

Northmont Marching Band a “High Finalist” in Ypsilanti



The Northmont Marching Band was selected as a finalist band in the Bands of America Regional Competition this past Saturday in Ypsilanti, Michigan. They also came away with the distinction of being the highest scoring band in finals in class AAA, the largest class.

It was a splendid fall day and the spectators witnessed some spectacular shows that included a super finish by some smaller sized high schools. In a day summed up with “S” words, some smaller sized schools could call this day “sensational.” The site for this Regional was Eastern Michigan University’s Rynearson Football Stadium. Twenty marching bands from 5 states performed in a preliminary round during the day with 8 from Ohio, 7 from Michigan, 3 from Indiana and 1 each from New York and Virginia.

At the conclusion of the preliminary round, Eastern Michigan’s marching band provided an exhibition performance while the scores were tabulated. Then the field commanders from each band lined up along the home sidelines and the awards presentation began.

In class AAA, Plymouth-Canton Educational Park from Michigan won the “Outstanding Music Performance” award. Sycamore from Cincinnati won the “Outstanding Visual Performance” award and Lake Orion from Michigan won the “Outstanding General Effect” award. Plymouth-Canton took 1st place, Northmont 2nd, and Lake Orion came in 3rd.

Then the 10 finalist bands were announced. Northmont was named a finalist band. Finalist bands are chosen regardless of class size and based solely on their scores.

At the conclusion of the finals competition, Eastern Michigan again provided an exhibition performance. Then all 10 finalist bands plus the class “A” winner Norton (OH) marched onto the field and lined up facing the home crowd. Norton had performed in exhibition because they won their class but were not one of the 10 finalist bands.

The awards presentation saw Reeths-Puffer from Michigan win all the caption awards for Outstanding Music, Visual & General Effect. Then the scores and placements were announced as follows: Reeths- Puffer-1st (83.9), Central Crossing (Col.)-2nd (80.15), Dekalb (IN)-3rd (79.1), Northmont-4th (78.55), Jennison (MI)-5th (78.45), Plymouth-Canton (MI)-6th (78.25), Dublin-Coffman (Col.)-7th (78.05), Northwood (IN)-8th (75.8), Sycamore (Cinn.)-9th (75.6) and Lake Orion (MI)-10th (75.15).

It is significant enough to point out that 4 out of the 5 top scoring bands in finals were class AA and Northmont is a smaller AAA school.

It proves that a good band program, talented staff and most importantly the students' hard work, talents and determination are greater signs of success than class size.

The Northmont Marching Band will next perform at the Centerville Invitational on Saturday, Oct. 25 with a 4:30 p.m. performance time in the preliminary round.

Photo submitted