

Marching Engineers win second straight "Grand Champion"

The Estill County Marching Engineers continue to soar to lofty heights with their second straight "Grand Champion." The Estill Band had the highest score of any band in preliminaries and got a 1st place with 78.7 in AAA before coming back to take the top prize in the finals at the Madison Central Invitational on Saturday, October 5, 2019.

"After a week off from competition and week's worth of rehearsal, the band was excited to show off their improvements," said director Jason Bowles. "The band turned in an impressive preliminary run, but the finals performance that evening was even better!"

The Marching Engineers topped six other bands for Grand Champion with a 79.425 rating. Larry A. Ryle High School, a 5A band from Northern Kentucky, was named Re-

serve Champion with a 77.25 rating.

In finals competition, the Marching Engineers won best overall music, best overall visual, and best overall effect. They were then named GRAND CHAMPION, having the overall highest score!

The band beat last year's 5A finalist Ryle, and also outscored last year's 4A state champion South Laurel.

Estill opened the season on September 7th with a 1st place in their class and finished in 4th place overall behind three larger bands, Lafayette in first, Anderson County, second; and Harrison County, third.

Then, the Marching Engineers earned Reserve Champion at Madison Southern on September 14th behind one of the area's perennial top bands, Madison Central.

Estill's band picked up their

first Grand Champion on Saturday, September 21st at Pulaski County. They were also first in their class.

The Marching Engineers Band will be competing in AAA East Regionals on Saturday, October 19, 2019, at George Rogers Clark High School in Winchester. They will play at 9:45 a.m. and will be the last of eleven bands to play.

Semi-finals and finals will once again be held in Western Kentucky in the Bowling Green area on Saturday, October 26th. AAA semi's will be held at Warren Central High School. Finals will be held at the L.T. Smith Stadium at Western Kentucky University, also in Bowling Green, that evening.

The show title for this season is "THE CROSSING", which will start with a departure on a journey through the chaos of life, "Crossing" into the reflec-

tive stages of the afterlife, the uncertainty of what is to come, and eventually reaching a final destination of peaceful contentment.

"It seems so fitting," said director Jason Bowles, "as Engineers, to use a TRAIN as the metaphor to convey this story line." The show includes giant train box cars, railroad tracks, tunnels, and the conductor's ticking pocket watch. There are musical effects throughout the show that will resemble a train whistle (like the fight song intro), along with bells, crossing sounds, and the metallic clinking and clanking of a train racing down the tracks.

This coming weekend the band will be traveling to Tennessee to compete in the Bands of America Johnson City Regional. Donations are still being accepted to help with the cost of the trip. If you would like to

donate to this awesome group of students, please contact any band booster or Mr. Bowles.

"These kids are working so hard to make this year a historic one for the program," say supporters. "They need your help. It takes an enormous amount of work and money to get there, and they are certainly doing the work."

Can you help with the money part of the equation? Each student has been asked to get at least 20 donations from friends and family for \$20 each (or more). 20 people, \$20/each, it's that easy.

Would you be willing to donate \$20 or more to help get them there? All donations are tax deductible and every dime will help and is appreciated! Thank you! You can donate directly using the link on the band's Facebook page or donate at the school.

Football Engineers pick up big win over Jackson County, 64-20

The Estill County Engineers delighted the home crowd and picked up a great win on Thursday, October 3, 2019, 64-20 over district rival Jackson County Generals from neighboring McKee.

Sophomore quarterback Ty Niece and senior running back Justin Stamper picked up a lot of yardage to start the game to propel the Engineers to a touchdown at 9:11 to go in the first quarter. Estill scored again at 5:12 to lead 16-0 and the Engineers barely looked back to cruise to a 44-point victory.

Jackson County played well and slipped by several good runs, but the Generals were hampered by an abundance of penalties. Flag throwing delayed the game a lot which prompted one former player to indicate that this was one of the longest games ever.

Quarterback Niece passed the ball for 118 yards and two touchdowns. Stamper carried the ball for 160 yards and scored three touchdowns. Niece kept the ball for 152 yards and one touchdown. Jonathon Short also had a good night with 120 yards rushing and two touchdowns. Junior Coben Clem got 52 yards rushing and he received 91 yards passing for two touchdowns. Ethan Webb received the ball twice for 27 total yards. Estill for the night had 484 yards rushing.

Freshman Braeden Wadle was tops

on defense with 13 tackles, including six solo. Short had eight and Eli Haskel had six tackles. Noah Lutes added four and Lucas Puckett and Wyatt Franciso got 3 each. Lutes also had two fumble recoveries and Bryant Mahoney got one fumble recovery.

Estill returns to a Friday night schedule this week for the second of five straight home games. McCreary Central makes the long ride from the Tennessee border county and the Raiders should go home with a loss to Estill. They are currently 0-6 and winless after two district games but Estill can't sleep on this one in a 6-team district where two teams will be eliminated from playoffs.

The Engineers have a chance for an even or winning season but need to win over now 4-2 Garrard County on the following Friday night, October 18th.

Estill will close out the regular season with two of the best teams in the state in Bell County and Bethlehem.

The Bobcats of Bell County are 6-0 overall and 2-0 in the district with an rpi of .717 and have overwhelmed all competition thus far with a 276-95 advantage in touchdowns.

Private Catholic school Bethlehem from Bardstown plays single A but is 4-1 and all four wins have been by big numbers.

Good luck Estill Engineers!



Jackson County's Jacob Hundley (#11) tries to stop Estill Engineer Coben Clem after a big run during the Engineers' game against the Generals on Thursday.

Estill County Bass Fishing Team off to a good start

The Estill County High School Bass Fishing Team has got off to a good start to the 2019-2020 fishing season with a top ten place on September 21, 2019 at Herrington Lake and a top-five team (4th place) on October 5th at the Lake Cumberland KBN Tournament.

The club fished off the Pandora Marina Dock, near Harrodsburg, of Herrington Lake on September 21st and the team of Landon Carter and Dean Tucker finished in 10th place with 5.2 lbs. of fish.

This past weekend, October 5th, the team of Michael Hunter Flynn and Luke Fletcher finished in the top five with 7.38 lbs. of fish for 4th place. Garrard County finished in 1st place with the team of Will Oberman and Clay Oberman hauling in 8.68 lbs.

There were 81 boats entered in the KBN tournament that fished Lake Cumberland off the Halcomb's Landing

dock of near Jamestown. A second Estill team of Micah Adams and Chase Rawlins finished in 10th place with 4.96 lbs. Three other teams from Estill were also listed, Brenden Wright and Chris Wise at 31st, Landon Carter and Dean Tucker at 39th, and Summer Evans and Casey Howell at 40th.

EBF coach Chris Osborne expects another good weekend for Estill on Saturday, October 12th when the teams returns to the Halcomb's Landing dock of Lake Cumberland for the 7th annual Bradley Roy Covercraft High School Open. The top-five teams will fish again on Sunday under MLF rules with a live score tracker in each boat. Osborne says, "This will be different but exciting for these anglers." Sunday will be a half-day fish-off for scholarships with the top two teams earning entry into the BassMaster 2020 High School National Championship.

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