



# BATTLE OF THE BERKSHIRES



## Benefit Contest for the Jimmy Fund

Area baton twirlers took to the floor in friendly competition on November 5, 2000 in Springfield, MA to raise money for the Jimmy Fund. The benefit contest, directed by Tracey Gangi and Barbara Kupras raised \$1,051 for Boston's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Twelve teams and seventy individuals came together from MA, CT and NY to vie for trophies, medals and titles, and to promote this charitable cause. Giving was the theme of the day: awards, food and raffle items were donated by members of the Belchertown Twirlers, directed by Kupras, and members of the Gangi Bay State Strutters Team, directed by Gangi. MA judges Elaine Kane, Carolyn Lettney, Colleen Maccini and Barbara Paine were happy to volunteer their services.

The highlight of the day was a twirl-off of all first place solo winners in the Nov., Beg., Int. and Adv. skill levels for the "Battle of the Berkshires Twirl-Off" trophies. The champions of the day were Renee Stearns, Sabrina Officer and Sara Gemme of Belchertown, and Jessica Romano of Pawling, NY.

The twirling world, like most extended families, has lost its share of loved ones to cancer. The organizers felt that baton twirlers, teachers, and judges could come together and make a difference in the lives of cancer patients. The idea was enthusiastically embraced by all who participated and by some who couldn't attend this year.

