

Farmington High marchers put on a holiday show

BY DIANE HANSON
SPECIAL WRITER

In spite of the warm sun-drenched fall day, the Farmington Marching Band put audience members in the Christmas spirit at the Michigan Invitational Marching Band Tournament held at Eastern Michigan University's Ryneerson Stadium on Sept. 30.

Their show, "A Holiday Spectacular," a delightful combination of Christmas classics, including "Sleigh Ride" and "Greensleeves," earned them a fourth-place Flight II award with a score of 69.9 at the 28th annual marching band competition hosted by the Flushing Raiders Marching Band.

"We are trying to add more fun things into the show," said Farmington Band Director Norman Logan. "We will be adding more of a story line to the show, too."

He pointed out that this is music and arrangements that everyone knows.

"We purposely picked these because we wanted an immedi-

■ 'There will be new things every week - just like Christmas - new presents all the time.'

Norman Logan
—FHS band director

ate music reaction from the crowd and we wanted to put everyone in a happy mood," said Logan.

They accomplished their goal to the audience's delight. Some of the 109 marchers were dressed as elves and everyone donned stick-on rosy red cheeks. Even tubas sported bowed wreaths on their bells.

"I think we did awesome and I think we'll make it all the way to States (the final Michigan competition of the top 40 bands held at the Silverdome on Nov. 3) this year," said a pleased Jonathan Moore, a junior clarinetist.

Michelle Mimikos, a sophomore trumpet player, is having fun with this year's show.

"It's not bad Christmas

music," she said. "It doesn't get old."

This is sophomore clarinetist Anna Griebel's first year in the marching band. "I like the show," she said. "It's fun."

Trumpeter Justin Sloan, a sophomore, said this year's Christmas theme fits in perfectly with the band's upcoming performance trip to England and Scotland around Thanksgiving time.

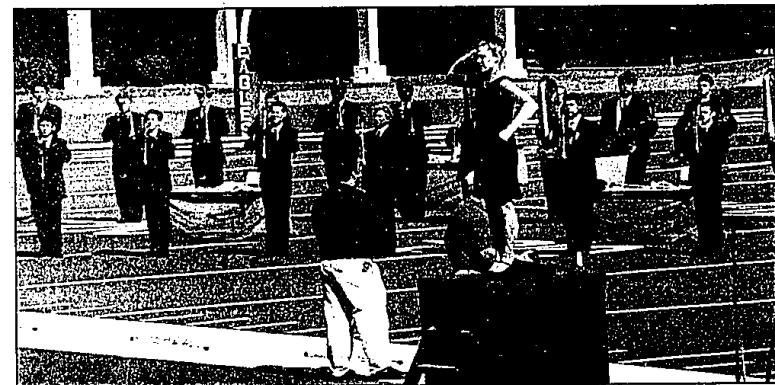
"At first we thought it was going to be really corny," said Sloan. "But it really isn't. It's pretty jazzy."

Logan and interim Assistant Director Brad Moore, a 1989 graduate of Farmington High School where he played three years in the marching band followed by six years in the University of Michigan Marching Band, have more in store for the spectators.

"There are a lot of things that we haven't added yet," said Logan. "There will be new things every week - just like Christmas - new presents all the time."



Holiday on turf: The Farmington High School marching band played a medley of holiday music during the Michigan Invitational earning a fourth place finish with their "Holiday Spectacular."



Parade rest: The Harrison High School marching band, under the direction of Peggy Babcock, picked up every Flight III trophy at the 28th annual Michigan Invitational Marching Band Tournament, hosted by the Flushing Raiders at Eastern Michigan University.

HHS sweeps state event

BY DIANE HANSON
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Delivering a stellar performance on a spectacular fall day, the Harrison High School Marching Band raked in every Flight III trophy at the 28th annual Michigan Invitational Marching Band Tournament hosted by the Flushing Raiders at Eastern Michigan University's Ryneerson Stadium on Sept. 30.

"They were great," said a pleased Peggy Babcock, Harrison band director. "I feel like musically we are going a lot farther and I think we are starting to pull it together now with some of the visual."

She added that they are trying to convey to the audience the whole office idea of their performance. The show "Divertimento: A Day in the Life," portrays the 9 to 5 life of the average corporate worker - with a day punctuated by appointments, clock-watching, pages, phone calls and frustrations. Props used help the audience get a better idea of what the show is all about, said Joel Yoder, assistant band director.

"Our tables are beginning to look

more like desks now," he noted. "It makes the show more effective and more enjoyable to the audience."

The 90-member Harrison band marched off with a bevy of trophies for their score of 69.9, including Flight III first-place, and trophies for all three captions-Best Music, Best Marching and Best General Effect. This is junior flutist Sydney Kinchen's first year in the band. She was pleased with her band's performance.

"I think it's great," she said. "It's a lot of fun too. It's a great experience and you meet a lot of terrific people."

It's also Dave Marvicsin's, a freshman trumpet player, first year in the band. "The practices are two hours after school every day," he said. "It's hard, but it's worth it." Kensey Wang, sophomore flutist, agreed. "We have been working hard," she said. And with all that hard work, what's the best thing about this year?

"It's got to be that we are a million times better than last year," she concluded with a smile.

Observer-area bands perform well

How did Observer-area bands do at the Michigan Invitational?

(Flights are determined by the enrollment in each school, not the size of the band. The largest schools are in Flight I, the smallest in Flight IV).

Flight III: Farmington Harrison, 69.9, First place and all Flight III captions for Best

Marching, Music and General Effect.

Flight II: Farmington, 69.9, Fourth place Flight I: Westland John Glenn, 47.8; Seventh place West Bloomfield, 60.2, Fifth place

Plymouth-Canton, 80.55, First place and all three Flight I captions, plus the traveling Governor's Trophy for overall highest score of the 19 bands competing at the tournament.

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