Bad luck day good for chosen twirler

By Sandy Wies

Dwight M. Hudson will not look back on this year's Friday the 13th as being an unlucky day. He will probably remember the day as being one of nervousness, deep emotions and a feeling of achievement, because last Friday, Hudson became Ohio State's first black drum major.

Hudson, a freshman from Summit Station, was selected from four men who tried out in the Ohio Stadium. The stadium took on a football atmosphere during tryouts. The band played as contestants twirled, and the audience and band members were very vocal about their favorite candidates.

TWELVE MEN, including faculty members, band directors and former drum majors, judged the tryouts. Candidates were judged on basic twirling and marching ability, the traditional ramp entrance and overall appearance and style, said Paul E. Droste, marching band director.

Judging was very hard, Droste said. Judges asked candidates to repeat the ramp entrance because competition was so close.

"I don't believe it," said Hudson, last year's assistant drum major and 1975 Ohio boys state twirling champion. "I could have done an awful lot better, but I was too nervous," he said.

Hudson placed seventh in 1975 world twirling competition.

LAST YEAR'S drum major, Douglas F. Secrist, a junior from Columbus, was selected assistant drum major. He turned down the position, which then went to Oliver G. McGee, a sophomore from Cincinnati.

Secrist was assistant drum major in 1975 and said he viewed it as a training position. He said he turned down the assistant position this year because "it would benefit someone else a whole lot more."

"I think I've been blessed," McGee said about being selected assistant drum major. He said he did not expect to be selected after he forgot part of his routine.

"I'm going to really practice hard this summer," said McGee, who placed third in last year's tryouts.

"I think it will work out very well," Droste said about the final selection of Hudson and McGee. "I'm looking forward to a fine season."

Basic twirling and marching ability, the traditional ramp entrance and overall appearance and style are qualities shown by Dwight M. Hudson, chosen Friday to be the next Ohio State drum major.
Drum Major Puts
Best Foot Forward

When Dwight Hudson was in sixth grade, he wrote a letter to the director of the Ohio State University Marching Band, saying that one day he would lead the band as its drum major.

Today, seven years later, the native of Summit Station, Ohio, is doing just what he said he would. And as drum major of the OSU Marching Band, he puts on one of the best shows in town.

"Paul Droste, the band director who received the young Hudson's letter, has nothing but praise for the sophomore, drum major. Hudson is probably the finest twirling drum major the band has had in many, many years." Droste said.

"Some have been outstanding twirlers and some have been outstanding in leading the band down the field. He can do both."

DROSTE SAID Hudson's entrance, in which he leans backward so far that his high hat touches the turf, is "superbative."

When Hudson was chosen drum major last spring after open tryouts, it might have been the high point in the 20-year-old's life.

On hearing he had beaten out last year's drum major, Hudson yelled, jumped into the air and danced the track at Ohio Stadium, hugging and kissing his friends who rushed to congratulate him.

HUDSON WEPT with joy at his selection to be field leader of what some people call the best damn band in the land.

Droste said that Hudson has good rapport with his fellow band members. "Sometimes the band members are unwilling to share the field with the drum major, but not in Dwight's case."

Droste guessed the reason for Hudson's popularity is "he's very low-key off the field."

HUDSON'S twirling and showmanship, however, are not at all low-key as he leads the band onto the field for the halftime show, which some people think is the highlight of the afternoon's proceedings.

And what a show it is for the upwards of 80,000 football fans who flock into Ohio Stadium for the Buckeyes' home games.

Hudson struts and saunters among the musicians, his baton constantly twirling and flashing. He tosses his baton high into the air, sometimes jumping off the ground to catch it between his legs before it hits the ground.

AT OTHER TIMES, the showman nonchalantly flips the baton to the ground beside him and catches it on the rebound. Occasionally he holds his right hand high as if to catch the falling baton, then lets it fall below waist level into his left hand.

Hudson is not new to being a drum major. From the sixth grade, when he wrote the letter to Droste, he was a featured twirler with the Licking Heights High School band. He was the band's drum major for his four years in high school.

With Hudson and the Marching Band performing at halftime, spectators at the OSU home football games get two shows for the price of one.
Drum Major Dwight Hudson Leads The OSU Marching Band At Buckeye Home Games

MAGICIAN — A Houdini with the baton, Hudson displays one of his more breathtaking maneuvers, leaping high into the air to catch a falling baton behind his back and between his legs.
OSU drum majors chosen

By Michael Gaskill
23 May 1978

The new drum majors for the OSU Marching Band could also be called the old drum majors.

Dwight Hudson, a sophomore from Summit Station, was chosen to be the band's drum major for the second consecutive year. He was one of five contestants who competed in last Friday's tryouts at the Ohio Stadium.

Oliver McGee, a sophomore from Cincinnati, will return as assistant drum major.

"I'm really excited about it and looking forward to the new season," Hudson said.

He said he was not sure of being chosen again as drum major and was almost as nervous as at last year's tryouts.

Hudson said he hopes to add new routines to his performances.

Hudson and McGee were chosen by a panel of eight judges made up of faculty members, band directors and two former drum majors, said Paul E. Droste, director of the OSU Marching Band.

Each contestant was required to perform the traditional ramp entrance and baton routines, he said.

Droste said Hudson and McGee outclassed the rest of the competition because of their experience.

Dwight Hudson, a sophomore from Summit Station and chosen as the Ohio State Marching Band's drum major for the second straight year, practices in Ohio Stadium Monday.
"SATURDAY AFTERNOON FEVER"

FORMATIONS

PREGAME: Traditional Ramp Entrance
Flag Raising Ceremony
PSU
Dance Drill
OSU Logo

HALFTIME: Entrance
Line Drill
Concert Blocks
Circle Drill and Arcs

MUSIC
"Buckeye Battle Cry"
"Star-Spangled Banner"
"The Nittany Lion"
"Boogie Shoes"
"Across the Field"
Chimes and "Carmen Ohio"
"Saturday Night Fever Fanfare"
"Stayin' Alive"
"Channel One Suite"
"Jive Talkin'"
"Disco Inferno"
"Stayin' Alive"

The Marching Band is proud to announce the release of its newest recording — "Hats Off To Heine." This record is a tribute to Richard W. Heine who has written most of the arrangements played by the band over the past thirty years. Pick up a copy after the game at an Ohio Stater's booth or order directly from the band: 1899 North College Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210. Cost is $7.00 for records and $6.00 for stereo cassettes or 8-Track tapes. Add 50¢ per order for mailing.

STAFF OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY MARCHING BAND

Director .................................. Paul Droste
Associate Director ......................... Jon Woods
Assistant Director ........................ Willie Sullivan
Graduate Assistant ........................ Jeff Keller
Drum Major ................................ Dwight Hudson
Secretary ................................. Christy Canady
Manager ................................. David Somerville
Announcer ............................... Edward Montgomery
Music Arrangers ....................... Richard Heine
................................ John Tatgenhorst
................................ Edward Montgomery
................................ James Swearingen
Dwight Hudson May Lead Band Again In 1979

Dwight Hudson, the Ohio State University drum major who has made thousands of fans with his majestic twirling, may be back leading the band next year.

The way was cleared Hudson, a junior from Summit Station, Ohio, in Licking County, to try out again this spring when OSU abandoned a rule restricting drum majors to performing for two years.

PAUL DROSTE, band director, said, "There is no doubt that Dwight's ability triggered a response to the rule." Hudson must try out with other drum major hopefuls this spring, Droste said.

However, he added, "I imagine he'll be pretty hard to beat." Five or six people usually try out, he said.

This is Hudson's second year as the OSU drum major. Under the new rules, Droste said, Hudson could lead the band for two more years.

THIS SPRING'S tryouts will be the last open to anyone who wants to try out, Droste said.

Another change in the rules will require all candidates to spend a year in a drum majors class in the fall before trying for either drum major or assistant. He said drum majors will be better prepared after taking the class.

THE DECISION to change the eligibility rule was made by the band staff and approved by the School of Music and the university's administration, Droste said.

When Hudson was in the sixth grade he wrote Droste a letter saying he wanted someday to be the OSU drum major. He is he first black drum major in the band's history.
Still Up To His Old Tricks

Whatever happens during the game in the Ohio State Buckeyes' first football contest of the season Saturday, scores of fans will have their first thrill of the day when the OSU marching band and its classy drum major make their appearance.

Beginning an unprecedented third year as pace-setter for Buckeye drummers, Dwight Hudson, OSU junior, has been polishing his routines and acrobatics during the summer and making appearances at civic functions and fairs. At Labor Day last weekend during the community's Labor Day festival, Hudson treated the crowd to the kind of leaps and twirls that create clamorous applause in Ohio Stadium. (Dispatch Photo by Michael Mun-
The OSU Marching Band

"I WRITE THE SONGS"

PREGAME FORMATIONS:
Traditional Ramp Entrance
Flag Raising Ceremony
IOWA
Concert
OHIO

MUSIC:
"Buckeye Battle Cry"
"Star-Spangled Banner"
"Iowa Fight Song"
"Superman" Theme
"Across the Field"
Chimes and "Carmen Ohio"

HALFTIME FORMATIONS:
Fanfare
Entrance Drill
Concert
Circle Drill
Flower
Star
Script Ohio

MUSIC:
"I Write The Songs"
"Just the Way You Are"
"Even Now"
"Jubilation"
"Tomorrow"
"What I Did For Love"
"Across the Field"
"Le Regiment"
"Buckeye Battle Cry"

To commemorate the first hundred years of bands at Ohio State, the Marching Band is proud to announce the publication of "Script Ohio" — the story covering one hundred years of band traditions, historical facts, and anecdotes — in words and a spectacular collection of pictures. A limited number of books is available to the public at a cost of $25.00 per copy. Orders or requests for information can be sent to: The OSU Marching Band, 1899 N. College Rd., Columbus, OH 43210.

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