



PHOTO BY MICHAEL NULTY

Notes on 6th St.: Positively fair

BOBBIE Webb, on tenor sax, right, and his Smooth Blues band lit up the 6th Street Fair Saturday, Aug. 4. The annual event drew about 1,000 people to Minna Alley, between Sixth and Mary to hear live music and watch hip-hop and rap performances on two stages, get free haircuts, eat hot dogs and cotton candy, get free bags of produce, play board games, and socialize with friends and neighbors. At 35 tables, fairgoers learned about social services that could change a life, or at least improve it. Among agencies: South of Market Child Care, San Francisco SAFE, Central City SRO Collaborative, Black Brothers Esteem, Tenant Associations Coalition, S.F. Mental Health Association and the D.A.'s office. ■

—MARJORIE BEGGS

C O V E R **EXTRA!** S T O R Y

Track star at 10, and that's not all she can do

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"And Crystal is improving because people are encouraging her. Last week in San Jose she ran the 50-yard dash in 8.4 seconds."

Track members try as many events as they want. They work out two hours on Wednesdays and Saturdays at Kezar and on Tuesdays at Boeddeker using machines and weights. Crystal says she spends 15 minutes alone on the "crunch machine" that strengthens abdominal muscles. On trips to the beach, her running and workout partner is Xavier, 11.

Additionally, Crystal is a prime performer in the McDaniels Dancers, since October a dancing and cheerleading squad of 20 girls trained weekly by her mother. They perform at Pop Warner football games, SoMa basketball games, awards ceremonies and cheer runners at the San Francisco Marathon's finish line.

"Yes, I am busy," Crystal acknowledges, sitting next to her mother while her brother tosses a volleyball around. "I do a lot of work. And I'm only 10. But it has gotten a lot easier. Things seem lighter."

Especially a 6-pound metal ball.

Asked to perform her signature cheerleading number, she bounds out of her chair and comes to attention in the middle of the floor. She starts with a whirling spin, drops with the splits, does a rotation, a pushdown, a kick back, a jump up and hands up.

"You've got to have a lot of endurance



PHOTO BY NATALIE PORRAS

Crystal Webb, left, is also a prime performer in McDaniels Dancers, a dancing and cheerleading squad of 20 girls.

for it," her mother says. "It's a minute-and-a-half of constant moving."

"I've been dancing all my life," Crystal says.

Asked what advice she'd have for other 10-year-olds, she answers with the aplomb of a Joseph Campbell.

"Follow your dreams and do your best," she says with a toss of her head. "That's been my motto since I was five."

MacCanDo funds helped Crystal and her mother go to the national meet at Benedictine University in Isle, Ill., July 3-8. More than 2,000 youth participated. Crystal competed against 15 other 10-year-olds in the shot put. Her throw was 23 feet 4.75 inches, her personal best by a foot. The winning toss was 27

feet 3.75 inches. The national record is 34 feet 4 inches, set by Amber Curtis of San Jose in 1995.

Yvonne Webb called McDaniels right after the event. Crystal came in third and won the bronze medal. She edged out fourth place by a mere centimeter. She finished out of the top five in the mini javelin.

"Then she put Crystal on the phone and she was crying because she lost," McDaniels said a week later. "I said, 'Hey, you got nothing to cry about — you put Crystal Webb on the map and the Tenderloin and the MacCanDo team, too!'"

Now a 2-by 2 1/2-foot handmade purple sign is propped up on a Formica table in the clubhouse. In yellow-painted, roughly formed letters it's titled "MacCanDo" and under that it says "Crystal Webb Awards." Below it are 12 medals hanging by their bright ribbons, the tangible sum of Crystal's summer of 2007. ■



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Crystal and her biggest fan, mom Yvonne Webb.