

EHS dance team finishes fourth and fifth at ISDTA competition

Written by George Browning

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The Eastern Starz competed in last Saturday's Indiana State Dance Team Association in New Castle.

The dance team from Eastern placed fifth in the pom division and finished fourth in the jazz division.

"The kids and I were pleased I was very pleased with their finish, considering the company they were in," said Head Coach Daphne Gray. "I think they did an amazing job."

Gray said most of the teams the Starz competed against have been in this category for a few years.

"So, they've had time to work on turns and other skill caps that we, as a novice team, were not allowed to perform previously," she said. "We met our goals that we set that morning with our scores and I really can't ask for much more than that."

In the Pom competition, less than 17 points separated the first and last place teams. The same was true in jazz where only 14.5 points was the difference.

Gray said she thinks technique was the difference maker in finishing higher.

The Starz don't have any seniors and Gray said the group will learn from the experience.

". . . it's the little things that kill your score," she said. "But, with having no seniors and having nine freshmen (over half the team), I think they did a terrific job."

It was the team's first competition as an advanced team.

The state competition was the end of a season that started last May.

Gray said they will take the next month or two off before they start again.

"We will host tryouts in May, camp is in June," Gray said. "Tryouts are open to any EHS student that will attend school here for the 2013-14 school year.

"Hopefully, all former team members will be returning for tryouts and maybe I'll get to see a few new faces!"

The East Washington Middle School also made the state competition in the novice jazz division.

The middle school Starz finished eighth.

Coach Shelby Nunley said she was very pleased.

"I was very happy with the performance," she said. "I think the kids gave it their all and most importantly, had fun!"

The eighth-grade dancers on this year's team were Destiny Worley, Tyler Pavey, Olivia Fleming, Selena Huizar and Cassie Dalton.