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WKU Pershing Rifles

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Western's drill teams win OVC championship

The Pershing Rifles and Rebelettes won the Ohio Valley Conference Championship at Middle Tennessee last weekend.


The Rebelettes placed second in platoon competition. Anita Ground and Marilyn Henry finished second in women's dual competition, and Cindy Thomas placed second with dual sabers.

In addition to the OVC title, the two teams combined to win the General Andrew Jackson Invitational Drill Meet, which was held at the same time. Western defeated teams from Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee to win the title.

Trophies exhibited

BRAD FREEMAN (left) of Ashland and Sheila Garrett, Bowling Green, hold trophies the Western Kentucky University Pershing Rifles and Rebelettes Drill teams received recently after winning the Ohio Valley Conference Championship and the General Andrew Jackson Invitational Drill meet. The meets were at Middle Tennessee State University at Murfreesboro, and Western's teams defeated teams from Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee to win the titles. Maj. Billy Pearson (center), assistant professor of military science, is faculty advisor to the teams.
Hold it right there, Mike!

We can't stop dancing!

Busy B-3

Does this look right?

Suprise!
Jeff Yeater escorts Sue McFarland for Homecoming Queen.

Whew! It was gettin' hot in there.

And there off!

The P/R float: A work of genius.

Sue gives the camera a smile.
10, 9, 8, 7... Hike! Hike!

Brad Hummer gets ready to throw some punches.

A real alert group.

Grrr! Get' em boys.

Getting set up.

Jeff Yeates gets a peice.
Company B-3's Colorguard serves for all football, basketball and other activities needed for presentation of the colors.
Carrying the colors.

Raising the colors.

Saluting the colors.

and... Taking a break
Jim Berg carries the colors to their respective place.

The colorguard stands ready.

Now you see him....

... Now you don't!

Colorguard talks to senior Robert Yeater

Colorguard! Attention!
Captain Kennedy, who is the company spanser, gave a Christmas party this year at his house for all the P/R's and Rebettes.

Look! It's Mr. Muscle!

It's been a long night dear.

Games on the floor.

Herb Harvell, Marty Lee, Elen Wilhoyte, and Mike Foster sit back and relax.
The colors were presented and taken down at all of the home basketball games this year.
Ushering: Part of the Job
Larry Ferry goes up for the jump.
Pondering—Roger Coffey wonders what he did wrong.

Concentration, the key to a good basket.

(Right) Steve Railey takes down the score.

(Right) Rick Progroski scratches his head and says, "I know he fouled me."
PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Forest Haynes gets inspected by Fort Knox D.I.
Color Guard

Selected by their fellow members in the Pershing Rifles, a national fraternity, the four-member color guard at Western Kentucky University is in charge of colors for all home sports and special events. Members of the guard, shown below and at right, are (from left) Kenneth Talley of Bowling Green, John Self of Elizabethtown, Gregory Lake of Radcliff and Mike Mattingly of Owensboro. While the four are presenting the colors, members of the Pershing Rifles, which last year won the Pershing Rifles National Champion Exhibition Drill Team award, raise large American flag (above). At right, the Pershing Rifles fold the flag.
Jim Berg looks disturbed about something.

(Right) Robert Yoder exchanges weapons with his brother Jeff.

Doing the sequence.

Jeff does his own little solo.
HOORAH!

The P/R's put on an exhibition sequence at a WKU home basketball game.
Robert Yeater does his solo in Style!
Western at Mardi Gras!

Pershing Rifles and Rebelettes represent Western at Mardi Gras.

The 600-mile trek to New Orleans aboard a bus can be tiring but there is ample time to catch a few winks. However, the members of Western's drill teams are all eyes as the bus rolls in the "Crescent City." Pictured above (right) are Diane Hammon, freshman from Vine Grove; Robert Yeater (center), senior from Vine Grove; and Joe Phillips, sophomore from Louisville.

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
Western's student precision drill teams travel to Louisiana in February to participate in Mardi Gras festivities at New Orleans.

The Pershing Rifles, men's ROTC team, and the Rebelettes, women's team—representing Western in the "Krewe of Jupiter"—parade held Thursday, Feb. 17. The parade was a featured event of the annual Mardi Gras celebration, a festival which precedes the observation of Lent in the Christian world.

The marching units received an invitation to participate in an invitational drill meet at Tulane University in New Orleans Feb. 18 and after the invitation was accepted, Western was invited by the office of the governor of Louisiana to march in the Krewe Parade. Capt. William H. Kennedy, assistant professor of military science at Western, is the faculty sponsor of the Pershing Rifles and Rebelettes.

In 1976 the Pershing Rifles won seven trophies and three individual awards, and the Rebelettes currently hold not only the Ohio Valley Conference drill team title but also are the defending champions in national drill competition.
The Trip To: NEW ORLEANS

Tickets Please!

Enjoy the ride - it's going to be a long one.

Brenda Stroud takes a snooze (above) along with Cap. K. and his wife (left).

Camera shy, Hey?

Diane - looking good!
While in NEW ORLEANS:

(Right) Tony looks over some scenes while in New Orleans.

Want a Marlboro® Buddy?

(Right) Diane does a little shopping around.

Diane and Janet pose for a shot.

(Left) Some P/R's look over the work of an artist in Old New Orleans.

(Right) Mrs. Bennett chats a little on the walkway.
Getting things done systematically.
ON THE SHIP

Keith Hood and Brian Ruff take careful steps while walking down the plank.

(Left) DeWayne Johnson and Larry Perry look over the view of the Mississippi.
A little photo effect.

(Right) Nighttime over the Mississippi

(Left) A bridge expands. The mighty Mississippi at night.
Yolanda waits to be served at a shop in New Orleans.

An intimate relationship.

A long trek for some weary soldiers.
Robert Yeeater puts on a show at Tulane.
It's been a long day.

A pillow for two.
TENNESSE TECH.

The I.D.R. Platoon gets ready for inspection.
A Tired Body But a Willing Soul.

Our Sponsor cracks a few jokes.

Let's check out the scene boys!

Get that Grass Shined!

I could use a little suntan.

9/13 got ready to go on the field.

The Exhibition Squad does their number.
BASEBALL, HOT DOGS
APPLE PIE, and P/R'S TOO!

Jamie makes contact with the ball.
Keith Hood: another Babe Ruth?

"Beulah heaves a strike"

"I've got it!"

Go west my dear.

"Everything's cool, dude!"
The John J. Pershing Memorial and The First Regimental Drill Meets

23 April 1977

P/R's attended the Pershing Rifle National Drill Meet at Dayton, Ohio.
TO:  REBELETTES  AND  Cpt. Kennedy, Spec. Benefield

The Pershing Rifles of Western, alias your secret admirers, would like to thank you for your outstanding support and understanding at New Orleans this past weekend. A special thanks goes out to those fine REBELETTES, individuals, and constituents who comprised the colorguard in the marathon parade to beat all marathon parades. Special thanks goes out to Cpt Kennedy and wife and Specialist Benefield and his wife for their outstanding supervisory and advisory contributions. OUR SINCERE THANKS GOES OUT TO ALL THOSE YOU CONTRIBUTED IN MAKING THE NEW ORLEANS TRIP ONE WHICH WILL LIVE WITH ALL OF US FOR MANY YEARS TO COME!

Sincerely,
Pershing Rifles Company B, Third Regiment
Western Kentucky University
S-2

PHOTO: Western Kentucky University colorguard in a parade.
Rebelettes find honor, recognition everywhere...

By GREG KUHL

If you think that Ohio Valley Conference and national championships bring honor and recognition, ask the Rebelettes, Western's female precision drill team.

The Rebelettes labor in relative obscurity at Western despite the honors they have received.

Many people know that the group serves as ushers at Western's athletic events, but few realize that the Rebelettes captured the 1976 OVC drill team title and have been national champions since 1973.

"We are recognized when we travel to places like Purdue and Columbus, Ohio," Janie Alexander, Rebelettes' captain, said. "But we don't get any reaction at Western." All the other universities up north know who we are, but not here," she said.

The Rebelettes are affiliated with the ROTC program, although ROTC membership is not required to participate, according to Capt. William Kennedy, group adviser.

"There is no requirement to join the group except being female," Alexander said.

The Rebelettes were founded in 1964 by the Pershing Rifles, Western's military fraternity.

"Original group members were the girl friends of the guys in the Pershing Rifles," Alexander said.

The Rebelettes developed their own style of marching.

The group had 18 members last year, but was hard hit by graduation and has 10 members so far this year, Kennedy said.

"We get a great feeling of accomplishment," Alexander said.

Approximately 30 per cent of Western's 270 military cadets are female, but any Western female can be a Rebelette.

"It's not a sorority per se, but it is a tightly knit group," Kennedy said.

The group does not drill with weapons because of a tradition of not carrying weapons, he said.

The Rebelettes occasionally give halftime performances at basketball games, which has caused concern among group members.

"We get scared of the crowd reaction because we aren't appreciated much at Western," Alexander said.

The Rebelettes have won the last two national titles in competition with more than 200 female drill teams, according to Kennedy.

The group will be host to a national high school invitational drill meet at Western in the spring, Kennedy said.

Meanwhile, the Rebelettes will compete across the country and attempt to erase their "lost children of Western" image.
Photo Credits: P/R 2nd Lt. William McKinney
P/R CPL. Vince Lopolito
Bob Coffey - The Herald Staff