



## Spring Valley Blackhawk Brigade

21-Time ISSMA State Finalist

326 South Larry Bird Boulevard  
French Lick, Indiana 47432  
[www.blackhawkbrigade.com](http://www.blackhawkbrigade.com)

### The Tanks of the Low Brass League

October 24, 2010

By: Landon Price '12

Junior Baritone

[info@blackhawkbrigade.com](mailto:info@blackhawkbrigade.com)

FRENCH LICK, Ind. - The Blackhawk Brigade is coming on stronger than ever this year. They are not holding back, they are not giving in; they are taking down names and saving the questions for later. Nothing is going to get in their way now, nothing is going to stop them, and nothing is going to slow them down. Although the Brigade has an awesome front-line of percussion and high winds, where would they be without the tanks—the back line frontier— the Low Brass League?

The Low Brass is made up of three instruments; the tubas, the baritones, and the tenor saxes. The Low Brass consists of junior Landon Price (Baritone); sophomores Jacob Stout (Baritone), Jacob Crowder (Baritone), Chris Garrison (Baritone), Levi White (Tuba), Kanon Cleek (Tuba), Ryan Warren (Baritone), Kyle Crowder (Tenor-Sax), and Luke Burton (Tenor-Sax); freshmen David Albright (Baritone); and eighth graders Jonathon Purkhiser (Baritone) and Blake Bauer (Baritone).

Landon Price has marched five years with the Blackhawk Brigade.

Jacob Stout has marched four years with the Brigade. Stout has shown a lot of improvement from the goofy little kid I used to know him as in his first few years, and has now become an incredible leader. He is the one to calm everyone down when everything is getting tense, and cheer us up with some sort of hilarious comment, that we all can't help laughing about. He understands the time to be serious, the time to have fun, and the time to loosen things up.

Chris Garrison has marched four years with the Brigade. From the moment he grabbed the trombone and the baritone and stepped out on the field, you knew he had a gift. He knows what is needed to be the best he can be, and he applies it during every performance and competition. You will never see him slacking off or taking a break when it comes to performing his best on the field. This young man has always been to my left in the horn arc, and every time I feel the intensity slip away, I look over at him and I get the vibe and the energy to keep pushing forward. This kid has an unbelievable talent, and he is using it better than anyone I have ever seen.

Jacob Crowder has marched four years with the Brigade. Crowder has grown so much from the first time I met him. He has become nothing short of a strong leader and an overall great marcher. He understands the mental and physical standards for this activity, and he is always performing his best on the field. I have another year before I graduate, but I already know that when I do, I will not have to worry about not having a true leader in the Low Brass section to take care of everybody.

Ryan Warren has marched three years with the Brigade. From the very beginning I could tell he was going to go somewhere with an instrument. He picked up the baritone faster than I have seen anyone else who was switching instruments. Not only does Warren have a great musical ability, he has a strong will to put down the best show he can, anywhere and everywhere, anytime of the day, during any kind of weather. He does not complain when it comes to adversity. He only raises himself to meet and overcome the adversity.

David Albright has been in the Brigade for two years. He does not talk much in the way of words, but he uses the intensity from his marching to do all of the talking. Even from the opposite side of the field, you can always rest assured that he is doing his best in any performance. I have no doubt in my mind that he knows what he's doing, and that he is making every one of his performances better than the one before.

Jonathon Purkhiser is in his first year of marching in the Brigade. Even though he may seem small and appear short from a distance, I would not go anywhere near him when he is marching. This powerful little tank is such an amazing instrument player. I have no doubt in my mind that he is going to stretch that potential into the most he can possibly be. On top of that, he will not ever stop and think negative. He will only push on to better himself and his peers.

Blake Bauer is in his first year of being in the Brigade. This young man can learn any amount of spots in one show that you would possibly let him. His ability to remember the sets and the functions of a show in not only one person's spot is nothing short of spectacular. I know that if he could, he would march everyone's spot at the same time and perform it just as powerful and amazing as anybody else while not think anything of it.

Levi White has been with the Brigade for three years. After tuba Caleb Stout graduated last year, some people had doubts about how the tuba section would fair all by their self. Levi though, has given everybody who has doubted a run for their money. He is such a powerful and young leader that has never stopped and looked down on himself or his ability. He only pushes himself farther than the day before and it shows in the way he marches, his ability to play the Tuba, and his excellent leadership skills.

Kanon Cleek is in his second year of being in the Brigade, and his first year on the tuba. The Low Brass section would be nothing without an awesome tuba section, and Cleek contributes more than enough to make sure we are at and sounding our best. You can

tell just by watching him that he is trying his best every second of the show, and he only improves day after day without any hesitation or slowing down.

Kyle Crowder has been with the Brigade for three years. He has been through so much adversity in his time, but you never see him crying about it or give up. He only pushes himself harder to improve because of it. He has grown so much stronger and more mature as the years have gone by. This young man is nothing short of amazing when it comes to the mature way he handles himself when times are tough.

Luke Burton has marched for three years with the Blackhawk Brigade. He is a quiet marcher that lets his actions and performance build the intensity and motivation of the people around him. He is always giving it his best and never thinks twice about giving up or backing down from a challenge. He strengthens himself for what is to come, and he faces it with more perseverance and more maturity than most people his age. He also has an amazing gift with any instrument he picks up.

These young men have proved they can do anything they set their minds to and go farther in life than most people. They have made so much improvement in the last few years that I can only imagine what kind of people they will become later on. The impossible does not stop these guys during any situation. They just strengthen themselves to overcome it and they do just that, every single time.