

MARCHING BAND

Drum major Kendra Balmer is a junior at Dallas High School.



PHOTOS FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Percussion section member Brian Rosser works the drums at Dallas.

The beat goes on

The Dallas H.S. marching band is ready for another year

By DAVE KONOPKI
Post Editor

DALLAS TWP. — The Dallas High School marching band is ready to take flight this fall.

Under the direction of band director Todd Hunter, the band will be performing the show "Flight" during pregame and halftime festivities at football games, as well as in competition. The band began learning the music and choreography for the show before the end of the last school year.

"Our first rehearsal was in May and the kids worked hard throughout the summer," said Hunter, who enters his 18th year as head of the Dallas music program. "We're

doing a variety of (musical) pieces that depict the emotions of being in flight. There are a lot of concert band-style pieces."

This year's marching band has 33 members, including 24 instrumentalists, nine members of the color guard and drum major Kendra Balmer.

The color guard adviser is Melissa Brelsford and the percussion adviser is Dave Gambal.

The band has learned approximately two-thirds of the entire show, said Hunter.

"We still have things to learn," he said. "But overall, I'm fairly pleased. I'm happy with how the kids are progressing."

Dallas will compete at the annual Tournament of Bands on Sept. 24 at Lake-Lehman High School. There is also a possibility the

band will compete at a competition in Bloomsburg on Sept. 17. Dallas will also host its annual competition at 1 p.m. Oct. 8 at Mountaineer Stadium.

The band will compete in numerous competitions throughout the eastern part of the state in the fall in hopes of securing a berth in the Chapter 7 Championships and the prestigious Atlantic Coast Championships.

Dallas has earned a berth in the ACC — the largest band championship in the United States — each year for more than a decade.

"Our first goal is always for the kids to do their best," Hunter said. "If that means we're good enough to qualify for the ACCs, that's great. Right now, we're looking forward to learning the show and having a good season."



Dallas color guard member Ashley Mihal twirls a flag during practice.

Drummer Michah Cameron is a member of the percussion section.



Adam Barry and David Balmer march in step during a recent band practice.