

# TOM TOM SPORTS



## Heartbreakers leave heart broken Dance team places 5th in hip hop and 4th in Kick

By Chip Leffelman

After months of preparation, practices, and competitions, the dance team culminated their season in Champaign, for the Illinois Drill Team Association's (IDTA) State competition.

The team placed fifth in their hip-hop category and fourth in kick. Although the team was upset, they were still pleased with their performances.

**Hip-Hop** Dancing to a mix of songs including, Must be the Money, Ice Ice Baby, Rapper's Delight, and the Real Slim Shady, the dance team worked their way into fifth place out of 13 teams.

Savana Soder, an ACHS senior, and team captain said, "I think hip-hop was fair, you can kind of get a feel of how you are going to do on where you stand and we knew those teams had been doing better."

The teams' fifth place finish fell just short of the prediction made by Coach Carrisa Parker, who thought the team would place fourth.

The competition was full of surprises including Wheaton North High School's third place finish which bumped Antioch down to fifth.

"It was a surprise when we received fifth," said Alexa Smith, Lakes Community High School sophomore, first year varsity member. "Wheaton North was never any competition, they just had an amazing performance this time."

Some other factors that led to ACHS demise included a large majority of team members getting sick with the flu, and a lot of complicated elements to the routine.

"Our routine had more difficult sections than some of the routines that teams that surpassed us did," said Smith.

**Kick** Kicking it to state, the dance team scored fourth out of eleven teams, coming as a unpleasant surprise to team members and spectators alike.

Parker said, "I don't think it had anything to do with the way the girls performed, not one girl made a mistake, and the routine looked phenomenal."

Reasons for the surprise placing were mixed, Parker had the idea that the judges were different from previous judges.

"As soon as I looked at the judging sheets, I had a feeling that we wouldn't place as well as I [originally] thought. We had consistent judging throughout competition season, and the judges were different for state," said Parker.

A variation of that reason came from Tiffanie Brown, an ACHS junior on the team.

"We never placed lower than second in competitions against these teams, however, it didn't seem like our type of dance style was what the judges were looking for," said Brown.

The reason that the judging style is different at the state competition is because IDTA brings in judges from out-of-state. The reason for this is so that they have new fresh

eyes watching these performances, and no judges can give preference to teams from their region.

"Competitions are subjective, therefore, a team is always at the mercy of the judge. Some judges prefer certain styles, music, costumes, etc. and their preferences affect the team scores," said Kelly Blecke, the assistant coach of the team.

Overall, fans and team members agreed that the performance went exceedingly well.

Soder said, "I believe that the girls put everything that they had into the routine. On the floor the routine looked incredible. Lines were good, timing was on, and energy was incredible."

**Looking Ahead** Including this year, ACHS has made it to the state competition consecutively since 1992. Which brings into question next year. Due to the splitting of ACHS and LCHS, the teams will be competing against schools with smaller amounts of students and therefore be against schools that they've never competed against.

Soder said, "I think next year will give Antioch and Lakes a better chance at placing higher in state. Being placed into a new category will bring new competition and give both teams a fair chance to compete. The teams may be smaller, but the talent will still be present."

In the past, the team has been in the AAA division, next year, ACHS will be in the AA division, and LCHS will be in A.



Photo by Chip Leffelman

The Antioch dance team placed fourth in Kick with their Heartbreaker routine in the State Competition at Champaign.

## Cheerleaders place 10th at state

By Lauren Vance and Donatella Savino

The Antioch Community High School varsity cheerleading squad performed at the state competition this past weekend, placing ten out of 24 squads with a score of 370.5 out of 400, which is the highest they have ever scored.

The squad left Friday afternoon to go to the Prairie State Convention in Springfield, IL., where the state competition was held.

According to Kim Conley, co-captain and junior at ACHS, the girls started warming up on the mats at 7 a.m. till it was their time to shine.

"Waiting around was nerve racking," said Conley. "Although we reached our goal of top 10."

According to Robin Gwinn, head coach, through the past 18 years, ACHS has never been in the top ten at the state competition.

"The top five squads at the state competition were absolutely perfect," said Gwinn. "If our stunts were more tight we would have been in the top five."

While Gwinn watched the teams performance, she noticed that one of the stunts wobbled. She immediately looked at the judges and noticed one of them marking it down.

"Fortunately, the judges dismissed the ten point deduction this would have caused," said Gwinn. "They reminded us to stay tight with our moves; we were relieved."

According to Gwinn she felt the team was ready when entering the

state competition with a positive attitude.

"We were ready to go, we had eight months preparation, said Gwinn. "We definitely felt like we were ready."

According to Jill Mayers, junior at ACHS, the judges at the state competition look for the following: facial expression, amount of spirit, clarity of voices, variety of stunts, tumbling, timing, and execution.

Gwinn noticed some strange actions that occurred during the team's performance. However the judges seemed not to notice.

"Just out of nowhere, the girls were doing stunts that weren't even a part of the routine," said Gwinn.

According to Mayers, they could not have done as well as they did without the help of their coach.

"Our coach really motivated us, like she always does," said Mayers. "After the competition she found some things that could have been done better."

The squad was proud to have beaten local squads in their division.

"We beat Libertyville, Stevenson, and Grayslake," said Mayers. "We were looking to do our best. We were not worried about the other teams because we didn't know their routines."

On top of earning tenth place, IHSA awarded four of ACHS cheerleaders with the All-State All-Star award. The girls chosen were: Kira Auth, Kelsey Dent, Lanaya Gutowski, and Kim Ruggles.

The All-Star's will be performing at the All-Star game in June.

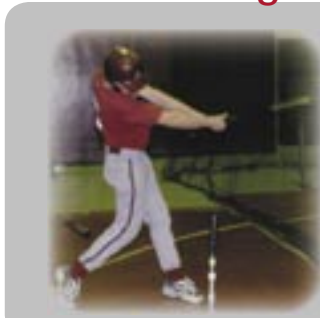


Photo by Chip Leffelman

### INSIDE SPORTS

- Boy's Baseball **24**
- Girl's Softball **24**
- Basketball **25**
- Track & Field **25**
- Girls 3-point shot out **26**
- Boy's Volleyball **26**
- Boys 3-point shot out **27**

### Page 24



Boy's Baseball swings in to the spring season

### Page 25



Boy's Basketball prepare for this season

### Page 26



Boys volleyball first game is next Saturday