



Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade

20-Time ISSMA State Finalist

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Blackhawk Brigade one-step away from State Finals

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EVANSVILLE, Ind. – The Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade made another stride towards their 21st state finals appearance by receiving gold at the ISSMA Regional this past weekend.

The Brigade was among 18 bands vying for 10 semi-state finalist spots. Among those advancing was Orleans, Paoli and Forest Park. Crawford County, who appeared in their second ever regional, was just shy of the semi-state mark.

“Great show!” said assistant director John Aylsworth. “It was intense, musical and aggressive. Our best show of the year.”

The Brigade now looks to improve their show even more for their third trip to semi-state this weekend. “We’re all excited to be making another trip to semi-state,” said senior guard member Morgan Underhill. “I think we are all really excited and ready to make the show even better at our weekly rehearsals.”

The weekly rehearsals had a special meaning this past week when Dr. Terren L. Frenz came by practice. Dr. Frenz was staying at the French Lick Resort when he heard the band practicing. Dr. Frenz is an icon in the marching band world.

Dr. Frenz is currently the Director of Bands at the University of Cincinnati. He was also a high school band director for a number of years and won five national championships and won 198 consecutive win streak. He was so moved by watching, he asked to speak with the group.

During his short talk, he spoke about the self-discipline and practice technique of the group. He mentioned how he had never seen a group work so hard and tied in the fact that the hard work on the field will make the students successful on and off the field in life.

The Brigade will build off the past weekend and inspiration words from Dr. Frenz and look towards the Class D Semi-State at Franklin Community High School. The Brigade

will lead off the third group of bands by performing at 3:49pm. Awards will follow at approximately 6:15pm. The top ten will advance to the 2010 State Finals at Lucas Oil Stadium on October 30.

In the weekly Indiana Marching.com Writers Poll, the Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade remains perched in second while Paoli remained in fourth. A week after having their highest ranking ever, the Bulldog Regiment has fallen back to 12th.