

# BLUE STARS DRUM & BUGLE CORPS, LA CROSSE, WI

## ONBOARD® PRODUCT CASE STUDY



ONBOARD DRUM MAJOR PODIUM



ONBOARD BASS DRUM/GONG CART

***“When we’re going to a performance, we don’t worry about our OnBoard equipment because it’s rock solid.”***

*– Brad Furlano  
Executive Director  
Blue Stars Drum and Bugle Corps*

## CHALLENGE

Provide transport and storage solutions for wide range of drum corps equipment.

## WENGER SOLUTION

Researching customer needs to guide product development. Protecting valuable equipment throughout storage-travel-performance cycle. Facilitating faster field setups and take-downs.



## BENEFITS

- Rugged construction withstands heavy usage and travel
- Flexible carts accommodate variety of equipment
- Ability to link and tow carts saves manpower
- Innovative, lightweight design simplifies handling and operation
- Wheel options offer all-terrain mobility

## HIGHLIGHTS



ONBOARD DRUM MAJOR PODIUM

that the wheel system is very easy to roll, lock and make stable.

He describes their previous podium as unwieldy in the way it folded up and the wheels attached; it was difficult to lift, move, set up and stabilize. “The Wenger podium is much better designed – the way the platform raises up is pretty ingenious,” comments Furlano.

During transport the Drum Major Podium is easy to handle, with logical places to grab. “There aren’t many pinch points or places where our members could potentially get injured,” he explains. The Blue Stars also use the Auxiliary Podium.

Like many of the Blue Stars, Eric Sabach grew up with Wenger products as a musician in school. While corps director/director of youth programs, he participated in a Wenger-sponsored focus group about the development of the OnBoard product line.

“This process proved to me that Wenger really listens to the voice of the band director and drum corps director, and strives to create products that meet our needs,” comments Sabach. (He left the Blue Stars in August 2008.)

“OnBoard products are engineered to be sturdy, last a long time and stand up to a heavy travel schedule, including being packed very tightly in a trailer with other equipment,” he says. “While sturdy and durable, OnBoard carts are also very lightweight and mobile.”

“We’re very happy with all our OnBoard products,” says Brad Furlano, executive director of the Blue Stars Drum & Bugle Corps of La Crosse, Wis. “As a director, I appreciate how they are solidly built to handle what we do, which is the extreme of the marching arts activities.”

For a commanding vantage point in rehearsals and competitions, the Blue Stars rely on the OnBoard Drum Major Podium. “It’s working out very well for us,” says Furlano, adding

Before using OnBoard Speaker Carts, members of the Blue Stars had to physically lift the speakers from the trailer onto the grass. Adjusting the speaker angle was challenging, usually accomplished by placing something underneath it. Sabach says the Speaker Cart makes this angle adjustment easy, even while speakers are on the cart.

To move gongs, the Blue Stars found that carts designed for indoor concerts sometimes broke down after just a few performances. “The demands put upon equipment by marching bands and drum corps are much greater,” explains Sabach. “Our carts need to be moved from the band room to the practice field into the equipment truck, offloaded to the warm-up area, then moved across a large area to the performance, and then loaded back on the truck and transported back to school.”

He believes the OnBoard Bass Drum/Gong Cart is very durable and well thought-out. “It’s clear that Wenger has carefully considered its design for all applications – it accommodates any brand of instrument,” notes Sabach.

The pneumatic tires on OnBoard carts provide easy mobility across all surfaces – turf, grass, gravel or pavement. The ability to link multiple carts together reduces the number of people required to move equipment.

Furlano’s appreciation of Wenger’s customer support is matched by his confidence in OnBoard products. “Everyone at Wenger is wonderful to work with and their service has been outstanding,” he concludes. “When we’re going to a performance, we don’t worry about our OnBoard equipment because it’s rock solid.”



ONBOARD SPEAKER CART



ONBOARD KEYBOARD CART

## PRODUCT LIST

OnBoard® Drum Major Podium, Auxiliary Podium, Speaker Cart, Bass Drum/Gong Cart, Cargo Cart and Keyboard Cart.