

## **News Release**

### **Twirl Mania Here We Come**

The dream of head coach Heidi Sue Mumm of the Islettes Elite Majorettes was to take a team to a very special competition, the famed Twirl Mania, where twirlers are offered a chance to compete with others from all over the nation and world at the renowned Wide World of Sports complex in Disney World Orlando.

Over two years ago they set out on this adventure in hopes of making this dream come true. The coach hosted an informational night explaining to over 50 parents the commitment, challenges and costs associated with this trip which would take them over 1,000 miles away to the most magical place on earth for a once in a life time experience. Of them, 28 girls and 2 boys set out with their families for this journey.

It was a tough road with extra practices every Sunday in addition to Thursday's team practices and solo lessons. There were endless fundraisers and events, but the families and twirlers were up for the challenge. They held meetings, ordered costumes, made props and kept their spirits high working toward a common goal. The team consisted of girls from ages three to nineteen all at different twirling levels; the majority novice twirlers sprinkled with a few beginners/intermediates and only two advanced girls. It was a great challenge for the coaches to make this diverse group look like one concise unit.

In October it was time to videotape in order to qualify to march in the Disney parade. In addition, the team put together a full 20-minute routine in hopes of qualifying for a showcase at one of the Disney Parks. News came several weeks later that they had been chosen to participate in both! The team practiced on.

This February the time had come and they began their expedition; some of them in cars driving over 24 hours and others in planes as they all made their way to the Wide World of Sports. Many of the girls participated in solo events on Friday and Saturday while others waited for the group events on Sunday. The solo events went well as eight of the girls earned first place plaques and trophies in various events and divisions.

A highlight of the trip was the opportunity to strut their stuff in the Disney Parade down Main Street USA on Saturday evening. The girls marched in their sparkling red and black costumes complete with Mickey Mouse ears. As Coach Heidi Sue carried the banner for the group as tears of joy ran down her face, they had made it! Her dream had come true.

During the Sunday group competition the girls came together to perform in 11 events. The senior line girls were especially challenged and stressed as they participated in over 6 events. Later that evening they headed to the stage of the *Indiana Jones Spectacular* where the awards ceremony was to be held. It was a warm and exciting night as they announced the solo and group awards from the

podium. The girl's costumes sparkled under the lights, as the crowd of over 2,000 cheered on. As the evening progressed the Islettes were honored with a first place trophy in Dance Twirl (choreographed and coached by Kelli Russell); then a first place trophy in pompon...then another and another. The senior line had swept all divisions they had entered! It was a grand day for this small community team from a Grand Island, New York.

And that wasn't the end of the experience. On Monday, Coach Heidi had scheduled a very special event working with Disney choreographers. During the morning event the girls learned more about tall flags, hooplas and swing flags under the direction of Disney. They learned a special routine to perform for the parents. To all of our surprise Goofy joined the girls during the final performance! Some of the little ones were so happy and excited they couldn't move or keep their eyes off the Goofy character.

The trip came to an end on Monday evening as the showcase approached. The girls were to perform at on the stage at Downtown Disney. Again working with a Disney coordinator, lighting and sound specialist the girls graced the stage in a wonderful performance highlighting all their routines and featuring all the participants. The team was honored with a very special Mickey Mouse award for their out standing job at the close of the performance.

This was truly an experience this team will never forget thanks to Coach Heidi Sue Mumm and her coaches.



### **The Islettes Elite Twirl Mania Team**

Top row: Alissa Bailey, Stefani Rhodes, Samantha Kenyon, Katrina Buczkowski, Shelbi Milkas, Alyssa Fuoco, Molly Wynne, Rebecca Sobol, Madi Buczkowski, Coach Heidi Sue Mumm  
 Middle: Julie LaVallee, Leah Stutz, Anna Nicolio, Laura Dolan, Miranda Veach, Bethany Wynne  
 Front: Erin Tierney, Emily Fuoco, April Mott, Heather Murray, Alexis Tierney, Ashley Giambra, Brianna Hays

Tiny Tots: Abigail Casey, Kate Giambra, Jenna DuQuin

Missing from photograph: Emelie-jo Scheffler and Joelle-yvette Scheffler



Coach Heidi Sue Mumm and the Junior Line are emotional as they march in the Disney Parade



**The Islettes Juvenile Line**  
March down Main Street USA in the Disney Parade





### **Islettes Elite Senior Line**

Top: Stefani Rhodes, Samantha Kenyon, Katrina Buczkowski, Alyssa Fuoco, Molly Wynne  
 Front: Alissa Bailey, Shelbi Milkas, Rebecca Sobol and Madi Buczkowski



Alissa Bailey and Alyssa Fuoco accept one of the 6 first places earned by the Islettes Senior Line



### **Islettes Elite Twirl Mania First Place Winners**

Rebecca Sobol *Senior Beginner Two-Baton*, Katrina Buczkowski *Pre-Teen Beginner Military*,  
Molly Wynne *Senior Novice X Strut*  
Madi Buczkowski *Junior Beginner Freestyle Dance Twirl Solo*, Alissa Bailey *Senior Advanced  
Basic Strut*, Shelbi Milkas *Junior Beginner Miss Twirl Mania*  
Front: Heather Murray *Juvenile Pom Pon Solo*  
Not pictured: Joelle-yvette Scheffler *Juvenile Novice Military*

## Islettes' Elite Disney Team

### Tiny Tots

Jenna DuQuin  
Kate Giambra  
Abigail Casey

### Juveniles

Brianna Hays  
April Mott  
Joelle-yvette Scheffler  
Alexis Tierney  
Erin Tierney  
Miranda Veach

### Juniors

Ashley Giambra  
Heather Murray  
Laura Dolan  
Emily Fuoco  
Julie LaVallee  
Anna Nicolli  
Emelie-jo Scheffler  
Leah Stutz  
Bethany Wynne

### Seniors

Alissa Bailey

Katrina Buczkowski

Madi Buczkowski  
Alyssa Fuoco  
Samantha Kenyon  
Shelbi Milkas  
Stefani Rhodes  
Rebecca Sobol  
Molly Wynne

### Honor Guard

Colin Stutz  
Matthew Hays  
Kaila Veach

## Islettes' Elite Disney Team Awards

Senior Small Dance Twirl Team- 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Senior Large Dance Twirl Team- 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Junior Pom Pon Team- 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Senior Pom Pon Team- 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Junior Parade Corps- 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Junior Flag/Rifle Corps- 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Juvenile Parade Corps- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Junior Small Dance Twirl Team- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Juvenile Pom Pon Team- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Junior Large Dance Twirl Team- 4<sup>th</sup> Place  
Juvenile Half-Time- 7<sup>th</sup> Place

## Individual Twirl Mania Results for the Islettes' Elite Disney Team

Alissa Bailey:

Senior Advanced Basic Strut- 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Senior Beginner Miss Twirl Mania- 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up  
Senior Beginner Solo Twirl- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Senior Rifle- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
High School Classic-Beginner- 4<sup>th</sup> Place  
Senior Intermediate X Strut- 4<sup>th</sup> Place  
Senior Beginner 2 baton- 4<sup>th</sup>  
Senior Advanced Best Appearing- 8<sup>th</sup> Place  
Senior Advanced Military- 9<sup>th</sup> Place

Katrina Buczkowski:

Pre-Teen Intermediate Miss Twirl Mania- 4<sup>th</sup> Place  
Pre-Teen Beginner Basic Strut- 4<sup>th</sup> Place  
Pre-Teen Intermediate X Strut- 5<sup>th</sup> Place  
Pre-Teen Beginner Two-Baton- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Pre-Teen Beginner Military- 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Pre-Teen Intermediate Solo Twirl- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Madi Buczkowski:

Junior Beginner Freestyle Dance Twirl Solo- 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Junior Beginner Basic Strut- 5<sup>th</sup> Place  
Junior Beginner Military- 7<sup>th</sup> Place

Laura Dolan:

Junior Novice Best Appearing- 9<sup>th</sup> Place  
Junior Novice X Strut- 6<sup>th</sup> Place

	Junior Novice Military- 9 <sup>th</sup> Place
Samantha Kenyon:	Senior Novice Best Appearing- 7 <sup>th</sup> Place Senior Novice Solo Twirl- 8 <sup>th</sup> Place Senior Novice Military- 7 <sup>th</sup> Place
Anna Nicolia:	Pre-Teen Novice Best Appearing- 4 <sup>th</sup> Place Pre-Teen Beginner Basic Strut-2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
Shelbi Milkas:	Junior Beginner Miss Twirl Mania- 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Junior Beginner Best Appearing- 10 <sup>th</sup> Place Junior Beginner X-Strut- 6 <sup>th</sup> Place Junior Beginner Solo Twirl- 5 <sup>th</sup> Place
Heather Murray:	Juvenile Pom Pon- 1 <sup>st</sup> Place
Stefani Rhodes:	Junior Beginner Military- 8 <sup>th</sup> Place
Emelie-jo Scheffler:	Pre-Teen Beginner Best Appearing-5 <sup>th</sup> Place Pre-Teen Beginner Two-Baton- 10 <sup>th</sup> Place
Joelle-yvette Scheffler:	Juvenile Novice Military- 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Juvenile Novice X Strut- 6 <sup>th</sup> Place
Rebecca Sobol:	Senior Advanced Basic Strut- 6 <sup>th</sup> Place Senior Advanced Military- 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Senior Beginner Freestyle Dance Twirl Solo- 5 <sup>th</sup> Place Senior Beginner Two-Baton- 1 <sup>st</sup> Place
Bethany Wynne:	Pre-Teen Novice X Strut- 6 <sup>th</sup> Place Pre-Teen Color Guard Flag Solo- 5 <sup>th</sup> Place Pre-Teen Novice Solo Twirl- 8 <sup>th</sup> Place
Molly Wynne:	Senior Novice X Strut- 1 <sup>st</sup> Place