

# THEY'RE JUST BOYS, BUT THEY PLAY LIKE MEN

## That Is Logan Square Drum Corps

Logan Square Drum and Bugle corps kept its reputation as a winner at the national American Legion drum and bugle corps competition in Miami, Fla., recently—but several anxious moments preceded victory. The corps won the Sons of American Legion championship and exhibited its flashy style in Miami's Orange bowl afterward.

Norwood Park Drum and Bugle corps also won honors in the national contest. It placed fourth in the junior division, topping its local rivals, the Ad Post [formerly Austin] Grenadiers, who ranked sixth. The Norwood Park unit was state Legion junior champion until September, when the Grenadiers took the title.

### Five Regulars Out

The Logan Square boys were not so confident of winning as they were in the contests of 1947, 1948, and 1949, when they also emerged champions. They didn't compete last year.

For one thing, their ranks were thinned by the absence of five regular members who were unable to make the trip because of school. Three youngsters, two of them 11 and the other 12, and two older boys replaced them. The older two had never marched with the corps when they boarded buses bound for Miami.

A flat tire on the trip gave an opportunity to practice and the 32 young men climbed out and went thru their paces. The buses arrived in Miami in a driving rain, but the corps felt it had to have another practice session before the contest. The boys donned their coveralls and went to a park where they marched up and down in the downpour.

### 'Twasn't the Heat . . .

Humidity on the day of the contest almost caused a disaster, too. Corps members' mothers, who travel with them to big competitions, pressed every uniform carefully and each trouser crease was sharp when the musicians sat down in their bus en route to the contest site. But sitting down was an error. The damp air removed the creases and added new ones where they shouldn't have been. An understanding judge, tho, docked them only one-tenth of a point.

A Florida town's chamber of commerce met the corps with orange juice and congratulations on the way back. Biggest thrill of the trip, tho—outside of winning the championship—was the remark of a member of a much admired senior [adult] corps from New Jersey, where top drum corps are trained.

The senior said: "They're only boys, but they play like men!"