



The Northmont Marching Band Performing as Semi-Finalists at Grand Nationals.

NORTHMONT MARCHING BAND A GRAND NATIONAL SEMI-FINALIST

When one looks up from inside the mammoth new Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, the black roof and black steel structures remind visitors of the slick black fluid that built up a company's fortunes to help build this wonderful stadium. It is now the site for the Bands of America Grand National Championships having recently replaced the RCA Dome.

Then looking down to the marching bands performing on the field below brings to mind a correlation that is hard to ignore. These bands also need resources and structure to build a show worthy of entry: capital (booster organizations, schools, parents), adults (directors, leaders, staff, pit crews, case moms, etc.), equipment (trucks, trailers, buses, instruments) and finally the most important of all: talents and energy (students). The spectators this past weekend can vouch that all this can come together to bring many wonderful performances to the field.

The 90 plus marching bands gathered here last Thursday thru Saturday were from 20 states. Thursday and Friday was the preliminary round. Northmont performed at 9:30PM Thursday evening in its preliminary performance. At the Friday night awards, Northmont found out it was among the 33 named semi-finalists. They found out later that evening they were one of the 11 selected first from Thursday's bands. Eleven were also selected first from Friday's bands. Then adding to this 22, the next 8 high scoring bands from both days were chosen to give 30. Finally,

the 3 next highest Class A bands not already chosen based on scores were added to give a full complement to each class and giving a total of 33 semi-finalists.

Northmont drew a most favorable time slot for Saturday's semi-finalist appearance. They performed their 2008 show "No Strings Attached" at 3:30PM as the crowd was starting to build for the awards ceremony at 5PM. Band Director Dave Armbruster was especially pleased with their semi-final performance which went very well and on which he later commented was the "Best Performance of the Season". The Ohio bands also selected as semi-finalists were: Bellbrook, Centerville, Central Crossing (Grove City) and William Mason.

After the Exhibition Performance by the Riverside Community College Marching Tigers (CA), the field commanders from all the bands lined up along the sidelines facing the crowd. Class awards and achievement awards for outstanding music, visual and general effect were then presented. Bellbrook was the only Ohio band to receive one of these awards—having placed 3rd in class AA. Then the twelve finalists for Saturday evening finals were announced. The Centerville Jazz Band was the only Ohio band chosen for finals.

Centerville placed 9th in finals Saturday evening. Congratulations to them and to the Grand Champion—Avon (Indiana).

The show "No Strings Attached" was an award winning show for Northmont and one that allowed the students to "break loose" and pour forth their talents upon us. It was something that spilled over onto the rest of us as well.

For the 25 seniors (5 color guard and 20 band), their 4 years was first marked by winning both the 2006 Fiesta Bowl parade and band competitions in Phoenix. They followed that up with 3 straight Bands of America Grand Nationals Semi-Finalist appearances. They were treated to a ride inside several fire trucks Saturday evening from Meijer to the high school accompanied by many vehicles of proud parents. Before they break loose from high school, we thank them for their contribution to Northmont.