

DHS Band brings home honors



Performing on the field

After countless hours of practice and endless hours of work, the Gator Band became

The Portrait of a Winner

By REBECCA LACHOIX
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Although they are known for "tooting their own horns," a special group of youngsters in Dickinson are not known for bragging on their accomplishments. That special group is the Dickinson High School Band and so far this year their list of accomplishments equals their winning record of past years.

More than 160 band students worked together to earn the Outstanding Band Award in the Tropicana Marching Festival in Huntsville, all division one ratings at the UIL District Marching Contest, and the honor of advancing to regional competition.

The band was not selected to represent the region in state competition, because they were not the judges' choice as the top band at the Region 17 Marching Contest held recently in San Antonio. They were named as first alternate, and received all division one ratings—again.

Proud band director Don Owens says this band is the best ever at Dickinson High School, and will strive next year to go all the way to the state contest.

Work on this year's award winning show, which lasted nine minutes and 15 seconds, began in August when members gathered for Summer Band. After school started, every morning from 6:45-7:40 a.m. the group was marching on the practice field until adjourning to the band hall for class and rehearsal.

And if their days weren't long enough, three weeks prior to marching contest band members held two-hour practices in the evening once a week.

"The band has a lot to be proud of and they deserve credit for what they've earned," said Owens.

He added the separate units of the band had also

achieved honors. The drum line was chosen as the most outstanding at the recent Tropicana Festival and the award winning color guard began this week on routines to be used in "Winter Guard Competition."

An average of 16 awards are received per year, he said. Owens said each division receives special assistance from a group of dedicated individuals. These include Barbara Keifer, color guard; Peggy Donahue, rifle unit; drum corps, Greg Dick, assistant band director at McAdams Junior High; John Gossett, assistant DHS band director, who charts the show; and Wade McDonald, brass instructor, and band director at McAdams.

The final performance of the marching band was at last week's football game in Texas City and before preparations start for their concert season, the band must fulfill a special commitment, Owens said.

"We are presently recording original musical compositions written by William Rhoads," said Owens. "These tapes will be used by Rhoads for submission to publishing houses, which are interested in hearing and printing Rhoads' works."

The composer from New Mexico requested DHS band to record his four musical pieces after judging the group several times in symphonic concert contests, said Owens.

But after recording the tapes, the Band members will be back at work preparing for concert season and University Interscholastic League competition.

No doubt their hard work and dedication will garner more awards and will serve to prove once again that "tooting their own horns" means something special to the community of Dickinson.



Patti Spillane directs the band



Woodwind players

Woodwind players gather before lining-up to take the field at Alamo Stadium in San Antonio. They include, first row, left to right, Jeff Womack, Lyn Holley, Carrie Hacker, Misty Martin; second row, Paula Salvato, Angie Peterson, Sean McGlothlin, Cheryl Grzincic, Toni Flores, Darlene Hammer, Jennifer Hall.



Ready to perform

Ready to perform at the UIL Region 17 Marching Contest held recently in San Antonio include, first row, left to right, Rae Greer, Erin C. Patti Spillane, David Broussard, Steve Broussard; second row, Garry Richards, Susan Spillane, Cindy Tucker, Hank Matula, Coy Post; third row, Garry Leutke, Wayne Mueller, Sean McGlothlin.



Waiting to 'go on'



Waiting can be fun for some



A friendly visit

John Gossett, assistant DHS band director, talks with members of the DHS Color Guard before the competition in San Antonio. They are left to right, Tina Lambert, Shawndra Auer and Nelda Mason.



Waiting to warm up

Waiting to warm up for the band's performance are, left to right, Cindy Tucker, Patti Spillane, Hank Matula, and Rae Greer. These students were just four of the 163 Dickinson High School band members who marched during last week's UIL Regional Marching Contest.



Cymbalism

Cymbal player Stephanie Kirkland talks with Steve Broussard. These members of the DHS Band were waiting to compete in the recent Region 17 Marching Contest held in San Antonio.



Brief respite

Brooks Bell, left, and Janet Ryan rest in the parking lot at Alamo Stadium in San Antonio before DHS Marching Band took the field as the first competitor in the Region 17 contest.



Taking a break

Members of the band take a break including, left to right, Tim Marcum, Mike Dillon, Nathan Courville, Shawn Crawford, Greg Dick, drum instructor, and Ken Suderman.



Having fun

Wayne Mueller and Paula Joyce are just two of the proud members of the Dickinson High School Band who have received numerous awards this Fall. They are pictured before the band warmed-up for their performance in the Region 17 Marching Contest, held in San Antonio.