



DEVIL'S PRIDE

Blue Devil's Booster Club Newsletter

Fall 2011

President's Corner – Musings on 2011 finals week (or a portion thereof) – Sonja Williams

We were pretty disappointed we were not able to join the Corps earlier. Coming in late did not give us enough time to be with the kids and also made it difficult to finalize plans for the after finals brunch. However, with the help of section leaders, Brian Howard and Drum Major Andrew Rogers, things got done.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9 – We arrived at Indy and appreciated that Bill Howard picked us up. We worked on paperwork and answered telephone calls regarding the brunch and were elated when we received word that our “B” Corps had won their third World Championship title in a row with a score of 95.00. We were pretty proud and were hoping our “A” Corps would also triumph.

WEDNESDAY, August 10 - For the second year we were privileged to stay at the Clarion Hotel. The hotel was very happy to hear the Corps was coming back, and once again proved to be extremely accommodating to our needs. Pat Seidling had again made all the arrangements for us. The Corps arrived, had a short meeting, and Pat issued all the room keys. The members were given 2 hours to get things settled and maybe get a little rest before a second meeting – and then off to practice. The Corps was again able to rehearse at the Colts training facility during the day and then Carmel High School in the evenings. Due to the distance from the hotel, the Corps was bused and we were unable to watch rehearsals, as we were busy helping in Devil's Food. There were lots of “hello again” hugs and kisses when they got back after rehearsal. Now we were back in our favorite element. We got a chance to congratulate all our I&E participants. The Blue Devils did a great job again.

Being with the Corps at all times was our on-tour nurse, Vickie Shannon, This was Vickie's first year on a drum corps tour and we couldn't have been happier to have her on board. Knowing she was there at all times in case anything happened to one of the kids was very reassuring and we certainly hope she will be with us next year. There were times when the weather was scorching and there was no shade to be found anywhere, but Vickie was right there until the Corps came back to the hotel. When Vickie wasn't busy in her role as Corps Nurse, she was a tremendous help in Devil's Food. How she was able to do both jobs so well without collapsing was beyond us. A very welcome addition and definitely an asset to our staff.

THURSDAY, August 11 - PRELIMS –

It felt like only yesterday we were busy with auditions and camps ... and here it was, the last 3 days of tour! We hitched a ride to Lucas Oil Stadium with Bill Seeley in the equipment truck (thank you, again, Bill), still in awe of the size of the stadium – HUGE. Prelims all day with The Blue Devils slated to perform later in the evening so missed most corps except part of the Cadets' show. The seating for staff was close to the field and we really got the impact of the sound of the horns. We kept thinking, “Blow my face off.” That close you get the music but not the drill patterns. However, we had tickets for Semi-Finals and felt we had something to look forward to. So many changes in the show and we got those “ducky bumps” that our founder, Jerry Seawright, always talked about. We were really taken with how the show had evolved. We were a bit disappointed when we came in second behind the Cadets. Scores: Cadets 97.35, Blue Devils 96.85.

Our Blue Devil “B” world prelim score was 75.15. Such a drastic drop??? Reason: The Open Class judging criteria is different from the World Class and all the Prelim participants are judged by the World Class criteria.

FRIDAY, August 12 – Semi-Finals Day. Excitement growing. Many fans and parents arriving to say hi, support the kids, and help out in Devil's Food. Booster Club Secretary, Tom Wills, had to return to Concord, but luckily we were blessed with the return of yet another dynamo, Dennis Faccione. Sandy and Carol were definitely happy to have Dennis. We hitched yet another ride to the stadium with alumnus Ronny Hirata. As we got to the stadium, we saw our Blue Devil “B” Corps getting ready to go into the stadium. Of course, we went along and were we glad we did. The last time we had seen our Corps perform was in Stockton, CA. We sat in the same location as the evening before and again got the impact of the music. It was easy to see why this extremely talented Corps had taken its third DCI World Championship (and once again voted Fan Favorite). With the way the various corps were scheduled, it was impossible to do the “Personal Opinion” report as we have done in years past. Many things were different this year and it was a bit difficult trying to keep everything straight. We did get to see some of the corps and also got to visit with many former members. Being able to reconnect with former members is always a special treat for us. When we finally got to our seat, we were with fans and families from many of the different corps. While they applauded each corps, it was very obvious a good number of people around us

were avid and devoted supporters of the Madison Scouts. When the Blue Devils came on, the audience was very receptive. While the Corps did an outstanding job, it felt as though it was just a little bit slower than the show the night before. We thought the Cadets did a very good show and were not too surprised at the score – disappointed but not totally surprised. Scores: Cadets 97.80 Blue Devils 97.30. Our Blue Devils “B” scored 76.45. The “B” Corps staff and members had much to be congratulated for.

The Age-Out Ceremony was something to see. We were a bit touched when we actually saw our 57 age outs standing there. That’s when we really realized how many would be leaving us. When all the I&E winners were presented, we were sort of popping our buttons seeing so many “Blue” uniforms. Our kids did really well. We cheered as our own Todd Ryan was announced an inductee into the 2011 Hall of Fame – a well-deserved honor for one fantastic person. Jubal (HANS!) also performed much to the delight of the audience.

SATURDAY, August 13 - FINALS DAY - This is always one extremely busy day for everyone. In between rehearsal time, the Corps members made sure their instruments and equipment were ready for the show. Yvonne Moss had contacted the Mission in downtown Indy, packed up and delivered the food that was left over. For the past several years Yvonne has made it a practice to locate a food bank or mission to donate perishable food, etc, that cannot be taken back to Concord. Throughout the week, the hotel had boxes available for the kids to deposit all useable items (sleeping bags, pillows, clothes, etc) that they would not be taking home. These items were then donated to a local burn center. We were told the center’s staff could not believe their fortune in receiving these items and actually went into tears. A few monetary donations were made as well. Our age outs received a note from the Booster Club wishing them well in their “life after drum corps.” Our food truck crew was busy preparing our traditional Finals Dinner consisting of roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, green bean casserole, salads, desserts, desserts and more desserts plus anything that looked good. Once again, Pep Manning did a fantastic job making sure the roasts were tender and tasty. We were so very appreciative of the Blue Devils Alumni group whose donations made such a great dinner possible -- this, in addition to the many other items provided throughout this and prior years. This great group was headed by Ronny Hirata – hugs to Ronny!

Then it was time to leave for the stadium. For the entire week we had been lucky to have pretty nice weather. But wouldn’t you know it, Saturday night, just as the Blue Devils were going to the stadium, one huge storm hit. We saw some Phantom Regiment members who obviously got stuck outside for a bit and we worried about our kids. Luckily the Corps was able to get from the warm-up site via a tunnel to the stadium and everyone was dry. Whew! Time for the Corps to enter the field and we rushed to our assigned seats. What a performance was given by our “A” Corps! The energy level coming from the field was unbelievable. We told the Corps we were exhausted just watching their performance. No one could have asked for more than what these young people gave. The audience reaction was certainly a nice change from a few shows earlier in the year. People were standing and cheering. Yeah, the Blue Devils came through once again with a show that was outstanding in all respects. Jerry Seawright would have been so proud of “his” kids.

The time between the performance and returning to the field for retreat is extremely short. We had a little bit more time this year as the Cadets were the last to go on. As soon as the Corps was off the field, they circled up and Dave Gibbs let the Corps know how proud he was of them. Corps members then quickly gathered all their cameras, medals, etc. that Sheryl Miles made sure were ready for them to pick up – not an easy task (the items were in zip-lock bags with the member’s name and these get heavy). With the help of Yvonne Moss and Ainsley Gibbs, the age-outs were given the traditional white rose to wear at retreat. Now this is where all the

year’s emotions come into play – pinning the age-out flower on the kids we have grown to love and respect and knowing it just may possibly be one of the last times we will get to see them (especially if they are unable to attend the brunch on Sunday and/or the awards banquet in November). Time for a lot of hugs, kisses and the tears flowed quite freely. We were a bit on the teary side again when Drum Major Andrew Rogers led the entire 2011 corps in a musical arrangement as the Retreat Ceremony was to begin.

There were a lot of things we really liked and enjoyed and very few things we didn’t quite care for this year. A few thoughts: Blue Knights – Best show we have seen from this corps. Each year they keep getting better. Phantom Regiment – Had our vote as one of the classiest guard uniforms with the beautiful flowing dresses (the corps was good, too). Cadets – Innovative, creative show with the use of the entrance to the field and the use of the two-color uniforms. Crown – Fun, entertaining, definitely different and crowd focused (voted Fan Favorite) SCV – Very well done show. Cavaliers – We kept worrying someone would fall off those tall stilts. Yokohama Scouts – Small (~55) but extremely good. We thought the guard was absolutely beautiful in what was our favorite guard uniform and the drum major definitely had the crowd appeal with his smile. Jubal – We really enjoyed this fun show and hope the corps can return to the U.S. again. Madison Scouts – Very emotional show depicting New York and 9-11. We were impressed with how strong all the corps were this year – from the very early start of the season to the end. Every show was well done by every section, a great year for the drum corps fans and definitely worth the trip to Indy.

Our wonderful Devil’s Food crew had quite a food line set up in the parking lot for the Corps after the show. Of course, that’s when it decided to start raining again. However, it all worked out. We felt good (and we felt bad) as a couple of kids from another corps came by the food line and we asked them if they would like something. to eat We finally convinced one to take us up on our offer. After making a sandwich, he said we just didn’t know how much he appreciated the offer because, “You can’t believe how hungry I am.” We don’t like any kid being hungry.

Hitching yet another ride – this time from Yvonne – we were off to the Wyndham Hotel. Arising early on Sunday morning, we made sure everything was in place for the Finals Brunch sponsored by the Booster Club as a way of saying “Thank You” to the Corps members and the touring staff. Earlier we had anticipated a bit over 200 people to attend – Final count: 280! We think it might have been more, but the hotel kept the number at 280 for us. From comments received, this brunch was rated as a success. Due to some difficulties, we were unable to show a video of the Finals performance. While this was a disappointment, we felt it was the only one (of course, a DVD will be available for purchase from Gail Schultz a bit later on). Dave spoke to the Corps and Pete did a marvelous job keeping the brunch fun. Now, this is the way we like to hold a brunch. We were very touched when Drum Major Andrew Rogers gave a big thank you to the Booster Club for providing so many things to the Corps members, housing and just being there throughout the year. We gave a BIG thank you to the staff at the Wyndham. Arranging an event from across the U.S. was made pretty easy due to the hotel staff being so accommodating to our wants and needs. We were extended a sincere request to plan on coming back in 2012.

We owe a great deal of thanks to so many people who make it possible for Blue Devils to exist and wish we could name each and every one individually. We feel the hardest job is that of the Devil’s Food crew and we are so thankful to Carol Vargas and Sandy Gist and everyone who helped out (Imagine feeding approximately 190 people 4 times a day for 8 weeks). Our great Promo Crew headed by Gail Schultz, our fabulous instructors, Debbie Odello and her uniform crew, our wonderful drivers, our dedicated support staff, the Concord office staff, Executive Director David Gibbs, and a personal thank you to everyone who

was kind enough to provide our transportation. A big thank you to our Corps Manager Pete Emmons and his fantastic right hand, Sheryl Miles. Our grateful and sincere thanks to the parents, friends, alumni, and fans who showed their support throughout the year. Our last hitch of a ride in Indy was to the airport (thank you

BOOSTER BITS

Blue Devils 'A' Corps Audition Countdown!

This year's System Blue Audition Clinics are being held November in Texas and Northern California -- and in December in Southern California and Northern California. (See the BD calendar for specific dates and locations.)

Upcoming Workshops (check the BD website)

[Brass, Percussion and Color Guard Workshop](#)

Sponsored by Blue Devils B -- December 10

[System Blue Event in Malaysia](#)

December 15-18

Happy Holidays from The Blue Devils!

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2012 DCI Tour Premiere



The 2012 Drum Corps International Tour will get started on Saturday, June 16 in Akron, Ohio, featuring a lineup of East Coast and Midwestern corps including the Blue Stars, Bluecoats, Cadets, Carolina Crown, Cavaliers and Phantom Regiment.

Following last year's successful June theater broadcast which brought the kickoff event of the summer season to 436 movie theaters across the country and an audience of more than 23,000, DCI's "2012 Tour Premiere" is currently scheduled to be recorded live in Akron and aired in theaters the following Monday.

Competition among the western corps will get started on June 19 in Albuquerque, N.M., followed by events in Arizona and California just days later. In addition to the western corps like the Blue Devils and Santa Clara Vanguard, also highlighting the schedule of Pacific events in June will be Phantom Regiment and the Boston Crusaders.

This will be the first early-season tour of the region in the history of the Crusaders who are currently planning on hosting their entire spring training in California prior to hitting the road. It will be a return trip for Regiment members who will be making their fourth trip west in the last six years, most recently in 2011.

"Every show we went to out west last summer had great crowds and even a few sellouts. The support and reception we received from the fans was tremendous—from the show, to the souvenir booth, to the parking lot afterward," Phantom Regiment Executive Director Rick Valenzuela said.

Look for Phantom Regiment and Boston Crusaders to both be featured in the lineups at Clovis, Stanford and Stockton, Calif. in June before the Crusaders travel to events in the Pacific Northwest.

Ronny Hirata). Now it was time to start working in earnest on the awards banquet to be held November 26 at the Marriott Hotel in Walnut Creek, CA. We look forward to working with the Marriott again, and so do they! And that was the (almost) week that was

2011 Banquet

Nov. 26 we welcomed the corps back to the Marriott in Walnut Creek for the annual BD Banquet. Great food, great reminiscing, great speeches, great fashion (a little different from the usual rehearsal garb we see on tour!), and many deserving awards. Sponsored by the Boosters, a great time was had by all.

Booster Club Meetings: the first Tuesday of every month at the IHOP in Martinez – Come join us

OFFICERS:

Sonja Williams - President

Tom Wills - Secretary

Katie Wills - Membership

Yvonne Moss - Vice President

Kaffy Cecil - Treasurer

Norma Merrill - Sunshine

Booster Club Newsletter coordinator : Tom Wills



Shant Keurogheluan MVP Marching



David Ziehm CG outstanding veteran



Lauren Gary saber of the year



David Reaver / Evan Harris BD Brass performers of the year



Sweet Feet recipient - **Peter Beckhart**



Zak Stillwell and Shant Keurogheluan MVP BD brass



Emily Nunn BD CG rookie of the year



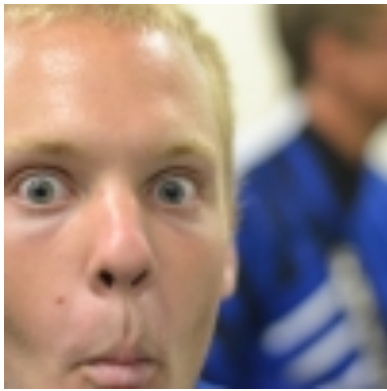
Stephanie Vasilakis -
rookie of the year -
percussion



Matt Keown - Percussion MVP

Andrew Rogers - Blue
Devil of the Year - 2011





Bluuuuueeee



DCI Hall of Fame - Todddd



Yeah – You're Good!! --DG



John and Fam !!!!!



The Pit – Perfection In Tandem



DM !! and Pres!!



**Percussion Performer(s) of the year –
The whole Pit!!**