

Marching 100 Performs at ESPYs

Contributed by Ashley Garrett -- Black College Wire
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FAMU's marching band makes another big appearance
Florida A & M University made history in July.

Months after being featured in the Super Bowl, the Marching 100 was showcased in yet another major sports night. This time, the ESPYs came calling.

The band rehearsed three times a day for three weeks to prepare for this momentous occasion, ESPN's annual awards ceremony. "I was excited and honored to know that the Florida A & M's band was handpicked to perform at such a venue. It shows that we are watched and enjoyed by everyone across the nation," said head drum major, Ahmad Newbold.

The whole band was not permitted to go. Dr. Julian E. White, conductor of the band, selected 30 band members from the brass and percussion sections and three staff members.

"When the plane finally landed, I was in amazement and excited about the opportunity that I've been blessed with," Newbold said.

The band wasted no time preparing for the show. The first course of action was practice.

"It was more of a business trip. We checked into the hotel and went to rehearsal for three hours," Newbold said.

White did allow for the band to have the rest of the evening off. The next day, however, was another intense practice.

The band played selections from some of the artists that were in attendance -- Gucci Mane, Laws, Mario and Waka Flocka Flame -- while Flame himself rapped to "Hard in the Paint," and "Oh Lets Do It."

"Our performance was amazing. The crowd and the entertainers were really thrilled about the fact that we were there and added our FAMU flavor to the show," White said.

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Ashley Garrett writes for The Famuam, the Florida A&M University student newspaper, which originally published this article.