

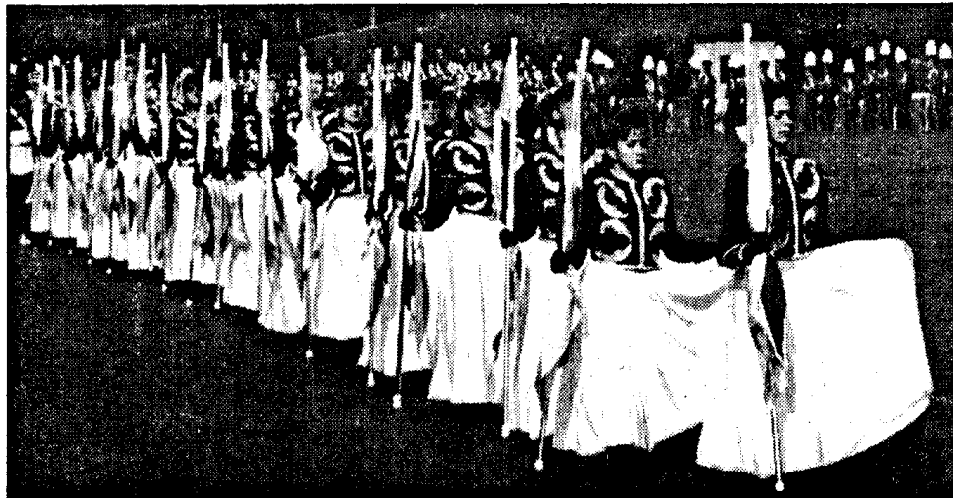
# Phantom holds off BD at sell-out show

by Michael Boo

August 13, 1989—Normal, Illinois . . . Impressively capturing all sub-captions except GE brass, Cadets of Bergen-County bested Star of Indiana at Illinois State University's Hancock Stadium. Cadets' score of 93.50 put them in contention for the DCI finals crown, which would be decided only six days later. *Les Miserables* allows the corps to explore the many emotions of drama and despair found in the hit musical. The most effective part of the show was the two melodies played simultaneously by two separate mini-corps. The full-corps peace sign at the end was just one of the endings being tried out. It had disappeared by their first performance in Kansas City.

Star of Indiana had beaten Cadets just the night before. They placed second tonight in all sub-captions except GE brass which they won. Their British production came across with a sense of obvious raw power, yet was controlled and beautifully artistic. The company front push in *Fantasia on the Dargason* hit the audience with as much power as a corps can produce. The regal and majestic *Crown Imperial* topped off the program with dignity and traditional drum corps "oomph." Star appears to be having their best year to date.

Velvet Knights took fourth in visual performance, but third in all other sub-captions. Always a bit off-center, the corps delivered on their reputation with a gorilla-banana act right off-the-line in *Yo Mambo*, a very VK-ish production complete with Brazilian carnival costumes and props. "Velvet Knights in Tunisia" features many jazz classics with a VK twist. Velvet Knights



**Audiences eagerly await the Boston Crusaders' traditional Conquest, and the Massachusetts corps didn't disappoint this year. (Photos by Adrian Loeffelholz)**

once again prove that drum corps can be fun for everyone in corps—members and audience alike. They were awarded an 87.00 for third place.

Freelancers were third in visual performance and fourth in all other subcaptions, with a final score of 83.30 for fourth place. The mysterious mood-setting strains of

space-like music set up the return of the legendary Freelancers' wall of sound, a sound we had missed for too many seasons. The hard-driving power of *Empire of the Sun* took the corps through many moods of violence and the turmoil of war, concluding with the hopeful and spirited *E.T.* theme. It's nice to have Freelancers back in the thick of things.

Boston Crusaders were in fifth place across the board for a score of 79.90. The off-the-line proclamation of *Cast A Giant Shadow* was Boston at its finest—gutsy and full of intense musical drama. *I, Don Quixote* from *Man of LaMancha* featured a fascinating rotating file routine when the horns pivoted to let the guard run through, like a turnstile. With only 40 horns, Boston is still able to propel people off their seats with the opening strains of *Conquest*, something all fans await with eager anticipation. It never fails to evoke an emotional reaction.

Glassmen placed sixth with a 69.90. *Key to Her Ferrari* drove the corps on the field with a finger-snapping, toe-tapping melody that was bouncy and contagious. Flag poles which double over on themselves gave an unusual look to *Caravan*. *Swing Low* really does swing, helping this corps of less than 90 sell their show to an appreciative audience. Last year, the corps competed in DCI class A, but made the jump to open class this year with fairly successful results.

This show was originally not on the DCI tour, having been added rather late after another show failed to materialize. The show sponsors deserve kudos for putting together a well-run show on limited notice.

## Did you know?

The first junior corps to win both VFW and American Legion titles in the same year was St. Vincent's Cadets from Bayonne, NJ, in 1951.