

BLUE DEVILS

“DEVIL’S PRIDE”

Booster Club Newsletter

March 2010

MARCH CAMP

Due to weather and airport conditions in various states throughout the country, there were several members unable to make Friday night’s rehearsal -- cancellations, delays, being put on stand-by for hours and hours, etc.

Although they had very little sleep, they made it to Saturday’s rehearsal. We were sure they had a good night’s sleep on Saturday! Thank you to all the people who picked kids up on late BART trains and the Oakland and San Francisco airports and made sure they got to their housing and rehearsals. Our rail system stops at midnight and some of the planes did not even arrive until 1:00 a.m.

We had the opportunity to watch more of the percussion section at this camp. The drum line has always been known for the entire section bonding together as a dedicated group, and this year is no exception.

They both look and sound as a solid group. Watching the



expression on the staff’s faces was interesting. After listening to some of the runs, the sheer joy in their eyes absolutely said it all. Can’t wait to see what comes later. On Saturday, our drum line was featured at the WGI Union City Percussion Regional competition held at Logan High School.

If the 2010 show matches the Corps’ talent, we are in for another exciting year.

This time we did get to watch a little of the drill. As is always the case at this time of year, the staff tries out different things and they do not always end up in the final show. It is

always fun to watch the members learning to do various dance steps if they haven’t had any earlier instruction in dance. We will have to admit, however, they gave it a good try.

There were a couple of very interesting props being checked out for use in the show. Maybe we will have a better idea of how to describe what they were next month – they looked very shiny, and that was about all we could really tell. So far we have nothing to report regarding music, show title or theme.

We have had a couple of changes in the roster and it





looks as though we now have a full Corps again. Quite often it becomes obvious that the schedule, cost, family matters or whatever makes it impossible for a person to continue and new kids come in to try out for the vacant spots. This is very normal at this time of year. We look forward to having our Guard at the April camp.



FAMILY DAY PREVIEW

Tickets are now on sale for the Family Day Preview to be held Sunday, June 20 at the Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, CA. Tickets are \$10 (*children under 8 are free*). Scheduled to perform are the Blue Devils A, B and C – Santa Clara Vanguard A and Cadets – Renegades (*“The Loudest Corps in the World”*) plus our Family Day-type performances of the different sections of the Corps and ensembles.

This will be an exhibition (non-judged) evening, but promises have been made that there will be exciting new twists and performances at this unique event as well.

As we mentioned earlier, the day starts off with Alan Parker and his crew from Jolesch Photography taking pictures of the corps, then our ever-popular picnic at the park across from the college.

Each section of the Association brings certain items to the picnic and all help in the preparation and clean-up duties would be greatly appreciated. If you are local and can help, please contact the BD Hall.

After the picnic it is off to an evening of listening and watching some very talented young people. We will mention this event again later on just as a reminder as we certainly don't want people to miss out on a great day.

SAN ANTONIO DCI SOUTHEASTERN CHAMPIONSHIPS

For more than 10 years, the Alamodome in San Antonio, TX has been “the” place for the Southwestern Championships.

Due to an unanticipated scheduling conflict, it became necessary to move the event to the Judson Independent School District's D. W. Rutledge Stadium in Converse, TX.

This will now be a two-day competition with 13 corps performing on Saturday, July 24 with the audience being treated to a special appearance by the Open Class Vanguard Cadets and 11 corps performing on Sunday, July 25, with San Antonio's own Revolution making a special appearance.

We believe former member Mark LeGault just might have had a little to do with obtaining the new site.

INDIVIDUAL AND ENSEMBLE COMPETITION

For the first time, I&E competition for the World Class corps will not be held during Finals Week, but will be





held in San Antonio. To allow all corps the opportunity to participate, I&E will be split over two days coinciding with the Southwestern Championship.

The location for I&E is still waiting for confirmation.

LUCAS OIL STADIUM & THE DOME

At a recent conference, the voting members of DCI voted 11 to 9 in favor of opening the retractable roof at the stadium for the last 15 corps to perform at the World Class Quarterfinals on Thursday, August 12.

The roof will be closed during the heat of the day and through the first group of corps so that the air conditioning can keep the building cool. During the first intermission, the roof will be opened.

At the end of the evening the roof will be closed and remain so for the balance of the week.

From Dan Acheson: “Fans may notice a number of additional measures that have been incorporated into the stadium setting for this year’s event to vastly improve the listening environment.

Other improvements will be less visible while still enhancing the experience for performers and fans alike.” Assuming the weather is cooperative, they hope to gain additional insights from the open roof which can be taken into consideration for the planning of future World Championship events.

For 2010, the roof will remain closed for Open Class and World Class Semifinals and Finals. We personally hope this works as we are in total agreement that the sound was not nearly what it should have been.

We are no expert in acoustics, but we wonder if the stadium being so huge is one of the reasons for the sound problems. We remember

going into Indy on Tuesday for Finals Week last year and experiencing the worst storm Indy had ever had. We lucked out that the rest of the week was good. Let’s hope the weather will cooperate next August.



“STAR OF INDIANA” ALUMNI PERFORMANCE

Former DCI corps Star of Indiana (1985-1993) is busy getting ready for an Alumni Corps performance at the 2010 DCI Semifinals night (August 13).

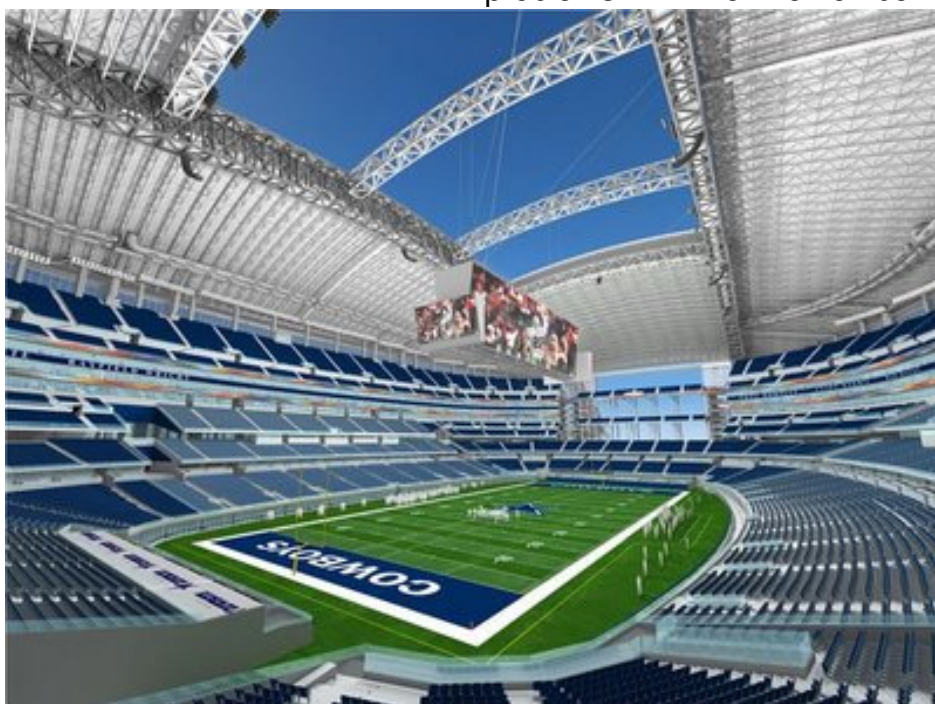
“Star” was the DCI champion in 1991 but left the circuit in 1993 to pursue other performance venues. Members joined with a very popular orchestra for several performances and went on to produce the extremely popular Emmy and Tony Award-winning stage production of “Blast!” which has performed worldwide.

Performers will range from the ages of 22 to 46 and represent the corps from 1985-1993 as well as those in the Brass Theater production (1994-1998) and from “Blast!”

The music will range from all nine drum corps years, closing with their headline piece in the 1993 production “Medea.”

CHECK OUT THESE ITEMS ON THE DCI SITE

Motel 6 offers a nationwide discount to members, families, fans and supporters.



To obtain the discount you can call (800) 466-8356 and reference the DCI account number: CP543712.

Discounted rates are also available on advanced reservations (10% below the Best Available Rate) at the **Wyndham Hotel Group** properties by calling www.wyndhamrewards.com or (866) 996-7937. We were informed earlier that the Adams' Mark Hotel in Indianapolis (where the Booster Club's "After Finals" brunch was held last year) has been changed to one of the Wyndham hotels. If you are interested in staying at the Omni Hotel where the Blue Devils will be headquartered, make sure you contact Gail Schultz or Debbie O'Dello at the BD Hall as soon as possible as there are a limited number of rooms blocked off for Blue Devil reservations.

DCI also has an agreement with the Aerobed Company to offer specials on air mattresses. In past years the gym floors were covered with sleeping bags – now the sleeping bags are on top of the air mattresses.

Having slept on many a gym floor in a sleeping bag, we can't blame them for the extra comfort of the air bag. If you should need to replace a bag for your son or daughter (or for your own use), this might be a good place to look. The beds are highly rated by the Corps members.

OUR FAMOUS POSTER BOY

Many people have asked who the Corps member is featured on the cover of an earlier DCI



Today magazine, the DVD and the 2010 DCI Wall Calendar. That member happens to be our talented member Alex Mutz. This impressive 23" x 39" calendar features the Blue Devils "A" Corps on one side and the Blue Devils "B" Corps on the other and is available through DCI at a cost of \$10.

There is also a list of dates for some of the biggest DCI events scheduled for the 2010 DCI tour.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW & WHAT ARE THEY DOING

Once again we report on one of our former members. In

this case it is former horn line member, drum major and instructor Scott Lee Atchison.



In addition to being the Associate Director of Bands at Texas A&M Commerce, Scott has taken on the responsibilities of Brass Caption Head for The Cavaliers. In 2007, Scott was the Caption Head for The Troopers.



GEORGE BONFIGLIO

DCI Hall of Fame member George Bonfiglio passed away recently after being in declining health over the past several years. George was one of DCI's founding fathers and led the great 27th Lancers of Revere, MA for almost 20 years until they disbanded in 1986, and was the first chairman of the DCI Board of Directors.

Under his direction, the 27th Lancers performed in many areas other than drum corps, including the opening ceremonies of the 1980 Winter Olympics. "Dedicated to the corps, George managed to work through many adverse conditions" said 27th Lancers' brass arranger James Wedge, "No matter how bad things got, George would keep prodding along and finding some way of making the corps successful."

Anyone who was lucky enough to see the Lancers will agree they were something else. We remember the audience reaction just seeing the corps line up getting ready to perform their Alumni presentation – the audience went absolutely "bonkers."

What a performance. They could have stayed on the field for another hour and no one

would have objected one bit. The activity needs people such as George Bonfiglio and he will be greatly missed.

REMINDER

Don't forget to look into the new Blue Devils VISA card offer on the BD site. This is an easy way to help the Devs financially.

After the first purchase of any amount, BD receives \$50 and then a percentage of future charges. There are 5 different cards to choose from; we have the Alumni one.



NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

**I-HOP Restaurant
Martinez, CA
7:00 P.M.**

OFFICERS:

Sonja Williams
President

Yvonne Moss
Vice President

Tom Wills
Secretary

Kaffy Cecil
Treasurer

Katie Wills
Membership

Norma Merrill
Sunshine

*Booster Club Newsletter
coordinator : Sonja Williams*

*Newsletter editor :
Hans Kloppert
The Netherlands*



Stanford Stadium
California

**2010
DCI West**

Saturday, June 26th
6:30pm

