

Band finished Runner-Up in BOA Class A Nationals

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"This is another historic milestone for our program," said Bowles, "and could NOT have been possible without the amazing support from this unbelievable community!"

Donations were accepted from the community for the expense of going to Indianapolis and Estill County supporters chipped in generously.

"Thank you to everyone who supported this awesome group of young people," added Bowles, "and thank you for giving them the opportunity to represent this special place that we call 'home' on marching band's biggest National stage!"

Estill fans got their first glimpse of the Marching Engineers in the spring when they held their highly anticipated 2019 Show Reveal, and hundreds of excited fans cheered the band on during halftime of last Friday's football game at Hoover Niece Field.

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

It seems so fitting, as Engineers, to use a TRAIN as the metaphor to convey this storyline. 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.

Afterwards, Bowles said "this was a great opportunity to get rid of the early season jitters so we can now focus on major improvements in the upcoming week."

The Estill County Marching Engineers opened their 2019 season on Saturday, September 7, 2019 at Paris with a first place finish in AAA and an impressive 4th place overall finish behind three higher-class bands!

After an impressive showing, the band won Best Music in the Class, Best Overall Effect, and FIRST PLACE in Class AAA, beating Rowan, East Jessamine, Pulaski, and Garrard.

"This was a great performance for the first time out," said director Jason Bowles. "The show is nowhere near complete and more will be added each week as we move forward."

The Marching Engineers also finished 4th overall, Saturday, in finals competition behind 5A Lafayette, 4A Anderson, and 4A Harrison.

This Estill County Marching Engineers traveled to Berea the next weekend to compete in the Madison Southern Eagle Classic where they for the second week in a row were named the top band in their class. In addition, Estill was named Reserve Grand Champion behind one of the top 4A bands in the state.

The band turned in another strong preliminary performance and received best Color Guard, and 1st place in class AA, beating Garrard County for the second straight week.

After advancing to finals, the band had their best performance yet and finished in second place overall out of a fifteen band field. The scores later revealed that they were only 1.3 points away from Grand Champions Madison Central.

Madison Central has been one of the strongest bands in the state over the years in their respective class while Estill County has continued to be at the top of their class for several years. One year, both the Central and Estill bands won the state in their respective classes.

The Marching Engineers then honed up their skills on the practice field in preparation for competition at Pulaski County in Somerset against some west-central bands. Estill would be competing in Class AAA against Wayne County, Marion County, and Glasgow. Two 4A bands, Southwestern and Barren County, were also competing. Somerset, Danville, and Harlan will be competing in Class A, while Knox Central was the only 2A band scheduled.

The Engineers performed well at the Pulaski Invitational, winning a bunch of trophies and Class AA before coming back in the afternoon to

take the overall championship, finishing ahead of a couple of higher classed bands.

The Estill County Marching Engineers continued to soar to lofty heights with their second straight "Grand Champion" at Madison Central. 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 Reserve 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.

The Estill County Marching Engineers Band made their inaugural journey to Johnson City, Tennessee and competed in the Bands of America Regional Championship. The band was in a field of 33 total bands from 9 different states in this national regional competition.

After an unbelievable preliminary performance in the "Mini Dome" at East Tennessee State University, it was announced that Estill had won Best Music in class A, Best Visual in class A, and Best Overall Effect in Class A. When the rankings were announced, Estill learned that they were 1st place in class A, and had earned the title of Bands of America Class A Regional Champions! The top 10 highest scoring bands would advance to finals, and Estill's score was high enough to qualify.

After the night performance, Estill finished in 8th place overall among all of the competing classes. "This is another record breaking feat for this program, and an amazing finish for a first time BOA band, especially in class A."

"I'm thrilled that the students and their parents got to experience this!" said director Jason Bowles. "I'm sure it is something they will never forget."

Then the Marching Engineers made the short trip to Winchester to compete in the KMEA East Region Quarterfinals. This regional is not like the sports region which consists of the schools in the 14th. KMEA basically divides the state in half with all east bands in each class competing in the East Region Quarterfinal, and all west bands in each class competing in the West Region Quarterfinal. Eight bands from the east, and eight bands from the west advance to form the "sweet sixteen".

Estill performed in the last spot on the night and they did not disappoint. The band turned in a stellar performance which earned them their sixth East Regional Championship! Not only were the Marching Engineers named Regional Champions, they also received an overall score of 92, which is the highest total ever received in the history of the program.

The Marching Engineers competed in the KMEA State Marching Band Championships in Bowling Green. The band first performed in State Semifinals at Warren Central High School with the other 15 bands who advanced from Quarterfinals. After an extremely courageous performance through high winds, the band learned that they had the overall highest score of the 16 bands in Semifinals. This again earned them a spot in State Finals (the final four) which were held Saturday evening at WKU. Estill's finals performance was simply stunning. All of the countless hours of hard work finally paid off with a nearly flawless run, and a standing ovation from the entire stadium. But, by the narrowest of margins, the band was awarded 2nd place with a score of 88.9. Rival Adair County was named State Champions with a score of 89.0. This was Estill's 6th State Finals appearance in state.



The Estill Marching Engineers perform at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis

GRAND NATIONALS

SEMI-FINALS RESULTS • 2019

<p>Class A</p> <p>1st-Bourbon County H.S., KY 2nd-Estill County H.S., KY 3rd-Beechwood H.S., KY Music-Bourbon County H.S., KY Visual-Beechwood H.S., KY & Bourbon County H.S., KY G.E.-Bourbon County H.S., KY</p>	<p>Class AAA</p> <p>1st-Leander H.S., TX 2nd-James Madison H.S., VA 3rd-Milford H.S., OH Music-Leander H.S., TX Visual-Leander H.S., TX G.E.-Leander H.S., TX</p>
<p>Class AA</p> <p>1st-Marian Catholic H.S., IL 2nd-North Hardin H.S., KY 3rd-Miamisburg H.S., OH Music-Marian Catholic H.S., IL Visual-Marian Catholic H.S., IL G.E.-Marian Catholic H.S., IL</p>	<p>Class AAAA</p> <p>1st-Vandegrift H.S., TX 2nd-Avon H.S., IN 3rd-Hebron H.S., TX Music-Vandegrift H.S., TX Visual-Vandegrift H.S., TX G.E.-Vandegrift H.S., TX</p>

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GRAND NATIONALS

SEMI-FINALS SCHEDULE • 2019

<p>6:15 AM — Milford H.S., OH 6:30 AM — Norton H.S., OH 6:45 AM — James Madison H.S., VA 7:00 AM — Beechwood H.S., KY 7:15 AM — Bourbon County H.S., KY 7:30 AM — Greenfield Central H.S., IN 7:45 AM — Estill County H.S., KY 8:00 AM — Chattahoochee H.S., GA 8:15 AM — Plymouth-Canton Ed. Park, MI 8:30 AM — Panther Creek H.S., NC 8:45 AM — North Hardin H.S., KY 9:00 AM — Forest Hills Schools, OH 9:15 AM — Fishers H.S., IN 10:00 AM — Miamisburg H.S., OH 10:15 AM — Marian Catholic H.S., IL 10:30 AM — Round Rock H.S., TX 10:45 AM — Homestead H.S., IN 11:00 AM — Carmel H.S., IN 11:15 AM — Park Vista H.S., FL 11:30 AM — Union H.S., OK</p>	<p>11:45 AM — William Mason H.S., OH 12:00 PM — Leander H.S., TX 12:15 PM — Hebron H.S., TX 12:30 PM — Centerville H.S., OH 12:45 PM — Claudia Taylor Johnson H.S., TX 1:00 PM — EXHIBITION: Missouri State University 1:30 PM — Vandegrift H.S., TX 1:45 PM — Rockford H.S., MI 2:00 PM — James F. Byrnes H.S., SC 2:15 PM — Avon H.S., IN 2:30 PM — The Woodlands H.S., TX 2:45 PM — Harrison H.S., GA 3:00 PM — Ayala H.S., CA 3:15 PM — Brownsburg H.S., IN 3:30 PM — Lawrence Township, IN 3:45 PM — Jenison H.S., MI 4:00 PM — Lakota West H.S., OH 4:15 PM — Lake Hamilton H.S., AR 4:30 PM — Ben Davis H.S., IN 4:45 PM — EXHIBITION: Texas A&M Univ. - Commerce</p>
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PRESENTED BY **YAMAHA**

19th Birthday Party

Keisha Lynn Ohlmann of Winchester celebrated her 19th birthday party on Sunday, November, 2019 with her George Rogers Clark High School family and friends at Yorktown Trailer Park. The teenagers were so blessed, and her friends and family were filled with joy. These guys and gals made the day perfect. School friends included Kaleigh Roe, Emily Oliver, William Snow, Victoria McGowan, Bailey Keshela and William Dunn. The party was held by Matthew Lail and Granma Ohlmann. Keisha thanks everyone for her "Happy Birthday."

Submitted by Audra Puckett

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