



Pictured above, the Kingwood Fillies proudly wear their National Champion jackets after winning their 17th consecutive national championship. The 67-member dance team from Kingwood High School won the 2014 Crowd Pleasers National Showcase of Champions held on March 22 at the Berry Center in Cypress.

Kingwood Fillies Win 17th National Championship

The Kingwood High School Fillies were named Overall National Champion team at the 2014 Crowd Pleasers National Showcase of Champions held at the Berry Center in Cypress. Celebrating her 20th season as Kingwood Fillies Director, April Swenson led the Kingwood High School dance team to its 17th consecutive national championship on March 22.

The Overall National Champion title was based on the combined score of the Fillies' three team performances. The Fillies' patriotic kick performance to the "Star Spangled Banner" was awarded the Highest Scoring Team Routine at the competition. The team's jazz performance recorded the highest score of all participating teams, earning the Fillies the National Champion Overall Team Jazz trophy, while their lyrical performance received the highest score in their division.

The Fillies were also awarded National Champion titles for their outstanding ensemble routines. In the Junior Solo division (grades 9-10), KHS sophomores swept the competition taking the top five finalist positions. Sydney Ballou was named National Champion, followed by Caroline Knox, 1st runner up; Sydney Fletcher, 2nd runner up; Hannah Lam, 3rd place; and Claudia Cox, 4th place. In the Senior Solo category (grades 11-12), juniors Ashley Parnell and Kiana Kemery took third and fifth, respectively.

Sisters Miriam and Anna Gail Sanders earned the National Champion duet title with seniors Haley Ahrendt and Haley Sauer taking 1st runner up. In addition, Kingwood sophomores Emily Hartnett, Payton Russell and Madison Townsend won the National title for their trio performance.

The award-winning Kingwood Fillies perform annually at Kingwood High School football games in the fall and dance competitions during the winter months. Tryouts for the 2014-2015 Kingwood Fillies team will be held on Sat., April 12. Tryout packets are available at the Kingwood High School dance room. For more information, visit: www.kingwoodfillies.net