

## KENTUCKY MARCHING BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS



Photos by Michael Hayman, The Courier-Journal

In swashbuckling attire, clarinetist Ryder Bray performed with the Nicholas County High School Marching Band during finals of the state marching band competition held yesterday at Cardinal Stadium.

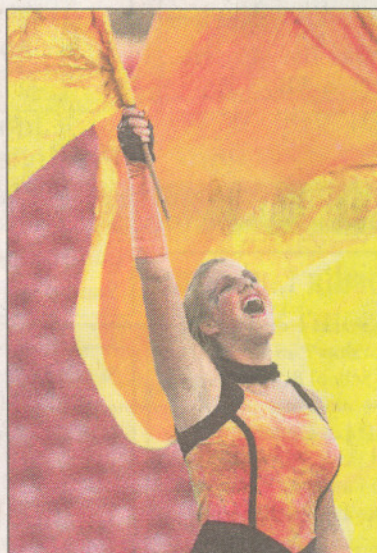
# High-stepping high-schoolers

### Competition mixes musicianship, choreography

By Jere Downs  
jdowns@courier-journal.com  
The Courier-Journal

#### ON THE WEB

To see a gallery of photos, go to  
[www.courier-journal.com/localnews](http://www.courier-journal.com/localnews)



Margaret Barnett, of the Washington County High School Color Guard, lifted her flag with an exultant look.

Every band had a story. Bob Harrod was the band director of the Washington County High School band until his death from brain cancer in 1999. As 51 red-jacketed Commanders took the field yesterday at the Kentucky Marching Band Championships, his widow, band director Debbie Harrod, stood in his place. Their daughter, Lindsey Harrod, 18, was out there swinging a flute in front of a giant clock on the 30-yard line. "Windows of Time" was the theme of the band from Springfield. "Last year was the first time we made it here," said Kevin Spalding, a

band alumnus and volunteer. "We came in fourth, but it was just like coming in first for us."

Eighty bands competed for a state title yesterday at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium, grouped in five classes, based on the size of the school. From high in the stadium's press box, six judges rated performers for musical performance, choreography, general effect, and emotional and visual impact.

Some of the bands were gunning to keep up their legacy of winning.

See **MARCH**, B5, col. 1

# MARCH

## Bands strut their stuff in competition

Continued from B1

Adair County High School has seized the state championship in Class AAA 17 times, said Melissa Skaggs, associate director of the Kentucky Music Educators Association, sponsor of yesterday's showdown.

And last night, winning the school's 18th title, Adair's combination of modern dance, sculpture and marching band stretched from 20-yard line to 20-yard line. Color-guard members dressed in white bodysuits danced around 19 life-size plaster mannequins cast from their own bodies. Two pushed a 12-foot-tall metronome back and forth in time with the band.

Pauses in the music were visually punctuated with swirling white rifles or twirling flags. Wynton Marsalis and Richard Saucedo composed the music, band director Tim Allen said.

Marching band gives young people "something to belong to," said John Stroube, executive director of the music educators group.

And it wasn't just the students who were having a good time.

All the band dads from Lloyd Memorial High School in Erlanger showed their pride. They spray-painted their hair blue with gold glitter highlights and each wore a blue T-shirt that announced "Pit Crew" on the back.

Rolling a cart of drums off the turf after the band's set, Mike Mayhew, 54, recalled his days playing trumpet for the band in the late 1960s. His daughter Sara Mayhew, 17, was the field commander for the blue and gold Juggernauts.

"It is such an awesome experi-



Photos by Michael Hayman, The Courier-Journal

Trumpeter Dade Robertson marched for Williamstown High School Marching Band, the winners in Class A competition yesterday at Cardinal Stadium.



Sousaphone player Alex Abell handled the "ooms" and "pahs" for Washington County.

ence," Mayhew said. "It gives the kids structure and discipline in their lives."

### WINNERS

**Class A:** Williamstown High School  
**Class AA:** Muhlenberg South High School  
**Class AAA:** Adair County High School  
**Class AAAA:** Madisonville North High School  
**Class AAAAA:** Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, Lexington

Highlights of the competition will be broadcast Dec. 16 on KET at a time to be announced.

Margaret Barnett, 17, a senior, said the Washington County High School band "is my life," even though some young people at her school "don't really care about band."

That band geek image is about to

change, she predicted.

"We are going to get respect when we get back home," Barnett said.

Reporter Jere Downs can be reached at (502) 582-4669.

## METRO BRIEFS

### Dead man in alley had been shot

A western Louisville man who was found dead in an alley on Friday had been shot to death, Jefferson County Deputy Coroner Sam Weakley said yesterday.

Michael Shields, 37, of the 3800 block of Vermont Avenue, was found by Louisville Metro Police in an alley off the 400 block of Amy Avenue shortly after 8 a.m. He was partially clothed.

Weakley did not want to elaborate on the details of the shooting for fear of compromising the investigation.

Anyone with information is asked to call the police department's anonymous tip line at 574-LMPD.

### I-75 crash kills 2 Louisville women

Two Louisville women died after their car slid into the back of a tractor-trailer on Interstate 75 in Lexington on Thursday morning, police said.

Dorothy Castle, 72, and her daughter, Linda Melius, 52, died at the University of Kentucky Medical Center emergency room, according to Fayette County Deputy Coroner Shea Titlow.

Castle and Melius were southbound in a 2000 Dodge Neon when the car slid sideways at 7:50 a.m. and hit a truck near Newtown Pike, Lexington police said.

Police said the road was wet and the women were wearing seat belts.

### Hurstbourne Parkway crash kills 1

One person was killed and a second injured when a car went out of control on Hurstbourne Parkway and hit a tree between Brownsboro and Westport roads just before 1 a.m. yesterday.

The driver, thought to be in his mid- to late teens, was partially ejected from the car and was found dead at the scene, Louisville Metro Police said.

A 17-year-old passenger was taken to Kosair Children's Hospital with injuries that did not appear to be life-threatening.

Neither victim was identified.

The car was southbound on Hurstbourne when it hit a tree just north of White Blossom Boulevard.

The airbags in the car deployed, police said. It wasn't known if the two occupants were wearing seat belts.