

Marching Braves Earn High Marks

By Rebecca Heard
Staff Writer

The Heard County Marching Braves have been working hard on their 2009 competition show since the first day of band camp over the summer on July 27, hiring extra staff to come in and help the band with fundamentals, music, flag work, and many other things as well. Their show is entitled "Chicago's Greatest Hits," featuring songs from the popular 70's and 80's band, Chicago. These songs include 25 or 6 to 4, Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?, Free, Hard To Say I'm Sorry, and Make Me Smile.

Due to the fact that their September 19 competition in Ranburne, Alabama was cancelled because of rain, the band was able to compete in only one competition this year, "The Superbowl of Sound." The Superbowl of Sound is one of the most competitive competitions that the band has participated in, and every year have extremely picky judges that critique them. There were

three other bands competing in the AA class with the Marching Braves; Buford High School, Lee County High School, and Troup County High School. Although the band had just one chance to show off their hard work, they had an outstanding performance, having a huge crowd response and receiving many awards.

The marching bands get judged based on many elements, including fundamentals, music, drum line, drum major, color guard, and receive scores from 1 to 3, 1 being superior. The Marching Braves received straight superior awards in drum major, color guard, drum line, and overall band. With those straight superior awards, the band received best in class drum major and best in class color guard. In the end, the band overall received second in class to Buford. Although the band didn't receive first in their classification, overall the band is satisfied with their performance. "I'm so proud of all of the hard work everyone has put in this year," states second year drum major, Brooke Jackson. "The Superbowl of Sound is one of the most competitive competitions

that there is, and to receive straight 1's my senior year is awesome."

The band performance this year has improved tremendously from last year's performance at the Superbowl of Sound. The Marching Braves last year received 1's and 2's, third in class in the judged elements, third in class band and had an overall score of a 76. This year's performance has earned straight 1's, best in class drum major and color guard, and second in class band with an overall score of 85.

Now that competition season is over, the band is finally going to be able to relax and prepare for homecoming and senior night, when on senior night that band will change up their show and perform what the seniors had decided on. The Marching Braves this year will also be participating in the 2009 Chick-Fil-A Bowl on December 31. The band will participate in many pre game activities including the parade through downtown Atlanta.

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