

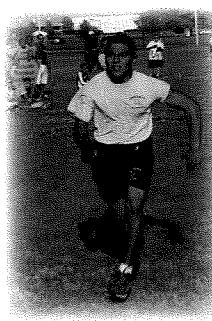


NAVY NATIONALS

THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA!

Is a new dynasty rising from the sands of the Las Vegas desert? 2011 will likely tell the tale!

<http://navy.thenationals.net>



There have been more than a few naysayers when last year's Navy Nationals Champions, **Centennial HS**, clinched victory in the absence of long time National Champions **Flour Bluff HS**. However, those whispers would be silenced with the strongest overall competition field in the history of the "Navy Nationals" descending on Pensacola, Florida for a true battle royale among the finest Navy JROTC units in the nation in the Spring of 2010!

The event saw 26 schools representing the U.S. Navy go head-to-head with each other in what many consider the most well-rounded JROTC competition in the world. Not only does each school show tremendous drill prowess in Basic, Color Guard, Exhibition, and UPI; but units must also prove their worth in both academic and athletic displays for a shot at overall excellence. Several schools have been in the top tier of this competition for the last few years, but if there's one thing we've seen at Navy Nationals, it is that absolutely anything is possible!

Long, tense, sweat-filled days made for a drained competition field. However, a quick shower and a bite to eat and the cadets and their near thousand spectators quickly filled the Blue Angels Atrium at the National Museum of Naval Aviation to hear the results of their tremendous efforts over the past two days. There to greet them was **RADM Joseph F. Kilkenny, USN, Commander, Naval Education & Training Command** (who also was regularly seen walking through the various competition areas throughout the event!) His inspirational speech filled the room with applause and a standing ovation. With excitement and eagerness pulsating to a palpable level throughout the entire hall, it was time to reveal the results of this year's NJROTC Nationals!

First up were the awards given for the Athletic events beginning with the individual medals. For the second year in a row in Curl-Ups, **Shawnee Mission North HS** (Kansas) showed a total and complete domination with 5 cadets in the top 10 for both male and female divisions, easily capturing the team Curl-Up trophy. The field was a bit more spread out for Push-Ups, but **Centennial HS** (Nevada) was able to come away with a victory by out-pushing **Shawnee Mission** by just 37 total push-ups! Nearby **Pine Forest HS** (Florida) from just down the road showed off their tremendous speed with a convincing victory in the Oval Relay by more than 6 seconds and an additional win in the Shuttle Relay, this time by less than 1 second! However, at the end of the day, there can be only one team with the top combination of strength and speed, and that team

was **Centennial HS** who beat out **Shawnee Mission North HS** for the overall Athletic trophy. Not far behind was always strong **Winter Park HS** (Florida) who took 3rd place.

The mood changed inside the Museum as the ceremony shifted gears in an effort to highlight brains over brawn and the Academic trophies at this year's Navy Nationals. This particular event is brutal as the gritty test is a custom-crafted exam that is designed to be the hardest curriculum test many of these cadets have ever faced! After all the pencils had been put away and the exams were graded, it was **Troy HS**

No clear favorite emerged as no less than five schools stayed in contention throughout!

(California) who managed to earn the bragging rights and the biggest of the Academic Trophies!

Everyone eagerly anticipated the results of the Drill portion of the event, especially with long time Navy Nationals favorite **Flour Bluff HS** (Texas) still in the mix with roughly 7 or 8 schools very much in the hunt for the overall title. However, it was made clear very early on that no one was there to play games as various schools received top honors for their drill prowess. **Shawnee Mission North HS** clinched a 1st place finish in Armed Basic & Color Guard, while **Northmont HS** (Ohio) grabbed victory in Unarmed Basic in a close battle with **Shawnee Mission North**. However, the cadets from **Flour Bluff** would not sit by for a title that was theirs for a decade previously as they had impressive 1st and 2nd place finishes in Armed & Unarmed Platoon Exhibition, respectively. Meanwhile, defending champs **Centennial HS** got their hands on several pieces of tall gold for drill including a 1st place trophy in Unarmed Platoon Exhibition. While many schools have long thought that the drill portion is a make or break point for the overall championship, the plot thickened as **Shawnee Mission North HS** took home the overall Drill trophy, making a clear favorite for the title of Navy Nationals champ still unapparent.

There was only one more event to appeal to as the crowd waited to see who among them would be crowned champion, and that was the point-laden Unit Personnel Inspection competition. While strength, knowledge, and drill prowess will take you far, it is the

high stakes world of "UPI" that is essential to score well to seriously compete for the overall award. So far three different schools had taken 1st place in three different categories. Would one of those schools step up to paint a clearer "big" picture or would another unit step up to muddy the waters and leave everyone in suspense? The answer came in the form of the latter as **George Bush HS** (Texas) demonstrated tremendous bearing and took home the Unit Personnel Inspection trophy. The crowd was left head scratching as they wondered, "Who is going to be the champion?"

The moment of truth had arrived as it was time to reveal who showed the most consistent performance throughout all components of this tremendous competition. RADM Kilkenny took the stage and started out by presenting **Troy HS** with their 5th place trophy. Next up was **Flour Bluff HS**, falling out of contention for the title, but still finishing strong with their 4th place finish.

Long-time Navy Nationals Runner-up **Boca Raton HS** was pushed back to 3rd place overall as it boiled down to the final two. Would the champions repeat, or would the hungry **Shawnee Mission North** cadets finally get their grip on the Overall Championship? In a wild finish, the NJROTC cadets from **Centennial HS** in Las Vegas, Nevada squeaked out a victory by a mere 3 points over Runner-Up **Shawnee Mission North**! The champions erupted into a frenzy as they clinched their 2nd consecutive title, cementing their status as the team to beat at this event.

This year's competition was the closest finish in the over 100 military competitions hosted by Sports Network International over the years. All of the top finishers made a push for the championship that was unprecedented and likely left each frustrated by just how close they had come. With so many national and local dignitaries on hand featuring members of the supporting **Navy League**, it was amazing to watch these veterans beam at the talented youngsters filled with so much energy and enthusiasm! Bringing anything less than your A-game to the Navy Nationals is simply not an option!

So the question is thrown - can **Centennial** hold on once more to solidify themselves as a true NJROTC dynasty? Don't bet against it! Secure yourself a spot at the 2011 Navy Nationals to watch the newest drama unfold for yourself - it should be another amazing, wild ride!



Centennial HS from Las Vegas, Nevada erupted into a mass display of unbridled emotion as they learned they had just clinched their second consecutive Overall Championship at the 2010 Navy Nationals competition.