

BLUE DEVILS DEVIL'S PRIDE

Booster Club

September 2007

Since we are still on "Cloud 12," we thought we might finish up a few things from last month:

Of course, we could not end the year without thanking those wonderful people who spend so much time and energy throughout the year and on tour. What can we say about Pete Emmons and Sheryl Miles? Most people do not realize just how hard these two people work on tour. Debbie Odello and her crew took care with the uniforms to make sure our kids looked so elegant on the field. In our opinion, Carol Vargas and all the helpers in Devil's Food had one of the most demanding duties making sure everyone got fed and being able to work with refrigeration units and propane going out at the most inconvenient times. Our instructional staff is one of the finest you will find anywhere. The administrative staff is busy throughout the entire year working on the myriad of details that go into a successful tour. The Promo staff had a record-breaking year. A big thank you to our drivers who made sure the kids got to places safe and sound and for being part of the "family." Another big thanks to all our members of the Booster Club for your continued financial, physical and moral support. Things don't just happen. We are grateful for our wonderful donors. Most of all, we thank 135 fantastic young people for a year that really was spectacular.

One of the things we have made as a tradition is to give each age-out a letter from the Booster Club during Finals Week thanking them for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year and wishing them well in their "life after drum corps." It has been obvious that the letters have meant a lot to these kids and are very appreciated.

A few facts: Attendance at the "Big, Loud & Live" cinecast of Quarterfinals drew 22,921 fans to 116 theaters in 38 states – a new record. The ESPN2 telecast was seen in 380,224 Nielsen Research households (to be rebroadcast 9/25-1st hour and 9/27-2nd hour – both at 2pm EST). Regarding the first-ever California DCI Finals Week: To quote DCI: "With the highest attendance figures recorded since the early 1990s, the 07 World Championships highlighted DCI's most competitive season ever." Total combined live attendance is estimated at more than 40,000. It is estimated more than 30,000 people viewed the Championship Finals on August 11. Quarterfinals' paid attendance was 8,966 with Semi-Finals topping out at 13,877. Combined paid attendance for the three days of Division II and III events totaled 3,221. More than 50,000 tickets were sold for events during Finals Week. **Some of the 2007 milestones:** A total of 136 events in 40 states was sanctioned over a 57-day period. As a part of the 2007 Summer Music Games Tour, DCI produced 15 major regional contests with the audience at the major regional events alone exceeding 75,000. The DCI Atlanta Regional had the highest paid attendance (11,785).

From what we understand, DCI was both surprised and extremely pleased with the outcome of actually having DCI Finals in California. Wonder if we will be seeing another Finals Week in California! We think the Stanford people were also very pleased with how the Regionals event went.

The next venture for the corps is a scheduled trip for a select ensemble to travel to Japan in October to participate in the 20th Annual Marching in Okayama Festival. The ensemble will consist of 24 brass players, 12 percussionists and a Drum Major. The Blue Devils will be making several television performances, performing outdoor concerts, stage shows and a parade. This is the third time the Blue Devils have appeared in Okayama. The trip will be co-sponsored by the City of Okayama, DEG/Japan and Dynasty/USA.

UPCOMING 49er GAMES:

We are committed to the following games and would certainly welcome your help if at all possible: September 30, October 7 and 8, November 18, December 9, 15, and 23. This is our major fundraiser and the more people we have working at the games, the more money we are able to bring in. If you can help out, please give Mary Cloyd a call at (925) 845-0802.

2nd ANNUAL 'FLEET DAY' So how did we spend a beautiful Saturday? Well Terry Maurer coordinated getting members of the Booster Club, family and friends to meet at the Hall at 7:45 a.m., getting them on buses and taking off for Santa Clara where we met up with several members of the Vanguard. We spent the day giving all the vehicles a thorough cleaning, including bringing the power washer into Devil's Food and blasting the ovens and fans. Afterwards, we were treated to a great BBQ lunch. The Vanguard people finally consented to letting us bring some water and something for dessert. Thanks to Mary Cloyd for bringing some totally delicious cookies that were definitely a hit with everyone. Once again, our thanks to SCV for their gracious hospitality. We certainly got wet and dirty, but it was very satisfying to drive home in clean vehicles. As we have done in the past, the Booster Club will have a day in October where we clean all the coolers, tables, etc. (Volunteers welcome!)

HERE AND THERE:

After an 11-year absence, it was great to learn the Velvet Knights were back in the competition in Pasadena competing as a Division III corps. We are very hopeful this extremely entertaining corps will soon be back into the Division I group. VK, welcome back; we have missed you!

Long-time Program Coordinator for the Blue Devils, Ramiro Barrera, has recently been named Program Coordinator for the Madison Scouts. Ramiro is very talented and the Scouts are looking forward to utilizing his expertise in their 2008 production.

From an article on the DCI site by Michael Boo on an interview with Wayne Downey, Wayne stated, "What has evolved greatly over the decades of drum corps experience is the technical information that instructors are able to provide to the corps members. The members come to us better prepared because the entire drum corps and marching band activity has evolved (especially in) what we ask them to do from a physical point of view. These demands on the performers have trickled down to high school marching bands so that now the performers are coming out of high schools and other programs with more competencies...and we have to develop new techniques to take their level of excellence to new places. As for what Blue Devils as an organization have stood for over the decades, the Blue Devils have been about reinventing the wheel, including looking at what we can do better than we've ever done before and setting new standards. The students have gotten better, the activity has evolved and we have evolved our techniques and curriculum to approach new standards as we've moved forward."

Michael Boo's article regarding the two Marines and Finals is on the DCI site and contains a picture of the two young men and one of their mothers. The article is a little different than what was on the BD Forum and gives more information on how things came about. The article is well worth checking out and re-reading.

Our version of the Oprah Book Club: "*The Lorin Solo*" Available from Amazon.com This is a love story about 2 young people who happen to be members of the Blue Devils and takes place in Concord, CA. Anyone involved with the Corps during the early years will be able to relate to a lot of the book. Reading the book brought up so many memories. Many things have been slightly altered regarding the working of the Corps and we were wishing the author would have stuck to more things as they actually were. However, it was enjoyable being able to read a story mentioning Wayne Downey, Mike Moxley, Dave Gibbs, Concord, etc. The book is written by Chuck Edwards who spent quite a bit of time touring with the Blue Devils to get an insight about drum corps. The original idea was to make a movie, but financing for something called "drum corps" was not to be. It was turned into a stage musical production by the Los Angeles City College with the Anaheim Kingsmen playing two different corps. The production received rave reviews and every performance was sold-out. Chuck then formed the Hollywood Knights Drum and Bugle Corps, but competition for financing proved to be too much. After 20 years, BLAST! appeared on the scene. However, with no story or characters, BLAST! was not a vehicle for Hollywood to champion in favor of *Drumline*. The screen play has now been turned into a novel and is dedicated to the memory of "Mr. Blue Devil," Jerry Seawright. "On reading the novel, you will actually hear the music and fall for the people in this bittersweet romance." The book is easy reading and just fun to go down memory lane.

Now we are working on plans for the banquet to be held on Saturday, November 24, at the Marriott Hotel in Walnut Creek, CA. The cost of the banquet will most likely be \$40/plate. We have held the banquet at the Marriott for several years and look forward to another very successful event. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sonja Williams at williamssonjab@hotmail.com to make your reservation (be sure to indicate BD in the subject line). Family, friends and fans are always welcome to join us in celebrating the year...and this year we certainly have things to celebrate!

2008 is just around the corner

Brass auditions for the 2008 season: -10/27 Atlanta, GA (tentative), -11/20 Forth Worth TX, -11/16 Indianapolis, IN, -11/24-25 – Pleasant Hill, CA, -12/8 Riverside, CA, 12/15 Pleasant Hill, CA. Guard: 11/23-25, Pleasant Hill, CA. Percussion: 12/8-9 Pleasant Hill, CA. Pit: 12/8-9 Pleasant Hill, CA.

January camp: January 18-20. Helpers welcome for breakfast, lunch and dinner on 1/19 and breakfast and lunch on 1/20. Contact Sheryl Miles/Carol Vargas at (925) 689-2918 and leave a message.

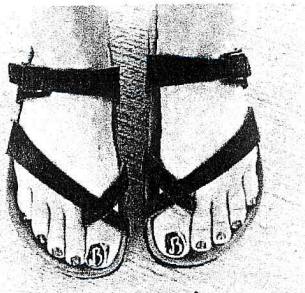
Now, of course we put out the call for your help in housing some of these young people as they come in for auditions and/or camps. With tour fees and the cost of transportation for each camp, adding the cost of a motel or hotel can get pretty expensive. This is an absolute great way to get to know the kids and to be involved with the Corps. If you can help, please call the Blue Devil hall at (925)689-2918. You won't be sorry.

On behalf of the Booster Club, we extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Larry Anzini, past president of the Parents Association and a long-time avid supporter of the Blue Devils.

Our next meeting:

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2007
I-HOP Restaurant
Martinez, CA
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Mary Cloyd, President
Yvonne Moss, Vice President
Sonja Williams, Secretary-Treasurer
Katie Wills, Membership
Penny Ross/Norma Merrill, Sunshine

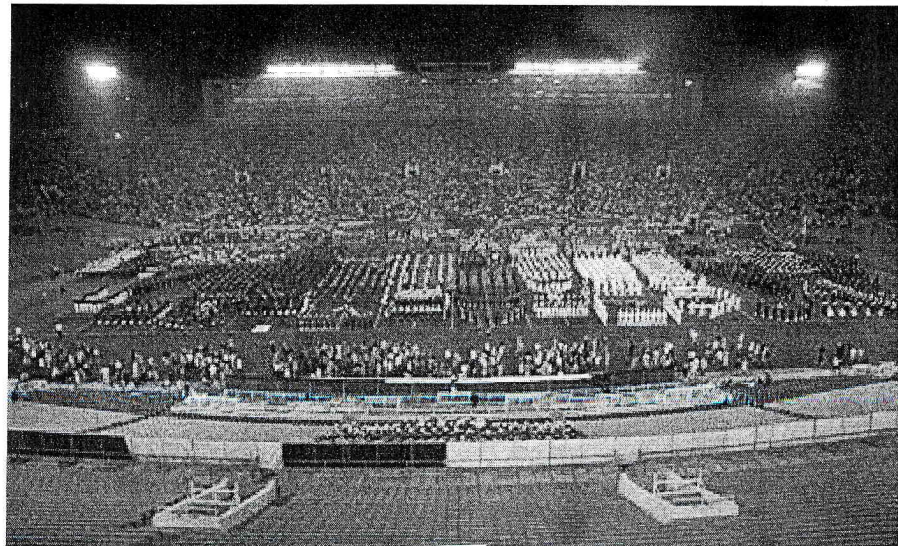
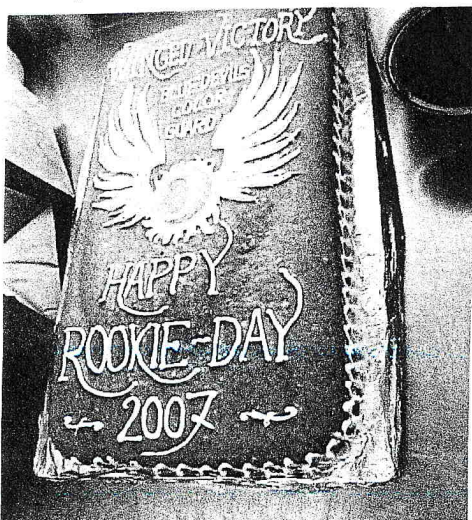


"Happy Feet"



On our way

Cake by Hans



Retreat 07