

SIXTH SENSE

SION STORM DANCE TEAM WINS MISSOURI STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SIXTH TIME IN A ROW

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STORMING THE NATION



The Sion dance team took the nation by storm when they competed in the NDA National Dance competition in Orlando, Florida. The girls competed in two categories, Pom and Kick. After three days of competition, the team left with a fifth place trophy in kick and a top 20 placement in pom.

DOZENS OF DANCE TEAMS TRAVELED near and far to the St. Charles Family Arena on February 28th the final competition they had been practicing weeks in advance. Though their songs, costumes and moves differed, they each team had one thing on their mind. Taking home the three foot tall, first place Missouri state trophy.

As the girls all gathered into the events center millions of thoughts crossed their minds. The makeup, the music, and most importantly, the performance were all vital aspects in their show. For some, it was their last performance, and for others it was their first trip to state. For all, the competition was a monumental feat.

"This fear rushed through me. Standing there I thought I was going to pass out." Team Captain Maddy Lewing said. "I thought my knees were going to buckle. I was so relieved that all of our goals happened. I was super excited but definitely relieved."

Twenty girls dressed in glistening, silver outfits walked down the steps of the dimly-lit arena. As the announcer's voice boomed over head they were hit by reality. Steadily keeping the fine line between self-assurance and arrogance was key, and with the advantage of taking home first for the past five years, there was an added pressure.

After the team was announced, they stood behind the black curtain that hid them from not only the competition, but the mocking of the burnished trophies. Waiting what seemed like hours of their lives, the team held hands, and prayed every thing would go smoothly. Those 20 girls were

representing their team, their hard work, and their school.

After the two dances were finished, Storm had nothing left to do but sit and wait. All opportunity for change had been lost and the most affective way to take action was through the vain hope that their competition would scratch. After hours, the last team had finished and the main judge announced that it was time for the awards.

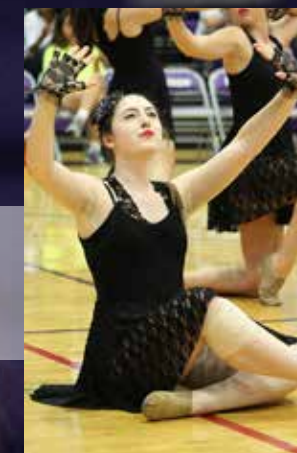
As the final moment came, every girl in the auditorium had her fists clinched. The ages were ranging from freshman to seniors, with coaches mixed in. The colors of costumes went from black to neon, each including some assortment of glitz. It didn't matter the size of the team nor their experience. They were each hoping from the bottom of their hearts their names would be called with the introduction, "Receiving first place." In third place came Halis...In second came Longmont. Just four words and Storm would be receiving first place in state six years in a row.

With shrieks and giggles the Storm dance team was announced first place. For the sixth year in a row dance team took home the three foot tall trophy, along with first in pom and kick, both of the categories they competed

in. The Storm exited the building with the perfect amount of self-assurance.

POM IT UP

With an enthusiastic shout, team captain Caroline Westhead, along with the rest of the team, stole the show during the winter assembly. The gymnasium blew up to the sound of Run Boy Run, and a hip-hop mix, while the team performed their national's routine. "I was nervous to see how the school would like the dances and excited to compete at nationals, yet devastated that it would be my last time," Westhead said. PHOTO BY || MOLLY MCARTHY



STORMING INTO OUR HEARTS

While steadily keeping pace to Piece of My Heart by Janis Joplin, senior Madeline Browne stares into the distance giving the interpretive song a meaningful affect. The team stole the attention of all spectators as applause roared. "The feeling and emotion and the way we got into the dance was what gave the audience such a strong affect...Just the way she sang it gave such a strong power and intensity that we really aimed to portray through our dancing," Browne said.

PHOTO BY || STEPHANIE OSTRANDER

ROCKING THE FIELD

While striking a pose, junior Rachel Young struts her stuff/flashes a bright smile at the Rockhurst, Webb City game. After weeks of preparation the dance team was finally able to show off their hard work. "We did not look like a unified team so we had a lot of work to do to reach the goal to dance as one and look like a team. We have practices 7 hours of practice a week to learn and clean up the dance," Young said. PHOTO BY || EMMA HOLLAND



SIX-PEAT top

As dance team performs their pom routine at MDIA State competition in St. Charles, Missouri, freshman Sammie Nesslein dances front row. The team took first in their state division for the sixth year in the row. "State was so much fun and it made it even better once we won and I would do it all over again if I could," Nesslein said. PHOTO BY || NATHALIE BARBEAU

STRIKING STARES bottom

While kicking competition in Liberty, senior Haley Buckley, and juniors Meghan McCormack, Olivia Garrison, and Daria Kinchelov show stern faces. Dance Team received first place in their kick division. "Getting first felt really good but knowing that we had preformed well is what made us happy...With a dance like this year its important for us to portray the intense emotion. At Liberty we had accomplished the intense mood with our faces and sharp movements," McCormack said. PHOTO BY || MARIA WAGNER