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On the march

Slick, new moves gain Harrison band state title

By Louise Okrutsky
staff writer

IF YOU THINK of a high school marching band as two parallel rows of musicians marching down the 40-yard line to the theme from "Rocky," think again. High school bands are changing their tunes.

At Harrison High School, the band has edged into high-concept presentations of music once confined to the concert hall. In October, the band and its color guard literally danced into first place in the Michigan Concert Band Directors Association's state championship competition finals at Centennial Educational Park in Canton Township.

"This is the best marching band I've ever had," said Mark Phillips, Harrison's band director for 12 years.

Harrison's marching band and color guard were judged in eight categories ranging from overall performances and effects to individual group performances. The 80-member marching band won in its division — Flight III for bands of 61-90 members.

Tim Szymanski, 16, took first place as the division's top drum major.

It's the junior's first year in the job.

In competition, sophisticated routines replace the old, reliable moves.

"They're using more sophisticated music and maneuvering," Phillips said. "In the old days you'd make a picture or a shape and play a song. We look at it like a musical production, where you're integrating a lot more areas."

IN COMPETITION, at least, the school fight songs are replaced by such music as the classical orchestral piece, "Jupiter," by Holz. For the finals, Harrison also performed "American Fanfare," by the Dallas Brass, a concert band-sounding piece and "Goodbye Yesterday," a Buddy Rich composition with a big-band sound.

"Our strength is that we showed the kids can be successful in playing three different styles," Phillips said.

Even the on-field moves are sleeker, with the band and the color guard forming a kaleidoscope of abstract shapes.

"Last year, the color guard made an arc behind the band and did their routine," Phillips said. "This year, we have a higher level of creativity."

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— band director
Harrison High School

Color guard members sometimes resemble modern dancers, although only three of the group's 18 members have any dance training.

Choreography for Harrison's color guard was done by Greg Hagen, a Greenwood, Ind., instructor who teaches color guard classes in his high school and to outside groups.

Last summer, he came to Harrison to teach a two-day class. Using his videos, Carol McQueen, a college student, and Linda Lanigan, a Harrison math teacher, continued drilling the color guard.

Alice Chu, 17, a color guard captain, has seen a lot of changes in the group's routines over the last four years. "It's a lot more original, more difficult," said the senior.

JUST AS FOOTBALL players need to memorize the playbook, band members learn pages of dia-

grams illustrating their moves on the field. Covering a bulletin board in the band room are 21 pages of diagrams detailing just the show's opener.

"We do a lot of marking on the field when we're learning (a routine). We'll be real precise and use measuring tapes. We have to learn our relationship with people in the line and we maintain a lot of individual responsibility in maintaining the forms," Phillips said.

Presiding over this amalgamation of sight and sound on the field is Szymanski. Last year, he was a tuba player who saw something he liked in being a drum major. Picked for the job from a group of six contenders, he devoted part of the summer to attending a camp for drum majors and watched videos of other

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SHARON LAMBLUX/staff photographer

Award winning drum major Tim Szymanski leads the Harrison band through its paces at last Saturday's home game. Above, the band's flute section performs for the crowd.

Glamorama glitz

By Shirlee Rose Inden
staff writer

Through clouds of wispy steam, dancing mannequins floated down a ramp showing a fantasy of fashion in an extravaganza with all the bells and whistles of a theatrical production.

Glamorama, a benefit for the City of Hope is a heady habit hereabouts. But more than a fashion show, for the volunteers and staff of City of Hope, headquartered in Southfield, it's also the high point of fund raising each year.

For several hundred guests one recent Wednesday it was a fine way to enjoy a dazzling day of fashion and sociability while lending support to the institute in California which serves humanity as the City of Hope.

For 40 years City of Hope has provided free care of unsurpassed quality to patients with cancer, heart, blood, and lung diseases, and respiratory ailments. Alzheimer and AIDS patients and others are treated. City of Hope turns away no patient in need of care. And events such as Glamorama make possible the programs for which City of Hope is known.

ENTREPRENEURS manned boutiques at Congregation Adat Shalom in Farmington Hills to sell jewelry, handbags, children's clothing, bead designs, and more items. Some represent cottage industries or offer hand-done crafts.

After lunch, dessert was a fashion

extravaganza, produced by Leah Marks, with all stops out.

Southfield merchants whose upscale clothing was in the show were: Scott Gregory, now in Applegate Square; Tappert Jewelry, and Valentina's for large size women.

Others are Leotards, Inc., Cecil's One-of-a-Kind jewelry, D.O.C. Optique; Loretta Lorian's kids wear; and Cocktails for after 5 p.m. clothes.

Captain Rick Jagger of 96.3 radio was an affable emcee.

Malibu Salon of Farmington Hills provided make-up as well as the European hair design.

On the fashion agenda were: velvet jump suits; legging and jackets; long and short, fitted and full; stretch pants; fitted tunics; chenille look sweaters; leather suits; sweats; circle skirts, long skirts and short skirts.

A FULL PALETTE of colors, trends, and designs included: primary brights, plaids, hats, still-popular black and white in solids, plaids, and large checks. As predicted, lacy trims and see through fabrics were shown.

Sequins lent sparkle to after 5 p.m. clothes and even appeared in daytime wear.

These professional models made an impact in their sequined cocktail dresses (right).



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer