



Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade

20-Time ISSMA State Finalist

326 South Larry Bird Boulevard
French Lick, Indiana 47432
www.blackhawkbrigade.com

Orange County Bands primed for the Season

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By: Jermaine Williams
Marching Band Analyst
info@blackhawkbrigade.com

FRENCH LICK, Ind. – Marching band in the state of Indiana is the best in the nation. When you scale it down to within the boundaries of this state, Orange County houses three of the top bands in Indiana.

With 48 state finals appearance between the three, Orleans, Paoli, and Springs Valley look to add to that number this year. All three will be joined by Crawford County, Northeast Dubois and Heritage Hills at the Festival of Marching Bands in French Lick on Saturday.

Orleans Bulldog Regiment

The Orleans Bulldog Regiment has been a semi-state finalist the last two years, right on the cusp of reaching their third state finals. They will be led on the field this year by drum majors Becky Warren and Carma Kirkman.

Entering his eighth year at Orleans, director Terry Burton has come up with a show design that should be familiar to everyone in a unique way.

The 72-member Bulldog Regiment will be performing “Dreams” by Key Poulan. “Throughout history, people have tried to understand the meaning of dreams,” said Burton. “Sigmund Freud made much of his fame doing so and changed the way we understand who we are.”

Orleans will go through each type of dream, “Dream World,” “Recurring Dreams,” “Sweet Dreams,” and “Nightmares.” The show designed gears you to ask questions about your own dreams; questions such as if dreams mean anything, why they are strange, or if they are trying to tell us something.

Pride of Paoli

The Pride of Paoli enters the 2010 season looking to make their historic 27th appearance to state finals.

The 72-member group will be performing “Danza della Luna: Dance for a New Era.” Featuring Claude Debussy’s “Clair de Lune” as a centerpiece, the Pride explores movement and dance in this new era of marching band. Throughout history, the moon (Luna) has held a special fascination with humanity. Paoli looks to the moon’s constant evolution to inspire a show that is based on melodic, visual, thematic, and emotional evolution. Beginning with opening stands from impressionistic composer, Debussy’s “Clair de Lune” the Pride plans to take its audience on a journey for the senses.

The Pride has long been committed to the idea that music is motion. This year they plan to incorporate dance in combination with the traditional drill.

Drum major Allison Muth will lead the Pride of Paoli on the field this year. Dakota Hudelson, Jerrod Richards, and Sylvia Coe will all have solos on their respective instruments during the show.

“The Paoli Band program is excited to be able to develop a concept of music, movement, thematic content, and emotion,” said Laughlin. “We hope the audiences will also be able to relate to and enjoy the performance.”

Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade

The Blackhawk Brigade, fresh off a historic 2009 season, looks to continue their quest towards their second state crown. Junior Nia Seitz will lead the 90-member band from the podium this year. Springs Valley will showcase 45 winds, 24 percussionist and 20 color guard members.

Luke Aylsworth, now in his tenth year at Springs Valley, has designed a show that stays on par with previous shows the Brigade has performed in the previous years.

“Sometimes life can be difficult. We encounter failure, adversity, and times that make us want to give up. However, the simple gift of the human spirit will not allow us to relinquish our goals and dreams. It motivates and guides us through times when we may lose our way. And even though difficulty lies ahead, we know the struggle is necessary.”

Above is the opening quote from the Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade's 2010 show titled "The Struggle". This season, the show deals with the inner turmoil, adversity, and failures that often accompany life. In those moments of struggle, perseverance, determination, and the human spirit often motivate an individual to continue and pursue the goals that may seem too difficult to achieve. It is often those dark moments of struggle that determine the direction of one's life, and in essence, also one's character.

The show begins with a dramatic pre- show statement that begins immediately as the band enters the field. The front percussion ensemble, with soloist Landon Price, perform a solemn musical passage as band and guard members take the field in the traditional walk on.

As performers reach their spot, they take character and pose in physical depictions of states of struggle. All of the wind members will be lying on the ground and will struggle to get up and take position. Just as in life, some performers will be able to get up on their own while others will require help from others. As the pre-show concludes, there will be only one student still lying on the ground. Price will enter the field, help the last student up, and the show will begin.

The opener begins with a musical quote from "Simple Gifts - The Gift to be Simple." This musical statement represents the human spirit. Every person is blessed with the simple gift of the human spirit. Throughout the show, this melody will be heard as a reminder that the human spirit is the driving force that moves us forward in times of adversity. The opener continues with the narration from above and the music "The Human Spirit & Adversity" by Bryan Harmsen. A glorious wind chorale statement concludes the intro and the percussion section is featured as adversity begins to become evident. As the opener concludes, the music becomes more aggressive and driving, representing the inner turmoil and stress that often accompany life.

Movement II begins with a quick percussion transition. The narrator returns with the following quote. "Sometimes we get knocked down. We fail. We struggle. But, we get up and continue on. Through perseverance and determination we realize it is not where we are at that matters, but where we are going." The piece continues with an intense full ensemble hit. The movement, "Perseverance," is derived from John Meehan's piece titled Discovery. Often in times of struggle, we discover skills, traits, and self-motivation we did not realize we had. In this movement, the music and visual package represent a time when adversity has been met, and a decision or action is required to move forward. The band moves forward in a tight wedge set at a slow but determined pace. This represents the difficulty to move forward in times of trouble. Next, the music travels through a low brass, mid voice, and trumpet soli section as an introspective period of the show begins to take place. As the movement ends, a beautiful full ensemble statement hints that a decision has been made. The piece ends softly with echoes of simple gifts in the low brass.

The third and final movement begins with driving percussion music and an intense wind statement. As the struggle continues, the fight for success ensues and the question becomes, "Will I continue to fall, or will I get up?" The intense music of Stan Phillips drives the listener to the edge with an intense and abrupt stop in the music and drill. The band falls to the ground, struggles, looks up and pushes themselves back up. The narrator speaks, "Because anything in life that is worth having is worth the struggle." The silence breaks with a triumphant musical statement of power chords, inspiring melodies, and powerful percussion. The band moves forward in a company front only to break apart and then put it back together. Now the struggle has made us much stronger and the goal we desired is now at hand. The show ends in a forceful combination of musical and visual elements that include another musical tag of "Simple Gifts" in the front percussion ensemble. The struggle ends and success is achieved.

Orleans Bulldog Regiment Schedule

9/4 | Springs Valley Festival of Bands

9/11 | Franklin Central Invitational

9/18 | North Harrison (am), Paoli (pm)

9/25 | Corydon Central (am), Floyd Central (pm)

10/2 | ISSMA District at Jasper

10/9 | Salem Invitational

10/16 | ISSMA Regional at Evansville Central

10/23 | ISSMA Semi-State at Franklin Comm.

10/30 | ISSMA State Finals at Lucas Oil Stadium (Indianapolis, Ind.)

11/6 | BOA Regional at Lucas Oil Stadium (Indianapolis, Ind.)

Pride of Paoli Schedule

9/4 | Springs Valley Festival of Bands

9/18 | North Harrison (am), Paoli (pm)

9/25 | Floyd Central Invitational

10/2 | ISSMA District at Jasper

10/9 | Salem Invitational

10/16 | ISSMA Regional at Evansville Central

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Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade Schedule

9/4 | Springs Valley Festival of Bands

9/11 | Evansville Central Invitational

9/18 | Pride of Paoli Invitational

9/25 | BOA Regional at Papa John's Stadium (Louisville, Ky.)

10/2 | ISSMA District at Jasper

10/9 | Cavalcade of Champions at Center Grove HS

10/16 | ISSMA Regional at Evansville Central

10/23 | ISSMA Semi-State at Franklin Comm.

10/30 | ISSMA State Finals at Lucas Oil Stadium (Indianapolis, Ind.)