



Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade

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Brigade Makes 20th Championship Appearance Saturday

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FRANKLIN, Ind. – Following another stellar performance at the Indiana State School Music Association's (ISSMA) Class D Semi-State, the Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade earned their fourth consecutive trip to the state marching band finals.

"It is always an honor to be titled a state finalist. It is not easy to receive that distinction," said Director of Bands Luke Aylsworth. "At Springs Valley, we have enjoyed that moniker several times in our school history." To be exact, the Brigade is making their 20th trip to state finals, the fourth most of Class D bands. "This is quite the achievement," added Aylsworth.

Thus far, the Brigade has performed their show in competition nine times. However, Aylsworth is confident the show still has room for improvement. "I think our best shows are still to come. The students are focused and working hard. We could really have an amazing show on Saturday."

The term "success" is most used in correlated with wins or losses. In marching band, it refers to the number of trophies you have won. However, that is not how Aylsworth and the Brigade measure their success. "Our season has already been a success. Nothing on Saturday will change that in my mind. Now the task becomes making the last few performances the best of the year."

State week and the addition of the Bands of America (BOA) Grand Nationals appearance will be experiences many of the Brigade students will never forget. "I want the students to enjoy themselves these last few weeks. This needs to be a celebration of hard work and dedication. I hope they gather as many memories as they can. These are memories of a lifetime."

Springs Valley will take the field at the ISSMA State Finals at 5:02 pm. They will be the fifth of ten bands performing for the Class D title on Saturday. Awards are scheduled for 6:30 pm.

In the finals Indiana Marching.com Writers Poll, Springs Valley completed the season by

leading the way the entire regular season. They began the season third in the pre-season poll then took over first in the first official poll of the season. Paoli, who will also be marching at State, is fifth. Orleans, who misses finals but will go on to the Indianapolis BOA Regional, ends the season in 12th.