

Reaching new heights



Best-finish ever at final competition makes Bingham a contender and beats even going to Disneyland

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

After a season of countless practice sessions in all kinds of weather, classroom sessions, football games and competitions, the Bingham Marching Band's season came down to one day.

It was Saturday, Nov. 3, 2012. The entire group had already finished its first show in at Desert Hills High School. Then they had to endure a long wait.

"They didn't announce us until last," said band director Darin Graber. "It's a big deal to make it to BOA (Bands of America) regionals and make it to the finals. Huge, huge, huge."

After that, it became a day of celebration. Later, while the Bingham group was walking en masse to the final performance, they had their most emotional moment.

"We were walking down the street and all the bands (who hadn't made the finals) stood up and started clapping for us," recalled Lisa Forsyth, the flute section leader. "It was the best moment in my while life. I had chills running down my spine that (those) people actually thought about us. It was an amazing moment."

"The kids felt like they were six inches off the ground," said Graber, who felt the same



way."

Bingham finished seventh overall at BOA, but made history by taking third place among the 5A Utah schools. Graber said Bingham hadn't competed at BOA before because it had always taken place on a different date than the Red Rocks Invitational (also in St. George).

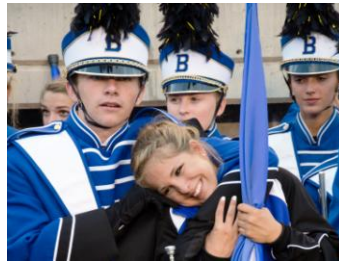
In 2012, they were pared together so many schools, including Bingham, didn't have to make two trips.

"It was also considered the actual state championship," Graber said. "It was big for us to beat Sky View when it counted.

"We also beat Mountain

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BINGHAM MARCHING BAND: 2012 season recap



Season highlights

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Notes</u>
June 15	South Jordan Parade	Right after school's out
Aug. 9-21	Band Camp	Two weeks of training
Aug. 25	Black-and-Blue Classic	Play at Rice-Eccles
Sept. 1	Home football game	vs. Valor Christian (Colo.)
Sept. 7	Home football game	vs. Layton
Sept. 17	Parents Night	
Sept. 21	Home football game	vs. Riverton
Sept. 22	Bridgerland Competition	Bus trip to Logan
Sept. 29	Mt. Nebo Competition	Payson
Oct. 5	Homecoming football game	vs. American Fork
Oct. 9	Rocky Mountain Competition	Get to play at BYU
Oct. 10	Home football game	vs. Lehi
Oct. 16	Davis Cup	Major event in Kaysville
Oct. 25	Fall band concert	
Oct. 26	Home football game	vs. Cottonwood
Oct. 27	Mt. Timpanogos Competition	Travel to Pleasant Grove
Oct. 31	Disneyland	Long-awaited trip for fun
Nov. 1	Riverside CC clinic	Get ready for state
Nov. 2	Red Rocks Competition	Big event vs. everyone
Nov. 3	Bands of America Competition	Season finale

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Crest, and destroyed Lehi.

"These kids are a different breed. Kids outside of band don't know what it's all about, but it was a big deal."

Graber said 12 years ago, the marching band had just 40 members and to have this much success at the start of the season was unthinkable. American Fork and Davis were always at the top, but Bingham set a precedent by eclipsing the other 5A schools.

"The attitude is changing," Graber said. "Finally, we're getting the reputation for this school and for the students. Marching band is hard and the kids deserve a lot of credit. You have to put together a musical program, play and march. It's a lot of work and a lot to remember."

Bingham also made a difference in another way.

Early in the school year, the band was asked to perform at the annual Bingham-Alta game, which was held at the University of Utah's Rice-Eccles Stadium. Alta's band did not march but, Graber said that after the Canyons School District superintendent and principal watched they agreed to set aside money for 2013 so Alta could develop one.

"There was a big crowd, so it was a big deal (for Bingham to perform)," said Graber. "Now, Alta is on full bore."

For Bingham, the season actually started shortly after school was dismissed. In mid-June, Bingham took part in the annual South Jordan Parade and some students also represented various groups in other summer parades.

Band Camp was a two-week event at the school that kicked off the team's fall hopes. Under the hot sun, they began learning the music and the steps of their show. The grueling effort needed wasn't for everyone, and the team had to make adjustments.

But then the fun started. There were nine competitions, a half-dozen football games (and one performance at Rice-Eccles Stadium), fundraisers and a bus ride to Disneyland that felt almost like putting it was the finishing touch and led to a lot of lasting friendships that were built on the way.

With all due respect to the "Happiest Place on Earth," there was a better memory built for the Bingham Marching Band, and it may lead to more soon.