

Drum, Bugle Corps

Competition 'Exciting'

By ROBYN ROEHM

Each performance began the same.

"Are the judges ready?" an unidentified loudspeaker voice would query. A wave of notepads indicated they were.

"Are the corps (members) ready?" Silent attention indicated they were.

"You may enter the field for competition." A gunshot to indicate the entry and start of their presentation. The show had begun.

Following that point, however, not one minute of the Renaissance Drum and Bugle Corps competition last night at Albi Stadium was predictable.

Thirteen drum and bugle corps from throughout the West and Canada marched last night during a 4-hour competition hosted by the Spokane Corps.

It was exciting. With each show demonstrating the corps' ability to execute a drill which could be no shorter than 11 and 1/2 minutes and no longer than 13, an audience of about 1,000 witnessed 13 unique performances, displaying near perfection in most cases.

To adjudicate the corps

participating in the competition titled, "Renaissance Presents," were 13 judges from across the nation.

Although it seemed at times like the scurrying men, scribbling on black notepads, were definitely in the way of progress on the field, it was their trained eyes and ears, in the areas of brass, percussion, color guard, marching and general showmanship which yielded the all-over scores at the end of the evening.

The scores in many cases were painfully close — varying only by tenths of a point, indicating the decisions must have been difficult, but they seemed to agree with the general opinion of the audience when they chose the Troopers of Casper, Wyo., as the first place corps.

With an amazingly complex routine that involved square-dancing and a mock shoot-out of the color guard, the corps' 13-minute routine was outstanding, and undoubtedly the most popular, rewarded with a standing ovation at its finish.

But the Troopers defeated the host Renaissance Corps by only eight-tenth of a point.

Renaissance, however, won the award for the best

brass performance. The Imperials from Seattle took third place awards and an award for best percussion.

The Phoenix, Ariz., Wranglers' drum major Fred Martino won the award for best drum major performance.

At the end of the evening, it was difficult to say who was best—the impressive dedication of each corps turned an ordinary evening into one of those rare shows of All-American pride occasions. The performers did their best—and there was a lot to be proud of.

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