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## Band Festival a resounding success

It may not be a well-known fact, but there are lots of folks who attend football games, not to watch the game, but to catch the band performances at half-time.

For those dedicated lovers of marching bands, Saturday was a dream come true as the Hoke County Band boosters held their First Annual Hoke County High School Marching Band Festival at Hoke High Stadium.

In the planning for more than a year, the competition would have to be termed a complete success. As spectators and bandspeople gathered to watch six bands from around the state compete for trophies in various categories.

Bands from Lumberton, Westover High, Seventy-First and Douglas Byrd of Fayetteville, Western Alamance of Elon College and Lee County Senior High of Sanford all put in admirable performances.

Hoke High Band, directed by Jimmy James, was host band and in exhibition for the day.

Upchurch Junior High Band, under the direction of Gil Clark, opened the performances with the National Anthem.

Seven judges from across the state and South Carolina rendered decisions on drum majors, horn, flag, drum and rifle lines as well as choosing the top-notch band of the day.

As an attentive audience watched and applauded, Western Alamance's Warrior Marching Band showed its stuff to capture top honors in several areas.

This group of bandspeople turned in a professional performance from beginning to end as they marched, drummed and danced their way through a variety of musical selections.

The Warriors presented a combination of powerful and whimsical numbers, all of which spoke of their superb training and talent. Their production number using pirate eye patches, skull-and-cross bones flags, steel drums and a rhythmic pole dance was sheer

### Hoke Arts Scene

By Sonya Falls



delight.

Throughout the afternoon, the audience was treated to continuous entertaining surprises such as Western Alamance displayed.

Specialty numbers featuring rifle and flag corps, drums or trumpet solos were highlights of the afternoon.

The featured trumpeters from Westover High's "Royal Blues" band and their jazz selection were soul stirring and earned them first place trophies.

In the Class A division, the Lumberton Pirate Band delighted the audience with patriotic numbers and the sudden appearance of a 1775 Betsy Ross flag from the center of its flag line.

Lee County's "Marching Yellowjackets," with its sharp flag corps and a beautiful use of twirling umbrellas captured first place honors in the Open Class.

The afternoon activities ended with Hoke County's own, The Hoke High Marching Band, performing their very impressive and precise numbers.

A rollicking rendition of "Mountain Music," featuring the flag and rifle corps and a powerful finale that Hoke has become famous for brought the audience to a standing ovation.

Hoke County Boosters, band and director are to be congratulated for providing yet another successful first for Hoke County. They have achieved what is considered one of the first goals of theatrical productions: "Leave 'em begging for more!" Let's do it again next year, bigger and better.

Photos by Terry Houston

