

# Drumming up competition

By Ellen Blevens

Journal-News  
FAIRFIELD

## Fairfield to host drum corp exhibition, challenge

Let the music games begin. Fairfield will host the 17th annual Summer Music Games on Thursday at Fairfield Stadium.

The event features seven competing drum corps and two exhibition corps flaunting their talent for the audience and judges. The Summer Music Games is one of more than 100 competitions leading up to the Drum Corps International Championships 2001 in New York in early August.

"From the start of the show to the end, there will be great entertainment," said contest director Bruce Brown.

The corps consist of 135 members, ages 14 to 21, playing brass or percussion, or performing in a color guard. The routines are comprised of several different styles, such as pop, jazz and show tunes, which are presented along with marching formations on an area roughly the size of a football field.

This is the event's second year in Fairfield, and Brown said organizers are optimistic about a big turnout.

"This year we hope for a sellout," he said.

In addition to executing their routines for the crowd, the corps also will be judged on their performance on a scale of one to 100.

Although these scores do not determine the winner at

the Drum Corps International Championship in New York, final scores are important for bragging rights among the corps.

"Here, the score is purely for the title of 'best corps' this time around," Brown said. "It lets the corps know how they are doing and helps them work toward the championship."

Brown encourages everyone to come and enjoy the young musicians.

"They will travel across the country doing this," he said. "Their performances are fun, entertaining and educational."

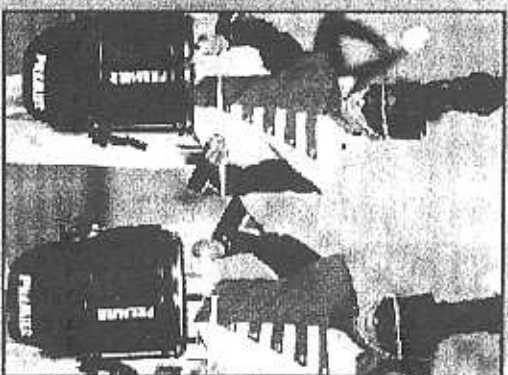
"New attendees typically leave the stadium with plans to return next year."

The Summer Music Games will be held rain or shine.

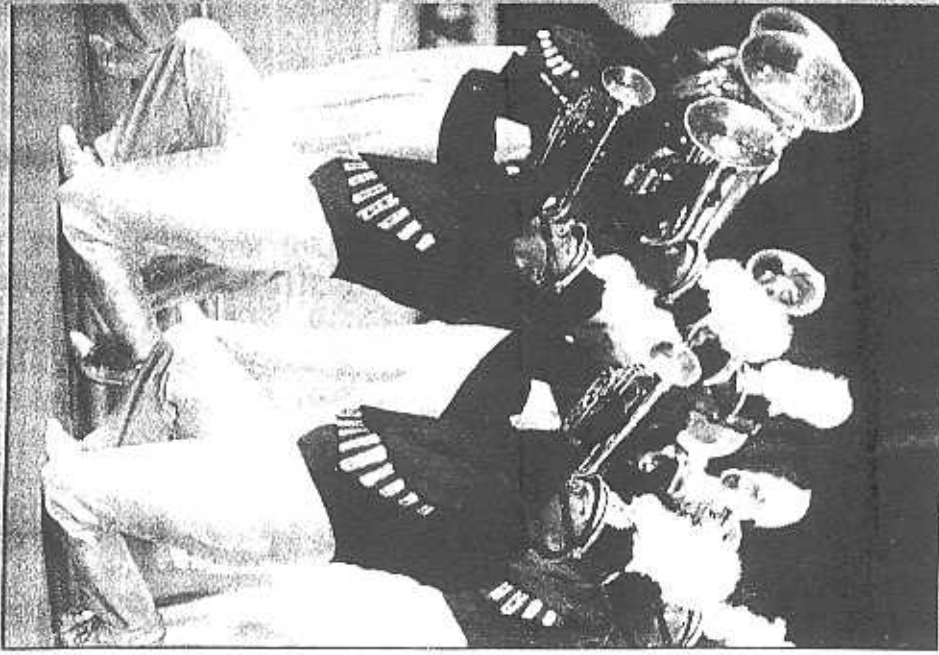
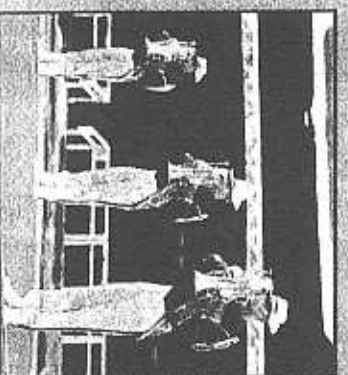
Gates open at 5 p.m., and the musical games begin at 7 p.m. Advance ticket prices are \$10-\$16. Gate prices are \$12-\$18. For advance tickets, call 829-5565.

For more information about the Summer Music Games, call 243-3208 or visit <http://home.atn.net/~musgama> mes/. For more information about Drum Corps International, call (630) 628-7888.

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Bruce Brown, contest director, 17th annual Summer Music Games



Schindler photos  
Ft. Mill, S.C.'s Carolina Crown, above, will be one of nine drum corps either competing at or performing in exhibition at Thursday's Summer Music Games at Fairfield Stadium. Corps such as Dubuque, Ia's Colts, top left, and the Madison Scouts, bottom left, of Madison, Wis., will also participate in the 17th annual games.