

DCI Drum Corps International World Class Kick OFF 2011 In Saginaw Texas at Rough Riders Stadium

Keep your eyes on the big prize. The Drum Corps from all over the USA are competing in DCI World Class for the vaunted championship crown that will be bestowed upon the beloved champion at DCI World Class Finals August 14 2011. The DCI finals take place in Indianapolis, IN at Lucas Oil Stadium.

But before you make your travel arrangements to the World Class finals in August, let's see how the Corps fared in the kick off competition.

I arrived at Rough Rider Stadium with a sense of wonder. I am new to DCI. I just discovered this art form of Music in 2009 on the Big Screen at "Big, Live, & Loud" I was enamored with the pageantry, musicianship, and skill level of the artillery of percussionists and brass sections that marched confidently across the field. The Corps combined a myriad of musical compositions with time signature changes, coupled with the agility of traversing the field at a blistering pace, and mesmerized me. My physical senses were overwhelmed by the vibrant color schemes and emotion oozing from the corps.

I had great expectations, and DCI delivered. I spent my first hour in the Texas Sun watching Santa Clara Vanguard and The Blue Stars Drum Corps warm up. The rapid fire work of the tenors and field snares was precise and "on tap" as the Drum Majors worked them in the heat to be in "Top" form for the night's performance.

As I entered Rough Riders Stadium, I met several key people with DCI International who were here from Indianapolis to support the kick off. They were very informative and helpful for a "Newbie" to DCI. I have a great appreciation for all the behind the scenes that goes on. Undertaking an event where 1300 people are involved requires synchronicity on every level. Even if Woodstock hosted 100 bands with 5 members in the average band, that is still less than half the staff required at DCI. The choreography, the preparation for the show, the travel, the instrumentation, the uniforms all go into making a Drum Corp tick.

As drummers already know, to be a part of DCI, it is essential to be competent in your rudiments, a team player, and able to crossover the field at a pace while playing with precision. Projecting to the audience is paramount and the synergy on the field coming from the drum line sets the tone for the rest of the corps.

Modern Drummers who are ages 16-22 are eligible to audition for any number of drum corps throughout the USA and can learn more at <http://www.dci.org>

INTRODUCTION

The Cavaliers took first place at kick off and I was blown away by their performance. The Cadets and Carolina Crown were close behind. All DCI Drum Corps have plenty of time ahead this season to refine their performance as we edge to August 14 when the 2011 DCI World Class Champions will be crowned.

Follow this link to see the Recap for the opening DCI World Class Kick Off June 18 2011 in Saginaw, Texas at Rough Riders Stadium.
http://www.dci.org/scores/recap/view.cfm?event_id=2a277ad5-133f-46c5-a1b7-791cfb11dab3