

New marching band director plans flag corps

By Martha Bohling

The addition of a 16-man flag corps and another 30 to 40 band members are some changes Robert Fought, the new director of the Cornhusker Marching Band, said he hopes to make next year.

Fought served as assistant to Director Jack Snider this year. Snider will continue in his duties as director of bands, as well as directing the Wind Ensemble and the Symphonic Band.

The flag corps, carrying red and white banners, will add a visual dimension to the band, Fought said.

Another visual aspect of the band is the baton twirler, who was chosen in auditions March 1, Fought said. Girls from four states attended tryouts.

The new twirler, who will be a freshman at UNL next year, is Charla Jean Willson from Crescent, Okla.

Variety counts

Fought said when the band does a half-time show, it tries to please all the fans at one time or another.

"When we do half-time shows, variety is the word," he

said, adding, "we won't do all songs from the '30s, but we won't do all rock either."

Most of the band's half-time music is arranged by Bob Nelson, a UNL alumnus now teaching at the University of Houston, Fought said.

There is a difference in the philosophies of marching and concert bands, he said.

Concerts are for enjoyment too, Fought said, but they are also more academic. A director has the obligation to expose the audience and the players to different types of concert material, he said.

In either case, he said "excellence is what counts—you have to do it right."

Students know

"Jack (Snider) has made the job easy for me," Fought said, "because the kids know how to do it, and they enjoy it."

Commenting on taking over after Snider has directed for 15 years, Fought said there are some things he'll do differently than Snider, but added that they work well together because they respect each

other.

Snider admitted that he felt strange not having total responsibility after so long, but said that it takes total commitment, a lot of stamina and "someone with a few less years on him."

"I'm not out of it completely," he said, "but it takes more than one person to handle it."

Fought said he started directing because he enjoys the challenge of working with people.

'Frustration'

"There's a lot of work and frustration involved," he said, "but if it comes off, the rewards are multiplied by the number of people you're working with."

He said that it's easy to get one person to do one thing, but to get 100 people to do it at the same time, and to do it right, is a real accomplishment.

Fought, who was director of bands at Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y., said he came to UNL because it had more to

offer.

He also said the attitude toward football in Nebraska makes the marching band a central aspect of UNL's music department.

Beside directing the marching band, Fought is an associate professor of saxophone and band and assistant director of bands.

Spring registration for the Cornhusker Marching Band is March 17 through 21 in Westbrook 123 or 237 and is open to all students.



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