



Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade

20-Time ISSMA State Finalist

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Brigade boast locally, now eyes nationally

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PAOLI, Ind. – The Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade traveled the 11 miles to the Pride of Paoli Invitational this past Saturday and came home with a first place trophy.

Performing in Class 3A competition, the Blackhawk Brigade earned awards for best general effect, auxiliary, visual and percussion. Also in the same class was Scottsburg and North Harrison. Both of those bands are in a larger ISSMA Class than Springs Valley.

Although the Brigade had a great evening, the morning rehearsal was not as solid. "The students did not have the best rehearsal Saturday morning," said Director of Bands Luke Aylsworth. "But, when the lights came on, they were ready to perform."

Perform they did, as the Brigade won over the crowd at Paoli. "Large crowds are our thing!" said drum major Nia Seitz. Snare drum player Marcus Ashby echoed the same comments by saying "I was so pumped before going on the field in front of a huge crowd."

This weekend, the Brigade will head to the University of Louisville campus for the Bands of America (BOA) Regional Championships. This marks the third consecutive year Springs Valley has performed on the national level. "This regional will not be by class," stated Aylsworth. "We will be competing against schools and bands of any size. It will be an interesting experience."

Being back on the national level excites many of the Brigade members including senior trumpeteer Amanda Emmons. "I am very excited about this week. I am anxious to see how we measure up to some other competition." Seitz added that, "It is such an honor to be able to compete at the national level with bands from across the country."

Springs Valley will take the field at Papa John's Stadium at 11:45am. Should the Brigade make Regional Finals, they will perform again in Louisville Saturday evening. If they do not, they will head to Floyd Central for the Highlander Invitational. Springs Valley is scheduled to perform at 6:31pm in Class D competition.

This week, Springs Valley received one first place vote and remained third in the weekly Indiana Marching.com Class D Poll. Defending state champion Lewis Cass is in first and Forest Park in second. County schools are representing in the top ten as Paoli is fourth and Orleans is again in eighth.