

TOP
PAGE
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POETRY IN MOTION. “State dance is not just a performance, but a journey as the team bonds together as one. The weekend of state dance was a blast. Friday night, we wrote poems and printed off hundreds of copies. The entire team handed out the poems on performance day, allowing us to gain favor of most of the girl teams,” Drew Sannes (’17) said.

MAKING A STATEMENT. Showing off their skills at the dance invite are **Andrew Nurse (’16)** and the rest of the Boy Dance Party. “Everyone had a lot of fun with the all male routine, and each and every one of us made a powerful statement to show that the CF all male dance team is nothing to joke about, since we are extremely good at what we do. After some solid stretching to let out the stress, I knew we were ready to hit the floor,” Nurse said. *Photo by Vanessa Kime*



BUSTIN’ A MOVE. Having fun and messing around while getting the job done is **Sam Zhang (’16)**, dancing his heart out in the dance invite on Dec. 2. Zhang said, “Dance is by far the goofiest thing I do, and it’s taught me to stop caring about what other people think of me and to just have fun.” *Photo by Vanessa Kime*

Strike a POSE



TRUST. Ending their performance during half time of the women’s basketball game are **Isabelle Armstrong (’17)** and **Kari Starbeck (’17)**. “The key to being a successful co-ed duo is to have trust in each other. I mean, you’re letting a guy flip you upside down, so you need to have confidence in his abilities,” Armstrong said. *Photo by Vanessa Kime*



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Page No. 126
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GUTTER



DANCE FOR THEM. With smiles inspired by authentic emotions, **Kathryn Lockard ('16)**, **Kaylene Konigsmark ('16)**, **Kayla Vanderwerf ('17)**, **Megan Poppens ('17)** and the rest of the team dug deep to find their muses. "This year we had a saying that we would yell at each other throughout the dance: 'Who do you dance for?' At the beginning of the competition season, we all wrote down who we dance for and then shared with the rest of the team. I think that's what has gotten us to where we are now," Lockard said. *Photo by Regina Galvez*

THE LEGEND. Ferdinand, the mascot, is held by founders **Will Burken ('18)**, **Parker Strauss ('18)** and **Jaden Amjadi ('18)**. "Ferdinand is, of course, lucky. We will perform much better if he attends our performances because his manly powers will reach into us," Burken said. *Photo by Vanessa Kime*

THE LUCKY DUCK

Mascot's initial flight leads to sixth trophy from state contest

The stakes were high as the members of the all male dance team entered the Wells Fargo Stadium on Dec. 4. But the nerves, the excitement and the tension building up to a chance extend their championship titles to six in a row were eased by a new avian team member and secret source of inspiration: the addition of Ferdinand, a mascot the members hoped would charm their chances for victory.

The dancers started a new tradition this year: the lucky duck. "I found him in Goodwill for \$3, even though he is worth much more," **Will Burken ('18)** said. "The duck came to practice, and the team instantly loved him. He became our beloved mascot."

In addition to adding Ferdinand to the team, the duck has become an iconic symbol of the all male

dance team. All male, continuing the streak, did end up placing first at State for the sixth year in a row. "Ferdinand gives us a type of adrenaline during practice and performance to make us improve our facials and work on our stellar dance moves. Ferdinand came up with us when we received the trophy," **Andrew Nurse ('16)** said.

All male dance is known for bringing smiles to faces while performing and is on a roll of winning and doesn't plan on stopping anytime soon. "Once you get on the dance floor, you get this burst of energy that gets you going. I was excited, and it was fantastic. I was so happy to be a part of the six-peat. I couldn't have done it without all the beautiful males around me," **Ethan Smith ('16)** said.

State dance is notable for the team bonding.

"When you feel like you're in total control, when the music starts and the crowd erupts, there is no better feeling. It's definitely one of the coolest things I have ever experienced," **Jake Hartman ('16)** said.

Of course, the human male members have recognized the first year flight of Ferdinand as a key part in their success this year. "When he's [Ferdinand] around, I know that Ames can never beat us," **Andrew McVicker ('18)** said, so he and the rest of the team said they hope this is just the start of many more state trophies to feather the nest of their new found inspiration.

by Vanessa Kime

All Male & Coed Dance 127
Designed by Vanessa Kime & Logan Cole



Job No.44133

Page No. **127**
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