

Dallas High School band wraps up a 'productive' year

By MICHAEL TWICHELL
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - It's been a good year for the Dallas High School band program. "We've had a very productive year, and were able to accomplish a lot," said band director Todd L. Hunter last week.

The accomplishments began last fall, when the marching program earned a respectable third place finish at the Tournament of Bands (T.O.B.) Chapter VII championship. This qualified them for a second consecutive trip to Atlantic Coast Championships, where they eventually finished 14th out of 25. "Our goal was to finish in the top 15, and we're thrilled to have made it," said drill instructor Jerry Baldauff.

After the marching season ended, the band stayed active, with several members participating in the District and Regional music festivals, notably senior trombone player Mike Dobranski who qualified for a second consecutive trip to the state music festival in Pittsburgh. "He is a tremendous player, and thoroughly deserves his success," said Hunter.

In December, the band, along with the chorus, presented the annual Christmas concert, which for the first time included the Jazz Band performing.

The Jazz Band performed in two competitions this spring, earning a rating of Very Good at the Meyer's Jazz Festival, and then turned in a burning performance at the Crestwood Jazz Festival in April, where they received a rating of Outstanding. Band members also won or tied for first place in several categories includ-



Dallas Marching Band members paraded at Ocean City, New Jersey. From left; Roy Fulkerson, Mark Mittrick, Peter Redmond, Kara Bobeck, Todd Butcher, David Jumper, Aimorette Leest, Jennifer Coolbaugh.

ing best rhythm section, and best trombones, with drummer Gene Koshinski tying for best rhythm solo, and earning a \$500 summer program scholarship from the Berklee School of Music.

The band's annual spring concert, which included a performance of "Amazing Grace" dedicated to the memory of late Dallas superintendent Gerald Wycallis, took place in late April. Band members then prepared for their annual trip, this time to Ocean

City, Md. May 8-11, where they performed with 13 other bands in the annual White Marlin Parade Competition, finishing third.

The Dallas Indoor Color Guard also had a fine year, participating in 10 competitions, with four first place finishes including the Chapter VII championship held in April. The guard then went to Wildwood, New Jersey for the All Chapter Championships where they finished 6th in Scholastic Class A competition.

As the year comes to an end, the staff and students are already preparing for next year. "We're looking forward to the marching band season," said Heather Baldauff.

The Dallas instructional staff wishes to thank the Dallas Band Boosters for their support as well as the Dallas School District, and to say goodbye to the band's graduating seniors. "We'll miss them, and wish them well," said Hunter.

Color Guard tryouts June 12

The Dallas Color Guard will begin tryouts and rehearsals Thursday, June 12 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the high school. Any students interested in participating are invited to attend.

Erin Stair valedictorian at O'Reilly High School

Bishop O'Reilly High School in Kingston conducted its graduation ceremonies for the class of 1997 at the Kirby Center in Wilkes-Barre May 30. Janyne Swircek, Salutatorian, welcomed those in attendance and Erin Stair, Valedictorian, gave the farewell.



ERIN STAIR

Stair is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Mark Stair, of Trucksville. In the course of high school, she has been involved in the school's soccer team (of which she served as co-captain), cross country, field hockey, basketball, the Chess club, the Student Council (of which she served as President), the Spanish Club, Spanish Honor Society (President), the National Honor Society, Foreign Correspondence Club, FBLA, Glee Club, Chamber Choir, Student Activities Committee, Mission Club and Liturgy Committee.

Her community activities include the Back Mountain Dragons girls' soccer team, being a lifeguard, soccer referee, and participating in the Wilkes University Young Scholars program. Volunteers for America, the Keystone State games and camp counseling.

Her many awards and citations include the District II PIAA Scholar Athlete Award, being the leading scorer for 1997 in the WVC Soccer

League, membership on the Keystone State soccer teams which won a gold medal in 1995 and a silver medal in 1996, and election to the school's homecoming court in her senior year.

In addition she has merited the Congressman Paul E. Kanjorski Foundation Award for Excellence in Social Science and Community Leader Awards for Excellence in Mathematics, Science and Computer Science, a National Honor Society Scholarship Certificate of Merit,

Principal's Leadership Award for 1997, a second place in the regional History Day competition, certificates from the National Spanish Exams in 1995-96, and membership in Who's Who Among American High School Students. In athletics, she merited honorable mention in cross country All-Star ratings and captured first and second place team status in soccer All-Star ratings.

Her senior awards include the Scholar-Athlete Award, Excellence in Religion Award, the John T. McHale Award and subject awards for excellence in religion, English, science, social studies, Spanish and leadership.

Her future plans involve attending the United States Military Academy at West Point, for which she received nominations from Congressman Paul Kanjorski and Senator Rick Santorum.

There, she will major in biochemistry and play soccer for the Division I lady Knights.



Dallas seniors awarded Book Scholarships

Dallas High School seniors Lori Buzin of Shavertown and Heather Wilt of Wyoming were recently awarded Book Scholarships of \$350 each by the Dallas Area Federated Women's Club. The annual Club Scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic achievement, extracurricular activities, community involvement and need. Shown above at the reception ceremony from left to right are Mary Griffin, President of the Dallas Women's Club, Lori Buzin, Heather Wilt, and Club Scholarship Chairperson Ellen Nagy.

L-L'S Melanie Yakus makes All-State Band

Melanie Yakus recently achieved the honor of making All-State Band where she performed along with the State Orchestra and State Chorus at Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh. Under the direction of Edward A. Richards, Melanie was a member of the Lake-Lehman Band for six years, principle clarinetist, soloist, and section leader for the past two years, and is serving as the band's president for the 1996-97 school year.



YAKUS

Other achievements for Melanie this year include District Band,

District Orchestra, Regional Band and Regional Orchestra. At the Lake-Lehman Spring Concert, she was awarded the John Miliauskas Award.

The United States Marine Corps awarded her the "Semper Fidelis" Award. She also plays in the Luzerne County Community College Symphonic Band under the direction of John Miliauskas. She is a member of the National Honor Society and was chosen for Who's Who Among America's High School Students.

Melanie is the daughter of Frank and Diane Yakus of Bloomingdale. She will be attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania this fall to study Music Education and Broadcast Journalism.

Wyoming Seminary graduates

Recently students from the Back Mountain graduated from Wyoming Seminary in Kingston. The class of 1997 includes the following people: Anthony James Agati, Dallas; Tina Marie Aquilina, Shavertown; Amy Rebecca Benjamin, Noxen; Christina Buonsante, Shavertown; David Choe, Dallas; Wesley Michelle Foran, Dallas; Jeremy David Fried, Dallas; Jennifer Maria Janerich, Shavertown; John Stuart

McLaughlin, Dallas; Eleanor Gaetana Messina, Dallas; Douglas Warren Oldham, Shavertown; Adam Tal Richards, Dallas; Jonathan Ross Schulman, Dallas; Douglas Arthur Sherwood, Dallas; Emily Noel Slaff, Dallas; Jonathan Patrick Sordoni, Harveys Lake; Anjali Mallikarjun Udoshi, Dallas; Courtney Edith Williams, Dallas; Michael Salah Zalatio, Dallas.

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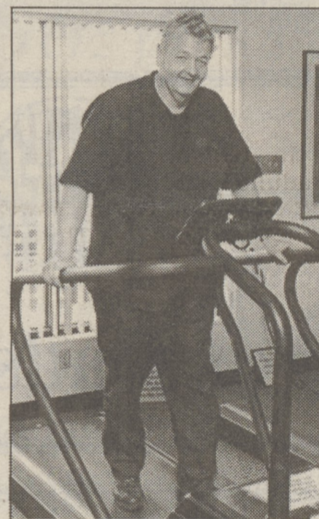
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