

# Boston Crusaders Eight in Row Win Toronto Show

By VERN JOHANSSON

TORONTO, Ont., June 17 - Twenty-six National titles all meeting in neutral?? Canada. Boston Crusaders and Chicago Cavaliers perhaps still festering from '66 V.F.W. and American Legion Nationals.

Where will the Canadian National Champions place? What about #2 in Canada, LaSalle Cadets? Will Del move back up? Are Kilties worried about their first appearance?

The winner of this one has set up the pegs that will take a few contests into the season to knock down.

Before the 8 P.M. starting pistol went off, one wet cog in a well oiled machine managed to rust up the mechanism. At the 12 noon briefing meeting dark clouds shrouded the Shrine, but the chairman of the show, 6' 7" 290 lb., Lord Athol Layton commanded, "The sun always shines on the Shrine." Eleven hours later the same voice bellowed through smoke-filled room, "One of us Shriners hasn't done his job!" It rained at 4. It rained at 6. It rained at 8. Then it stopped.

Everyone was up early on Sunday to catch all the rehearsal time they could. The sun was out and the clouds were almost gone.

Twelve o'clock still overcast. Twelve-thirty the crowd moves in. Twelve-forty-five the corps check over the field. One o'clock the announcer welcomes the spectators and the corps. One fifteen the opening gun. LaSalle Cadets blast off with an added roar from the crowd.

They expressed the pent up emotions built up over the dampened day delay. This electric tension of appreciation charged through the whole afternoon.

Canada's oldest high school corps, De La Salle, gave the old school try but seemed to have an off day in many categories. It must have been one of those shows that every corps has at least once a year.

The new West Point flash of the Cadets of Garfield added yet another element to the show. The American theme was best typified in their color presentation "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." The sun broke through the clouds on the American flag as Garfield received a "Thumbs Up" from their fans north of the 49th.

It might have been our Centennial Year that brought the extra note of appreciation from the British North American element. And from the moment The Kilties from Racine stepped off the line until the finish line flourish of their "bag pipe" bugles, the crowd could all but restrain themselves from running out onto the field and shaking hands.

To new drum corps fans the show was going upward step by step on to the "Collective Originality" of Boston's Crusaders. This was the corps shown by the Publicity Department of The Shrine on their '67 posters, and they lived up to the ads 100%. A remarkable show from an even more remarkable corps.

Canada's nine year Champions, The Optimists entered stage left. The crowd all but asked them for an encore. Their new off the line has received nothing but bouquets wherever it's heard. A spirited show which classed them as best Canadian corps.

The Cavaliers impressed into everyone's mind just how they won the '66 Legion Nationals. An excellent performance from the Chicago contingent. Their bugle line is the best you will hear in any class of drum corps.

The only sour note in the show occurred in retreat. The Cavaliers received every trophy that would be needed to win the show. The shocker came when they were announced in second spot, four points behind the Crusaders!

The mix-up was discovered after the show when it was found that on the summary sheet the announcer was reading, Cavaliers' name was under Boston's scores and vice versa. Boston should have received all of the trophies except hornline which was kept by the Cavaliers.

### **The scores**

1. Crusaders 85.28
2. Cavaliers 81.65
3. Optimists 79.21
4. Garfield Cadets 76.83
5. Racine Kilties 76.00
6. LaSalle Cadets 71.95
7. De La Salle 70.18

### **Trophies**

Best G.E. Trophy - Crusaders;  
Best Drumline -Crusaders; Best  
Execution - Crusaders; Best  
Hornline - Cavaliers; Best Drum  
Major - Garfield; Best Color  
Guard - Kilties; Best Canadian  
Corps - Optimists; Third Place  
Banner - Optimists; Second Place  
Banner - Cavaliers; First Place  
Flag - Crusaders.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** It should be mentioned here that, had the Chief Judge ruled on this situation (on which he was questioned during score announcements) while the show was in progress and before the audience went home, much face-saving could have been accomplished. I have just talked by phone with the President of the Canadian Drum Corps Assn., Mr. Clare Reid. Mr. Reid stated, and I quote, "I would first like to take this opportunity to express my deep regrets and extend my sincere apologies to all the corps for this mix up and in particular the Boston Crusaders and the Cavaliers of Chicago." Further, "This is only the second contest in Canada being run under American Legion scoring. The tabulating was running slow ... the retreat was running fast ... many trophies were being presented before final tabulating was cleared." This in essence is the conversation relating to the Shriner's show.