

JMU Dukes Are No. 1

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School Wins Sudler Trophy As America's Top College Marching Band For 1994

Dukes' Band Joins List Of Prestigious Winners Of Coveted Sudler Trophy

1994.....James Madison University
1993.....University of California at Los Angeles
1992.....Northwestern University
1991.....Arizona State University
1990.....University of Iowa
1989.....Kansas University
1988.....Michigan State University
1987.....University of Oklahoma
1986.....University of Texas
1985.....Florida A&M University
1984.....Ohio State University
1983.....University of Illinois
1982.....University of Michigan



Presentation of the Sudler Trophy, Oct. 22: Back row, JMU President Ronald E. Carrier, Mrs. Virginia Sudler, JMU Director of Bands Pat Rooney, Edith Carrier; Front row, band members Melissa Palladino, Charity Mays.

MARCHING INTO HISTORY...

A Salute To The James Madison University Marching Royal Dukes

Pat Rooney: Madison's Music Man

For JMU Band Director, The Games Just Bracket The Real Action At Halftime

By JEREMY NAFZIGER
News-Record Staff Writer

In ancient times the sound of instruments was used as a means of stimulating the action of large numbers of people, whether in process of labor requiring simultaneous effort or as a means of exciting ardor in armies advancing to the battle by the sounds of the 'shrill trumpet,' the 'spirit-stirring drum,' the 'ear-piercing fife.'

Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians

Dr. Pat Rooney likes football, although he's not a rabid fan. He follows James Madison University teams closely, and watches JMU alumni Gary Clark and Charles Haley in the National Football League. Truth be told, he prefers to watch basketball.

Rooney often records college televised football games, but with an ulterior motive. Like the old VCR commercial in which a man bypasses the actual points of a tennis match in order to see his ballboy-son in action, Rooney fast-forwards the football tape to get to halftime in hopes of seeing a marching band in action.

Often the sight he seeks is blocked up by some sort of inane game analysis.

"These stupid sports things," Rooney, director of bands at Madison, complains. "They never show bands. They have free entertainment right there, and they don't even know it. The sports guys have to interview each other."

If the band does appear, however briefly, even partially blocked by an aging job announcer or just playing in the background, Rooney watches and listens, and writes a note to the band's director the next day, just to let him or her know someone out there is watching.

Apparently enough directors heard enough about Rooney's JMU Marching Royal Dukes last year to select the program as the 1994 Sudler Trophy winner, an honor given each year since 1982 to a college marching band program "of particular excellence." Since football games for many schools, including the 6-1 Dukes, are never on television — what with the 4-3

Notre Dame Fighting Irish having their own TV network and all — many band directors exchange tapes of performances, both for new program ideas and in order to cast informed Sudler ballots, Rooney says. Sometimes band directors will spend a day or two on the campus of another program, just to watch. Word of mouth also carries well in the world of college bands, he says.

"If you're in this business, you know who's good," Rooney says.

By the way, Notre Dame, whose band gets to play the nation's most popular fight song constantly, is among the many larger programs that have not won the Sudler Award. The University of Wisconsin, whose fight song "On, Wisconsin," is the second-most popular (as measured by the number of high schools who have co-opted it) hasn't won either.

According to Rooney, two things make up a good marching band: the music, and the marching.

It's not exactly a Wagnerian synthesis of art, drama and music, but it's more American, generally more inspiring, about 50 times shorter, and not even close to being as boring or pretentious. It makes listeners want their team to go, fight, win a football game, and not, as Woody Allen says of Wagner, go out and conquer Poland.

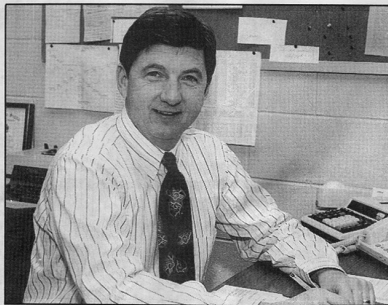
Rooney thinks of bands as more as a Broadway musical, wherein a good libretto and score are worthless without a good performance, and vice versa. The goal isn't to coax deep thoughts from the audience, but to simply entertain.

"You've got to have a good script, a good design. Once you have a good design, you've got to perform that," Rooney says. "So it's very similar to a Broadway play."

In the equation of marching and music-making, the Marching Royal Dukes choose to emphasize the musical, making them somewhat of a "cult figure" to the rest of the band-directing world, says Rooney.

"We just play a little bit better than most of them," he says.

The director's background may have something to do with that. Mississippi-born Rooney earned a



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Pat Rooney
JMU Director of Bands

bachelor's degree at North Texas State University and a doctorate in music from Catholic University, but had not done much work with marching bands before arriving at JMU 13 years ago. Originally, he was a clarinet and saxophone player who wanted to make a living as a professional instrumentalist. His father, however, had been a band director.

"This was the last thing I wanted to do," Rooney says. "But what you set out to do and what you end up doing are often two different things."

Still, he enjoys his job and has no regrets, he says. Rooney's 10-member department is also responsible for JMU concert bands and basketball pep bands. He personally conducts two concert bands, and oversees a third.

Each year, the marching band produces a popular recording, sold as cassettes and compact discs in the JMU bookstore. The 1994 edition contains the National Anthem, other patriotic favorites, the JMU fight song ("Madison, James

Madison"), selections by the Beatles and from "The Sound of Music," and a good version of the normally dopey-sounding "MacArthur Park."

The album begins with the theme from the James Bond movie, followed by the title songs for two of those movies: "Live and Let Die," and "For Your Eyes Only."

JMU programs this year have included selections from Bizet's opera "Carmen," Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," Percy Sledge, Lee Greenwood, Chicago, and of course, John Philip Sousa, America's March King.

"We try to find music that will fit the large, outdoor sound," Rooney says.

As he sees it, eclecticism is a good way to cope with the greatest danger facing performers: boring the fans.

"If you play too many marches, he (the fan) will get tired of it," Rooney says. "He may not know it, but he will."

Visual aspects of the performance — known as "drills" — are worked out by Rooney and as-

stants George Megaw and Bill Posey, with the help of a computer. Basically a progression of geometric shapes, the movements are intended to enhance the appreciation of the music.

The directors must choreograph the paths of 350 people: 40 members of the color guard, 50 percussionists, 20 sousaphones, and 240 woodwind and brass players. Rather than being responsible for the whole, each person is responsible for his or her own location. This is called a "free-form drill."

For example, a trombone player might be told to begin four steps off the 50-yard line and six steps from the sideline. At a certain point in the music, the player is to go to another coordinate on the field in x-number of counts. When everyone does the right thing, the fans see diamonds and stars.

Rooney rehearses moves and music in daily, 90-minute practices on a grass field below Warren Campus Center. On the mornings of a performance (i.e., a home football game), there is a 3-hour run-through to iron out any last-minute problems.

But when the show starts, Rooney says, "It's gone. There's no way to stop it." Drum majors get the band going, and the students do the show on their own. Rooney himself is seated somewhere in Bridgeforth Stadium. He loves to watch, though.

"It's college kids doing something they really want to do, and doing it well," he says.

The practice of marching has been around as long as armies — quite a while. As early as the 15th Century, emperors began establishing specific marching rhythms for their troops. In 1632, Charles I of Great Britain decreed that his armies would march to a two-measure pattern of five quarter notes followed by three beats of rest. (Charles should have been worried more about his countrymen; he was beheaded 17 years later.) French, German, Dutch and Austro-Hungarian rulers also set patterns by which their armies marched.

Marches as a serious form of composition flourished during the Napoleonic Wars, as Haydn, Beethoven, Rossini, Sussmayr and

Cherubini all contributed marches to assist the pacing of local defense corps. Marches were used by Classical and Romantic composers in operas, symphonies, chamber music and oratorios. More recently, folks have sung or talked about marching (pick one): to Zion, to the Promised Land, home again, in with the saints, through Georgia or Boston, and from Atlanta to the sea.

But the idea that a march identifies a certain group has stayed around.

Likewise, Rooney sees the JMU Marching Royal Dukes as an institutional signature, another way the university makes its identity known.

A lot of colleges look upon it as a luxury, when in fact it is an important part of the college persona," he says. "It's more of a logo than anything else for the university. It's a 'portable them,' an identity that moves."

The Sudler Trophy, a dulled bronze statue of a drum major standing atop a stadium, testifies to the memorable quality of the JMU band, its presentation over the years of the university's performing side. The trophy is in Rooney's office, its marble base surrounded by gold and purple bunting. The names of other winners — UCLA, Michigan, Ohio State, all but one of them bigger than JMU — are written in panels on the model stadium's outer walls. JMU will keep the trophy for a year, but can never win it again, according to contest rules.

Unable to repeat, "You just have to keep it up," Rooney says.

If Rooney needs any help filling his "rows and rows of the finest virtuosos," ("The Music Man," 1957) the award will certainly draw attention to his program. A story in USA Today and a radio interview with WTX in Dallas following the award won't hurt either.

"You assume it's going to help," Rooney says. "JMU has become a very popular university lately, with national rankings in efficiency and excellence in education. This is just one more trophy to put in our trophy case, just another feather in our cap."

Strike up the band.

1994-95 JMU Marching Band Members

Sharon Alexander
Jessica Alverson
Melissa Anderson
Mike Andrews
Philip Antis
Kelly Arey
Craig Ashford
Lena Austin
Mark Baggett
Richard Bailey
David Baker
Charles Ballantine
Cole Ballard
Christopher Barden
Amy Barrett
Charity Barron
Jennifer Beine
Lisa Beinke
Karen Bell
Jason Belz
Ben Bernstein
Chris Bidwell
Scott Biggs
Tammy Blackburn
Barbara Blanset
Kristen Bodensick
Elisabeth Boivin
Stephen Boling
Anne Bookes
Trevor Booth
James Boss, Jr.
Robert Boucher
Robert Boyle
Laura Braz
Christopher Breaux
Ricky Breeden, Jr.
Alissa Bresnahan
Carissa Brown
Duane Brown
Jeffrey Brown
Jeremy Brown
Keith Brown
Melinda Burger
Amanda Burks
Diane Calendine
Amy Call
Tracie Campena
Amanda Campbell
David Campbell
Kristen Campbell
Alison Carnady
Keith Carnation

Kelly Carter
Michael Castellano
Stephen Castle
Todd Catlett
Olivia Caulder
Alana Causey
Joshua Cave
Brian Chaplow
Sharon Chewing
Madonna Chiu
Jeff Clark
Jennifer Clark
Sharon Cohen
Laura Cole
Kevin Coleman
Jozenia Colorado
Crystal Conner
Nicholas Cook
Chris Cotz
Dawn Covington
Ben Guinan
Matthew Craig
Stephen Craver
Valentino Crawford, Jr.
Ryan Cresswell
Julie Cunningham
Janice Dahlman
Michelle Dale
Marc Dawkins
Artie Denman
Scott Deyo
Tony Deyo
Jennifer Dickerson
Matthew Dillard
Petar Drakulich
Beth Ann Drury
Katherine Eanes
Kristin Eckels
Scott Eckels
Robert Edenfield II
Anthony Epling
Robin Ergenzinger
Paul Erickson
Benjamin Fairfield
Jacqueline Falwell
Rowena Federico
Christopher Ferrell
Michael Finn
George Fitzgerald IV
David Fix
Nathan Fleming
Joshua Floyd

Carolyn French
Eric Frenck
Jennie Furr
James Garde
Patty Garman
Cory Gasaway
Jennifer Gaskins
Christine Gecoma
David Gorman
Emily Gillis
Brian Glass
Heather Glauner
Patrick Glynn
Elizabeth Goodloe
Katharine Goodson
Randy Gorman
Sherry Gowell
Brian Grant
Yolanda Gray
Lillian Gregorio
Ben Guinan
Timothy Gunn
Laura Gundry
Elizabeth Hadley
Julia Hales
James Hallingshead
Shusei Hamamichi
Lori Hambrick
Jennifer Hammes
Jennifer Harlow
Karen Harris
Michael Harris
Cynthia Hartman
Leslie Hartzell
Yousif Hassan
Richard Legon
Nicholas Lippis
Kwan Lou
Chris Lyles
Mark Lynch
Monica Malinowski
Richard Marsh
Eric Martin
Stephen Martinez
Charity Mays
Rachel Mazzucchi
Christopher McCay
Roger McClintion
Sean McCrae
Jennifer McNytire
Joseph Meade
Lisa Meeks

Heather Meeuwissen
Holly Meeuwissen
Jeff Melton
Matthew Miano
Matthew Micou
Michelle Miklaucic
Dan Milledge
Shawn Miller
Clinton Miller, IV
Mark Mitchell
Carrie Moon
Nicole Moore
Jason Morehouse
Michael Morgan
Rosaland Morris
Alexis Mosby
Jesse Naron
Amy Newman
Thomas Newman
Brooklyn Nicely
Ralph Nichols V
Careyenne Nicholson
Mike Nicholson
Kerry O'Connor
Chad O'Neil
Mark Oates
Matthew Ogden
Paul Oliva, Jr.
Melissa Palladino
Jennine Pannell
Alison Pannell
George Parker
Amy Parsons
Curtis Pasfield
Rebekah Paul
Clint Paderza
Tara Pearson
Almece Peck
Thomas Pendleton
Keith Penza
Deia Nicole Person
Jennifer Phillips
Eugenia Phipps
Jennifer Pippin
Phil Pollard
Mary Pontillo
Ann Pousardien
Jimmy Pratte
Benjamin Prunty
Beth Quirk
Angela Rager

Steve Raybould
Bill Register
Michael Rekrut
Jennifer Ribble
Valerie Rice
Robert Richards
Bryan Roberts
Jason Roberts
Brian Robitola
Alison Rodden
Angel Rodgers
Danielle Roebber
Amy Rohrer
Jerral Rollins
Randall Rop
Rachel Roswal
Jonathan Roth
Carrie Rountrey
Rhonda Rucker
Karen Rust
Stacie Sawyer
Kimberly Scarborough
Jeffrey Schaefer
Janice Schaefer
Andrew Schlesinger
Amy Schoettinger
Browyn Schrecker
Kevin Schutte
Timothy Schwartz
Erick Seamster
Jeff Shepard
Alison Shield
Nathan Shue
Joseph Simmons
Rebecca Simmons
Erin Sisk
Christine Sivigny
Brian Sizer
Cheryl Smoker
J.R. Snow
Donald Spaid
Mark Spielman
Jed Springer
Amy Springfloat
James Stanek
Keith Stevens
Laurie Stillman
Jennifer Stockton
John Stone, Jr.
Deborah Stromberg
Megan Sturges
Christopher Summers

Allison Swartz
Becky Sweger
Kay Swennes
Alana Takeuchi
Katherine Taylor
Matthew Teachout
Jessica Tencza
Ida Tennant
John Tennant
Brian Thiele
Matthew Thomas
Jared Truban
Andrew Tubb
Nathan Underwood
Jessica Unruh
Daniel Valadie
Michelle Verrees
Laura Walco
Erin Wallace
Andy Warren

Monica Waters
Brian Webb
Janet Westbrook
Charonda Westley
Christian Whitaker
Shawn Whitley
Drew Wickham
Chris Wilkes
Rachel Wilkinson
Devona Williams
Trekker Williams
Jonathan Wilson
Shannon Wilson
Angela Wiseman
Heather Wood
Jennifer Woodworth
Sheila Wright
Jennifer Yates
Ellen Zerkel
Ben Zimmerman
Bradley Zimmerman



BAND STAFF
Pat Rooney, Director of Bands
George C. Megaw, Assistant Director of Bands
C. William Rice, Coordinator of Percussion
William G. Posey, M&M Coordinator
Rick Deloney, Percussion Instructor
Adam Nyreen, Percussion Instructor
Derrick Askew, Percussion Instructor
Shelly Boardman, Graduate Assistant
Michael Doll, Graduate Assistant
Greg Martin, Graduate Assistant
Ray Lynch, Colorguard Instructor
Connie Driscoll, Administrative Assistant

MARCHING INTO HISTORY...

A Salute To The James Madison University Marching Royal Dukes

The Sudler Trophy: A Once-In-A-Lifetime Honor

By ROGER FRIEDMAN
News-Record Staff Writer

Marching bands seldom make appearances on sport highlight shows. And, sure, the annual presentation of their most prestigious distinction doesn't have a half-hour television show in its honor. And perhaps fathers don't hold up their newborn sons and say, I hope he's a sousaphonist.

People may noticker over Top 20 polls of marching bands.

But to collegiate marching bands across the country, the Sudler Trophy is their equivalent of the Heisman Trophy.

That coveted award was presented to James Madison University's Marching Royal Dukes for 1994.

"This is really the only award we have of this nature," said Pat Rooney, director of the Marching Royal Dukes.

The marching band from a school more than three times the size of JMU took the recognition last year.

"I've been with the marching band for 13 years," said University of California Los Angeles marching band director Gordon Henderson, whose Bruins took the award for 1993. "In my first year here, the award was presented at the halftime of the Rose Bowl (football game). I've been very aware of it ever since. It's the biggest award for marching bands. We felt we were in the running for the award for a number of years. It was a great honor and recognition to finally be selected."

The award's brochure states the purpose of the Sudler Trophy, presented by the John Philip Sousa Foundation, is to identify and recognize collegiate marching bands of particular excellence which have made outstanding contributions to the American way of life.

"The Sudler Trophy will be awarded annually to a college or university marching band which has demonstrated the highest of musical standards and innovative

Marching routines and ideas, and which has made important contributions to the advancement of the performance standards of college marching bands over a period of several years," stated the brochure.

The commendation is bestowed annually to an outstanding collegiate band selected by a vote of about 680 National Collegiate Athletic Association member band directors, according to Al Wright, president of the John Philip Sousa Foundation.

Each director selects three teams, "kind of like a coaches' poll," Rooney said. At a convention in Chicago in December, the 20-member selection committee, made up of past and present band directors, opens the ballots and counts them. If several teams are close to the top, the committee votes on the winner. This year, though, JMU was named on so many of the ballots that the committee gave it to them by acclamation.

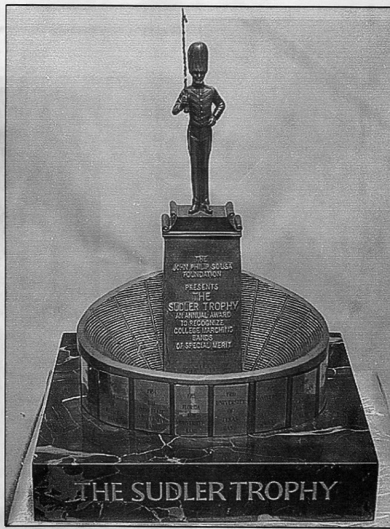
"The committee is not looking for a flash in the pan," said Wright. "We are looking for long-term excellence by a college or university band."

With his marching band winning the trophy, Rooney will serve as the selection committee chairman for the next year. He may or may not stay on the committee after next year.

The 375-member Marching Royal Dukes were presented with the trophy by Wright and Virginia Sudler, the donor of the trophy, at halftime of the school's Oct. 22 homecoming game in which they beat rival Yankee Conference rival William and Mary.

Rooney, in his 13th year as JMU director of bands, was shocked by the recognition when he first heard about it.

"This is an award that usually goes to the big boys like UCLA, Oklahoma, and Texas," said Rooney. "If you stop and think about it, it's pretty remarkable that we



The Sudler Trophy will remain at JMU for a year before going to the next winner.

would get enough votes to win the award. We're never on TV. People would have to hear about us through word of mouth and that says a lot about this program. This is a major accomplishment for us."

JMU is only the second school with an enrollment of under 14,000 to win in the 12-year history of the Sudler Trophy. Florida A&M University, with an enrollment of around 9,000 students,

won in 1985.

Building a band program is "the same as football. You've got to have a framework and a direction you want to go," Rooney said.

The Marching Royal Dukes give no scholarships, although drum majors and section leaders who have been around a few years do get some financial help. The band includes about 20 sousaphones, 40 color guards, 50 percussionists,

and 240 woodwind and brass players.

The Sudler Trophy has brought national recognition to the sousaphonists and the rest of the band. The award resulted in a USA Today story, a talk radio interview for Rooney on WTLX in Dallas, and dozens of stories around the state.

The Marching Royal Dukes, in their 23rd year, have performed at NFL halftimes for the Washington Redskins, the Pittsburgh Steelers, and the Colts when the team was still in Baltimore. In 1988 and 1991, the Dukes were the featured band at the Bands of America National Championships, according to a press release.

After football season, the marching band plays only rarely. This year they will perform at the Richmond Christmas parade. The band program, however, includes pep bands and concert bands. The former show up for men's and women's basketball games and the latter play all year.

The Sudler Trophy, now in its 13th year of existence, is one in a series of awards developed by Louis and Virginia Sudler and the Sousa Foundation to recognize and encourage excellence in the various aspects of band work.

The trophy was designed by the distinguished artist Ed Blackwell. It has been executed by Dieges and Clust, who also produced the Heisman Trophy. The actual trophy, which will rest in Rooney's office for the next year, is of a bronze drum major astride a football stadium and mounted on a marble base. The trophy stands 22½ inches tall.

The formal presentation takes place at a time and site mutually agreeable to the recipient and to the Sousa Foundation. For the first two years, the trophy was presented to University of Michigan and the University of Illinois, respectively, at the Rose Bowl where the university football teams were representing the Big

Ten Athletic Conference against the Pac 10 champions.

Since those first two times in 1982 and 1983, the presentations have been made at the award-winning university's homecoming in order to involve the campus community.

"The award and the award presentation help bring attention to the contribution of the marching band to the university and the community," said UCLA's Henderson. "It helps the overall visibility of the marching band in the campus setting."

The recipient is presented with the traveling trophy, which remains at the winning university for a year. The school receives for permanent possession a large plaque, on which will be engraved the names of the university and current and former marching band directors. All former marching band directors receive personal plaques, and are invited to participate in the presentation ceremonies. Each member of the band receives a personalized certificate.

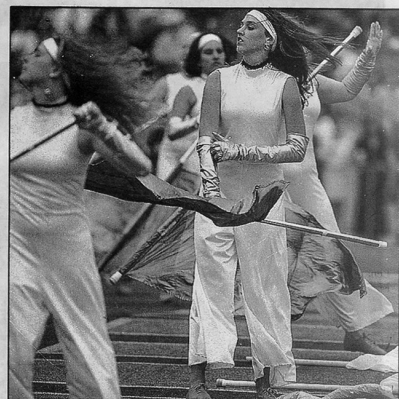
Some JMU band grads have continued in the field. Larry Clark, a former graduate assistant to Rooney, is now director of bands at Syracuse University. Other grads are assistants at University of Arkansas and Illinois State, not to mention smaller schools.

The Parade of Champions, begun by Rooney when he got here 13 years ago, will be held Saturday at the stadium. About 50 high school bands from Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Maryland attend this annual juried competition. The public is welcome at a cost of \$6 for adults, \$3 for students. The event starts at 8 a.m. and runs until 10 p.m.

Not only is it a chance for bands to hear and see the latest from other bands on the East Coast, it helps recruiting for the Marching Royal Dukes.

"They see us and want to be a part of our program," Rooney said.

JMU Band In Action



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The Daily News-Record Is Proud To Present This
Special Section As A Tribute To The Accomplishments Of
The James Madison University Marching Royal Dukes.

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