Area schools, musicians get jazz fest nods

The Columbian

Several Clark County bands and musicians took awards at the 47th Annual Clark College Jazz Festival over the weekend. Here are winners, according to the college's music department.

Thursday's vocal jazz winners:
- King's Way Christian School: First place in the A Division.
- Prairie High School: First place in the AA Division.
- Battle Ground High School: First place in the AAA Division.
- Skyview High School: Second place in the AAA Division.

Outstanding musician awards: Remi Skalisky of Battle Ground High School and Ryan Dawson of Hudson's Bay High School.

Friday's jazz ensemble winners:
- Woodland High School: Second place in the A Division.
- Hockinson High School: Third place in the AA Division.

Outstanding musician awards: Eric Price of Skyview High School, alto saxophone.

Saturday's jazz ensemble winners: Union High School: third place in the AAA Division.
- Mountain View High School: third place in the AAAAA Division.

Outstanding musician awards: Kameron Wilson, lead trumpet, Mountain View High School. Spencer Stewart, bass player, Mountain View High School.

The 2009 Sweepstakes trophy was awarded to Roosevelt High School of Seattle.

Jazz:

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"ouye said, "Becoming aware of all the outstanding bands, hear the awesome stuff they can do ... if they put their minds and energy to it."

"Just soak it up, that's the best thing," he said.

Indeed, hours after she played for Inouye's Clark band, freshman Ashley DeMoss, 18, a trumpet player, loitered with two friends in a mezzanine corner. They listened as Battle Ground played. Inside the hall, young fans rings the back wall or sat on the floor, with every folding seat taken.

"It's so much fun. Jazz just has a free-spirit feel to it," DeMoss said. She said the festival helped to lure her to Clark, where she's torn between a music or nursing career. It still gives her chills: "You see soloists who inspire you," she said.

A 2008 Mountain View graduate, DeMoss was thrilled to see her old band thrive under Al Aldridge, a local legend in jazz teaching who's just joined that program. She visited friends there, when they had just packed their new songs.

"They've come such a far way," she said. "They played so well."

Clark women toe the line for victory over Tacoma

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The Clark College women's basketball team did not leave Saturday's game at the free-throw line.

The Penguins made 13 of 19 free throws to pull away from Tacoma 56-49 in the NWAACC West Division game in Tacoma.

"We have left games at the free-throw line, and today we shot 68 percent," Clark coach Nancy Boone said. "We are making gains there."

Rebounding also helped Clark (4-13, 4-6) as they held the advantage 33-26. Michelle Martinez had nine of the Penguins' rebounds.

"The past two games, we have rebounded better," Boone said. "Today, most of ours came at key times."

Mandy Wall led Clark's balanced scoring with 18 points and seven rebounds.

"We felt like we were turning the corner, but we still have gains to make," Boone said.

At Tacoma 76, Clark 53 — The NWAACC's third-ranked team had four players in double figures and outrebounded Clark 54-28 on the way to its 19th victory of the season.

Garrick Ashenfelter and Brandon Jones each scored 12 points for Clark (11-8, 5-4).

Tacoma's Kevin Dancer led all scorers with 26 points and 16 rebounds, and Anthony Gittens had 15 points and 10 rebounds.