

July 14, 2007

Patriots Marching Band: Grand Champions and Best Season in 20 years



The Patriots Marching Band just returned home from a tour of the southern United States

that included stops in Atlanta, Charleston, and Gatlinburg. This year's summer marching band consisted of 115 students from Spring Lake Park High School and St. Anthony Village High School. It was the most successful season the Patriots have had in its 20-year history.



The Patriots Marching Band started the season with an amazing performance at the Benson Parade in which they were named Grand Champion over a number of heavily favored, perennial champion bands.

The season did not slow down from that point on. During the next two weeks, the band would earn three more 1st place victories and two 2nd place victories as well as the coveted "Red Wing Stoneware People's Choice Award" at the 150th Anniversary Red Wing Parade.

The color guard also had their strongest year collecting three "Best Guard" awards throughout the season. The 2007 Patriots Marching Band compiled more awards, accolades, and respect than any previous season.

The season concluded with a seven-day 4th of July performance tour throughout the southern United States.



Photos from the Columbia Heights parade and, directly above, from the Benson parade: Patriot Commanders Nick Caretta, Aaron Nesser, and Rachel Frakie.

The Patriots Marching Band took part in a midnight parade on the 4th of July in Gatlinburg, Tennessee and also visited Atlanta, Georgia's Olympic Park and Stone Mountain as well as some much-needed relaxation and celebration on Folly Beach in Charleston, South Carolina.

The Patriots Marching Band is directed by Brian Lukkasson from Spring Lake Park High School and Chris Ravndal, Andy Erickson, and Dan Wenkel from St. Anthony Village High/Middle School.

The Patriots will be appearing in two more parades this season; July 20 in Bloomington, and August 3, in St. Anthony Village.

Patriots Parade Results Recap

- June 14 Benson, MN
Grand Champions and Outstanding Color Guard
- June 16 Red Wing, MN
People's Choice, Best Color Guard, Best Winds, and 2nd Place
- June 16 Buffalo, MN
1st Place and Best Color Guard
- June 19 Northeast Minneapolis
1st Place, Best Woodwinds, and Best Drum Major
- June 22 Columbia Heights, MN
1st Place
- June 25 Roseville, MN
2nd Place

