

# Twirlers of the Month

## February 2012

### Hannah Hensley



**How did you become interested in baton twirling, and at what age did you start twirling?**

"I started twirling when I was four years old. One day I brought a flyer home from school and as soon as my Mom saw it, she signed me up. My Mom was also a Royalette, so she knew I would love it."

**How old are you now?**

"I am now 16 years old; my birthday was on January 16th."

**What do you enjoy most about baton twirling?**

"My favorite thing about baton twirling is when I catch a huge trick that I've been working so hard on, (especially when I catch it in front of the judge). It makes it all worth it."

**What does it mean to you to be a Royalette?**

"When I'm wearing a Royalette jacket or costume, I feel proud to be apart of a group that strides for perfection and works so hard and well together as a team."

**What advice would you give someone just starting out in baton twirling?**

"I would say to never give up. Baton is a tough sport and you will get hit a lot and even lose a lot, but keep trying because the harder you work the more you will get out of it in the end."

**What is your favorite trick or skill?**

"I really don't have one favorite trick. I just enjoy catching the baton in different ways like under the leg or in an illusion; right hand catches just bore me sometimes."

**How has baton twirling influenced your life?**

"Baton twirling has been a huge impact on my life. It has gotten me places I would have never gone, and it has also made me so much more comfortable in front of crowds."

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

"I would like to be an early elementary school teacher because I love children and doing crafts."

**Tell us 2 interesting facts about yourself that most people don't know about?**

"A lot of people don't know that I am a devoted surfer, and I love to sew. I actually just recently made a quilt out of all of my old Royalette t-shirts."

## **Shannon Dugan**



**How did you become interested in baton twirling, and at what age did you start twirling?**

"I was with Ashley Morris, (a Royalette), and she taught me some basic tricks. I was ten years old."

**How old are you now?**

"I am 13"

**What do you enjoy most about baton twirling?**

"Working on a solo for a while, and winning after your fifth contest."

**What does it mean to you to be a Royalette?**

"Being a Royalette means having a good attitude and teamwork."

**What advice would you give someone just starting out in baton twirling?**

"Even though it is a very hard sport, push through and you'll be fine."

**What is your favorite trick or skill?**

"I don't really know what my favorite trick is. I just caught a blind, and that was pretty fun."

**How has baton twirling influenced your life?**

"Baton twirling has taught me that even though something is hard, don't give up."

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

"I want to teach math in middle school, but that might change."

**Tell us 2 interesting facts about yourself that most people don't know about?**

"I own my own gun and have shot a pistol."