

STATE CHAMPS

Silver Stars place first in Pom, Precision Dance, Overall

Matthew Valentine
Of The Talon staff

The Silver Stars dance team took home first place for Pom and Precision Dance on Feb. 27, winning a state championship for the third time. The dance team started practicing their routines in October to prepare for all of their competitions. One of the dances was a jazz dance to the song “Promises in the Dark” by Pat Benatar. Coach Erin Taylor said that both dances were powerful and exhibited the team’s strengths.

“[The dance] starts very slow and then gets very fast and upbeat. So it was a good mix of style for our dancers that could showcase both aspects of

their dancing and then our pom routine was upbeat and strong and really athletic,” Taylor said.

Senior and co-captain Kennedy Thuet said the team was overjoyed to win State, and that one massive motivator was the fact that the team had come in second place for the past three years.

“Everyone was ecstatic when we found out we won. We have tried to win State for the past several years. We had come very close, for the past three years we got second at State and we used that as a big motivator this year,” Thuet said. “We got to watch the other schools that we were competing against, and after watching our competition we all got a little nervous. It was a little surreal to everyone when we found out, but we were all so excited and so proud.”

Thuet also said to get prepared

for State they had to practice multiple times a week in order to make sure their dances were precise and perfected.

“To get ready for State we cleaned both of our dances top to bottom to make sure that we all looked uniform and super together. We were practicing three days a week: Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school from 3:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursdays before school from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. We would also have ‘filming practices’ where we would have to come with some makeup done and our hair slicked back into a bun so we could record our videos,” Thuet said. “We did a lot of the filming practices on our Thursday 6 a.m. practices before school because we were able to be in the upper gym,” Thuet said.

Additionally, COVID-19 precautions made changes

in the State Competition, specifically that the competition itself was held completely virtually, meaning the dancers had to record a video of their performances instead of dancing in person. The dance team also had to practice with their masks on and keep them on while being recorded.

Thuet said that recording the dances and submitting them to be scored had its advantages and disadvantages. The dance team was able to retry and perfect the video before submitting it, but Thuet said something that the team lost was the adrenaline they normally get when they performing in front of an audience.

“Some of the pros for having a virtual State competition was that we were able to really perfect our videos before submitting it. We recorded each

dance like a total of 15 times until we had a video that we were really proud of,” Thuet said. “A con of having it virtually was that you don’t get the rush of adrenaline you normally get when it is in person which is normally really beneficial for your performance.”

Thuet also said because this competition was virtual, it lacked the energy and excitement a crowd would normally provide, but the team adapted by cheering each other on themselves.

“I think our team did a really good job trying to create adrenaline without having an audience. We had to find ways to keep our energy up throughout the routines. We did this by yelling out encouraging words like ‘you got it’ and ‘keep it up’ as a way to reset the energy,” Thuet said.



The Silver Stars place first in Pom, Precision Dance, and Overall at State on Feb. 27. (Front row) Kennedy Thuet, Soleil Stanley, Kristin Nusser, Katie Hendel, Flynn Kehm, (back row) Kenna Kiser, Maddie Domian, Ava Kiser, Maddie Millaway, and Molly Berra. (Photo used with permission by Erin Taylor)