

EASTERN GRIT

by H. Worth Ake

Six state National Judges five chapter color guard circuit is certainly one of the most active, if not the most active, loop in the country this year. Having a membership of 90 guards from Ct., NY, Pa., Md., Del., the circuit has had 54 of them on the floor up to March 1st in 17 reported shows. Undisputed leader of the circuit to that date were the Woodbridge-Edison NJ Saints of director Ralph Fair. Saints have swept thru 13 straight shows since last Nov. 24th without defeat with ten shows having been within the circuit. In addition, the Saints have won over the perennial Metro Circuit champs, the Floral Park NY Ambassadors, no less than four times. Scarlet Cadets of Belleville NJ, another Metro Circuit tough, managed to beat the Ambassadors Feb. 23rd but they had already been beaten four times by the Saints. Saints feature a General Effect packed show that has only twice failed to carry the top score in that caption as the key words to the Ralph Fair and Tony Cataneo-taught drill have to be precision, flying equipment, constant movement, superb carriage and snappy musical background all molded into a fascinating package for the fans' and judges' eyes. Pretty Dawn Angela Fair whips the 8FF, 4R, 4S, AF with gaurding S thru their paces to the taped accompaniement of Americans We and the theme from Ziegfield Follies. Ray Kadash assists in directorship of the guard as wonderful Jean French handles the business and

mothers the girls. Pert and pretty JoAnne Parente handles the PR and carries a FF to do her share and more. Organized as part of the Saints drum and bugle corps in 1967, the guard has won its share of titles while striving to reach the pinnacle of guard success, an NJA all-chapter crown at Wildwood. Ralph Fair has quite something going for him. Looking at the tab sheets of those first big 13 shows, you can see that the guard is so well-balanced that even a 2nd in M&M or GE, the big scoring tabs, won't sink the Saints on any given night. They have fiver perfect posting nights on their record and Dawn Fair has rung up perfect 5.0 scores on 4 of the 11 nights when MBCO was tabbed. Four tab wins in M&M would seem to indicate this was the Saints' weak spot, but even a 3rd here and a 2nd in GE didn't keep them from beating the fine Ambassadors by .03 in the Phantom Regiment Invitational last December. Time, and only time, will tell if this hot pace can be kept up. Even more important will be if the Saints can lose one and come right back to re-establish their class. Several years ago the National Judges circuit had an unbeaten circuit guard in the Hadenfield NJ Royaleer Mounties, another beautiful group of girls with a class show. Ralph Fair has set his goal for duplicating the Mounties record. Over 80 guards are out to challenge him.

BOYSTOWN ON THE RISE

Kearny NJ Boystown is approaching their 100th anniversary in 1975 with every indication that it will be a tremendous celebration for their community. Meanwhile their drum corps will be cheered thru their 20th anniversary this year with an ever-increasing parade schedule and a fine appearing 50-boy corps of real music makers. Director-biz

-QM John Rose has the growing corps practicing with Ed Redman teaching some 20 horns, Joe Whalen working 15 percussion. Rose, in addition to his full house of other duties, is teaching a guard front of some 15 youth. Handsome DM Wayne Sabolewski will front the corps as it hits the street this spring using a repertoire that ranges from **Magnificent Seven, Champions on Parade, Grand OLD Flag thru Over There** and a rock version of **The Horse**, **certainly** a full range of musical work for parade customers and viewers. Guard captain Frank Ramirez and his co-captain John Magyar will have all new red'white-blue flash flags with swallow tails in the line up front. There will be new uniforms coming for next year's big 100th year Boystown celebrations. Guard is expected to go into floor competition next winter when they join the Dennis DeLucia scholastic guard circuit. So the guard will be working its CE and MB on the street this summer

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ANNOUNCING . .