



## **Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade**

20-Time ISSMA State Finalist

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### **Marching Bands grow and succeed at SV Festival**

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FRENCH LICK, Ind. – The 2010 marching band season got underway in Indiana this past Saturday as the Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade hosted the third annual Festival of Marching Bands.

"For the third year, we had a great night of marching band in French Lick," said Director of Bands and event coordinator Luke Aylsworth. "The event was a huge success! We really enjoy hosting the other local bands and all of the students, staff, parents, and fans should be proud. I think everyone had a great time."

"I don't know what say, this was simply an outstanding night for marching bands," said Terry Burton, director of bands at Orleans. "The lights the crowd and the music made this evening an experience that all of this kids will take with them forever."

Over 1,000 fans packed the stadium to watch six of the area's bands perform their shows for the first time. The event was also streamed online to fans as far away as Colorado and Arizona.

The festival also gives the local bands a chance to watch each other perform their show as well as meet them during the pizza party after the festival. "It is nice for our students to be able to watch and support the rest of the bands from our area," mentioned John Fischer, band director at Crawford County.

As has been tradition, the bands combine to play the National Anthem. This year, all six bands, over 350 students lined up to perform. Bill Laughlin, director at Paoli, was given the honor of conducting the combined bands. "It was an honor to direct the mass band in the Star-Spangled Banner," said Laughlin.

All of the bands now turn their focus towards the opening week of the competitive season. "I think our kids our ready for a contest," added Aylsworth. "We have been working for a long time. They need to get out and do a few contests to remember why we train so hard."

Springs Valley will do just that as they begin the season with their first double-day performance. They will open the day at Heritage Hills. They will meet up with Forest Park, defending state runner-up, in class 3A competition. Springs Valley will perform at 4:30pm EDT.

The Brigade will pack their bags and head down to Evansville Central for their second performance in 3A Competition. There, they perform at 9:43pm EDT and will be in the same class as Evansville North, and ISSMA Class B band.