

**Academic, Athletic
& Drill Championships
Recruit Training Center
Great Lakes, Illinois**

Navy JROTC Nationals

When you think of demanding, all-around tests of well-rounded JROTC excellence, nothing compares to the two-day **Navy JROTC Nationals - Academic, Athletic and Drill Championships**. Frigid and snowy conditions couldn't put a damper on the tight-knit family of twenty-one Navy JROTC units from across the United States hot to compete at this historic event which has become affectionately known as simply the "Navy Nationals."

The event opened with the highly competitive **Athletic Competition** held on Friday afternoon. Jaws were dropping throughout the hall as both individual and team performances on display dazzled the crowd. With twenty-five points separating the top four athletic teams, a final push by **Green Run HS** captured the overall Athletic title. Paced by a blistering 03:12:57 time in the 16x100yd. shuttle relay, the powerful athletes from Virginia Beach, Virginia earned a tight win.

Finishing 2nd in Athletics was 1999 athletic overall champion **Oviedo HS** from Oviedo, Florida despite a first and second place finish in the two relay events, as well as a third place finish in the tight team push-ups competition.

Finishing in third place overall within Athletics (missing a championship by just 19 points out of 1,200) was **Alma HS**. Across-the-board strength and a strong 2nd place finish in Curl-ups put this program in contention right to the end.

Cadets then grabbed a quick bite of dinner and hustled over to the pressure-packed **Academic Exam**. 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 the test scanner finally cooled off, **Flour Bluff HS** from Corpus Cristi, Texas blew away the field with a convincing 1,253 point total! This accomplishment was a true team effort, with a finish 70 points higher than the 2nd place unit.

In an amazing coincidence, **Nease HS** from St. Augustine, Florida grabbed second place in Academics (1183 pts.) by only a single point FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR!

In third place was **Lake Howell HS** with just one correct answer shy (1182 pts.) of a 2nd place finish. The team was led by individual top finishers Cadets Stange (1st-94pts.) and Williams (4th-92 pts.).

Cadets began the "uniformed" portion of the competition on Saturday morning. Brushes and mirrors were plentiful as **Unit Personnel Inspection** took center stage. This brutally stressful event (worth a staggering 1,500 points!) brought a 2000 repeat championship for **Flour Bluff HS**. Knowledge, discipline, and grit proved to be a lethal combination as these impressive cadets won handily in this must-win portion of the Navy Nationals (1323 pts.).

The Florida two-step was on display as **Boca Raton HS** (1231 pts.) and **Nease HS** (1179 pts.), distanced themselves from the competition field, earning second & third place respectively.

Along with Inspection, the crowd-pleasing **Drill Competition** was on display Saturday morning. Comprised of five team events totaling 1500 pts., drill is the backbone of this event and really shows off the discipline and hard work that makes these top units stand out.

Flour Bluff HS continued their dominance by grabbing the Overall Drill Championship. This powerhouse NJROTC unit won two of the five drill events (Unarmed Basic & Unarmed Exhibition) on their way to amassing a solid 1112 pt. total.

Thousands of practice hours helped **Boca Raton HS** grab the drill runner-up placement. Paced by a strong 2nd place Unarmed Exhibition Drill finish, the school edged past **McDowell HS** by just six points. No glaring weaknesses and an impressive Color Guard routine put this school in top drill contention.

Other outstanding drill performances included: **Lake Howell HS** (1st-Armed Basic, 2nd-Unarmed Basic); **Oviedo HS** (2nd-Color Guard, 3rd-Unarmed Exhibition); **Seguin HS** (1st-Armed Exhibition, 4th Armed Basic) and **South Kitsap HS** (2nd-Armed Exhibition).

The Knockout Drills preceded a fantastic Awards Ceremony, featuring **Rear Admiral Edward E. Hunter, Commander, Great Lakes R.T.C.** An inspirational speech was the perfect vehicle to capture the excitement of the 2000 Navy Nationals Awards Ceremony.

Capturing the NJROTC Nationals Overall Championship was returning Champion, **Flour Bluff HS**. Overall Runner-up was **Lake Howell HS** and the Overall 3rd place finisher was **Boca Raton HS**.

After two years at Great Lakes, Illinois, the 2001 NJROTC Nationals will be moved to the Eastern U.S. for the first time since 1996. **Pensacola Naval Air Station** will be the home for the 2001 NJROTC Nationals and the Navy's best are already working toward the **April 6th-7th** event. Sports Network is honored to continue our association with this amazing event and remain confident that the 2001 NJROTC Nationals will remain the most AWESOME display of Naval excellence!



Neither snow nor cold could keep Princess Anne H.S. from a 1st place finish in the Color Guard competition.