

Supporting the Auxiliary

Speaker Script · "Have Their Backs."

PRESENTER Coach Megan and Coach Brint

SLIDES 14

THE HAMPTON UNIVERSITY MARCHING FORCE · PRE-DRILL CAMP 2026

Presenter notes for every slide, in order. Bracketed cues are stage directions; quoted lines are suggested wording — say them in your own voice.

01 Supporting the Auxiliary

SLIDE 1 — TITLE: Supporting the Auxiliary

PRESENTERS: Coach Megan and Coach Brint, the auxiliary coaches. AUDIENCE: instrumentalists only.

OPEN: "We coach the dancers, flags, and batons. Today we're talking to the band about them."

FRAME IT AS A PARTNERSHIP, not a complaint. Set that tone in the first thirty seconds or the room gets defensive.

02 Icebreaker

SLIDE 2 — ICEBREAKER: two Hidden Figures clips (1:08 and 1:30)

Both are short — play them back to back.

Clip one: "You Are The Boss." Clip two: "Give or Take."

AFTER: "A team that gets where it's going by backing each other and trusting each other's work. That's the deal between the band and the auxiliary."

03 The Premise

SLIDE 3 — THE PREMISE (statement slide)

Read it.

THE CORE: "The auxiliary is not decoration on the edge of your show. They are the visual voice of it."

AND: "When you're steady, they fly. When you're shaky, they fall — no matter how hard they worked."

Takeaway: "One show. Two halves. One standard."

04 What the Auxiliary Actually Does

SLIDE 4 — WHAT THE AUXILIARY ACTUALLY DOES

This is the respect slide. Spend real time.

"Twirling, spinning flags, dancing full-out for a whole show is athletic. Strength, timing, and hours you never see."

"They memorize as much choreography as you memorize music — and perform it while nailing a toss."

CUE: Coaches, give one concrete example from your own rehearsals — a number of hours, a specific skill. Specifics beat adjectives.

NOTE: we use flags and batons. No rifles or sabres.

05 You Are Their Floor

SLIDE 5 — YOU ARE THEIR FLOOR

"They don't perform to music in general. They perform to YOUR music, on YOUR counts, in real time."

THE IMAGE: "Your sound is the floor they dance on. A solid floor lets them take risks."

06 Hold the Tempo

SLIDE 6 — HOLD THE TEMPO

The single most important slide in the deck for this audience.

"Every routine is counted to an exact tempo. Rush it and the toss lands wrong — through no fault of theirs."

KEY: "They can't feel it out mid-routine the way you might. They're locked to the count you set."

COACHES: if you have a story about a rushed tempo wrecking a routine, this is where it goes.

07 Hit Together, Give Them Dynamics

SLIDE 7 — HIT TOGETHER, GIVE THEM DYNAMICS

"A unified hit gives them a sharp visual accent to nail. A ragged hit gives them nothing."

"Dynamics give them levels to perform to. Flat sound is a flat canvas."

AND consistency — "if the hit lands in a different spot every rep, they can't build on it."

08 Give Them Room

SLIDE 8 — GIVE THEM ROOM

Safety slide. Be direct.

"Flags and batons need airspace. Dancers need floor. Drift into their zone and you don't just crowd them — you can hurt them."

"Know your spacing and know where the aux sets up in every drill."

"Never make the auxiliary dodge the band."

09 Know the Show Together

SLIDE 9 — KNOW THE SHOW TOGETHER

"Know where the auxiliary features are, and know them as well as your own part."

LAND: "A band that knows the aux's show performs WITH them. A band that only knows its own notes performs NEXT to them."

10 Be Their Hype

SLIDE 10 — BE THEIR HYPE

"When they take the spotlight, your energy amplifies them. Play bigger, sell harder."

"The crowd takes its cue from the band. React to a great toss and the stands react with you."

REFRAME: "You're not competing with the auxiliary for the crowd. You're handing them the crowd — and they hand it right back."

11 One Unit, No Cliques

SLIDE 11 — ONE UNIT, NO CLIQUES

"No us and them. Dancers, flags, and batons are Marching Force, same as any horn line."

PRACTICAL: warm up together, eat together, celebrate together.

"Have their backs the way you want yours had."

12 Communicate

SLIDE 12 — COMMUNICATE

"Talk to the auxiliary and their coaches. Ask what they need from the band — then actually give it."

"'That tempo felt rushed there' is a gift, not a complaint."

COACHES: tell them plainly how to reach you.

13 Supporting the Auxiliary: The Playbook

SLIDE 13 — THE PLAYBOOK

Steady Time, Give Them Room, Hype Their Moment, One Unit.

Four things every instrumentalist owes the auxiliary. Photograph slide.

14 Lift Them, and We All Rise.

SLIDE 14 — CLOSE: Lift Them, and We All Rise.

Coaches deliver this together if you can.

"The auxiliary can only be as good as the band lets them be — and the band looks its best when the auxiliary is flying."

End on: "the crowd stops seeing a band and an auxiliary, and starts seeing one show."