



MASH Guard Seniors Sarah Draude, Courtney Quigley, Steph Przewoznik, and Cassie Hoover



MASH Percussion SW Exhibition

“Art in Motion” at Mechanicsburg KIDA Competition

By: Andrew Barbin

No one had to explain to any of the packed house spectators why Mechanicsburg calls its annual Guard, Majorette, and Drumline competition “Art in Motion.” From nine in the morning until a little past eight in the evening last Saturday, art was in continuous motion at the annual Keystone Indoor Drill Association (KIDA) competition hosted by Mechanicsburg.

Coaches are fond of saying things like “there is no I in Guard (or team).” Guard and percussion competition emphasizes synchronicity, with only brief solo moments for individuals or small groups to shine. Once a year, however, KIDA sanctions an individual and small group competition, for those who just don’t get enough practice for regular competition. Among local entrants, Scott Raymond of Carlisle took Second for Senior Percussion Solo and Brett Spahr of Bermudian Springs took First for Senior Color Guard. Kaitlyn Biggs, Laura Levin, Shannon Kuhn, Erin Townsen and Brittany Tallman from Cumberland Valley took First for Senior Color Guard Ensemble.

Redland (Blue), Bermudian Springs (White), Mussleman (Gold) and Northern Middle (Junior) took top honors in the regular Guard competition; while Central Bucks West (Blue Moving), Waynesboro (Gold Moving), Greencastle (Blue), West Perry (White) and Trinity (Gold) took top honors in Percussion competition. Although Mussleman is from West Virginia, they had a hometown crowd cheering for them, because Mussleman coach Rob Rodney is also an instructor for Mechanicsburg’s Blue Guard.

North Hagerstown won the respect and applause of spectators and competitors when they completed their performance shouting out the counts for their show after their music on a scratched disc died near the beginning of the performance. The crowd gave them a standing ovation, and the judges gave them a rare second chance, allowing them to secure a second disc and perform again after the rest of the groups in their division.

Featured exhibition performers Independent A division Sitao Winterguard, Mechanicsburg Scholastic World division Percussion, and the Scholastic Open/Blue Division (sporting five new members) and the Scholastic A/White division Color Guards, ended the evenings performances with exhibitions that were greeted with thunderous applause. The Blue Guard received an exhibition score of 92.4 and the White Guard received score of 86.5; both are the highest scores of the season in their respective KIDA divisions. Sitao and the Percussion unit do not compete in KIDA, and were not scored, except by audience approval. The Mechanicsburg Junior Guard and Bronze Guard performed earlier in the evening.

Mechanicsburg also honored its Senior performers: Percussion, Lauren Kopacko, Joel Washok, Shawn Antczak, Shane Jones, Troy Morgan, Jenny Huling, Marybeth Donnelly, Kim Walden, Becky Robinson, Emma DuBois, Josh Seitz, Tim Ries, Tristan Noggle; Guard: Sarah Draude, Steph Przewoznik, Courtney Quigley, Erin Hensel, Cassie Hoover.

Percussion Senior Tristan Noggle reminisced, “Someone once told me “repetition is the key to learning,” and boy he wasn’t kidding. The word “reset” haunts my dreams, Dr. Beat is my best friend *and greatest foe*.” Shawn Antczak thanked his instructors for being “friends and mentors,” his “fellow seniors for *sticking* with it,” and fellow senior bass drummers for being “the best friends a guy could have.” Senior Josh Seitz thanked “his parents for the small fortune spent over the last 5 years, his instructors for always making us strive for our best, and his fellow seniors for always making percussion a fun.”

Guard Senior Steph Przewoznik thanks her parents for their support; Coach Kristy Templin for being a second mother and believing in her when she did not; and the girls for putting up with “bad singing, lame jokes, and constant insanity.” Senior Cassie Hoover said that her favorite memories would be from trips to Dayton for World Championships, with an overheating bus, spying on the parent *meetings*, Carabba’s, the University of Dayton tunnel going into the performance arena, hotel dance parties, helping Independent World division Light Brigade with their tarps, decorated bus seats, spinning in a hotel lobby, making it to finals and taking 8th in the World. Senior Erin Hensel thanked “her Mom for all the laundry, sewing, driving, prop-pushing, money and for listening,” and “her Dad pushing tons of props, wearing makeup for me (in Grey Guard) making me to feel beautiful even when I was covered in sweat, glitter and feathers,” and “all my instructors who have helped me to believe in myself, and God most importantly for giving me the ability, the courage and the breath to survive each show.”

Cumberland Valley and Cedar Cliff host KIDA competitions next week, while Mechanicsburg sends its SO/Blue Guard to Rhode Island for a World Guard International (WGI) Power Regional. Mechanicsburg will return to KIDA competition for the Red Land show the following week.



CV Guard Ensemble—Gold



Scott Raymond—Silver



Redland Blue -1st Place Trophy



Brett Spahr—Guard Solo Gold



Sitao Featured Exhibition



Northern Middle—Junior Guard 1st Place