They Gave It a Good Try

On a hot, humid night in early September, 37 freshmen and a lesser number of upperclassmen gathered in a stuffy room on campus. All wanted to be cheerleaders for O.U.'s sports events. Most came equipped with groups of friends who, by cheering, hoped they could sway the judges' decision. These were the preliminaries. Here the hopefuls were cut to four freshmen, four sophomores, three juniors and four seniors. The following night the finals determined the 1955 cheering corps—two freshmen, two sophomores, one junior and two seniors. Head Cheerleader Jerry Mitchell, a junior, did not have to compete.

None of the candidates pictured here were winners. But their faces and actions indicate the effort they spent in a losing cause. One of the judges, making the usual comment of judges, quipped, "It's too bad they can't all be cheerleaders."