

NORTHWEST COMPETITION

Patriots Tops in Classic

Spokane's Percussion-Naut Patriots drum and bugle corps marched off with first place honors in Friday night's Classic of Champions Northwest drill competition.

Comparing the Percussion-Nauts' precision drill, drum, and brass skills with five other top teams from Washington and Oregon, judges awarded the Spokane group first place honors in the "A" division. The Columbians from the Tri-Cities took a close second, and received top honors in the marching and maneuvering portion of the over-all scoring.

Columbian Drum Major

Lynn Shook, the energetic, snycopating drum major of the Columbians, easily won top honors as best drum major.

Third place in the "A" division was taken by the Sentinels of Bellevue, Wash.

The high bugle award went to the Shamrocks of Seattle. High drums award was a memorial for former Percussion-Naut Patriot Roderick Yukio Tai who was killed in an automobile accident July 4 near Rathdrum, Idaho. The award was presented to the winning Percussion-Nauts by Tai's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sumio Tai of E833 Thirty-sixth.

In the "B" division, the Cascades of Seattle took top honors.

The spectacle Friday night was well-attended—primarily by backers of the local talent on parade. The competing groups enthusiastically applauded spectacular maneuvers by rival teams while clusters of screaming girls in the crowd reacted to the Percussion-Nauts in much the way Elvis Presley's followers lionized his mid '50s gyrations.

A man in leather hot pants and sunglasses sported a T-shirt proclaiming "I'm a **drum corps** nut." A tight-lipped majorette of particularly martial bearing finally eased her expression, prompting a surprised "she actually smiled!" from an astute observer. Pint-size marchers (nine years of age is the youngest permitted) peered earnestly from beneath patent leather parade caps that looked far more appropriate in Albi Stadium than on the White House guard. Pert girls twirled white dummy rifles with practiced unison and speed.

History On Parade

The Percussion-Nauts presented a history of American drill percussion, using authentic copies of vintage uniforms and wooden drums to display different marching styles.

Robbins said the groups must observe strict rules when displaying the American flag. The flag must be saluted

at proper times, and always must be flown higher than any other banners or flags used in the program.

Referring to the Percussion-Naut Patriots, Robbins said, "The only thing military is in bearing and execution." He said elaborate measures, called peaking techniques, are often used to keep the team alert and charged up for a competition. One such technique consists of keeping the group together in buses right up to the time preparations for exhibition must be made. This does not allow the team a chance to scatter and lose a collective identity, Robbins explained.

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