the group’s performance flowed positively on stage;** we complemented each other well and supported each other throughout the competition”, Zapata added.*

The team **had two months to put together a routine in line with the requirements** for their level, carrying out training sessions on weekends, and working around the students’ school obligations.

Cruz also highlighted that **they faced the challenge of practicing with only the minimum number of athletes required** and in a much smaller training area than what was provided at the competition.

Currently, the team is **accepting applications from new students who wish to join**, and the coach shared that no prior experience is required to participate in the training sessions.

In conclusion, the coach noted that the experience involved the team preparing, adapting, and participating in an international context different from their usual one, **which represented a process of learning and growth for the team.**

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