Getting to know ... an OSU Band member

Written by Ed Gebert Tuesday, November 05, 2013 12:00 AM - Last Updated Wednesday, November 06, 2013 9:20 PM BY ED GEBERT Times Bulletin Editor egebert@timesbulletin.com COLUMBUS — For five years now, Tim Hoverman has been a part of the Ohio State University Marching Band. The band itself is taking on more of a celebrity lately, being featured on the Today Show and others, while videos of the halftime performances are sweeping the Internet. From a group of 300-400 musicians trying out, 225 are selected to be a part of The Best Damn Band in the Land, as it is known. Not all of those march at halftime, just 192 get that honor. Those 192 work hard to get new shows prepared for each home game. The routine takes some getting used to. "By my fifth year it has gotten easier, mostly because I know what's going on," Hoverman reported.

He stated that each person wanting to be a part of the band must try out, although those who have been a member in the past have a natural advantage to get in, thanks to the experience

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factor. Hoverman's experience includes 35-40 shows he has had to learn in the past five years.

"Some shows are more difficult than others," he revealed. "We need to be able to do them in 10 hours (of rehearsal time) so sometimes a program is made a little less intricate."

Band members rehearse Monday-Friday from 4-6 p.m. to get the next show ready. Prior to 2013, each player would get cards showing where he or she would be in each formation. This year, they are provided with an app that allows them insight and instruction on how to get to that next position.

Hoverman explained, "It's not an app we developed, but it's one we are using. It's more interactive, and you can get an idea of how the show is going to look from the stands. Usually by Thursday, we're marching and playing the music from memory."

The band is able to do things that even amaze its members, said Hoverman. "We have people take rehearsal video, kind of like taking game film. But when you see it, that's when it hits you. You can figure out what all is happening."

The marching techniques and formations will not be needed when the band travels to Van Wert for a sold-out concert on Thursday night at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center. Tickets were also sold for the opportunity to hear a simulcast of the show, which features the band playing the music from this year's halftime performances.

Hoverman is almost finished with his time as a member of the band. He knows he is going to miss it, just as he misses playing football like he did during his years at Van Wert High School.

"I haven't really thought about it much until now," he admitted. "Let's put it this way, it's been a long time since I've gone to watch a game when I wasn't down on the field!"

Hoverman fully expects for the shock of not being in the band to hit at the first OSU home game

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in 2014. He has traveled with the group to the Rose Bowl, the Sugar Bowl, and the Gator Bowl, and is hoping for a chance to attend the BCS Championship Game this winter. But for now Hoverman is enjoying playing his horn, marching, and being a part of a nationally-recognized marching band.