

## Harrison finishes competition season

BY DIANE HANSON  
CORRESPONDENT

Finishing off their Michigan competition season at the Durand Invitational October 26, the Harrison Marching Band once again captured the Flight III first-place trophy for the performance of their show "Gazabo Dances."

Earning a score of 76.6, they also netted caption awards for Best Marching and Best General Effect.

Other Observer-area bands at the competition included Redford Thurston, Flight III second place, 74.6; and in Flight II West Bloomfield, second, 70.60; and Westland John Glenn, third, 68.15.

"They did a nice job," said Harrison Director Peggy Babcock of her 82 performers. "They marched a very clean show and the color guard had an absolutely fantastic performance."

Senior trombonist Dan Rumbell was also pleased with his band's Saturday performance. "I think it went pretty well," he said. "Style-wise, our show is a lot like last year's. I think it is one of the best shows Harrison has done."

This year's show musically and visually depicts the change of seasons and the second movement, "October," is a favorite of many of the performers, including Rumbell.

"It is a nice piece of music in general and when we put it on the field with all the color, it is really beautiful," he said.

"This show is good music," said Alex Sobolev, a senior percussionist. "It is probably the most sophisticated music we've played in my four years with the band. Each of the shows has gotten more physical and more musical. They kind of evolve. That means we have to work harder to get even better."

That's something the band will continue to do for the next several weeks. Easily making the cut of the top 10 Flight III bands in the Michigan Competing Band Association, Harrison will perform as the defending 2001 Flight III Champions at the MCBA State Championship Contest on Nov. 2 in the Pontiac Silverdome at 10:15 p.m.

The band will also be performing at Harrison's Band-O-Rama concert at 7:30 p.m. in the school's auditorium on Nov. 6 before heading off to the Bands of America Grand National Championships at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis Nov. 14-16.

## Activities abound at Senior Center

The Farmington Hills Senior Center, located in the Cortick Center on 11 Mile between Middlebelt and Inkster, offers a host of programs for area adults ages 50 and better.

Here are just a few of the many educational, cultural and social programs available at the Senior Center in November:

■ **Stars & Stripes Forever** - 10:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8. This annual sell-out event honors veterans and includes lunch and dancing. Tickets are \$5 each.

■ **Financial Seminar** with Joe Giordano - 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19. Join certified financial planner and former WMU radio show personality Joe Giordano for a discussion about strategies for your long-term retirement security.

■ **Thanksgiving Party** - 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21. Gather for a memorable feast, along with entertainment by the Sweet Adelines Spirit of Detroit Chorus. Tickets are \$4 each.

For additional information, call (248) 473-1830.

## MCCULLOCH

FROM PAGE C5

On the sideline, trained coaches and athletic personnel can now quickly check for the player's orientation, concentration, memory and so forth. There is actually a "Sideline Concussion Checklist" that can rate the grade of the concussion and be used to decide when to return a player to the game.

In Grade One concussions, there is a temporary confusion, no loss of consciousness, and symptoms of mental disruption resolve in less than 15 minutes. Grade One concussions are managed by removing the player from the contest, examining the player immediately and at five-minute intervals. The player can return to the contest if abnormalities clear within 15 minutes.

In Grade Two concussions,

there is temporary confusion, no loss of consciousness, but the concussion symptoms of mental status abnormalities last more than 15 minutes. These are managed by removing the player from the contest and disallowing return to the game that day.

The player should be examined on site frequently and the trained personnel should re-examine the athlete the following day.

A physician should then perform a neurological examination to clear the athlete for return to play after one full week without symptoms.

A Grade Three concussion is defined as any loss of consciousness no matter how brief or prolonged. These are managed by immediately transporting the athlete off the field to the nearest emergency department by ambulance. A thorough medical work-up would be done, and, depending on outcome, a

player cannot return to action for two weeks.

Multiple Grade Three concussions are managed by abstaining from play for one month or longer based on decisions of the evaluating physicians.

The Standardized Assessment of Concussion has been developed and promoted, in part, by our own neuropsychologists at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

The National Hockey League has taken full advantage of the development of these assessments and employs them in even more rigorous ways.

Before the start of each season, each player in the NHL undergoes a battery of neuropsychological tests known to be impacted by concussions. Then, during the season if concussion occurs, they are immediately retested and their results are compared to the preseason baseline.

Decisions about when to play are based, in part, on these latest concussion detection rationales.

### GOLF BALLS

It is estimated that yearly, 40,000 golfers in the United States are admitted to the emergency room, mostly from being hit in the head by errant golf balls.

Detroit was a forerunner in developing a "crash dummy" which is now used throughout the country for research determining impact damage caused when the head is struck by golf balls from various angles and at various speeds.

This is adding to our knowledge about concussions, their aftermath, and certainly drawing more needed attention to this serious problem.

The importance of taking concussions seriously cannot be understated.

It is hoped that, sooner than later, the work being done at the professional and collegiate athletic levels will trickle down to our high schools and children's ball fields.

Athletic directors and coaches can be educated about the seriousness of concussions and trained with diagnostic tools in making decisions about letting athletes return to play after "getting their bell rung."

The Brain Injury Association of Michigan, Henry Ford Hospital Neuropsychology Department, and the National Academy of Neuropsychology all can be found on the Web or through general telephone information operators.

Leonard J. McCulloch is a certified brain injury specialist and board certified in trauma. He is director of Psychological Services at Broe Rehabilitation Services in Farmington Hills. He can be reached at (248) 474-2763.

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