



COMMENTS



# Kilties: Keeping time on drum line

By Thomas Becnel , Herald-Tribune / Thursday, August 27, 2015

**SARASOTA** — After an hour of marching band rehearsal, with the sun in their eyes and sweat dripping down their necks, the Riverview High School drum line starts to fade.

Logan Nolte, a 17-year-old senior, tries to keep things interesting.

“C’mon,” he says, nudging his sister. “Start a wave.”



Freshman Raegan Nolte, right, and her brother Logan play during Riverview Kiltie Marching Band practice on Tuesday, August 25, 2015. STAFF PHOTO / NICK ADAMS

Raegan Nolte, a 14-year-old freshman, just stands there on the 40-yard-line.

“It’ll look cool,” Logan says. “Do it.”

Finally, Raegan lifts her drum, then he lifts his, and the Nolties send a ripple down a line of the Kiltie Band.

The Highlander Drum Corps features two other pairs of senior-freshman siblings. There’s Carson and Dalton Beattie, along with Chip and Jared

Anthofer.

The younger drummers try to keep up in a new band at a new school. The older drummers hand out nicknames and advice on how to play and march at a competitive level.

“I told her to buck up,” Logan says, “but there was no drama.”

Carson Beattie, the leader of the drum section, tries to treat his brother like everyone else.



From left, Riverview Kiltie Marching Band members Oren Burstein, Derek Gilberti, Josh Badgley, practice on Tuesday, August 25, 2015. STAFF PHOTO / NICK ADAMS

“I told him to come in, work hard and prove to everyone how good you are,” he says. “At home, I’m a little harder on him.”

Chip Anthofer tries to remember what it was like when he was a freshman.

“In the beginning,” he told his brother, “it’ll be kind of terrifying.”

**‘Superior’ tradition**

In Sarasota, the Riverview marching band is kind of a big deal.

With 230 members, the Kilties are one of the largest high school bands on the Gulf Coast. With 56 consecutive years of superior ratings at district competition, the Kilties are one of the best, too.

The band has marched in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and other big-name events. The band has traveled from California to Hawaii and made several trips to Europe.

Tradition means a lot. So does family support. There are generations of Kiltie musicians and dancers.

More than 30 parents work in the band concession stand at Friday night home football games. More than 20 parents work as chaperones, helping out with uniforms, instruments and everything else.

### **'Drum Mom' tattoo**



Andrea Nolte is a percussion liaison for the Riverview Kiltie Marching Band. Her daughter and son are part of the drumline. STAFF PHOTO / NICK ADAMS

Andrea Nolte — Logan and Raegan's mother — has the title of Percussion Liaison, which she translates as "Drum Mom."

She played the drums for her high school band back in Aurora, Colorado. Years later, when she and her husband moved to Sarasota, the Riverview band helped them choose schools.

"Absolutely," Andrea says. "When Logan was little, we lived down the street and we could hear them practicing. I gave him a drum set and taught him how to play."

Now she has not one but two kids playing drums for the Kilties. Good times. That might explain the tattoo of a skull and crossed drumsticks on her left calf.

Andrea spoils the Riverview drum line with her cheesecakes. Sometimes she has a whole group of teens practicing on drum pads at her house.

Brothers who play together, stay together. Sisters, too.

"It's weird that we have three sets of siblings just on the drum line," Andrea says. "But music tends to run really strong in families."

### **All in the family**



Scenes from Riverview Kiltie Marching Band practice on Tuesday, August 26, 2015. STAFF PHOTO / NICK ADAMS

Nolte's son and daughter joke about her tattoos — she's up to seven now — and how she's thrown herself into the Kiltie Band.

"My mom totally changed," says Raegan. "This whole new side of her came out and she could express herself. She's not a typical mom — in a good way."

They were all surprised when she earned a spot on the drum line as a freshman. This is unusual. They were all stunned when she wound up marching next to her brother.

"Priceless," says Logan.

Riverview's freshman drummers find that the seniors aren't so intimidating when they live in the same house. Familiarity breeds contempt of student authority.

"They act like they're so old," Raegan says. "So we just stand to the side and laugh at them."

Chip Anthofer thinks this year's newcomers have it easier than previous classes. He recalls when things weren't so low-key.

"Right now, we're kind of a family," he says. "Before, it was more like a bunch of seniors yelling at the freshmen."

#### Kiltie nicknames

Riverview upperclassmen still hand out nicknames to incoming freshmen.

When Logan joined the band four years ago, he had buck teeth, so they called him "Bucky." Now he has braces, which makes it easier to laugh about the whole thing.

Chip's nicknames have ranged from "Skylark" to "Swagmaster." His little brother gets called "Dale," as in the Chip 'n' Dale chipmunks.

Carson Beattie is skinny, so he was called "The Stick." His little brother started out as "Stick 2.0," but now he's being called "Opie."

Raegan started out as "Pancake," but then one of the seniors saw her cuddling with her boyfriend. Now she has a new nickname.

"Little Spoon," as in spooning.

## **‘Flonk-er-konk’**

Back on the practice field, the Kiltie Band runs through its halftime routine.

Every note, every step and every gesture must be coordinated, so they go over the same songs again and again.

It’s exhausting. The kids get tired. Attention wanders.

When band directors spot students goofing off, they punish their entire section.

“Percussion,” they shout from an observation tower. “Drop.”

All of the drummers hit the ground for five push-ups.

Two minutes later, it’s same thing.

“Percussion,” they shout. “Drop again.”

Five more push-ups.

Kids will be kids, though, and drummers will be drummers.

Near the end of rehearsal, while directors are focusing on other sections, Logan and the other seniors entertain themselves by trying to throw drumsticks into the turf and make them stick.

Then they invent a name for this game: “Flonk-er-konk.”

Raegan, a dutiful freshman, holds on to her sticks.

“That’s so professional,” she says, shaking her head.

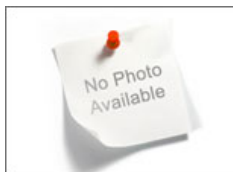
Even she has to laugh, though, when a senior manages to stick both drumsticks at the same time.

“Whoa!” Logan gasps, trying to keep his voice down. “Double flonk-er-konk!”

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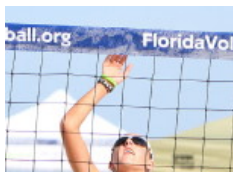
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