

drum
corps
digest

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North West Corps-ner Will Schillen



Cascades Drum and Bugle Corps, Seattle, Wash.

The sixth annual Flamingos Opti-rama held in Salem, Oregon on Jan. 25th is now history. All of the corps that entered this contest were greeted by the worst snow storm in many years in the northwest, piling up 18 to 20 inches of snow by Sunday morning when all corps headed for home. It was a hectic drive back to Seattle, with snow and ice all the way. This was the first year in the seven year tenure of the contest that we had such inclement weather. Well, so much for the weather.

The contest, which was our first standstill of the season in the Northwest Association, attended by six corps and nine color guards. The color guards were the first to hit the floor, with the "B" corps next, followed by the "A" corps. The guards put on their usual fine show with many new innovations in their drills. In first place with 92.85 were the Cascades of Seattle, followed closely by the Shamrocks with 92.35 who also received a two point penalty for a color violation. In third place were the Flamingos with a score of 92.25.

Next came the "B" corps. The first corps to the line was the Flamingos, sponsors of the contest. They put on a very impressive show and were well received. They led off with "Sunny" a very good Duffy arrangement, into "This is my Country" and off the floor with "Who Can I Turn To." Their 25 horns, which is a few

more than they had last year, were very clean for so early in the season, but their drums were a little ragged. It is possible that the Flamingos will become an "A" corps this season. They received a score of 65.96 and a third place. The Cascades were the next corps to appear, utilizing 24 horns and a small drum line. Their repertoire consisted of "Malaguena," "By the Time I Get to Phoenix" and a medley of patriotic songs off the floor. The horns have power but were a little out of control, and also overpowered the drum line. Their score was 63.533 good for a fourth place. The Hawks of Portland were next. Their music consisted of a nice arrangement of "Johnny One Note" followed by "You'll Never Walk Alone," "Yesterday" and "Wild, Wild West." They had a very interesting drill and their drum line seemed much improved over last year. They took first place with a score of 69.03. The last "B" corps to take the floor were the Imperial Cadets of Portland, with 21 horns and a full drum line; this corps was out to put on a good show, and that they did. Their first number was "How the West Was Won" followed by "Born Free," "I Talk to the Trees" and "It Was a Very Good Year." This corps has the smallest tenor drummers I have ever seen. Their drums almost touch the floor. Although they are young gentlemen, they certainly do an outstanding job

on those drums. Their drill was well executed and had great floor coverage. They received second place.

The first of two "A" corps to make the scene tonight were the Royal Lancers of Portland, with a surprisingly small horn line of 22, and a full drum line. They led off with "God Bless America," a very good drum solo followed by an unusual arrangement of "Bonnie and Clyde" including a siren effect by the melophones. Their last number was "Hava Nagilah" with some very clean duet work. Although the Lancers have a large drum line their dynamics were such as not to drown out the small horn line. Their score 78.85 for second place. The top scoring corps of the evening and winner of the "A" division was the "Big Green," the Shamrocks of Seattle, with 30 horns and a large drum line, the

Shamrocks were by far the largest corps of the evening. When they hit the first note of "Joker" and moved across the starting line it shook the rafters in the old armory. This corps has tremendous power, but that evening, they could have held it down a little. Their next number was "Hohnny" followed by "Scarborough Fair." All of the music played by the Shamrocks is arranged by Mike Duffy who is also the music director of the corps. As I mentioned in the previous issue of the Digest, the Shamrocks are now playing the new F. E. Olds Ultratone Bugle. The surprise of the evening was the outstanding job done by their drummers. With many new members in their ranks they had hour after hour of practice to mold them into a good drum section. Of their showing here this evening, I would say they will have a better than

average drum section this year. Their score 81.483.

A special trophy given out each year at the Opti-Rama, "The Sportsmans Trophy" was presented to the Hawks of Portland. I can't think of a finer group than the Hawks to receive it.

Individual winners were: Top horn, Frank Minear, Shamrocks; top drum, Don Worth Jr., Imperial Cadets; quartet Hawks Portland; ensemble, Sentinels of Bellevue, Wash.; top drum major trophy was won by Paul Langdon, Cascades.

I would like to hear from more corps around the northwest. Also tell your friends how great the Digest is, and encourage them to send in for a subscription. Let them in on all the great drum corps info you receive by reading Drum Corps Digest.

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