

Drum Corps

Win Scored by Patriots

By NEIL CLEMONS

Spokane's Percussion-Naut Patriots capped their first season of drum and bugle corps competition with a clear-cut victory Saturday night over the Northwest's best performing units.

The win came at Port Angeles in "The Challenge of Champions" contest entered by 14 drum and bugles corps from Washington, Oregon, Montana and British Columbia.

In wresting first place in A Division from the experienced Portland Hawks drum and bugle corps, the 81 Spokane performers were judged best drum line, best bugle line and best general effects for both drums and bugles.

Trophy Won

The Patriots, directed by Howard A. Robbins, also won a second place trophy for their appearance in the Port Angeles Derby Days parade Saturday afternoon.

In addition, the Patriots' 16-member Colonial unit—eight fifes, six drummers and two color guard members—were presented with an exhibition award and trophy for its performance in the Pasco Water Follies celebration last month.

The Port Angeles meet marked the end of the current season of competition, which began in January in Salem, Ore., with the Patriots in C division. By consistently gaining high scores, they moved not only from C to B division but also into A division. Although the Patriots had on one occasion this year as a B corps received a higher score than the Portland

Hawks—who won the association's trophy for the best season record—the Patriots had never before bested the Hawks in head-to-head A-division competition.

"One of the Best"

In winning the contest, the Patriots were lauded by judges for presenting "one of the best shows ever put together in the Northwest."

The group played six basic numbers including variations on the Yankee Doodle theme, Beethoven's Ode to Joy and the popular Acquarius.

Youngsters in the Percussion-Nauts who range in age from 9 to 19, are directed on the field by 18-year-old drum major Vickie Krewson. The competition corps consists of 25 members on the recently expanded bugle line, 23 percussionists and 29 color guard members.

September 6, 1971
Spokane Chronicle