

THE Preston REPORTER

CHAMPIONS A.L.L



Here is the text in a more readable format

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LOWER: For the first time in the memory of the greatest percentage of the members, Scout House placed second in a junior band competition. Paul Bauer is shown above accepting the second place trophy from William Anderson, MP. Paul also won the first place trophy as best drum major in the show and accepted the first place cup for the best band in the street parade. (Reporter Photo)

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The Galt City News Page

PAGES 9 TO 18

Galt, Ontario, Monday, September 15, 1958

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Toronto Band Takes Title From Scout House

Canadian Junior Honors Won By Toronto Opticorps

By ROY FRANCIS

Colorful marching pageantry, borne by the rocketing blasts of bugles and trumpets, brought rounds of applause from almost 15,000 Galt district supporters at Dickson Park Saturday during the 1958 Canadian Bugle and Trumpet Band championships.

In the junior championships, a new ruler was crowned. Preston's famed Scout House Band, perennial victors, took second place to the green-clad Opticorps, the Toronto Optimists' Club Drum and Trumpet Corps.

Superb musical tone and astounding melody gave the senior champs, the Marching Ambassadors, a first-place edge over the Paggiacci-like Jolly Jesters and Guelph's rising Royalaires. For the girls, the Durham High School Girls' Trumpet Band met only minor obstacles in chalking up another top honor.

CROWD GROWS

Few fans were on hand in the morning, but large and satisfying turnouts featured both afternoon and evening shows. A neat 4,500 all types spun the turnstiles before 2 p.m., when the junior championships occurred, while close to 10,000 jammed the Dickson amphitheatre under the floodlights.

But the big upset of the day was the Scout House defeat, by 81.61 points to 80.11.

Scout House had to cope with a well-drilled, well-tune Opticorps outfit that was "up" for this one. All knew it would be extremely close after watching both bands go through their 14-minute competition programs. Scout House marched and played smartly—but it wasn't to be their day.

The Ambassadors won in the 1957 championships in Galt. These experts played on their restrictive trumpets "Around the World in 80 Days" theme, which utilized a weird, picturesque color guard, dressed in national costumes of Canada, U.S., Britain, Russia, France and others, drew solid waves of applause from the bemused listeners. They had a clear musical edge over the Jesters, 84.7 points, and the Royalaires, 83.03, with their own day's high of 87.33 points!

STREET PARADE

Red was a popular color for the bands, with most of them featuring it in their garb. When over 10,000 crowded Galt's downtown at 6.15 p.m. for the huge, 15-band street parade, excitement mounted as each went past. Many received extra loud applause, especially Scout House, Opticorps De La Salle Oaklands, Woodstock Imperials.

Wilf Blum's Preston outfit received some welcome salve for their loss to the Toronto Optimists. They copped the street parade award, best color party and drum major trophies.

One of the largest crowd chuckles came late in the big show, when Scout House Drum Major Paul Bauer slunggered away from the presentation desk under the weight of two king-size trophies. All senior bands, with the Opticorps, were lined up under the lights for the final presentations, with Toronto CIBC announcer Bruce Smith being a most glib master of ceremonies.

Oppressive heat soared the thermometer to 85-90 degrees in the afternoon sun. Said chief inspecting judge Hugh McKean, of St. Catharines: "You know the junior bands have the most trouble." We asked why. "Well, they won't eat—butterflies, you see?" In other words, nervousness and heat often bring fair spells in junior bands, with a lot of food also a big point. The gear to higher pitch than the more-experienced senior players. Only one band had actual trouble—their bus broke down and they had to hitch rides into the city earlier.

"I'd like to congratulate the Jaycees for bringing this superlative show to Galt again," said Mayor Arthur White, welcoming the bands at the evening show. "I must also compliment the junior winners, the Optimists, who have defeated our own Scout House band."

Referring to the Scout House, he added, "They're near and dear to us—and will always be champions to us. I say that without taking anything away from the new champions." He extended commendations to the many bands and individuals who devote long months to training and developing young bandmen.

Sharp at 10 a.m., the big 1958 title hunt began to unfold, with the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps (Ajax) scoring 76.5 points for the junior "B" championship. They put on a good show, although they were the only entry in that division.

SENIOR CHAMPS

Senior novice champs were the Stamford Canada Guards in red-and-black, with blue shakos, after tallying 72.5 points. Once again, they were the only entry. A fine 86-point total was scored by Transfiguration Township's Police Boys' Band in winning the junior novice class over Brantford Bell Tones' 72 score.

Merrilton Grenadiers could not make the contests in the senior "B" (Class Two) competitions, but they'd have hit a rocky road in beating Woodstock Imperials' 79 points, good enough to set them up as champs. Brantford's 56th Field Regiment Trumpet Band came in second six points back of the "B" champions.

HOT RIVALRY

Hot rivalry and competition

(Continued On Page 17)

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