



"Being in band is like being in one big family. Everyone is always there for each other."
-Lauren Overmyer (9)

JUST A COUPLE OF TWISTS AND TURNS

Band goes over the top and puts a new spin on their performances



DID YOU MISS US?
Wrapped in Christmas lights and ready to perform, sophomores Allison Steed and Anna Yowell wait for the annual Texarkana Christmas parade to start. "It was a lot more enjoyable than last year because it wasn't freezing cold or raining," Allison said. (Submitted)

Story was on two spreads

Ten minutes before the band was set to perform at the second halftime show, seniors Caden Thompson and Brandon Black gathered the five bass drummers behind the scoreboard. They had a plan to make the show a little different.

As the band walked out on the field, Senior Allison Haley looked up and out of the corner of her eye, she saw the drummers laying on top of their drums.

"I just thought it was going to be a normal halftime show," Allison said. "I looked over and saw feet in the air. I thought 'wow, my abs would really be sore,' and then 'that's really cool.'"

After watching planking videos during practice, the drum line

wanted to give it a try for their next half time show.

"Ever since I saw Drum Core Internationals planking, it has been something I really wanted to do," Caden said. "We wanted to make our last few shows as seniors more fun."

Creating their own choreography wasn't part of the plan for the show. The band directors didn't know the drum line was going to plank.

"After the show, Mr. Digby told us not to do it again," Brandon said. "We promised we could synchronize our planking. He told us if we could, it would be okay."

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And it was. Adding planking to a show that already included spins and turns got lots of attention from halftime crowds and contest judges.

"Spinning and planking gave the show more visuals," sophomore Bobbie Brannan said. "It was a more appealing show to watch, but it was a lot to remember."

That was probably because the show had over 75 moves, meaning that band members were constantly turning and changing direction.

"This was a difficult show," said new director Mark Windham. "probably one of the hardest shows in the area, but they did a great job with it."

Getting the hang of a new director's style and a new show kept everyone on their toes, but

even with all the differences, one thing remained the same—straight "ones" in three contests during the season, including a seventh place finish in the Mt. Pleasant Invitational where they competed against 24 other bands.

By the time contest season was over, the drum line had their planking routine down to perfection. They had worked through all the challenges of muddy fields and staying balanced.

"When you're upside down for so long, the blood starts to rush to your head," Caden said. "It's like doing a headstand that you have to hold for 15 seconds or even a few minutes. It's kind of hard not to get light-headed right in the middle of a halftime show."

Pages by Madison Hinton and Anna Grace Miller

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