

## Local News

# Husky Sports Band gets ready to rev sports crowds

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Published: February 25, 2006 6:00AM

If St. Cloud State University's new pep band isn't having fun at games, neither will you.

At least that's band director Glen Tuomaala's theory. So he makes rehearsals quick-paced and fun — inserting jokes and random information about band members whenever he can.

"Members always come first," said Tuomaala during a rehearsal break Tuesday. "If they're having fun, attendance won't be a problem, and they'll play better. That's the most important thing — members come first."

The Husky Sports Band will make its debut Wednesday at the women's basketball game in Halenbeck Hall. The band will bring "a different atmosphere for the games," said John Lewis, an assistant athletic director at St. Cloud State. Lewis and other university officials hope the band will attract more fans to games by getting them more involved.

The band will play at various sporting events, including basketball and football games. "It helps us reach a group of kids we don't otherwise serve," said Mark Springer, the chairman of the music department. Featuring music at an athletic event will generate interest in the music department, Springer said.

The band has about 50 members, and Tuomaala wants it to grow. "Why not help out the sports teams?" said Jeff Yelverton, 18, a St. Cloud State freshman who joined the band. "It's going to pump up people even more." Members range from high school students to retired professors.

Kelly Lind, 35, joined the band because he plays trumpet in the Eveleth Clown Band during the summer and wanted a reason to practice during the winter months. Lind, who is an alumnus of St. Cloud State, also thought it'd be a good opportunity to meet people. "I was curious to see who would come," he said.

Tuomaala, 35, was hired in August to create the Husky Sports Band. He's spent the past few months dusting off the school rouser, developing a music library, making plans with university departments and recruiting members like crazy.

He said he wasn't daunted by creating a band from nothing because he's done it before.

His first job was at an inner-city high school in Cincinnati. When he came to the school, there were 14 members in the school band. Three years later there were 132 members, he said.

"It was a lot of work," he said. "It was the most rewarding thing I've done in my life."



PHOTO CREDIT: Dave Schwarz, [dschwarz@stcloudtimes.com](mailto:dschwarz@stcloudtimes.com)

Tony Beranek shares a joke with fellow Husky Sports Band members.

### On the Net

» Find out more about the new Husky Sports Band at [www.stcloudstate.edu/music/band](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/music/band).

### Multimedia

[Band playing "good" and "evil" versions of the fight song \(.mp3\)](#)

[Band playing "Land of 1000 dances" \(.mp3\)](#)

[Band playing "Hokey Pokey" \(.mp3\)](#)

[Band playing "Hang on Sloopy" \(.mp3\)](#)