

# Marching Engineers Win State AA Estill's 1st State Win In Marching Competition

The Estill County Marching Engineers Band won 1st Place in Kentucky Music Educators Association State AA Marching Band Championships held on Saturday, October 1, 2015 at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green and other locations.

The Marching Engineers barely edged last year's winner, Garrard County, to take the title and won out ahead of two other bands that made it to finals competition, Glasgow and Washington County.

The Engineers won 1st place in each of two categories and finished 2nd in three others while Garrard County finished 1st in the other four categories and were 2nd in the two won by Estill. The Marching Engineers were picked 1st in Music Performance 2 and Visual Performance 1. Estill was 2nd in Music Effect, Visual Performance 2 and Visual Effect. They were 3rd in Music Per-

formance 1 but still managed to ease past Garrard County 83.0 to 82.9 to take the 2015 title.

Estill finished in second in 2014 behind Garrard County which had finished as high as 3rd four times in AAA. The Engineers previously had finished in 5th place in 2013.

The four teams picked for finals competition at Western came from among 16 bands that participated in semi-finals competition at Glasgow High School, where the top 16 2A bands in the state were competing for the top four spots. These top four bands would advance to state finals and perform under the lights at Western Kentucky University.

After an amazing semi-finals performance, the band felt confident that they had earned a spot in the top four. Finally when the announcement came, after a long suspenseful wait, Estill County

was named as one of the four STATE FINALISTS. For the second straight year, the band would be marching under the lights in State Finals competition.

The other three class 2A finalists were Washington County, Glasgow, and last year's champion Garrard.

After reviewing the scores from semi-finals, Estill learned that they were no longer undefeated as they had been all season. Rival Garrard County had topped the field, beating Estill by nearly 3 points.

The shock of this news was evident and the look of doubt and concern was on the faces of the band kids. After much discussion and a little "gentle persuasion", the mind set was changed and this band was suddenly ready give it their all.

After an extremely intense and focused warm-up session, the band was ready to

take the field and go after the title.

"The finals performance was simply stellar!" said band director Jason Bowles. "The kids left it ALL on the field and were satisfied they had done everything in their power to take the competition." The rest was up to the judges.

After 3 excruciating hours of waiting for the remaining three classes to perform, all 20 finalist bands completed a pass and review, during which every finalist band was announced and marched before the stadium full of fans.

When the class 2A placements were announced, Estill County was the final name called, meaning that we were State Champions!

"The feeling is still surreal, and that moment will be etched in every band member's memories for the rest of their lives" said Bowles.

"Moving forward, we will celebrate this great achievement for a short time, and then we move on to Christmas concerts, pep band, and then concert band in the Spring.

"This year's marching band students will always be remembered as champions, and we could not be more thankful for all the support from our small town that we love."

The public is invited to honor this accomplishment and hear the ECHS Marching Engineers on Wednesday, November 4th at the Estill County High School Hoover Niece Field. The band will be performing their award winning program and the event will begin at approximately 1:00 p.m.

"We have decided to do a community performance for those who can't make the daytime performance on Wednesday," said Bowles.

It will be this coming Saturday, November 7th at 7:00 p.m. on the high school football field.

Superintendent Jeff Saylor sent his congratulations to Director, Jason Bowles and Assistant Director, Audrey Worrell. Additional congratulations was given to assistants, Jamie Hill, Justin Clark, Seth Martin, Mandy Neal, Sam Adams, and Evan Worrell.

"We also want to extend heartfelt congratulations to the hard working and dedicated parents and most importantly the phenomenal students and their relentless determination," said Saylor. "You've made us very proud to be an Engineer.

"We congratulate our Marching Engineers and look forward to more memorable events and achievements during the remainder of the school year!"

All Estill Tribune photos available for download at <[www.EstillTribune.Com](http://www.EstillTribune.Com)>



A big reception for the band on Main Street



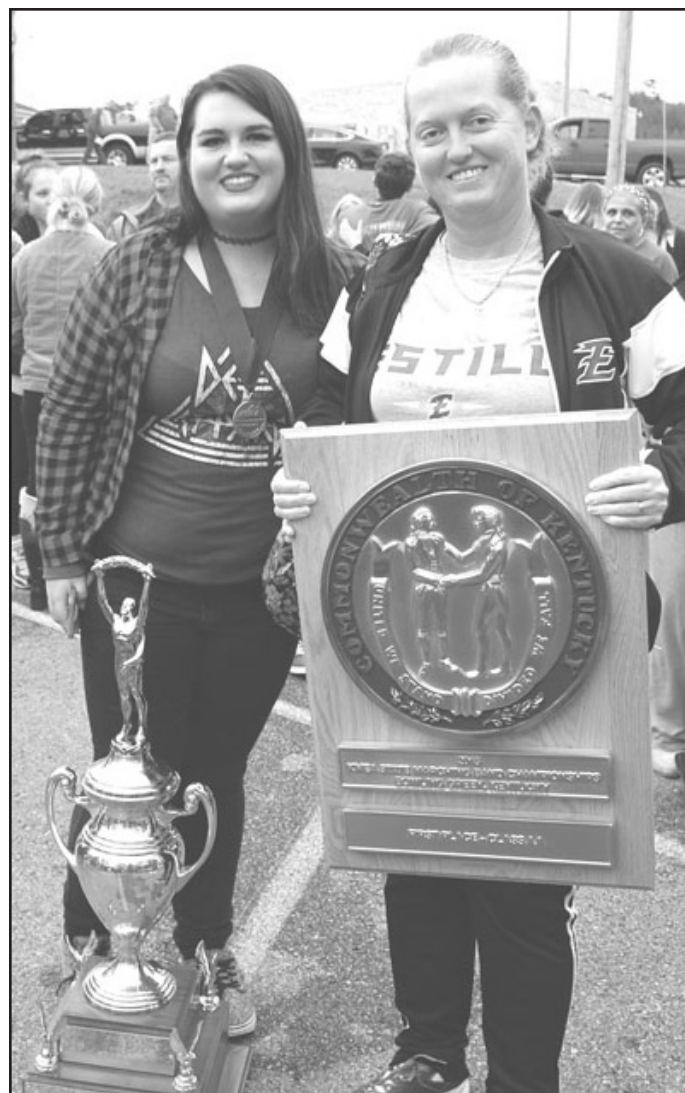
Estill band supporters cheer them on at the Courthouse!



Semi-finals at Glasgow, Kentucky



The Color Guard at Glasgow in semi-finals!



Taylor and Lori Collins



Photo time with parents and grandparents



The Salem Witch and Color Guard