

*Special Award
Jeff Smith*



Jeff Smith, director of the championship Norwalk High School Marching Band for the past 12 years, will receive a special award from the Norwalk Old Timers at tonight's Sports Awards Dinner.

Smith, who has put Norwalk on the map with innumerable honors for his Norwalk High School Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Wind Ensemble, is preparing his group for the Fiesta Bowl in Phoenix, AZ, on New Year's Day. Without a doubt, he will bring home yet another honor for Norwalk High School.

Since he started with Norwalk High in 1982, Jeff and his Marching Band have won honors at virtually all of the major bowl games in which they have participated. Last year they won first place and were Grand Champions at the Citrus Bowl. They participated in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses in 1991. They were Grand Champions and won first place in the Gator Bowl

in 1989. They were in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in 1988. At the Peach Bowl Festival in 1987 they won first place in the Field Show & Parade. In 1986 they were in the Citrus Bowl Festival.

Smith's Norwalk High School Jazz Ensemble won first place in the Berklee Jazz Festival in 1993, were finalists in 1989, 1990, and 1992 and they made a guest appearance at the Connecticut Music Educators Association Conference. The Wind Ensemble, meanwhile, has made guest appearances at the Connecticut Music Educator Association Conference and at the American School Band Directors Association, won adjudication Festival Superior Rating.

Smith, a taskmaster in the development of his musical units, expects nothing less than excellence in his students. He succeeded, not only with the Norwalk High School units, but earlier, with Brien McMahon High School's Marching Band in 1983 at the World's Fair in Knoxville, TN, in 1982 at the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, DC, in 1981 at the Mardi Gras Parade in New Orleans, LA, and in 1978 at the Brickyard Garden Festival in New Hampshire. His Brien McMahon High Wind Ensemble also won its share of first place awards and superior ratings.

Jeff started his musical career at Ponus Middle School after graduating from Western Connecticut State University (cum laude) in 1975. He moved to Brien McMahon in 1977 and then to Norwalk High in 1982. He earned his Master of Science in Music Education at Western Connecticut, 1982.

Over the years, he has been involved as guest conductor of various regional high school bands, and has been active with the Ridgefield Symphonette, Norwalk and Stamford Symphonies, Weston Woods Studios, and acted as instructor to Merit Music for a five year period from 1975 to 1980.

His professional associations read like a Who's Who and he served as president, vice president, student affairs commission chairman, and western regional festival director of the Professional Affiliations of the Connecticut Music Educators Associations.