



Submitted photos
Top: The Statesmen take the field to begin performing at the Quincy University game last Saturday. Although the Quincy Hawks made a comeback during the last quarter to win the game, the Truman Bulldogs put up a good fight with the help of the energy from the Statesmen.
Middle: The drum major signals to begin playing as spectators watch from the sideline. The players performed even in the rain and gloomy weather.
Bottom: The Statesmen plays the national anthem as the American flag is displayed on the monitor over the field. This traditional ceremony shows respect to the teams involved while also reminding the players and spectators that, at the end of the day, they are all on the same team.

STATESMEN MARCH TO QUINCY

BY RACHEL FETCHER
Staff Writer

“It never rains on the Statesmen.” This Truman State marching band saying proved true when the Statesmen boarded two charter buses and drove to the away game in Quincy, Illinois, despite the light drizzle and gloomy overcast sky last Saturday.

After not going to an away game for more than three years, Curran Prendergast, Truman marching band director and music professor, said he was ecstatic to see the band get enough funding to travel with and support the football team.

“What made this trip possible was a combination of generosity from different groups which included the president’s office, school of arts and letters, the music department and over 20 donors,” Prendergast said. “There was a lot of support from different areas to go to Quincy who helped make this possible.”

With the success of the band traveling from Truman to Quincy University, Prendergast said he hoped it would not be another three years before the band went to an away game again.

Prendergast said being a collegiate marching band means supporting everyone on campus, and he said he hopes there will be more opportunities to travel with the marching band during the future.

“It would be great to go to away games in the future, but realistically we have to look at all the factors in the future,” Prendergast said. “We’ll have to see if we can make it work out. It builds our own spirits, too, to support Truman away from home.”

Sophomore drum major Kyle Rieger said a band presence at home and away games is very important to the team and the overall game atmosphere.

Rieger said the band provides energy to the spectators at football games.

“Every movie needs a soundtrack,” Rieger said. “The band is at the game to provide a soundtrack to what’s going on. We make sure [during] any down periods there might be, [the audience] won’t be bored. We keep them engaged for the entirety of the game.”

Rieger said he also was excited about performing during the Quincy game because it gave the band an opportunity to showcase their talents in a new setting.

Kirksville is a great town, Rieger said, but it’s relatively isolated and there’s only so many people, so traveling to away games is a chance for the marching band to show off the progress its made since the beginning of the semester. He said it’s also an opportunity to continue growing and showing off what the band has been learning.

Sophomore Maggie Farrand said as the band played and marched alongside the Quincy band, she sat with some of her friends involved with Purple Pride. This group supports the football team by providing players snacks, making posters to display at the games and — new this year — tutoring football players who are struggling academically. Farrand said she enjoyed hearing the band at the away game and was happy to support her school.

“It was nice having [the band] there especially during the weather,” Farrand said. “It was cool having two bands there. Even when the weather is bad like it was on Saturday, it’s nice to know that people are still supporting our football team.”

Anyone interested in joining the Statesmen marching band must audition, and the form to audition can be found on Truman’s Music Ensemble website.