



Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade

2010 ISSMA Class "D" State Champions

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Brigade members speak out on winning state championship

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FRENCH LICK, Ind. - Taking the state championship Saturday will always be something seniors in the Springs Valley Blackhawk Brigade remember. "I could tell it was our best performance of the season," said Tyler Beyers.

Playing in the drum line and quad, Beyers said he will always remember the hard work that led up to winning the state championship. "I don't know what I'm going to do during the summer next year," he said. "It's going to feel weird not being at band camp. It will feel different having a summer break and not being involved, going from performer to spectator."

Tiffany Underhill, color guard, said she will always remember the very end of the show, when the color guard threw their flags down on the field, realizing the band had done as well as it had. "I will always remember being the last ones on the field for the awards," she said.

On the way up to the State Finals, Alexis Fogle, color guard, said she was determined not to mess up and was trying to stay positive. She said, "I was very nervous when we got there."

"What I will remember most is hearing them call Forest Park first [as the Class D runner-up] and then seeing our trophy," said Alexis. "I'm going to remember and know that was my senior year."

Kylyn Dixon, trumpet, said, "I just wanted to go out and have a great show and have us put a lot of energy into it, make sure our senior year was the best — and it was."

Because she could feel the energy from everyone else, Kylyn said she was sure they were giving a great performance.

According to Amanda Emmons, trumpet, she had a huge headache and was extremely nervous on the way up to State Finals, but was ready to get out there and perform.

“I didn’t realize how well we did,” Amanda said. “I’m probably the most negative person out there. I ran up to Michelle and asked how we did.”

Amanda will take away a lot of lessons she learned during band, including being more responsible.

A very dedicated member of the Blackhawk Brigade, Michelle Stinchcomb, clarinet, performed Saturday while she was sick. “I was still getting out there,” she said. “I wasn’t nervous until we were in the end zone. Then I was really nervous.”

“I think I’ll remember the feeling I had when practicing at Greenwood [on Saturday, prior to the State Finals],” Michelle said. “I was crying, and everyone was crying.”

On the way to State Finals, Michelle said she was just hoping they would still feel the energy the band had at practice and that they would bring it to the field. She said, “I was hoping for the best at that point.”

Senior Lacy Richardson, color guard, also performed Saturday, filling out the Brigade's senior squad.

While the seniors will take their memories of winning the state championship with them as they leave high school, freshmen members of the band now have that performance to hold up as their goal for the next three years.

Jesse Hilyard, mellophone, also played last year in the Brigade. She said, “We knew something was different than last year. We knew we needed to be more extreme.”

According to Jesse, the whole Brigade kicked into high gear.

“It was an amazing experience to finally get first,” said Jesse. “You could tell everyone was ready to get going and everyone knew we had a good vibe going.”

Danessa Galloway, trumpet, said on the way up she was excited and anxious because they were about to go to State Finals. “It’s just too much to explain what I was feeling,” she said.

Being in band is a family tradition for Danessa. She said, “I was so overwhelmed I was having flashbacks during the show — the first day of band camp, all the new faces, all the fun times we had.”

Danessa said she will approach next year with more hard work and intensity.

“My inspiration has been Landon Price. He is an amazing player,” said David Allbright, baritone. “Intensity is the key in marching band. If it was easy, everyone would do it.”

David said that Luke Aylsworth is a very good band director, and that he personally, as

a performer, plans to work even harder next year. He said, "This year I thought we were so good. Next year I've decided to pump it up."

According to David, band has helped him feel better about himself because people depend on him.

"Tommy Lynch helped me a lot last year," said David. "I've made new friends in band. It's like being in a big family."

Jaden Parish, clarinet, said he really wasn't nervous on the way up to State Finals because he knew the Brigade would do well.

"Luke Aylsworth is great and a very good director," said Jaden. He added that with Mr. John Aylsworth helping out with the band really helped, because of his experience taking the Brigade to state.

"Replacing senior Michelle will be hard to do," noted Jaden. "But winning the state championship inspires me to work harder and play louder."

Taking the championship didn't really surprise Jaden. He said, "You could just tell the energy was there. Everyone knew we were going to do really good."

Being a teenager is tough, and Jaden pointed out that he and other Brigade members have a life outside of band. "It was tough and a challenge [being in band], and not many make it through," he explained. "It's hard core."

Jaden said, "To be at state is great because out of 127 bands, you're there, not sitting at home and wondering what could have been. When we're great, we're amazing. Mr. Aylsworth is a perfectionist, and I think that's why we won state."