

MECHANICSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



Submitted photos by Jeff Shatzer

Mechanicsburg High color guard, left photo, awaits the awards ceremony, and above, shows off the finalist plaque the unit won for its performance.

Color guard takes 15th at WGI World Championships

By Andrew Barbin
Sentinel Correspondent
aontdoor@cumberlink.com

Mechanicsburg Winterguard members trained all season for the prestigious Scholastic Open Division and was rewarded with a 15th place finish this weekend.

The successful performance came during the SO World Championships in Dayton, Ohio. It is only the second year the Mechanicsburg Winterguard has competed in the SO competition.

For Mechanicsburg's only senior, Janell Hixon, it was the crowning achievement to a career with three Atlantic Coast Championships with the marching band and steady progress in each their appearances at the World Championships.

"I will miss all the girls, and with the rest of them coming back with all this experience,"

she said. "I am confident they will build on our success next year."

Mechanicsburg's semifinal score of 86.10 was just enough to secure the 15th and final spot in the Scholastic Open Finals on Saturday. To make the finals, Mechanicsburg had to outscore Gates Chili, Laurens Central, Scotland, Norwalk, Denham Springs and other nationally respected programs which had out placed them in prior competitions.

The Mechanicsburg unit had little time to enjoy the success in reaching finals, they faced an early lights out, and an early wake-up call, to prepare for a 10 a.m. performance Saturday morning in the Scholastic Open Finals. The finals show is performed in a college auditorium filled with peers and their parents, and coaches. Teams also receive a professionally filmed video taken with multiple cameras from multiple

angles to relive the moment for years to come.

Hixon said having her dad there beside her through it all made the experience that much more meaningful. Her father, Joe Hixon has driven the prop truck for several years, helps get the props on and off the tarp each performance, and like all the parents is there to celebrate and to console as needed.

Coach Kristy Templin said that she could not be more proud of her team, and the work they put in to make finals. She credited her assistant coaches, consultants and the army of parents who volunteered to make the program possible. Most were on hand to celebrate this evening.

Results and schedules are posted at www.wgi.org. Additional pictures will be posted at www.awbpcplaw.com/colorguard.html as they are processed.



Mechanicsburg Senior High School's color guard and coaches finished 15th at