

Grandson member of Fighting Irish Band

The grandson of a Brewster couple is a proud member of the Notre Dame University Fighting Irish marching band.

Dan Allen, a native of Hays, and the grandson of Everett and Cecilia Allen of Brewster, says he loved football and music and had been enamored with the University of Notre Dame since he was in high school.

Allen thought what better way to be close to the Notre Dame football team than to try out for the Irish marching band.

Allen, a May graduate of Thomas More Prep-Marian High School in Hays, was among the 375 members of the marching band who appeared on national television during an Irish home game with Florida State University.

He said he decided to try out for the band when he visited the school during spring break this year.

Allen said he went to South Bend, Ind., for the first time on a service

trip as a high school junior.

He said he knew from then on that's where he wanted to attend college.

"I knew I wanted to go to a Catholic university," he said. "It just seemed to fit. No matter where I looked after that, Notre Dame always stood above the rest."

Allen had started playing the baritone sax as a sixth-grader at Kennedy Middle School.

"My brother played the tenor sax," he said of his Matt, who was an eighth-grader at the time.

"They needed a baritone to round out the band, and the band director at Kennedy asked me to try it. I've just stuck with ever since."

Allen continued playing in the Thomas More-Marian band in high school, taking part in concerts and parade when he could. He missed a lot of those because he played football and basketball.

While football is his first love, Allen said he didn't think he had the

talent to play at a big university, and he had his heart set on going to Notre Dame.

So when he visited the school over spring break, he checked out the opportunities with the band, the oldest college band in the country in continuous existence.

Students interested in auditioning for the band go to South Bend about three days before school starts, he said, and the core band teaches the newcomers the procedures. Then comes the three-day audition.

"They put a number on your back, and you're evaluated by everything you do in camp," Allen said. "It's a pretty intense three days."

Allen said candidates don't have long to sweat it out whether they've made the cut. Results are posted Monday morning after the audition, and Allen's name was on the list.

Soon, he said, he found himself engulfed in music, and he met a lot of people.

"It was nice for him to have a close-knit connection being so far away," said his mother, GERALYN. "It gave him faces he could recognize on campus."

"You don't have time to feel homesick," Allen said, "and you feel like you're a part of the university right away."

The band practices about 90 minutes a day during the week, something that didn't take much adjustment.

"It's just like a sports team," he said, "so I was used to that."

It is the Saturday schedule that took some getting used to.

Before a game, the band performs the "Concert on the Steps" in front of Bond Hall, then marches to the stadium at the head of thousands of Irish fans.

Allen, who played sports in front of a few hundred people in high school, said his first "Concert on the Steps" was something.

"There are a lot of people who

come to just hear the concert and don't have tickets to the game," Allen said, "so there's about another 20,000 people on campus."

Then came the game, where 80,000 screaming fans packed Notre Dame Stadium to watch the Irish win their season opener.

"What a rush," Allen said. "There are a huge number of people, and the feeling.... It's so loud."

Allen said he wasn't sure what to expect when the Irish started losing. Notre Dame took a 2-5 record into the game against Florida State.

"I thought it might not be as fun if they lost," Allen said of the team's skid, "but the atmosphere around campus from Wednesday on is something else."

Allen received academic scholarships to Notre Dame, but he said being in the band has a lot of perks, too.

"It's almost like a scholarship," said Allen, who will also play in the winter band for the Irish hockey team.

For \$15, Allen said, he got passes to the fall and winter sports seasons and he gets to make several road trips with the band.

A big sports fan, Allen said he already has been able to meet some celebrities on campus.

"Joe Montana and Joe Theismann were on campus one weekend, and you could walk right up to them," he said of the two former Notre Dame stars who went on to play in the National Football League. "It was incredible."

Meanwhile, Allen's family gathers around the television each game day to try to get a glimpse of him. He said he was looking forward to the weekend, when his family would visit South Bend for the game.

"It'll be nice to let them experience a game weekend," Dan said. "It's so unique."

He said his entire experience at Notre Dame has been something to remember, and he's just a couple of months into his freshman year.

"It's tough to describe," Allen said of the Notre Dame mystique. "You're walking around campus and you think, 'A lot of people get to come here once or twice in a lifetime, and you get to be here every day.'"

Girl is magazine's cover winner

A St. Francis girl has been chosen as the first monthly Cover Model winner by *Epiczine* magazine.

One of the monthly winners will grace the anniversary cover in addition to winning other prizes.

Candice Wies, a seventh grader at St. Francis Community Junior High, said she has loved being in front of camera since she was a little girl. At age 10, she decided to try out at the Miss American Coed Pageants and was just about overwhelmed when she walk in and saw she would be competing against 72 girls. That's understandable when you consider she is from a town of 1,500 people.

She said she wasn't used to big groups, but that didn't deter her in her first pageant. She made the top 12 and won Miss Hostess of Kansas, which qualified her to go to nationals. So off she set for Orlando, Fla., and won the title Miss American National Cover Girl 2001.

The second year, Candice went out for all the optionals and won Winning Model, Spirit of America; second in Spokes Model, second runner up in Academic and was the Miss Personality winner, which was voted by all the pageant contestants.

This year has been Candice's best year at state. She won the Miss Kansas Pre-Teen Queen 2003, Miss Personality, Prettiest Eyes, Sportswear Model, Miss Pre-Teen Photogenic, Most Recommendations, best thank you letter and Spirit of America award. That again qualified her to go to Nationals in Florida making it the third time she's qualified, though she has only gone twice.

This year at nationals, she received the Spirit of America and Outstanding Program Participation trophies. Although she didn't place in the queen's court top five, she

said she looks at it as a learning experience and one that she'll remember forever. She was also a national finalist in modeling, acting and photo-

togenic.

Candice has been involved with John Robert Powers modeling and acting program. She went to New York in July to compete in the International Model Talent Association and found out there are many beautiful girls in this country. She did well winning, "I'm Ready for my close up" trophy and cash award. Candice was also first in Sitcoms, winning a trophy and four medals for competition excellence in Real People, TV Beauty, Commercial Print and Soap Opera.

She said she keeps busy with school, school activities, be-



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Candice is the daughter of Kip and Deonne Wiese, St. Francis.

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- Request samples when trying a new medication. You'll waste money if you can't tolerate a new medication and must stop taking it after only a few doses.
- Periodically ask your doctor to review the medications you take to determine which ones may no longer be necessary.
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