



Stellar season for MASHS Blue Guard

The Wildcats colorguard traveled to the World Guard International competition in Dayton, Ohio, and ended up 26th in rankings.

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Andrew Barbin/Special to The Sentinel

Mechanicsburg's colorguard waits to perform at the WGI competition in Dayton, Ohio.

MASH colorguard ranks in WGI

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Central Pennsylvania was well represented last week at the Winter Guard International (WGI) Color Guard World Championships, with two colorguards ranking in the top 30.

Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School's colorguard took 29th out of 30 spots in competition April 12, then moved up three more positions to finish 26th in the world in its first year participating in the Scholastic Open division. The unit was ranked 36th going in.

MASH was promoted to the Scholastic Open class after finishing eighth in the Scholastic A class at last year's world championship.

Kristy Templin, the local colorguard's director, was moved to tears as she greeted the girls as they came off the floor.

After the semifinal scores were posted, MASH colorguard members headed to a nearby arena where Lancaster's Sitao Winterguard was performing in the

Independent A finals. That guard, which includes former members of guard units from MASH and other central Pennsylvania schools, took sixth place in the finals. Jeff Kahley, MASD guard consultant and instructor, also works with the Sitao unit.

The MASH colorguard also won the Keystone Indoor Drill Association championship April 7.

Senior farewells

Blue Guard members include seniors Sarah Draude, Erin Hensel, Cassie Hoover, Steph Przewoznik and Courtney Quigley, for whom the trip to Dayton was a farewell tour. Together, in the past four years, they have placed first at the Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Championships twice and placed second twice. They have worn the KIDA Crown three times and took silver the only year they did not have the crown.

Although the program will miss their contributions, a strong core will be back next season, including SO guard members Janell Hixon, Shalee

Drake, Jewel Latshaw, Jen Hilbish, Sarah Barbin, Kristine Alford, Kirstin Shatzer, Ashley Schmidt, Nikki Martin, Alysha Naugle, Jess Mack, Kaitlyn Baer, Sarah Brickner, Gia Lovari and Kylee Johnson.

Mechanicsburg can also look to members of its White Guard, which won the KIDA White Guard crown this year. Five members of the MASH White Guard — Jess Mack, Kaitlyn Baer, Sarah Brickner, Gia Lovari and Kylee Johnson — had supporting parts in the Blue/SO Guard show, and wound up with two gold medals each at the end of the KIDA championships.

Mechanicsburg's Bronze Guard took silver in their division at the KIDA Championships. While the Junior Guard did not medal this year, the unit did improve its score by almost 10 points in the last two competitions of the season.

Video and additional photographs may be found at Mechanicsburg Guard's Web site:

www.awbpclaw.com/
colorguard.html