

A 'WILD' Sea Marchin

Page editors: Trace Hopkins, Sietje Beukelman

The Pella Marching Dutch is under the direction of Dameon Place, Gabe Schott, Jeff Robiliard, Sam Nau, Rachael Wurr, and Autumn Bennet. The Marching Dutch had a successful competitive season, winning first place in their class at Valleyfest and Ankeny. Over this season the band won percussion, colorguard, music, visual, and soloist bari sax caption awards.

On September 30, the Dutch traveled to Waukee to compete in the Bands of America competition for the first time. That weekend they ventured into a new world of competition. The Dutch saw bands that they traditionally do not compete with from Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota, and even Ohio.

“It was very nerve racking, like the first performance I was very very jittery, and I had music going and was trying to calm myself down. For the second performance, it went a lot better, and I felt a lot more confident,” said senior Hayden DuBois.

The results came in with the Marching Dutch placing first in Class 1A at Bands of America and in all caption awards. They placed sixth within the twelve other bands during the finals.

Hayden had a special role of starting the show by riding the one-wheel electric skateboard and being featured throughout.

“I really love this show; there are a lot of elements,” said DuBois.

“My favorite part is probably when Ryan spins on the gyroscope because out of all the moments in the show it gets one of the most reactions out of the audience, and I get to sit back in that moment and watch.”

The show is really one of a kind with trampolines, a spinning gyroscope, a one-wheel electric skateboard, and a dance break. These components really make the show stand out from others and feature the ‘wild’ side of the Marching Dutch. Now as their marching season is over, the band is now beginning their concert band season.

By: Sietje Beukelman



Sophomore Leah Boualavong plays the flute in the Marching Dutch field show.



Junior Sietje Beukelman performs at the Marching Dutch Invitational.

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2023 Wild

Pella's band director, Dameon Place, was once a drum major for the very well-known University of Iowa marching band, and two weeks ago, he was able to see his very own alma mater perform on his current band's home turf.

The Marching Dutch Invitational is one of the biggest marching band festivals in Iowa, with almost 22 performing bands, which for the Iowa band, means a lot of potential kids to recruit for their prestigious college band. It also means a lot of entertainment for our community, as well as the guests visiting for the day.

"We have been asking them (HMB) to come perform in the exhibition for several years. Having students see opportunities to perform in a marching band after high school helps us achieve our goal of creating life-long musicians," said Place. "When they see what's next, they can start to understand that playing a musical instrument can be a great activity for them well beyond high school."

So, how did we manage to get such a big, well known university band to come perform here? It's not everyday that one of the most well known colleges in Iowa comes and performs right here in Pella. What went into managing such a big band and convincing them to come here?

"I was certainly persistent with them and felt comfortable asking them to come. It is a different director than when I was there, but having that sense of comfort with the organization, what their needs may be, and how they operate was certainly helpful," said Place.

The Hawkeye Marching Band has over 275 members, and all of them came to perform in the Pella football stadium. Due to weather conditions, their performance was delayed to about 11:30 pm, but this did not take away from the experience for Place.

"It was surreal having them perform on the turf in Pella. I have the best memories from my time as the drum major at Iowa. ... I wouldn't trade my experience there for anything. Having them here brought back many of those memories. It was a lot of fun!"

By: Lennon Eekhoff



Freshman Ellie Plants plays saxophone during field performance of 'WILD'.