Alyssa Hoffman Drum line

At halftime, during the James Bond influenced show, freshman Ryan Wood focused on playing “Welcome to Cuba” under the bright stadium lights. Wood’s eyes locked onto senior drum major Kayla Ogden as she conducted the band.

Wood explained he had a life-long interest in percussion. When he was younger, he liked the sound things made when he hit them, but it wasn’t until fourth grade that he officially started playing the drums.

“My brother decided to play football,” Wood said, “so I started going to his football games and I was able to hear the drum line and it just became a dream of mine to join them.”

After making drum line this year, Wood was the youngest to make tenor line in band instructor Chad Reed’s 15 years of leading the marching band. In past years, freshmen made the snare and bass line, but never tenor. According to Reed, the rhythms were very difficult and they had five strike points, unlike a snare drum which only had one.

“Here’s something unique about Ryan Wood,” Reed said. “I don’t think I’ve ever had a freshman make tenor line.”

Percussion instructor Luke Dull, who had a doctorate in percussion performance, worked with the drum line.

“As far as Ryan being on drum line, I have to say that I'm excited about that,” Dull said. “I love seeing freshman get on the line because of the way they can develop over their four years.”

Wood said he was happy that he made drum line. He hoped to become the tenor drum section leader his junior year.

“I'm excited to see how he progresses through his time in the group,” Dull said.

After that first time watching the band at his brother’s football games to being on drum line, Wood found a place to spend his next four years.

“It’s kind of awkward, you don’t really know anybody,” Wood said. “It’s a lot of hard work that’s for sure.”