



Perfecting every step

Trevon James joins N.J. drum corps, looking forward to DCI this summer

By **JESSICA O'BRIEN**
Staff Writer

Published: Monday, February 24, 2014 5:05 PM CST

MICHIGAN CITY — Last summer, 19-year-old Trevon James became a local celebrity.

Fascinated by drum and bugle corps since he was a freshman in high school, James was finally invited to join the Legends Drum and Bugle Corp, a team based out of Kalamazoo, Mich.

Members of the Michigan City community rallied together, helping raise the \$3,000 tuition fee he had to pay. James credits high school band director Quincy Ford with helping him through this process. He also earned money by working security at Joy Elementary School.

Unfortunately, James became sick shortly after joining, preventing him from performing in any shows with his new corps – including the popular Drum Corps International show held annually at Ames Field.

After his second bout of Rotavirus, which caused him to vomit and faint, James was asked by Legends to return home for the season.

"I went through a lot with Legends," James said. "I have no bad feelings toward any of them. I wish them the best of luck."

This year, James hopes to be able to compete in the DCI show in Michigan City, but with a different team. He was recently accepted into the ranks of the Raiders, based out of New Jersey.

He leaves in April to begin this journey, performing in 13 shows and six parades. He will return to Michigan City in August as part of the Raiders for the Drum and Bugle Corp Open Class Championship Quarterfinals.

Next year will be the final year James can compete as part of a DCI corp due to the age limit of 21. For his final year, he plans to audition for the Phantom Regiment, based in Rockford, Ill.

James also has a dream to compete with the Cavaliers. Now based out of Rosemont, Ill., the Cavaliers were created in Michigan City and are still considered the hometown team during DCI competitions.

Once he retires from competition, James hopes to teach for one of the corps, helping members learn drills.

James first became interested in drum corps in the ninth grade, auditioning with the Phantom Regiment all four year of high school.

"Ever since then I have been in love with the activity," he said. "It's a great activity."

He preferred drum corp over marching band because of the brass percussion and color guard. "It's so exciting," he said.

While the saxophone was the first instrument he learned to play, James has now learned the tuba, trumpet and baritone.



Photo by Jessica O'Brien Nineteen-year-old Trevon James will compete this summer with the Raiders, a drum and bugle corp based out of New Jersey. Due to illness, he was unable to compete last summer with the Legends, based out of Kalamazoo, Mich.



Michigan City
Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
219-872-8600
700 E. US 20
Michigan City

Michigan City, IN



28°F
[forecast...](#)



R.L. Roofing Services
Residential • Commercial • Siding • Gutters
219-872-8281 or 219-464-0507



**GET IN A
WORKOUT.
GET ON WITH
YOUR LIFE.**



ANYTIME FITNESS
219-878-8400
4112 S. Franklin St., Michigan City, IN
www.anytimefitness.com



SNYDER INSURANCE
AGENCY INC.
1905 Franklin Street
Michigan City, IN
219-879-4343
361 W. Main St.
Westville, IN
219-785-2714
 **CLICK HERE**

This summer, he will either play the tuba or baritone with the Raiders.

N-D: What are the most stressful and most rewarding parts of performing in a drum corps?

James: The most stressful thing is trying to perfect the show – perfect every step, all the music and do it in a timely manner – trying to keep all the technicians and instructors happy. The most rewarding thing is seeing kids look at you while you’re in uniform and see the smiles we put on their faces. It’s an amazing feeling. It’s the best feeling in the world.

N-D: Who inspires you and why?

James: Mr. (Quincy) Ford inspires me because he’s been in the school system for 40 years – this year will be his 40th anniversary – and it’s good to see an African-American male do things on his own. It’s a blessing to have him as a role model. I look up to him. He’s a great musician and I aspire to be like him.

N-D: If you could meet one person in history, who would it be and why?

James: I would meet John Coltrane. Coltrane wrote a lot of stuff and he was very talented. Coltrane was technical with his music and it takes a lot of skill to get up to his repertoire.

N-D: What is something about yourself that might surprise people?

James: I am a gentle giant. Sometimes I know I portray this guy who is hard core all the time, but I am very loving and I’m very compassionate about music. Music education is my thing.

N-D: In your words, why is celebrating Black History Month important?

James: Celebrating Black History Month is important because we have to give due to those who came before us. It’s important to give those people respect and the attention that they deserve.

[« Previous Article](#)

[Next Article »](#)

[Police](#)

[Police](#)

Article Rating

Current Rating: 0 of 0 votes!

Rate File:

Reader Comments

The following is criteria editors will follow in deeming comments suitable for posting. The newspaper reserves the right to not publish any comment for any reason and is not responsible for the content of any comment that posts. If you have a question as to why your comment was not posted, please e-mail news@thenewsdispach.com

Comment Guidelines

The goal of the story comments section at thenewsdispach.com is to have an open, thought-provoking, civil community forum for all issues.

What gets your comment posted?

- Staying on topic
- Keeping your comment to 100 words or less
- Avoiding name-calling
- Addressing your comments to the message rather than the messenger

What gets your comment deleted?

- Personal attacks
- Hostility towards other users
- Derogatory remarks
- Name-calling of any sort
- Going off-topic
- Hate speech
- Racially-insensitive comments
- Evoking religion into comments
- Implying guilt of a subject in a crime story before there is a court verdict.
- Posting multiple comments to get around the character limit. Keep it short.
- Posting e-mail or website addresses
- Posting comments of a commercial nature
- POSTING WITH ALL CAPITAL LETTERS

The fine print

Comments are either approved or denied. We do not edit comments. You are welcome to modify and resubmit a denied comment. Comments may take several hours to be posted. Comments posted are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of thenewsdispach.com, its employees or Paxton Media Group. Do you have information on a story? Contact news@thenewsdispach.com.

Proud God Mother wrote on Feb 25, 2014 10:35 AM:

" Great Job Tre`Von Denzel James! I am so very proud of your accomplishments. I see your future being very bright. Kudos to the ND for recognizing our very gifted minorities. We need more positive articles such as these to encourage others' not only for Black History month but all year long! "

Mike Pease wrote on Feb 25, 2014 12:53 PM:

" Good luck Trevon. The N-D needs to do some fact checking before printing a story like this. There is no Open Class Quarterfinals anymore. That format was eliminated several years ago. Also, the Cavaliers were not created in Michigan City. They were formed in Chicago in 1948.

Mike Pease
Drum & Bugle Corps Historian "

Felicia Jones wrote on Feb 25, 2014 2:22 PM:

" Very nice article, I'm so proud of you Trevon. Good luck in your journey sweetie I love you. "

Submit a Comment

Name:

Email:

(optional)

Comments:

The following is criteria editors will follow in deeming comments suitable for posting. The newspaper reserves the right to not publish any comment for any reason and is not responsible for the content of any comment that posts. If you have a question as to why your comment was not posted, please e-mail news@thenewsdispach.com

Image Verification: (Case sensitive)



Post Comment

Return to: [Local](#) < | [Home](#) < | [Top of Page](#) ^

Sections

- Homepage
- News
 - Local
 - Opinion
 - Columnists
- Sports
 - High School
 - Blogs
 - Columnists
- Features
- Classifieds

Online Features

- Calendar
- Guestbook
- Entertainment
- Health
- Online Photo Gallery
- Special Sections
- Syndicated Features
- Find Michigan City, IN Jobs
- Weather

Services

- Search Archives
- About Us
- Advertise on Our Site
- Contact Us
- Make us your Home Page
- Online Forms
- E-mail Updates
- Subscriber Services



RSS Feeds - RSS is a format set up for sharing content on the Web. The following sections are available as RSS feeds:

- News - Local
- News - Opinon
- News - Columnists
- Features
- Sports - High School
- Sports - Blogs
- Sports - Columnists

Copyright © 2014 The News Dispatch Send feedback to news@thenewsdispach.com.

All rights reserved. View the The News Dispatch's [Privacy Policy](#) . This material may not be broadcast, published, rewritten or redistributed without written permission.

Powered by TownNews.com