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# he Biggest and Best

The Band of Blue, the largest high school band in South Carolina, made history by capturing Lower State and State Contest for the second consecutive year.

The band made the first public performance of its western-themed show in front of the crowd at the Ruffin-Walterboro game in September. This theme included tunes such as "Bonanza" and "Shennandoah." Again, the band's performance included a flag display performed not only by the flag corps but also by the majority of the woodwind section.

**"Slinging" himself into this trumpet solo, senior Barry Evans performs after having been absent for several weeks because of a shoulder injury.**

Although heavy rains caused by Hurricanes Marco and Lili cancelled a last contest which was to be held in Orangeburg, the band went on to a contest in Camden during October in which it earned a respectable second place.

"It was a very good finish for that early in the year and it felt good to beat Summerville," junior Kevin Mixon said.

From there, the Band of Blue went on to a first place finish at the Lower State Band Contest held on October 29 at Wando High School. This win earned the band a trip to Columbia to compete in State Contest.

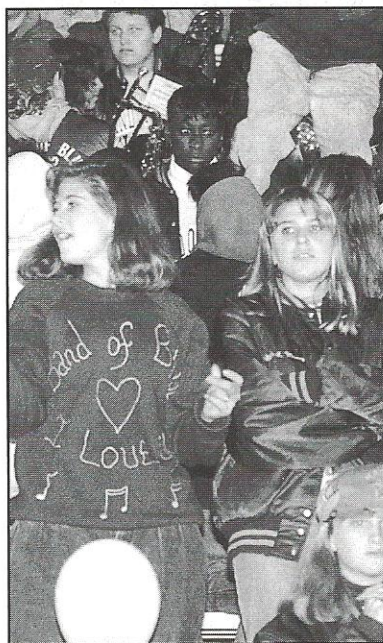
At State, when the Band of Blue marched onto the Irmo High School football field, the massive crowd of

Walterboro fans erupted in cheers as the other spectators sat silently in awe. About thirty minutes after the band performed, the judges declared the Band of Blue as the AAAA State Champions for the second straight year. The band even beat the highest score in AAAAA division, made by the Lexington High School Band, with a score of 93.75.

However, defending the state title did not come easily. Practice started on July 30 and continued almost daily up to the State Competition.

"Long, hard days of practice played a major role in our winning the State Competition," junior Jamie Preveaux said.

— Heath Duncan



**Band members Noelle Berry, Stacie Murray, and Kristen Nettles attentively watch the Bulldogs roll over James Island during the playoffs. The band was not required to wear uniforms for this game.**

**While marching in one of the band's football game performances, Kevin Holmes takes a breath before playing his tuba. Along with being a member of the Band of Blue, Kevin is a member of Covert.**

## FYI

*The Band of Blue set a record as the largest high school band in South Carolina with 240 members.*