



Advisor photo by Margaret M. Ryan

## National champs come home triumphant

All smiles after capturing seven trophies and gaining recognition as the top marching band in the United States are Archbishop Ryan students (l to r) Lou Birgandi, Steve

Grahan, Maria Castagna, Heather Neenhold, Diane Eckert, Angela Adesso, Hilary Czaplicki and Band Director Gene Ciccimaro.

# Archbishop Ryan band is No. 1 in the USA

BY STEPHEN KELLY

The continuing saga of the Archbishop Ryan Band and Marching Unit found the gang heading way down south to the land of oranges for a musical war with the best that those rebel guys and gals had to offer.

And like Grant and Sherman before them, the Ryan contingent showed those southerners that the yanks

from up north mean business, taking seven out of ten trophies and marching away with National Champion honors.

If you'll recall from last week's episode, the Ryan group was invited to compete in the All American Band Competition at Disney World and the Epcot Center in Orlando, Florida against bands representing six

southern states including Tennessee, North Carolina, and Texas.

The kids from Ryan raised every cent of the trip themselves through fund-raising activities, and off they went, packed into Greyhound buses for their appointment with destiny.

The Ryan group proved, however, why they have become the pride of Penn-

sylvania and the toast of Philadelphia, as they swept every award category they were eligible for, taking trophies for Highest Field Show Score with 92 points, Highest Indoor Color Guard Score with 88 points, Best Field Show, Best Silk and Flag Squad, Best Marching and Maneuver, Best Indoor

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## Archbishop Ryan

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parents for endless stories of Florida and triumph and the joy of being a youngster living on Cloud Nine.

"These kids were basic themselves," Bernie points out. "You could see that they were tired but their bodies were just filled with happiness and joy. They were running on sheer adrenalin.

As a band parent, Mrs. A

and veteran actors  
'Oliver' at Washington features