

# Tom Tom Sports

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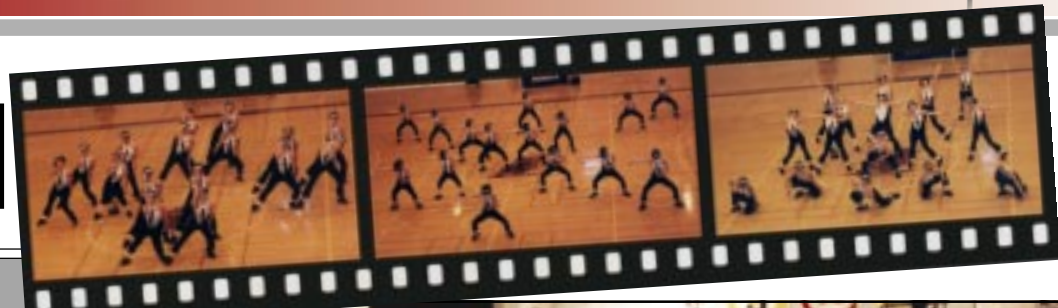
Soccer picks up big win early in the season - Page 19



## Dance Team advances... State of mind

By Ben Newton  
and Andy Pruski

### Dance Team



## ACHS varsity dance team prepares to head to Assembly Hall to compete for the state championship for the ninth consecutive time

The ACHS Varsity Dance Team will be heading down to the University of Illinois to compete in the Illinois Drill Team Association (IDTA) state finals.

"We feel very prepared, we have been working extremely hard this season," said co-captain Ashley Ginascol.

The dance team will be bringing their kick and funk routine down to state this year. Their kick routine is set to the song "I Need A Hero" and has a superwoman theme, while their funk routine is set to the song "Smooth Criminal" by Michael Jackson.

### Limit on Routine

They are only allowed to take two routines with them so they decided to drop their prop routine, with which they also qualified for state. Their funk routine will take place at 11:16 am, and their kick routine will take place at 7:24 pm.

"We were undefeated [in prop] all year, but there wasn't much competition, we also thought that kick and funk were are strongest routines," said Ginascol

According to dance team members, their biggest opposition at the state competition will be Saint Charles East and H.D. Jacobs in funk. Fremd and Stevenson seemingly are their biggest competitors in the kick routine.

### Former State Champs

Two years ago the dance team took first place in state with their kick routine, becoming the first and only state champions ACHS has had to date. This came when the coach was Ms. Edge, who had been the head coach

for the last ten years. This is the first year the girls are under coach Samantha Griffen, a former JV coach here at ACHS. That was also the first year ever that the team only took one routine to state, though normally they have taken two. Their funk routine failed to qualify for state that year. Last year ACHS finished second in both their kick and prop routines, losing in prop by only eight tenths of a point to Lake Park.

"I think we have a good chance of achieving our goals at the state competition. We have a strong team and we're ready to do what we have to do," said junior dance member Lauren Popp.

**-Lauren Popp  
Junior dance team member**

### Summer Preparation

Although their first competition wasn't until Nov. 16, they began practicing and preparing for this season the day after school let out last year. The team then practices continually throughout the summer and into the school year.

"We started off kind of shaky during the summer. It took a while for us to get comfortable with each other," said ACHS junior dance member Lindsey Bailey.

Despite the rocky summer, the dance team managed to pull together in time for the Rich Central regional, their first competition.

They took first in kick and placed second in funk despite a five-point penalty given by the judges for "not being funky enough." The penalty prevented them from finishing



Photo by Andy Pruski

**KICKIN':** The ACHS varsity dance team will be performing their Hero and Smooth Criminal routines down at the state competition held at Assembly Hall which will be held tomorrow. The girls have placed no lower than third in any competition with the Hero routine.

first in that category as well.

At this time, the week before the first competition of the year, the squad also suffered a setback.

### Shouse Returns

Sophomore Amy Shouse broke her ankle and has been out since the first competition. Though she had not been able to perform for the regular season, she still supported her team.

Now that her ankle has finally healed, she will be performing as a part of their funk routine in the state competition.

"It was really hard not participating this whole year because I have been dancing all of my life and it's something I love to do... It was difficult watching them have so much fun, but I still supported them and I'm very proud that we made state," said Shouse.

After the initial competition, the girls began to roll through the rest of their regular season. In the next two competitions they finished first in prop each time and took no lower than second in an event.

### Penalty Points

The team suffered a setback when they

were deducted 18 points in their funk routine at the Palatine invitational for having their safety pins showing. According to the rules no dance member is allowed to have safety pins showing, and for each one showing, they were deducted one point. As a result of the 18-point deduction, Antioch placed sixth instead of second in that category.

"It should be about dancing, not safety pins," said Bailey.

The dance team came into the Stevenson invitational determined not to let the previous competition's deductions ruin their focus.

"We just said it doesn't matter, let's just overcome it," said ACHS senior dance member Brittany Berman.

And overcome it they did, finishing strong by taking first in kick and prop, and taking second in funk.

Next on the schedule for the dance team was the Harlem Super Sectionals. Despite being penalized for the same infraction that they had been called on two competitions ago, having safety pins showing, the girls still placed third in kick, and fourth in funk.

Both scores were good enough to qualify for state. Had it not been for the deductions, Antioch would have placed first in kick, and third in funk.

### State Competition

With the state competition being the last stop on this long and thus far successful journey, some of the dance members shared their thoughts on the season.

"It's been amazingly united, it's been the most fun we've had dancing," said Berman.

Head coach Samantha Griffen said, "We've been practicing long hours every day getting ready...Hopefully our scores will be right up there.

The girls deserve it with all the hard work they have put in."



Photos by Lindsey Bailey and Ashley Ginascol

**READY:** The dance team has been practicing three times a week ever since their sectional competition in order to be prepared for the task ahead. The girls even did a full dress practice last Wednesday after school in the North gym for all students who wanted to see the routines that the girls will be performing when the travel down to University of Illinois.

## Trail to State

Sequoit Dance Team  
Competition Results

<b>Rich Central</b>	Kick 1st Funk 2nd*
<b>Argo</b>	Kick 2nd Funk 2nd*
<b>Warren</b>	Prop 1st Kick 1st Funk 2nd Prop 1st
<b>Palatine</b>	Kick 2nd Funk 6th*
<b>Stevenson</b>	Prop 1st Kick 1st Funk 2nd Prop 1st
<b>Harlem Super Sectionals</b>	Kick 3rd* Funk 4th*

\* Placement after multiple point deductions