



Husky Sports Band peeps up crowd

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The football team is not the only group at SCSU practicing hard for the Homecoming football game. With a list of notes to play as thick as a small phonebook, the Husky Sports Band will have their work cut out for them as well this Saturday. In its first year of existence, the band has established itself as regular performers at campus events in a short amount of time.

Since their first performance March 1 at the NCC men's and women's basketball finals, the band has performed at a variety of campus venues. So far this semester, the band has performed at three football games, a home volleyball game and Atwood After Dark. Instructor Glen Tuomalla believes the band has helped a great deal in bringing back school spirit at sporting events.

"How can fans get excited at a game when they hear the school's fight song over the PA system?" said Tuomalla, who estimates the band has over 50 musicians made up of SCSU students, St. Cloud Technical College students and St. Cloud community members. "It's just not the right atmosphere when there's no band playing at the game. It's like going to the movies without popcorn."

Unlike the most recent inception of the band, which was a student-run marching band, the Husky Sports Band is funded by the university through the College of Fine Arts and Humanities, the athletics department and the department of music. The funded version of the SCSU marching band was disbanded several years ago. Tuomalla said a lot of the credit for bringing a band back to sporting events at SCSU goes to President Roy Saigo.

"He (Saigo) decided there was something wrong with hearing music being played over the P/A system at football games and he went to the Music Department and told us to make it happen," Tuomalla said. Like any sports team, the Husky Sports Band puts a great deal of preparation toward its performances.

"We have a lot of fun with each other at rehearsals, but everyone in the band takes their music seriously and works their butts off," said Tuomaalla, who offers the sports band as an accredited course at SCSU as well. "We're pretty much just like the football team for practicing for our performances, except we don't get hit as much."

Though the band only rehearses as a whole every Tuesday, many band members put in a substantial amount of time outside of rehearsals as well. Third-year student Rose Thompson, who plays clarinet in the band, estimates that she practices two to three hours a week outside of rehearsal.

"We have a lot of songs to work on for performances, and everyone wants to do well in front of an audience," said Thompson, who estimates the band works on over 20 different songs to possibly play at events. "The percussion section of the band (which has additional rehearsals every Sunday) probably practices the most out of the band, but everybody puts in their time when they can."

Despite all the hard work associated with the music, Thompson said the band members have a lot of fun as well. "We joke around a lot and laugh at ourselves whenever we're not playing our instruments," Thompson said. "Everyone knows how to have a good time and knows when to take it seriously."

With their first Homecoming football game performance right around the corner, the band is looking forward to displaying their musical talent and school spirit to the SCSU community. "We're really pumped up and excited for it," Thompson said. "Maybe even more than the football players are."