

Triple the Chances

The Band of Blue did it again at the AAAA State Competition. Finishing first for a third consecutive year proved that hard work and dedication can make a difference.

"I knew the band could do it," said senior Lekeesha Givens. "It was hard work in the beginning, but at State it paid off."

After three months of long, hot days practicing music and perfecting a show, Big Blue, under the direction of Bill Young, Cathy Mesach, and Thomas Finnegin, brought the AAAA State Championship trophy home. The band members and directors working as a team put forth the extra effort to put together a show that would grab the attention of everyone. This year's theme came from the motion picture HOME ALONE. Mr. Young chose this show because it was an attention-grabber.

Even though the students worked diligently for the trophy, State was not the only place the Big Blue took a chance. The year began when the Band traveled to Camden where it competed and placed first. From there, the band traveled to Orangeburg, to Garden City and to Midland Valley. In both competitions the band placed first.

Competition played a major role during marching season, but the band was also involved with school spirit. Getting the crowd excited during a pep rally before a football game, as well as performing half-time at a football game gave the band members the opportunity both to "strut their stuff" and to be noticed while they prepared for the big competition.

"Half-time performances gave band members a chance to perform for an audience and get the feel of how they would react to the show," said senior drum major Debbie Jones. Debbie then went on to say, "Every half-time performance was a practice for the 'big day' and perfect practice makes perfect."

The Band of Blue sold oranges and tupperware as a part of fundraising to finance the annual trip. This year's trip was to Florida for three days. Big Blue marched in the Disney World parade. This period of relaxation and rejuvenation was enjoyed by the entire band. For many, it meant lying back and taking in the sun.

"Taking the annual trip makes up for all the hard practice," said senior Dwayne George. "Aside from the performance, I had a stress-free vacation."

— Sheree Garland



Even through the heat of the summer, the band marched on to a third State title. Michael Verner plays the tenor sax and serves as band captain. Darryl Fishburne plays the alto sax.

This Band of Blue Teddy Bear shows his spirit during the State Competition. Many stuffed animals were used to decorate the field.