

Star of Indiana hits the West, nips at SCV, tops Blue Devils

by Sue Johnson

July 5, 1989--Modesto, California . . . You may not think a Wednesday night in California would be a great night for a drum corps show, but fans were willing to brave the travel and the heat to see their favorite corps at the 8th annual *Kaleidoscope Klassic*.

A fine performance it was, with the Santa Clara Vanguard casting their spell once again on the crowd for a clean sweep of the first-place trophy, including high visual, percussion, brass, GE and color guard. SCV is moving steadily upward in all captions, passing the hurdle into the 80s, with a score of 82.60. The guard is using long black veils in the poignant *Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again*. The veils are a nice contrast to the white in the uniforms. The veils, at first worn over the guard's faces, are now worn back, exposing facial expressions for better effect, audience members agree.

Star of Indiana took second with 81.40, closing the gap behind SCV to 1.2. Star's road show is taking its toll on members, resulting in a myriad of injuries from an abscessed tooth to appendicitis. One color guard member is still in a Concord hospital with back problems. We all wish Cim Bowman a speedy recovery! Caption scores for Star are coming up nicely, notably the percussion performance increase of more than 2 points from last weekend, within 0.2 of SCV.

The Concord Blue Devils came in third with 80.00. GE scores are working their way higher, up almost 3 points tonight from last weekend. Might be a result of the blue and purple shiny "shawls" added by the guard in *If We Were In Love* and their squiggly fluorescent streamers used in *Allegre*. Guard members say there is still more to come. If you see the population of BD's pit go up and down, it's because several fine mallet players exit the pit regularly to complement the music and drill as cymbal players.

Freelancers broke into the 70s tonight, taking fourth with 70.90. The corps continues to work on GE, adding touches here and there to significantly increase overall GE by more than 3 points over last weekend.

Blue Knights took fifth place with a 64.00. Blue Knights are working hard on brass performance, resulting in a marked improvement in that caption from last weekend. The percussion line also overtook Freelancers tonight in percussion performance by 0.2. It was nice to see Blue Knights march the 4th of July parade in Stockton, CA. It seemed to boost drum corps' visibility so much, especially here in California.

In division II, Blue Devils B members and staff were elated to beat the SCV Cadets for the first time this season. BDB scored 58.20 as they really cooked throughout their entire show, breaking the Cadets' winning streak. BDB's guard seems to be pulling together as a group as their GE score continues to climb. Congrats on their division II high color guard award tonight.

The SCV Cadets came in second tonight with a score of 57.10. Although their GE caption scores were down tonight, they took percussion performance by one point over

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Mandarins and 1.4 over BDB. Perhaps their roadtrip to the Northwest will get them back on track when they meet new competition in

the next few days.

The Sacramento Mandarins took third tonight with a score of 54.10. The horn line perhaps seemed tired and not up to their usual performance level, but the marching show is still gaining in accuracy, putting Mandarins one point over BDB and 1.4 over SCV Cadets in visual performance.

Kaleidoscope Klassic was hosted by Valley Fever Drum Corps of Modesta, CA, now in its 10th year. Valley Fever achieved DCI membership back in the early 80s, but its open class corps has only been active for one season since 1985 due to financial difficulties. Best wishes to Valley Fever in their efforts to field an open-class corps for the 1990 season.