

# The legacy of Tim Allen

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In the 23 year history of the KMEA (Kentucky Music Educators Association) State Marching Band Championships series there have been 382 performances in state finals and 96 state championship winners and of those only 72 schools have performed in finals while 11 schools have been to finals 10 or more times.

Can you name one of the two schools that have been to finals every year?

In the KMEA SMBC championship 31 schools have won a state championship and seven schools have won four or more state titles. Can you name one of only two schools that have won more than 10 championships?

Among the directors who have taken bands to the KMEA SMBC championship 34 have won a state championship while 13 directors have won two or more championships. Can you name one of the two directors who have won more than 10 state championships? Can you name the director with the most KMA State Marching Band Championships?

The answer is Adair County and director Tim Allen. Since 1981 when Allen became director, Adair County has managed to reach the finals of the KMEA State Marching Band Championship in each of its 23 years of existence, and in the process, they have won 18 state titles. Along the way Adair County also managed to pick up two BOA (Bands of America) national championships and this November they will perform in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. No other school has had more success and no other school has consistently out performed its opponents like Adair County.

At the end of this school year Tim Allen will step down as Adair County's band director and an era will end. Many have theorized and postulated about the success of the Adair County Marching Band but the one aspect that everyone agrees is that it would not have been possible without the leadership of Allen.

Rob Collins, an on-air personality for Q-104, is a former Adair County Band member who graduated in 1993. He said Allen goes beyond being an outstanding band director and great music teacher and mentors people. Collins said Allen had big impact on his life.

"I was a very quiet, shy, and reserved individual in high school and he basically taught me about potential and the process of accomplishing goals," Collins said.

Although Allen wasn't on the field when his bands were winning accolades and titles Collins said he provided the leadership and dedication necessary to win.

"Anytime you talk to him or anytime he does a post-interview he will say the kids did it — it's their success," Collins said. "He's very humble about that, but he provided the leadership and instilled the confidence that made it possible."

Tanya Bromly, president of KMEA, said Allen's accomplishment of 18 state championships is remarkable especially when you factor in the high level of competition he faced each year. She said she has been around marching bands for 35 years and served as assistant band director at Tate's Creek High School and she said Allen's record is likely to stand for a very long time.

"I think marching, particularly when they get to that level of competition, they are all winners and each [school] is capable of coming out on top," Bromly said. "To consistently do that over and over means that someone has really figured it out. Tim has certainly done that and he has done it with grace, good sportsmanship, and concern for his students. He has reached a level of artistry and pageantry that is unsurpassed and on the field it is really a tremendous performance. He has reached a level of artistic expression that is really phenomenal. However, what he is really good at is having his kids demonstrate a high level of musicianship."

Bromly said Allen is known for running a balanced program and has consistently scored high marks with his concert program as well. She said one of Allen's secrets to longevity has been his ability to recruit students with musical abilities. Once students were in the program she said Allen taught them an appreciation for hard work that has served them very well later in life.

"I think that's his legacy. The people that he has taught and who have gone on to teach will continue that legacy and even those who don't teach but continue to support the program," Bromly said.

Bromly said Allen has created a standard of excellent that will not be surpassed anytime soon.

Among those who have gone on to be band directors include Eric Hale with Bourbon County; Debbie Hale with Nicholas County; Andy Critz with Russell County; David Royse, who was band director at George Roger Clark High School for many years; Jeff Hood with Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School; and

Jamie Smith who is now band director at Larue County.

Of the former Adair County Band members who became directors at least two have earned state championships; Eric Hale won six KMEA state Championships with Bourbon County, Harrison County, and Nicholas County and Jeff Hood earned five KMEA state championships with George Rogers Clark and Paul Laurence Dunbar.

Jamie Smith, a former Adair County band member and current band director for Larue County, said Allen's record is a significant achievement but his legacy will live on in those he has inspired.

"I think in that program you learned the value of hard work, perseverance, and dedication to one thing," Smith said. "If you take those common ingredients and put them toward anything it will increase your level of success dramatically."

Smith said a good indicator that the program is valuable and works is the success of students later in life. Smith said he believes the lessons and values they learned as band members made a difference in their lives long after they graduated.

"I would not be who am today had it not been for Tim Allen."

However, before the success, before the titles were earned, there was Tim Allen. Rob Collins summed up his first impression of Allen with this anecdote:

"What I remember is his first day. We'd had several successful band directors, but when a band director left in the 1980's our program kind of struggled and we didn't like the director who came to the program immediately after Dan Harris left. I won't mention names, but we were a bunch of troubled kids. So they hired this guy who was a graduate of the University of Tennessee and he looked about as young we did. He walked into the band room on the first day and stepped up to the podium and didn't say a word the entire first day of class. He put his hands up and led us in an elaborate percussion exercise where we were clapping our hands and stomping our feet. At first we thought he was a bonafide nut, but it didn't take long to realize the man was a genius. He captured our attention and reached us in a way that no one else could."

#### SIDEBAR:

Adair County Marching Band accomplishments

Adair County Marching Band

2003-2004 season

Glasgow

Grand Champion, Small Division

1st Place Class AA; Best Music; Best Visual; Best Percussion; Best Color guard; Best Spirit; Distinguished Rating

Bryan Station

Grand Champion

1st Place Class AA; Best Percussion; Best Auxiliary; Best Music; Best Music Effect; Best Visual Effect; Distinguished Rating

BOA Regional, Johnson City

1st Place Class A; Best Music; Best Visual; Best General Effect; 5th Place Finalist; Distinguished Rating

KMEA State Championship

2nd Place Class AA; Distinguished Rating

BOA Nationals

National Semifinalist; 3rd Place Class A; Distinguished Rating

KMEA Concert Festival

Straight Distinguished Ratings; Distinguished Rating in Sight Reading

2004-2005 season

Russell Springs

Lake Cumberland Marching Invitational

Best Overall Percussion; Best Overall Auxiliary; 1st Place Class AA; Best Overall Music; Best Overall Visual; Grand Champion

Bryan Station & Lexington

Bluegrass Pageant of Bands

Best Percussion; Best Music; Best Auxiliary; 1st Place Class AA

Best Music Effect; Best Visual Effect; Champion

Eastern High School & Louisville

Eagle Classic

Best Overall Color Guard; Best Music; 1st Place Class AA; Grand Champion

LaRue County

LaRue Invitational-Lincoln Invitational

Class AA Best Percussion; Best Color Guard; Overall Grand Champion

Regionals - South Laurel High &ndash; London

East Regionals

Advance to State Semi-finals

State - WKU - Bowling Green

2004 Class AA State Champions

2005-2006 Season

Shelby County Showcase of Bands

Shelby County High School

Grand Champion; 1st Place Class AAA; Best Music; Best Effect; Best Overall Percussion; Distinguished Rating

Bluegrass Pageant of Bands

Bryan Station - Lexington

Grand Champion; 1st Place Class AAA; Best Music; Best Visual; Best Effect; Best Auxiliary; Best Percussion; Distinguished Rating

Bands of America &ndash; Regionals

Bowling Green, KY

1st Place Class A; 6th Place Finals; Best Music; Best General Effect

Russell Springs

Lake Cumberland Marching Invitational

Grand Champion; 1st Place AAA; Best Music; Best Visual; Best Effect; Best Percussion; Best Guard; Distinguished Rating

## Regionals

Hopkins County &ndash; Madisonville

1st Place Class AAA West

## State

WKU - Bowling Green

Class AAA State Champions (16th State Championship); Distinguished Rating

Bands of America -Grand Nationals-Indianapolis, IN

Class A National Champions; Best Music; Best Visual; Best General Effect; Division I Rating

## 2006-2007 Season

Russell Springs

Lake Cumberland Marching Invitational

Grand Champion; Best Music; Best Visual; Best Effect; Best Percussion; Best Color Guard; Distinguished Rating

Bryan Station &ndash; Lexington

Bluegrass Pageant of Bands

1st Place AAA; Grand Champion; Best Visual Performance; Best Music Performance; Best Visual Effect; Best Musical Effect; Distinguished Rating

The Rebel Classic

Boone County

Grand Champion

KMEA Class AAA

Franklin-Simpson High School

First place Class AAA; Best visual; 2nd place KMEA State Marching Band, overall

2007-2008 Season

Russell County

Lake Cumberland Marching Invitational 2007

1st Place Class AAA; Best Color Guard AAA; Best Percussion AAA; Best overall Music; Best overall Percussion; Best overall Visual; Best Overall Color Guard; Distinguished Rating; Grand Champion

Eastern Classic 2007

Eastern High School Louisville, KY

Best Color Guard Class AAA; Best Percussion Class AAA; Best Music Class AAA; First Place AAA; Distinguished Rating; Best Overall Color Guard; Best overall Percussion; Best overall Music; Grand Champion

Boyle County Marching Band Contest

Danville, KY

Best Color Guard Class AAA; Best Percussion Class AAA; First Place AAA; Best overall Percussion; Reserve Grand Champion; Distinguished Rating

KMEA SMBC CLASS AAA West Regional

Warren East High School

Bowling Green, KY

Best in music; Best in Music Effect; Best Visual; overall Champion

State Championship (Louisville)

Papa Johns Cardinal Stadium

KMEA SMBC Champion

BOA Championship

Indianapolis, IN

First place; Outstanding Music Performance; Outstanding Visual Performance; Outstanding General Effect

