

Cavalcade of Bands marches on, despite rainy weather



AND THE BAND PLAYED ON: Caitlyn Goldson, center, of Wellington leads trumpets and bugles as the Palm Beach Central High School band performs at the Cavalcade of Bands, hosted by Boca Raton Community High School. Twenty-two high school marching bands and color guards were on hand to present music, marching and shows before judges to compete for eligibility in the state competition. Staff photo/Matt Dean

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After 15-year-old Jake Aloviss, a sophomore at Olympic Heights Community High School, finished playing the marimba in his first marching band competition, he felt the school's band had performed well, but not well enough to win.

But after the results were announced days later it turned out that Olympic Heights indeed did take first place out of the six Florida high school bands that competed in the AA division.

The Cavalcade of Bands competition has been hosted by Boca Raton Community High School for the past quarter century. This year, Boca High again

hosted the contest, but this time at Olympic Heights, 20101 Lyons Road. The football field is under construction, a new football stadium is being built at Boca High..

The Cavalcade typically is the first competition of the marching band season.

"A lot of band directors like to attend to see where their bands are at," said Jim Gandour, co-chairman of this year's competition.

Jackie Parsons, Olympic Heights' band director, said this year her band performed a three-part piece called "Ole." The first part, "Topaz," was big and showy and had a Spanish flavor.

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The second part, "Tiger San Pedro," seemed to be more of a classic Latin jazz number. And the third part, "Flight of the Condor," brought the band back to the Spanish flavor.

Parsons said she wanted to include some jazz in the

piece because "jazz education to me is very important. That is America's music."

Parsons has been at Olympic Heights for a year. She previously worked at South Broward High School and spent 15 years in the Broward school system.

Her move to Olympic Heights "has been the smoothest transition yet," she said.

Parsons "makes us work hard but it's worth it because we end up putting on a really good show in the

end," Jake said.

The judges, Parsons said, loved her band's music and the coordination between the music and the drill team. Their only suggestion was to add more of a full lower bass sound. She said she agreed but must use the resources available to her.

"I thought they were great. They were dynamic,

really well coordinated," said Rick Aloviss, Jake's father. "They had a great trumpet solo. It was an exciting piece. I was impressed. It was all we could have hoped for."

Because Boca High hosted the event the school's band did not compete. But the Bobcats band did perform an exhibition for the judges.