

## CLASS A STATE KICK PREVIEW

*Sections were not introduced until the 1999-2000 season. Prior to this all teams were able to compete in the State Tournament with only portion of teams advancing to finals each season. Dancefo has records of the State Tournaments in Kick dating back to 1996 (see State tab). 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 only include the finishing places of the teams who advanced to finals. This writeup also includes State Champion stats titles won prior to 1996 as that information is available on MSHSL. If you have State Kick Results prior to 1996 please email [travis@dancefo.com](mailto:travis@dancefo.com) with any results, screenshots of programs, etc. I am unable to confirm participation/results of prior tournaments unless they are available based on the above parameters. Please pardon the omission of any non-champion results (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, etc.) for years prior to 1996.*

*Please note that the State Leaderboard averages represent a team's section score along with their two most recent regular season scores. The State Leaderboard is meant to further highlight how the scoresheet is evaluated and how an individual team has been scoring. It is not meant and cannot be meant to be a perfect science of comparing one team to another. Every competition is scored independently. For example, in Football or Soccer you can have variables that can affect a team's performance (field conditions, health conditions, etc.). Dance Team also has factors unique to the sport that can affect how a team is scored (number of competitors, order of competition, number of officials, etc.). Please keep this in mind as you reference the State Leaderboard or read through this State Preview.*

*As a spectator and dance team enthusiast I wish every athlete and coach a big Good Luck this weekend. You already won by being able to finish your season on the state floor. This site and this writeup is meant to further highlight and champion the visibility and education of this sport that we often see with other sports through various sites and publications.*

**WABASHA-KELLOGG** – This will be the 15<sup>th</sup> kick appearance for the Wabasha-Kellogg Dance team and their second in a row. The program has made finals three times (1999, 2002 and most recently 2020) and last season they finished tenth. This year the team enters the tournament ranked ninth and they are averaging a 64.5 with their highest score coming from Routine Effectiveness where they average a 7.2.

**ZUMBROTA-MAZEPPA** – This will be Zumbrota-Mazeppa's fourth state kick appearance in a row and their ninth since first advancing in 2013. Last season they made program history by advancing to finals for the first time where they finished in sixth. This season the team is ranked in eighth with an average score of 64.7. Their highest score comes from Routine Effectiveness where they average a 6.8.

**MONTEVIDEO** – This will be the Gold Duster's third time in a row advancing to state and their 21<sup>st</sup> since 1997. This season the team is averaging a 66.9 and are ranked fifth on the State Leaderboard (with just one tenth of a point separating them from fourth). The program last made finals in 2016 when they took home a third-place medal. The team has advanced to finals a total of twelve times and have won a total of seven medals including three titles in 1998, 1999 and 2002.

**HAWLEY** – After making program history last season by advancing to State in Kick the team wanted back in the action for 2024. The Nugget dancers finished 12<sup>th</sup> in 2023 and are looking to build on that for this year. In terms of stats on the State Leaderboard the team is breaking into 7s in the Choreography categories with an average of 7.1. Be on the lookout for how their routine stands out in those categories in comparison to their competitors.

**ST. CLOUD CATHEDRAL** – The Crusaderettes return to state to defend their 2023 (and 2022) Class A Kick titles. This will be the programs 24<sup>th</sup> appearance at state since 1999. The team has won six kick titles previously and are looking to add their seventh. They have also medaled an additional seven times previously placing second three times and third four times. Cathedral is ranked fourth on the State Leaderboard with an average score of 67. I think we will see the program advance to finals once again, but the competition has certainly been heating up in Class A. The program will want to see some season-best scores on the board to claim their 14th medal.

**BAGLEY** – The Bagley Dance Team advances to state once again (this will be the programs 23<sup>rd</sup> appearance since 1996). Fun fact, the town had a celebration of the team's third place finish in the 4A tournament by having a firetruck escort through main street! Last season the team finished 11<sup>th</sup> with a seventh-place finish in 2022. Since 1996 the team has advanced to finals thirteen times and have collected four medals along the way with the most recent one coming in 2021 where the team placed third.

**CANNON FALLS** – The Bomber Dance Team advances to state for the 21<sup>st</sup> time since 2003. This season the team is averaging a 66.4 which settles them into sixth on the State Leaderboard. In their 20 previous runs at state the team has advanced to finals every year but 2019, where they finished seventh, and last season where the program fell short and didn't advance to the state tournament in kick.

**NEW LONDON-SPICER** – The Blackcat Dance Team has advanced to state in kick for the third time in a row. In 2022 the team finished 11<sup>th</sup> and last season the team finished seventh. This season the team is ranked seventh heading into the tournament with an average score of 65.1. Their strongest score comes from the Routine Effectiveness category where they are earning a 7.

**LQPV-DB** – This will be the 21<sup>st</sup> appearance at state in kick for the Shadows and the ninth in a row since 2016. In their history the team has advanced to finals every season since 2009 except for 2015 when they didn't qualify for the tournament. The team has also won a medal every season since 2018 including three back-to-back titles in 2019, 2020 and 2021. This year the team is ranked third on the State Leaderboard with an average score of 68.5. Finals should be expected and with the right attack we should see another medal from the program.

**HOLDINGFORD** – The Husker Dance Team first made history last season by qualifying for state in kick for the first time then followed up their debut season with advancing to finals and finishing just shy of the podium in fourth. This has been anything but a sophomore slump for the program as they enter the tournament ranked second on the State Leaderboard with less than a point separating them from Class A leader, Yellow Medicine East. This year the team is averaging a 69.4 with top scores coming from the Choreography and Routine Effectiveness categories where they are averaging a 7.4. Finals shouldn't be a shock for this team this season, and if they execute right we could see them take home their programs first medal.

**CROSBY-IRONTON** – The Rangerettes make their fourteenth state appearance since 1996 and will be looking to advance to finals for the ninth time since then. Last season the team finished fifth with a sixth-place finish in 2022. This year the team claimed the Section 4A Kick title and average 64.3 on the State Leaderboard. Their highest score comes from Routine Effectiveness where they are averaging a 6.8.

**YELLOW MEDICINE EAST** – The Silhouettes are a program very familiar to the state tournament having advanced 25 times previously with them qualifying every season since 2000. During this time the team has advanced to finals every season except in 2016 (which if memory serves, they were the first to compete that day). The team will likely advance to finals once again this season and they will be looking to collect their 19<sup>th</sup> medal (they have medaled every year since 2019). Yellow Medicine East is averaging 70 on the leaderboard and are ranked first heading into the tournament. If the team was to take home the Class A title this would be the second kick championship (their first came in 2008).