

NJROTC Nationals

Picture a demanding competition that tests the mental, physical, and drill training of up to 40 of your finest cadets. Now picture this competition in front of a thousand cheering onlookers over two days surrounded by twenty other elite Navy Junior ROTC programs hand-selected to represent the seven Naval Areas and you have the **NJROTC Nationals - Academic, Athletic and Drill Championships**.

April, 1999 brought together many of the finest all-around Navy JROTC units for an event that has come to be known as simply the "Navy Nationals." The **Great Lakes Recruit Training Center** in Great Lakes, Illinois served as the perfect backdrop for this prestigious event.

The event began on Friday afternoon with **Unit Personnel Inspection**. This event required the inspection of each unit's entire compliment of competing cadets. Grabbing first place in this event was **Flour Bluff H.S.** from Corpus Christi, Texas. Their well-disciplined and experienced unit earned an impressive 1271 points out of 1500, beating out a hard charge by **William Allen H.S.** (1220 pts.) from Allentown, Pennsylvania and tough **Oviedo H.S.** (1145 pts.) from Oviedo, Florida.

Friday evening featured the **Academic Exam** event. Schools formed 15-cadet academic teams with each cadet taking a 100-question test on relevant Navy JROTC information. This provided a possible 1500-point team total. When all of the pencils were finally put down, the dynamic competitors from **Cape Fear H.S.** in Cape Fear, North Carolina earned the scholastic victory with a total team score of 1103 points. The team was led by Cadet Sherry Starling (1st-95 pts.) and Cadet Richard Brunkhorst (2nd-92 pts.), who earned the two highest individual scores in the 315 cadet exam field.

Proving that every single question counts, **Nease H.S.** from St. Augustine, Florida grabbed 2nd place (1079 pts.), beating 3rd place **Flour Bluff H.S.** by just one correct answer (1078 pts.).

Cadets got a good night sleep and then hit the deck early Saturday morning to compete at the indoor drill hall in the **Athletic Competition**. Athletics were comprised of four team events: Push-ups; Curl-ups; 8x440-yd. Oval Relay and 16x100-yd. Shuttle Relay.

Many stellar team performances were on display with the highlight being the athletic display put forth by **Oviedo H.S.** who literally ran away with the Overall Athletic Championship. The team raced to victory in both the Oval Relay and Shuttle Relay events. This, along with solid Push-up and Curl-up scores, gave Oviedo a winning score of 996 points (out of a possible 1200).

Just missing the overall athletic title was **Mar Vista H.S.** from Imperial Beach, California (1st place Team Push-up and Team Curl-up; 2nd place Oval Relay; 3rd place Shuttle Relay) with 980 points, followed by **Silver Bluff H.S.** from Aiken, South Carolina (2nd place Shuttle Relay) with 970 points.

In the early afternoon, the final phase of the NJROTC Nationals began -- the crowd-pleasing **Drill Competition**. This segment was comprised of five team events totaling 1500 possible points: Armed & Unarmed Platoon Basic; Armed & Unarmed Platoon Exhibition and Color Guard.

Powering their way to a convincing Overall Drill Championship was **Flour Bluff H.S.** The powerhouse NJROTC unit won three of the five drill events (Armed Basic, Armed & Unarmed Exhibition) on their way to amassing a solid 1138 point total.

Grabbing the drill competition Runner-up title was **Clark H.S.** from Las Vegas, Nevada (1st place Color Guard; 2nd place Unarmed Exhibition; 3rd place Armed Exhibition & Armed Basic - 1042 pts.) who just edged out **Boca Raton H.S.** from Boca Raton, Florida (1st place Unarmed Basic; 2nd place Armed Basic; and a 3rd place Unarmed Exhibition). This left the tough competitors just 9 points back with a total of 1033 points.

With the scored events completed, the Armed and Unarmed Knockout Drills preceded a fantastic Awards Ceremony for the presentation of the beautiful competition trophies. After all of the individual and event awards were presented, the ceremony crowned the NJROTC Nationals Overall Champion, **Flour Bluff High School**; the Overall Runner-up, **Oviedo High School**; and the Overall 3rd Place Finisher, **Boca Raton High School**.

Special thanks go out to **Rear Admiral Edward E. Hunter, Commander, Great Lakes R.T.C.** Along with providing a truly inspirational speech at the Awards Ceremony, the NJROTC Nationals would not have been possible without his far-reaching and genuine support.

The weekend at Great Lakes was both an exciting and challenging experience for all, with excellence around every corner. The Navy's best and brightest are already gearing-up for the 2000 NJROTC Nationals, scheduled to return to Great Lakes on April 7th-8th. Sports Network Int'l is honored to have produced the 1999 event and is confident that the 2000 NJROTC Nationals will surpass all expectations.



Cadets and instructors beam with pride as Flour Bluff H.S. carts home the trophies that come with capturing the NJROTC Nationals Championship.