

Argonauts, Optimists host Drum and Bugle Corps Show

Oversized limousines with "Imperials," "Guardsmen" and "1st Royal Canadian Regiment" painted on their sides sat in the parking lot as 450 of their passengers participated in the 15th annual Optirama Drum and Bugle Corps Show Saturday.

Limousines and buses brought musical contestants to McNary High School from as far north as Surrey, British Columbia and Edmonton, Alberta and as far south as Concord, Calif.

Youths aged 9 to 21 participated in the first day of the Winter Guard International Northwest Regional Championships, watched by six national judges, said Howard Hawley, director of the Salem Argonauts Drum and Bugle Corps. The corps and the Breakfast Optimist Club were hosting the competition.

Although color guard competition was due to begin at 6 p.m. and last until 11 p.m. Saturday, Hawley indicated the internationally-ranked Imperials of Seattle were expected to win.

During the day competition was keen in the flag and solo events. As contestants marched in the flag division, each tried to elicit favorable audience response with special effects.

Judges for the competition were Marie

Granna, Chicago; Tom Wuetrich, San Francisco; Shirley Whitcomb and her daughter, Kathy, both of Walnut Creek, Calif.; Warren Tom, Oakland, and Lenny Kruzecki, Santa Clara, Calif.

Judging was based on ability to play the instrument including the youth's technical ability, entertainment value, difficulty of performance and audience appeal, said Hawley.

Division winners as of 4 p.m. included soloists Bob Hamilton, **Pacificaires**, french horn; soprano bugle, Rob Murray, **Titans**; mellophone, Tracie Frohm, **Spartans**; baritone, Robert Onishi, **Cascades**; contrabass, Joel Niemeyer, **Cascades**; bass drum, John Antonelli, **Imperials**; cymbals, Doug Wirthgren, **Patriots**, and tympani, Rob Mason, **Patriots**.

Also winning were rifle soloist, Rod Myers, **Open All Knights**; rifle duets, **Spartans**, Vancouver, Wash.; rifle quartet, **Patriots**, Spokane, Wash.; flag, Hill Hudson, **Kennedy Continentals**; flag duet, **Cascades**, Seattle; flag quartet, **Spartans**; sabre soloist, Shelly Mills, **La Senioritas**, Seattle; sabre duet, **La Senioritas**, and sabre quartet, **La Senioritas**.

The competition will resume today at 10 a.m. in several categories, probably finishing about noon, officials said.

March 5, 1978
Salem Optirama