

CAVALIERS DOWN SAC AT HIGHLAND PARK

BY: DALE KARRIGAN

HIGHLAND PARK, IL., Aug. 15 — The city of Highland park was the scene tonight of one of the Midwest's greatest Drum Corps shows. The CAVALIERS of Park Ridge and Chicago proved that they still have what it takes to be a National Champion by soundly defeating the very sharp BLESSED SACRAMENT GOLDEN KNIGHTS of Newark, N.J. by 5 points.

The real crowd pleaser and favorite of the entire audience was the TORONTO OPTIMISTS. They had the crowd "eating out of their hands." The people out here really enjoyed Opti's excellent horn line, and those "crazy" drums, which, along with some very superb music and drill, had everyone giving the Optimists a standing ovation as they left the field. Some of the Optimists most outstanding music was "Who Will Buy," "More," and "The Party's Over".

Another crowd pleaser was the RACINE EXPLORER SCOUTS. The little assistant drum major, Earl Vanderhellign, (he is only 5 years old) had the crowd screaming for more. Little Earl comes out to mid-field along with the 2 other majors, salutes the crowd and then turns to bring the horns up. You have to see Earl in action to really get the effect he has on the audience.

The Racine Scouts' new uniforms are very nice and that, along with their sharp music, makes them the very best Racine

Scout corps they have ever produced. Also, Racine has some very unique drill formations that, along with soloist TOM STANTON, brings in the GE by the points, not to forget the smart Racine Scout Guard. They are really one of the best guards I have every seen come out of the West in a long time.

The CEDAR RAPIDS CADETS is another corps that we must give some attention to. Rapids has about their best corps ever, a very huge corps too, of 36 horns, 4 and 4 in the drum line and a huge guard of 17. The Rapids Cadets have some very pleasing music. Especially liked was their off the line to theme from "The Big Country." One thing that bothered me was that I couldn't figure out what the two smaller boys were supposed to be or do. All they did was stand at parade rest on the 50 yard line throughout the entire show. The Cadets had some nice horn and drum work along with some very pleasing flag maneuvers and a well-balanced musical repertoire. Really a nice corps this year,

that's why we can't understand why they placed where they did.

MARION CADETS was another corps that impressed me. I liked their very sharp off the line. I think that the Marion Cadets have about the sharpest uniforms I have seen on any corps. Two male drum majors seem to work very nicely together. Be sure to take special notice of Marion's revised version of the old Madison head-chopper with the horns. The two best numbers were "How The West Was Won" and the exit of "When I Fall In Love". Marion, too, is enjoying one of their most successful seasons ever.

Next was the VANGUARD of Chicago (remember the old Logan Square and Skokie corps?). The Vanguard have a very unique show, quite different from any other Midwestern corps. They have their own style of marching and playing. Especially liked was their off the line of "Luck Be A Lady" (arranged by Hy Dreitzer), concert of "Bizet Has His Day," "Navaho Trail", and exit of "Bill Bailey." The guard still has some very clever gimmicks going, especially the rifle and sabre line.

NORWOOD PARK is another favorite of everyone out here. They have a very jazzy version of "Mississippi Mud" and "Old Man River". However, the two most outstanding numbers were "More" and the exit of "Sleep". Norwood still has that beautiful sunburst in their drill and the guard does add a lot to the show. Watch the 3 girls do the twist during the concert.

MADISON SCOUTS still remain one of the crowd's favorites despite the fact that they are suffering a great deal from personnel turnover. Even though Madison is down this year, we are sure that in a year or two they will be right back up there where they belong. Madison has gone back a few years and brought back some of their old but popular music. Especially liked the concert of "Maria".

The BLESSED SACRAMENT GOLDEN KNIGHTS, one of the last corps to step off the line, was one corps that everyone was waiting to see. Powerful off the line of "Big Country," color presentation of "National Emblem", the theme from "The Cardinal", "Stairway To The Stars" and "Mutiny On The Bounty" were definitely Sac's best numbers. Very nice horns. We noticed, however, that SAC did not spread the corps too much and that most of the drill was "centered" on the 50-yard line. Sac's M&M was just about perfect. They had some very nice bass horns — very powerful. Liked their drum major, GENE KENNEDY. He seemed to have the corps in absolute control. Especially liked was the drill to the exit number.

Last competing corps were the CAVALIERS. Off the line to the wild "Who Will Buy", "Somewhere" concert is one of the most outstanding concerts that Cavies have had in a long time. Noticed that the Cavaliers seemed to form a sort of parade formation in one part of their drill. The still exit with the beautiful "Somewhere Over The Rainbow". Cavies were ON tonight.

From what I understand the Cavaliers will be traveling to Dallas, Texas for the AL Nationals. Garfield cadets, too, have plans to travel to Dallas.

The last corps (in exhibition) was the SARNIA MARCHING ANGELS of Canada. Sarnia put on a very crowd-pleasing show. They along with Sacramento and Opti got a standing ovation (these three corps were the only corps to get standing ovations from the crowd).

The Scores:

1. Cavaliers 84.17
2. Blessed Sacrament 79.28
3. Kilties 76.40
4. Norwood Park 74.63
5. Toronto Optimists 73.77
6. Racine Explorers 72.70
7. Vanguard 70.85
8. Marion Cadets 62.93
9. Cedar Rapids Cadets 62.72
10. Madison Scouts 61.62

Special Awards were:

Best Parade Corps: The Cavaliers
Best Guard in Parade: Optimists
GE M&M: Norwood Park
GE Bugles: Optimists
GE Drums: Cavaliers
Field Bugles: Cavaliers

Special thanks were given to DICK TRANK as the best writer of the year, and to RICK MAASS as the best corps director of the year. Maass is the director of the Norwood park Imperials. The show was sponsored by the Highland Park Jaycees and the BRIGADE Drum Corps.