



Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade

20-Time ISSMA State Finalist

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

Double Day, Double Success for Springs Valley

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By: Jermaine Williams
Media Relations / Webmaster
info@blackhawkbrigade.com

LINCOLN CITY, Ind. – The Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade opened the season with two performances and came away from both with first place trophies on opening weekend of the marching band season.

The Brigade was in Lincoln City, Ind. at the Heritage Hills Invitational in the early afternoon this past Saturday. Along with first place in Class 3A, the Brigade won awards for best music, percussion, and overall grand champion.

Saturday evening, the Brigade was at Evansville Central High School. At their invitational, the Brigade won best percussion, auxiliary, and drum major Nia Seitz won the award for best drum major.

"I was very pleased with the flow of the first two contest performances," said Director of Bands Luke Aylsworth. "It is always makes me nervous to go out the first time. However, our students, parents, and staff are always prepared. They did a great job and everything was very smooth. It is hard to plan for an eighteen-hour day. Yet, everyone handled it with professionalism."

Unlike most activities, the philosophy on invitationals for the Brigade is not wins. As Aylsworth explains, these are all pre-shows for ISSMA sanctioned events. "We really do not focus on the awards and placings. Our students did not even stay for the awards ceremony at either contest."

"We want to do well of course," continued Aylsworth. "Nevertheless, our goal is much larger than just succeeding during the invitational season. We have to judge our progress ourselves and let our success be determined by our own standards."

The Brigade will be able to measure their improvement this weekend as they head down US 150 to the Pride of Paoli Invitational. They take the field in Class 3A Competition at 8:16pm.

Springs Valley will also have a community performance at the football stadium at 4:00pm Saturday afternoon.