

# "Band In Review"

By Dan Langhoff

The Oakdale High School Marching Band takes its talent to Santa Cruz Saturday for the fourth annual Santa Cruz Band Review. Oakdale has participated in each of these competitions, but has never quite pulled off a trophy.

There will be approximately 30 bands and the competition is always tough. A slight consolation is that Oakdale High will only be in direct competition with seven of these bands. This is a result of the Review being divided into four groups, based on the participating schools' enrollment.

In addition to the regular band judging for each division, there are also awards for best overall bands, best drum major, best majorettes, and best letter girls. The first band steps off at 11 a.m.

The parade route weaves approximately a mile and a half through downtown Santa Cruz; that is a mile and a half of rigid posture, stoic facial expression, and constant instrument playing - in other words hard work for those who want to win.

The first half of the route is solely for the viewers' enjoyment and the bands to warm up. Just before the judging area, the band is halted; its members stand as if frozen while uniforms and general appearances are rated. This area has been Oakdale's biggest headache in the past, and promises to be worse this year. Every lost button, frayed braid, too short or too long pants, tassel-less hat, and even dull, dented instrument, lowers the score.

Next, as judges continue to circulate among the ranks, the band steps off - this time playing its march for points. Out of the long course, it's these few hundred feet which make or break a band. When the number is concluded, the band can relax - a little.

Usually, the drum major allows his followers a chance

to regain some "pucker power" before the Reviewing Stand at the end of the route. Here the march is played one more time to be thoroughly studied by the judges. By this time, one has either finally memorized his music or suddenly forgotten it. Even from those who didn't appear to be taking the whole thing seriously, the end of the parade brings a relieved "whew" as hats tumble off and coats are unbuttoned.

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