



State Champs!



Photo courtesy of Brenda Genengels

The varsity dance team competed at the University of Illinois Assembly Hall where they won Antioch's second state championship title in school history. The first state title came in 2000 when the team also won in the AAA Kick category. This is head coach Sam Griffin's last year coaching the team.

Dance team captures second state title in school history

By Andy Pruski

Now a days state championships are hard to come by. On Saturday March 15, the Antioch Community High School varsity dance team won their second state championship in four years.

The Sequoits won state with their kick routine, which is the same category they won in 2000.

"Freshman year's routine was amazing. We won high score of the day at many of the competitions and were undefeated," said ACHS varsity member Lindsey Bailey,

"This year started off kind of opposite from freshman year. We got beat by four points at the Palatine competition. After that, we changed our routine, got new costumes, and pulled together as a team which helped us to win the state title."

With the low kick scores in the beginning of the season even the coach Sam Griffin was a little surprised they took state with that routine.

"We did an awesome job in kick, but we didn't expect first. I was shocked," said Griffin.

The team's strongest and most consistent routine was funk up until super-sectionals when they took third place.

"I was frustrated that we did so well all year [in funk] and finished third in state. The two teams that beat us kind of caught us by surprise," said ACHS varsity member Amy Shouse.

One of the difficult things about state is that the judges are all out of state judges.

"With the out of state judges, anything is possible," said varsity captain Heather Axton.

The two teams that beat Antioch in funk were St. Charles East, who also took first at super-sectionals and Naperville Central who placed fourth at super-

sectionals.

"Even though we took third, [in funk] I still thought we did an excellent job, it's definitely been my favorite routine all season," said Griffin.

Going into state, no one really knew what to expect.

"The only thing we really knew, was not to expect anything," said Griffin.

This was Griffin's last season coaching for Antioch. At a board meeting earlier this year, she turned in her resignation.

"I've been coaching since I graduated high school, and I just want to take a break from it," said Griffin.

Griffin has been coaching at Antioch for a total of four years, two as JV coach, and two as varsity coach.

Though she was with the high school for only a short time, the dancers still feel she made a big impact.

"She was a good friend and an awesome coach," said Kari Hintz, a varsity dance member.

One of the reason Griffin was a successful coach, was that she

expected the most of the team.

"She is the best coach I ever had, she made us work really hard, and reach that next level," said Shouse.

Four of the members of this year's team were also part of the state champion team in 2000, Bailey, Hintz, Axton and Ashley Ginascol.

"It's the coolest thing ever to win both years, I think it means more to me this year though because it means more as a senior," said Hintz "It's like going out with a bang."

According to Griffin, this year's squad had problems, but got their act together when it counted most.

"We had so many new people this year, and the team really had to mold, and gel together," said Griffin "They did really great and worked real hard, they should be very, very proud."



Photos by Tim Lorenzini
Along with a first place in the AAA Kick division, the ACHS dance team also placed third in the AAA Funk division. Throughout the year, the team thought that funk was their strongest routine. They were undefeated until the super-sectional competition where they placed third. The kick routine was the third routine that the Sequoits competed with this year. They also had a dance routine which they chose not to advance to the sectional competition.