

Challenger tribute: Harrison High Band color guard, senior Lorin Quinn, performs in NASA attire as part of a musical tribute to the ill-fated Challenger flight. Harrison and Farmington High bands performed at the Ponti-ac Silverdome Saturday.



Fiuto formation: Elizabeth Lawrence (left), Melanie Kadwell, Christy Burger, Alice Miller, Jenny Bregand and Christine Melsauc carried the right tune for Harrison High at Saturday's competition.

Farmington high school bands chart in top-10

Sircina Warras
Although competition was stiff
at the Michigan Competing Band
Anaoclation State Championahip
Contest at the Pontiac Silverdome on Nov. 4, the Harrison
High School Marching Band from
Farmington Hills and the Farmington Falcon High School

Marching Band from Farmington, proudly represented their communities.
Forty bunds competed in Flights 1, II, III and IV, Flights are determined by the number of students in the school, not by the size of the band.
The Harrison band took fourth place in Flight II with a score of

89.5 out of a possible 100 points.
That score captured the fifth highest place of all 40 bands in all flights. Only Flight I band, Plymouth Canton, with a score of 94.0, and Flight II bands, Mona Shores, 93.0; Lakeland, 92.2; and Recths Puffer, 90.8, scored higher.
The Farmington Falcons scored 76.4 in taking tenth place in Flight II.
"Feeling good about what you do and doing the best you can is what's most important," said Harrison Band director Mark Phillips.
This was the first year the Harrison band competed in Flight II. They won the MCBA Flight III. State Championship in 1991, 1992 and 1993.
Farmington High Band director Norm Logan concurred, noting his students worked right up until 15 minutes before the buses departed for the Silverdime on Saturday.
"You can't ask any more of a

parted for the Silversome on Sat-urday. "You can't ask any more of a student than to try his utmost right to the very end, until he has to perform," he said. "It just makes me really excited to be working with these fine young men and women."

Of the approximately 20 bands now registered in each of the flights, only the top 10 scoring bands in each flight are accepted for the state competition. Both the Harrisson and Farmington bands competed in Flight II where the competition, was extremely close.

Drum line section leader, Jay Bender, plays the senare drum for parmington and is a four-year member of the marching band. In his senior year, he had hoped his band would qualify for state competition.

band would qualify for state com-petition. "This is really exciting," he said after Farmington's Saturday performance. "We weren't sure if we were going to make it this year. We were on the border line. When we found out, it was very excit-ing."

Farmington freshman, Kim Yoder, a color guard member said of her experience with the band, "It's the best activity I've ever done, It's hard, but it's worth it."

Marching band performances these days are definitely not what they used to be either. With cre-ative choreography, moving music and masterful marching, each

band presents a seven- to 11minuto vignette that can be from
a Broadway musical or collection
of songs or a special piece that
tella a story in music.
Farmington's 116-member
band performed "The Ascension,"
by Robert W. Smith and arranged
for the band by Scott Hickney.
"The Purple Twilight," written
by Robert Longfield as a memorial to the crew of the 1986 ill-fated
Challenger space shuttle mission,
was performed by the Harrison
band. The music was arranged by
ansistant director, Andy James.
The Harrison music had spe-

assistant director, Andy James.
The Harrison music had special meaning for Dara Precop's family. They were visiting in Florida at the time and witnessed the launch and explosion of the Challenger. Her son, Scott, a Harrison freahman, plays the bass clarinet in the band and was just five at the time of the accident.
"This is all very near and dear," said Dara Precop. "We were all there."

After Saturday's performance, Scott Precop felt, "very, very good." Friend, John Rumbell, also a freshman at Harrison and a trom-

bone player said, "That was probably the best performance we ever had."

This year's accomplishments for the Farmington band have been, third place at the Trenton Competition on Sept. 30; third at the Michigan Invitational in Flint on Oct. 5; and a First Division rating at the MSBOA District 4 Festival on Oct. 9.

Harrison took a first place at the Clarkston Invitational on Sept. 23; seventh place in the finals competition at the Bands of America Mid-east Regionals in Toledo on Sept. 30; second at the Michigan Invitational in Flint on Oct. 8; second at the Great Lakes Invitational in Plymouth on Oct. 14; second at the Linden Invitational on Oct. 21; and first at the Huron Valley Invitational in Milford on Oct. 22.

This Friday, Farmington High.

This Friday, Farmington High School will be hosting Band-O-Rama with performances from the bands and orchestra.

The Harrison band will be traveling to the RCA Dome in Indianapolis to compete in the Bands of America Grand National Championships on Nov. 10 and 11.



Silver trumpet: Senior Barry Chamberlin performs as Farmington High finished 10th in the state competition.





