

★ WEEKEND IN PICTURES

Bands of America Super Regional

Carmel wins again



The Avon High School marching band performs at the Bands of America Super Regional Championship at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. Carmel High School, which won the competition last year, won the title again Saturday night. CHARLIE NYE PHOTOS/THE STAR

With smoke and drama, the Ben Davis High School marching band performed at Lucas Oil Stadium on Saturday at the Bands of America Indianapolis Super Regional Championship.



By John Russell
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How do you get to the high school marching band championship?

As just about any band parent at Lucas Oil Stadium this weekend could tell you: practice, practice, practice — countless hours over months, squeezing out almost all other activities.

“There’s lessons, and summer camp and two-a-day band practices. It’s pretty much all they do,” said Phyllis Newman, Indianapolis. Her son, David, a sophomore at Ben Davis High School, plays bass drum in the marching band.

“It’s unbelievable. It’s ridiculous. But they love it,” said Efrem Rivers, whose daughter, Sarah, is a member of the color guard at O’Fallon Township High School, just outside St. Louis.

Thousands of youngsters and their parents from 38 high school marching bands in six states flocked to Indianapo-

lis this weekend to compete in the Bands of America Super Regional Championship.

The top 12 bands advanced to the evening finals on Saturday, including seven from Indiana.

The winner was Carmel High School, which gets boasting rights as Super Regional Champion a second year in a row.

Each band had about 15 minutes to wow the judges and crowd with a medley of tunes, precision marching, flag twirling and special effects.

The music ranged from classics and jazz to show tunes and popular music.

The effect was often stirring.

“I played football in high school,” said Tom Jefferson, whose daughter, Sarah, plays flute for Lafayette High School in Lexington, Ky. “But I get goosebumps watching this.”

★ Call Star reporter John Russell at (317) 444-6283. Follow him on Twitter: @johnrussell99.

Christmas lights return to the Circle



Apprentice Andrew Austin helped other volunteers string the lights on the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Saturday.



One of the 4,784 lights is replaced. This year’s tree lighting is set for Nov. 29. KELLY WILKINSON PHOTOS/THE STAR

VonnegutFest



Comedian Gary Gulman (right) gets a picture with author Dan Wakefield during VonnegutFest’s Timequake Clambake at Indiana Landmarks’ Cook Theater on Saturday. Wakefield, a friend of Kurt Vonnegut 10 years his junior, wrote the introduction for “Kurt Vonnegut: Letters.” ALEX FARRIS/FOR THE STAR