

Preview performances showcase area high school teams



Photos, Story by Andrew Barbin



The award-winning Mechanicsburg Area Senior High Blue Guard, top and above, performs its edgy "Shavings" routine for the audience Saturday at Central Dauphin East.

Keystone Indoor Drill Association (KIDA) Winterguard and Indoor Percussion season opened Saturday with flags, rifles and sabers and batons flying through the gymnasium at Central Dauphin East High School.

For some school teams it was a competition tune up for a finished show; for others it was a chance to get preliminary feedback on a work in progress.

A total of 37 colorguard, percussion and majorette units from schools throughout Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia participated in the annual preview show and judges' clinic.

No stress, no trophies, just a one-time opportunity to enjoy each other's performances and receive feedback from the judges before competition begins in earnest this Saturday at Linganore (Md.) High School.

Mechanicsburg Blue Guard, which took eighth in the WGI Scholastic A division at the World Championships last spring with an elegant "Winterbirds" program, have switched gears this season with an edgy show entitled "Shavings." The show is a kinetic experience of constant motion, with three turntable prop platforms, and the promise of additional turntables and three dimensional costumes as the season progresses.

The MASH White guard, on the other hand, fielded a program of simple prop free elegance to the "World Anthem" for their entry into WGI Scholastic A competition. The MASH Bronze Guard performed to "Do You Believe in Love," and the Junior Guard performed to "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun."

Cumberland Valley Blue Guard presented "The Sweater," a woolly yarn that weaves together music from "West Side Story," "Right Said Fred" and "Cadell." The story line involves a "Boy of Her Dreams" tale, unfortunately shared by the dreams of other girls.

Cumberland Valley's Blue Moving Percussion brought the local graveyard to life for a heart pounding midnight dance. Redland's Blue Guard previewed a work in progress entitled "Stained Glass," its Junior Guard performed to "Song of the Heart" by Prince, and Cedar Cliff's White Guard presented an autumn themed work in progress.



Cumberland Valley's Blue Moving Percussion, left and above, brought a graveyard to life in a midnight dance.



The Arundel (Md.) Blue Guard, left and above, erected a full stage for its Busby Berkeley-style production. The team was among the 37 units from Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia who participated in the preview Saturday at Central Dauphin East.

FYI

Upcoming Keystone Indoor Drill Association (KIDA) competitions scheduled in the area include:

* Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School will host an all-day individual and ensemble colorguard and percussion competition on March 10.

* Cedar Cliff and Cumberland Valley host competitions on March 17.

* Redland hosts the final pre-championship competition March 24.

KIDA championships are scheduled for March 31 at Southwestern High School.

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